

SOME LIFE ON OTHER PLANETS

Continued from First Page

Italy are practically the only European States whose credit ranks higher than a year ago, the former's 4 per cent, having improved from 91 to 96.375 and the latter's 3 1/2 per cent, from 103.50 to 103.75.

Official figures supplied by the Transvaal Chamber of Mines place the total gold exports from that country in 1910 at 7,534,120 ounces, value \$160,014,500. Both are record amounts, the production last year exceeding that of 1909 by about 250,000 ounces.

But for labor scarcity and the inefficiency of many of the newly recruited natives the 1910 results would undoubtedly have made a still better showing. The expectation is that the labor supply, which during last month experienced some recovery, will further improve as the result of the assistance being rendered by the Union Government and that the extended use of machines will tend to reduce the competition for labor to some extent.

The number of natives employed at the end of December in the Transvaal gold mining industry was 178,692.

The British Board of Trade department has published a return giving facts concerning the world's iron and steel trade. It shows the big lead which the United States holds over other countries in the matter of production.

It is estimated that the total weight of iron ore existing in the world's deposits which have been more or less developed amounts to 122,400,000,000 tons, representing 10,192,000,000 tons of iron. If the present rate of output was not exceeded and no further deposits were discovered or developed this total would be sufficient to supply the requirements of the world for considerably less than two centuries. But the potential resources of the world not yet developed are estimated to produce 53,136,000,000 more tons of iron, the principal deposits being in the United States, Russia and the United Kingdom.

America further increased its lead as the world's iron ore market during 1909, the last year in which figures are available:

Table with 3 columns: Country, 1907, 1908, 1909. Rows: United States, Germany, United Kingdom.

America produces about three-fifths of a ton a head of population, Germany two-fifths of a ton and the United Kingdom about one-third of a ton. Sweden, on the other hand, turns out five-sixths of a ton a head of population. In 1909 America's output considerably exceeded that of the United Kingdom and Germany combined.

Whereas America is nearly independent of foreign sources of supply of iron ore, the United Kingdom imports about one-third of the ore used by its manufacturers. Germany imports a little more than Great Britain does, but while she exports nearly 4,000,000 tons (chiefly to Belgium and France), Britain sends out very little.

The world's production of pig iron is increasing at a rapid rate. Ten years ago it was 40,000,000, in 1909 it was 60,000,000. The United States, Germany and the United Kingdom produced four-fifths of the total in the following proportions in 1909:

Table with 3 columns: Country, 1907, 1908, 1909. Rows: United States, Germany, United Kingdom.

At the present time about nine-tenths of the pig iron consumed is utilized in the production of steel, the use of steel having very markedly increased in recent years. The output by the three principal countries is as follows:

Table with 3 columns: Country, 1907, 1908, 1909. Rows: United States, Germany, United Kingdom.

The proportions a head of population are: United States, 27 of a ton; Germany, 18; United Kingdom, 15. In both the United States and Germany a much larger proportion of the pig iron consumed is converted into steel than in this country.

Great Britain leads the way in the export of iron and steel manufactures. British exports totalled 3,648,892 tons, as against Germany's 3,949,392 tons and America's 1,668,019 tons.

The highly original will of a bachelor, Emil von Bizony, is published in the Hungarian papers. Mr. von Bizony, the brother of a well known Hungarian Deputy, was 63, destitute woman and was in bad terms with all his relatives. All through the owner of a great deal of land he lived so frugally that he did not spend the tenth part of his income.

In his will he bequeathed all his real and personal property to his twelve draught horses. As executors of the will he named the Society for the Protection of Animals at Budapest, stipulating that the interest on his property should be devoted to the care of these twelve animals and that upon the death of one of them another aged horse was to be taken in and cared for so that the number of twelve might always be maintained.

Herr von Bizony's relatives naturally did not like the will and the deputy will dispute it. Negotiations have been begun with the above mentioned society and \$20,000 was offered it as a compromise, but was refused. The property is worth about \$200,000.

The death within a few days of each other of Mme. Bartholoni and the Baroness Alphonse de Rothschild recalls the famous "Dinner of Twenty Beauties," in which both ladies took part.

The dinner was offered to the Emperor Napoleon III by the Empress Eugenie in fulfillment of a lost wager, and the invitations were to the most beautiful women in the French court. It was a cosmopolitan company; Mme. Bartholoni and the Marchese (Countess) de Gaillet, both Scotchwomen; Mme. de Gaillet, who was English; Princess Anna Murat, an American; ten Frenchwomen, two Russians, one Italian, one Hungarian, a Creole, a Jewess (the late Baroness Rothschild) and the Empress herself, a Spaniard.

Now, on the death of the two ladies in Paris last week, the Empress Eugenie remains the sole survivor of that famous dinner.

Monaco, the latest State to acquire a Constitution, small though it is, is not the smallest State in Europe. It is, in fact, the largest, the best known, and the least interesting of four miniature States.

The three others are the Principality of Liechtenstein and the Republics of Andorra and San Marino. Particulars as to Monaco have recently been printed in The Sun. Liechtenstein, which lies wedged in between Austria and Switzerland, is the domain of the princely house of Liechtenstein, and though it is included in the postal, judicial and customs systems of Austria it has its own constitution.

The government consists of a Council of fifteen, twelve elected by the people

and three appointed by the Prince. It used to have a tiny army, which dutifully assisted Austria in the war of 1866. When peace was concluded Bismarck sent a special envoy to Liechtenstein to conclude peace with the little principality, which otherwise might have been compelled to go on with the war on its own account. Impressed perhaps by this horrible possibility Liechtenstein has now abolished its army.

The Republic of Andorra, in the East Pyrenees, is under the joint protectorate of France and the Spanish Bishop of Urgel, and is ruled by a Council of twenty-four elected members.

San Marino is the oldest and smallest Republic. Its area is only thirty-three square miles. It lies embedded in Italian territory in the Apennines, some miles from Rimini, and is quite independent, as it showed when it afforded shelter to Garibaldi in his darkest hour.

Its Constitution is unique, for it amounts to an oligarchy. The Council is composed of sixty self-elected life members, forty commoners and twenty nobles. The tiny State has not only a native nobility but an army of 1,000 men. It regards the King of Italy merely as its friend.

The revival of the home rule question has recalled some stories of the late Lord Morris, the witty Irish judge. On one occasion he defined or explained home rule in the following fashion:

"Well, if you see now, this is what home rule is. We've been taken into partnership in a wealthy firm and we have our hands in the till, an' nothin' will do us but to start a little shebeen of our own."

Lady Aberdeen once asked Lord Morris how many of the company were home rulers at a certain Dublin Castle function. "Indeed, thin," he replied, "there's just yourself an' the waiters."

At a London dinner party the Irish difficulty was being discussed and it was noticed that Lord Morris, the only Irishman present, was keeping a cynical silence. Being challenged directly for his opinion, he said:

"Well, if you see whin a stupid people try to govern a clever people there'll always be some difficulty in it. An' that's just the Irish difficulty."

A reign of economy has set in at the court of Vienna. The aged Emperor Francis Joseph is one of the most unpretentious of men. He sleeps in a plain iron bedstead, and one of his oldest personal servants is credited with the remark that he "would undertake to cover his Majesty's daily expenses with 10 kronen" (about \$2).

And yet the Emperor spends millions of kronen every year, the greater part of which is given to so-called representation duties attached to his position as monarch. Far more than the \$5,000,000 which Austria and Hungary accord him in the civil list he spends for public purposes. The annual maintenance of his gardens, all open to the public, costs him \$100,000; the Schönbrunn Park and the famous Thiergarten, \$100,000; the Imperial museums, \$120,000; the court theatres, \$240,000; and the imperial library, whose literary treasures are open to every one, \$20,000.

Large sums are expended on presents to charitable institutions, upon appanages given to families who have lost their ancestral wealth, to needy officers and for the purchase of art objects. The outlay connected with these matters has so increased that the grand steward of the Emperor's household, Baron Welchel, has been obliged to cancel many ancient privileges of the household staff.

Candles, for instance, formerly given out in large numbers from the steward's office, are now withheld, as well as the delicacies, wine and rare fruits, remaining over from court banquets and festivals, which are now sold. Wine from the royal cellars is no longer at the disposition of the household, nor free tickets for the court theatres.

The discipline introduced by the Hof-rath does not end with the castle retainers, but extends also to the Archdukes. From time immemorial the imperial horses and carriages have been at the service of the Archdukes. They are now indeed sent out when desired, but the fact is notpd each time and an account sent in for carriage use.

The economy exercised by the ladies of the imperial house is in striking contrast with the extravagance of many rich citizens' wives. In the establishments where the magnificent court robes are prepared many of these Archduchesses often order their old toilettes to be modernized. They sometimes buy from the smaller shops in the suburbs and inquire closely after the price of their purchases. In their different households these ladies inform themselves carefully of the price of provisions and of those articles in daily use.

A new Zion movement, a scheme for the settlement of Jews in Palestine, Syria and the Euphrates Valley is put forward by Stanley Shaw, a member of the London Chamber of Commerce. He points out

that in the last few years Jerusalem outside the walls has extended till it is as large as the city within. That, to take only one example, is a proof that the Jews want to go back.

Mr. Shaw's organization is entirely gentle, but would cooperate with recognized Jewish leaders. It aims at the creation of a Jewish state with geographic boundaries guaranteed by the United States, Great Britain, France, Germany, Russia, Turkey and Rumania.

He proposes to form settlements of groups of at least four families and to encourage manufactures and trading by the building of hotels and railroads. It will repay, he urges, the United States, England and Germany to better the conditions of these people and to do so by sending them back where they belong. Of course only those who want to go and for whom humanity demands it will be taken. Some time the problem will have to be faced and why not now?

Mr. Shaw contends that Jews had through history received more liberation at the hands of the Turks and Mohammedans than from any other people.

There is a movement among the Jews of Germany to revive the Hebrew language and to encourage its study and use among the younger generation of Jews, who are speedily forgetting the tongue of their forefathers.

A new review entitled *Hahib* has been founded in Berlin to promote this purpose, especially by reproducing intellectual treasure from the history of Jewish literature and presenting them to the modern Jew in an attractive form. The new organ is also intended to promote the study of the Hebrew language among German Jews.

The movement has aroused interest among the Jews and is receiving enthusiastic support from a large number of them.

Are Germans becoming frivolous? From all quarters of the empire come despatches describing a gigantic scheme for erecting sport palaces, gorgeous dancing rooms, Coney Islands and music halls. In Berlin alone twelve such schemes are in course of preparation, involving a capital of \$10,000,000.

Berlin has already two enormous artificial ice skating rinks. One of them holds 10,000 persons and is nightly crowded. It is remarked that about 100 persons perform on the ice while the remaining 9,900 drink beer and look on. Two more such ice palaces are proposed, and the great manufacturer Boersig proposes to open an open air skating palace in which skating on artificial ice will be possible during eight months of the year.

Several of the new entertainment palaces are to have roof gardens or tennis courts on the top. A ballet theatre is also planned with a stage which will hold 1,500 dancers. The Tourists Union announces that it will try to make Berlin more attractive to foreigners by opening special theatres for them during the summer months.

The craze for sport is reaching unexampled dimensions. The favorite games are football, tennis and ice hockey. The last is much played and during last week two German teams suffered defeat by the Oxford Canadians.

Everywhere Germany is making merry and spending vast sums on amusement and recreation. Another experiment in State management into which France recently entered has ended in a loss of over \$2,000,000. "It will cost only \$100,000," said the Minister of Public Works, when the question of the national printing office arose. But the real cost, according to a report issued this week, will be \$2,152,600.

With the idea of encouraging the art of the printer and in order also to safeguard the secrecy of public documents the State founded a national printing office, whence among other publications the *Journal Officiel* was issued. This is a bulky publication giving verbatim reports of parliamentary debates and is sold for 1 cent a copy, the taxpayers of course being the losers in proportion to the floods of oratory that swell the pages of the journal.

But the State, not content with doing its own work, aimed at competing with the trade. Hence the suggestion that large buildings should be erected in the suburbs. The old offices in the heart of the city were to be pulled down, and the huge profits from the sale of the old site were expected to cover very nearly the cost of the new site and buildings.

The Chamber agreed as usual, but when the operations were begun the city site proved to be an old sand pit under which was found running water, and it was also discovered to be in dangerous proximity to a large sewer. Expensive alterations had to be undertaken and the Chamber was asked for more money.

It was duly voted after protest, but later when another grant was asked for the Deputies refused to be moved and a commission of inquiry was appointed, with the result mentioned. There is no choice now for the taxpayers but to grin and bear the loss.

Nearly twenty years ago the young exquisites of London wore green carnations in their buttonholes. Parisian society women have now discovered the charm of dyed flowers and are wearing such monstrosities as blue camellias and green roses. Some ultra smart women even insist on having the flowers they wear dyed to match their eyes.

The stalk of a cut flower is placed in a chemical solution which is slowly absorbed until the coloring matter impregnates the petals. Aniline dyes are often used, methylene blue and eosine, for example, turning camellias coral pink and azure blue.

This triumph of art over nature, if it can be called that, is regarded by the National Federation of French Horticulturists with an unfavorable eye, as that body attempts itself to perform similar miracles by grafting and selection, and it contends that the use of artificial color is a fraud. Consequently the president of the horticulturists' society has been discussing the question with the Minister of Agriculture.

The society's demand is that the sale of dyed flowers, unless it be expressly stated that their colors are artificial, should be punishable as a fraud and that the use of any poisonous coloring matter be absolutely prohibited. The Minister gave a favorable reply and pointed out that the law of 1905 concerning adulteration and fraud appeared to be applicable. It is rather a formidable task for a French Minister to quarrel with Dame Fashion, but an inquiry was promised.

A bombshell has been thrown among the haughty German nobility by the revelations of Dr. Koerner of Munich, who says that nine out of ten of them are descended from serfs. The learned doctor declares that of the 100,000 odd persons who are now recognized as of noble blood only about five hundred are descendants

of the original nobility of Charlemagne's empire.

The rest are the posterity of men who were at first not even free, but who bought their freedom and gradually attained the rank of lesser nobles, and it was not until quite recently that they were recognized as noble birth. The Hohenzollerns, says the bold doctor, have some serfs' blood in their veins. The same is also true of the other German sovereign houses.

Another investigator, Prof. Schultze of Bonn, estimates the number of genuine noble German families at about 100 only. Among the sham nobles he classes several proud names that fill pages of the Almanach de Gotha.

The literature of the speaking dog is rapidly growing. The now famous German dog Don has justified the claims made for him and proved to the satisfaction of two competent animal psychologists that he really can pronounce articulate words.

It would, however, be a mistake to suppose that Don is the first of canine elocutionists or that dogs and parrots alone can be taught to speak. Schullin, the father of animal psychology, writing in 1840, mentions many cases of talking dogs and points out that several kinds of primates can imitate human speech, the cleverest after the dog being the sea calf *Phoca vitulina*. The latter has been taught to pronounce words like "Baba," a Romance form of "Papa." Even stags have been trained to produce human sounding tones.

Schullin knew of a dog which had been taught to pronounce forty words. Still commoner than speaking are singing dogs, which imitate definite melodies, and whose baying at the moon has been reduced to sharps and flats.

Darwin and Romanes may be consulted for examples of these four footed songsters and both agreed that no other animal had such refined perception of tonality, save perhaps certain species of apes. Romanes and Gross tell of dogs which could follow a human singer through the variations of a tune. One of the points brought out by the recent discussion is that nervous dogs are the best subjects for experiment.

King Victor Emmanuel's passion for numismatics began when he was 10 years old and found among the coppers in his pocket a papal penny with the effigy of Pius IX. He put the coin carefully by and from time to time he added others until he had saved fourteen papal coins of different dates.

His father then presented him with seventy coins, which formed the nucleus of a collection which is considered one of the finest in the world. King Humbert and Queen Margherita encouraged their son's growing passion for collecting coins, and instead of the usual gifts for birthday or Christmas gave him medals and coins until in a few years the young Prince had a collection numbering 3,000 pieces.

He now began to study the history of every coin and of its mint mark, and his mother not only helped him on with this work but often sent abroad for coins which were on sale. When in 1895 the Prince's collection numbered 18,000 coins, both foreign and classical, he decided to limit his future collecting to only Italian medieval and modern coins.

It was at his suggestion that an Italian numismatic society was founded, and he assumed its honorary presidency. The collecting of coins naturally became the hobby of the King, who purchased the celebrated Marginali collection for \$20,000 and several others until he acquired nearly all the known specimens of Italian coins, and he then started to write his monumental work on numismatics, the first volume of which has just been published.

WINTER WORK IN FLORIDA. Packing Vegetables Pays for One Dressmaker's Annual Vacation.

"For three winters I have been making my two months holiday in Florida pay for itself," a young woman employed in a dressmaking establishment told the reporter. "I not only pay my expenses by packing vegetables but come back to New York in March with a snug little sum of money saved in my pocket and a good coat of tan on my cheeks."

"The dressmaking business in New York is practically at a standstill from Christmas to the second week in March. In the place where I work nearly half the girls are dropped off during that time. For two years before I found out about packing vegetables in Florida I had to loaf for nearly two months."

"For packing vegetables in Florida we receive from \$1.50 to \$2.50 a day and we work six days in the week. Here in New York I pay \$5 a week for a small single room and two meals, breakfast and dinner. In Florida I get a good room and three delicious meals for \$15 a month."

"Last year two friends went down with me and we boarded in the same house. We were the only boarders and it was like a long picnic, as we were all working together under the same packing shed between meals. Instead of getting canned vegetables and small portions of them, as in New York, we had all the fresh vegetables we could eat. As for fruit, any variety can be bought at about a fifth of what it costs in New York."

"Our boarding place is about a mile in the country. Down in Florida that is considered a long walk to take twice a day, but as I walk twice as far morning and evening going to and from my work in New York it seems only a step to me."

"During the holidays all the packing houses are closed and after the New Year everything begins with a rush. That is the time to be on the ground if you want to get a good place and the best pay. I usually get down here a day or two ahead, now that I know the ropes."

"What vegetables do we pack when we first get down? If I answered 'Everything' it wouldn't be far wrong. Along about the middle of January squash and asparagus with all the other variety of vegetables begin to come in, and if possible we are busier than before. Next come the small fruits, beginning with strawberries."

"Though it is cleaner work shipping small fruits than vegetables, I believe I prefer the vegetables. You know how pleasant strawberries smell in small quantities. I used to think their scent the sweetest of all natural perfumes next to new mown hay. Packing them in Florida cured me. The odor is overpowering. Pineapples are even worse. 'I love to pack celeris, and I don't find either of them very objectionable. Even in a warm climate the odor is refreshing and stimulates rather than enervates."

"If I couldn't get work in the packing house I would get a place in one of the large hotels either as chambermaid or waitress. Servants are in great demand down there through January and February and I have very good opportunities of them have told me. You know the railroads make special rates for them, round trip rates. That is the way I get down so cheaply. It is not first class, but as the trip is only thirty-six hours it does not become tiresome."

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