

The River Press.

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DEVELOPMENT OF ELECTRICITY

To watch the whirling wheels of the mammoth generators, motors and other electrical mechanism in the modern power house makes it almost impossible to believe that the history of modern electrical development is only about 25 years old, although electricity was known to the ancients many thousands of years ago.

From authentic record it appears that the loadstone was discovered by the Chinese as long ago as 2600 B. C., although they made no practical use of the discovery. The first electricity intentionally generated was produced by the Greeks about the year 600 B. C. in polishing amber for ornamental purposes. It was soon noticed that if a piece of amber was rubbed with silk, it became possessed of a peculiar power which it did not have before. It was not until some years later known as electricity. At first, according to the ancient superstition, the mysterious force was looked upon as magic. It was long known that the loadstone would attract pieces of iron, but it was not until 1200 A. D. that man discovered that it would point north and south if suspended and allowed to swing freely. Several nations discovered this phenomena about the same time, but the first practical use of the compass was made in 1492, when Columbus discovered America—the home of electricity. As there was no other method of obtaining magnets other than rubbing the steel on the loadstone, all the early compasses were made in this way.

It was in the year 1752 Ben Franklin sent up his kite and told the world that electricity generated by rubbing amber, glass and sulphur was the same as the lightning in the sky. This discovery inspired the scientists of that day to give a great deal of time and attention to the study of electricity, and Franklin has since been called the originator of the science of electricity.

A new method of generating electricity by chemical action was discovered by Volta in 1793. Tradition has it that he one day hung some frog legs on an iron hook in front of his house. The acids in the flesh acted upon the iron and, dripping upon a copper railing just underneath, generated chemical electricity which caused the muscles in the legs to twitch every time they straightened out and touched the copper. Studying this problem, he used copper and zinc plates separated by wet cloths for the first chemical battery, and a few years later it was discovered that a steady current of electricity could be developed by submerging the zinc and copper plates in an acid bath. In 1800 Sir Humphrey Davy made the largest battery in the world, one of 2,000 cells, and obtained a current of sufficient strength to make a strong arc when the wires carrying the electricity were separated just a trifle. From this simple experiment was born the arc light of today. Soon after this it was found that a number of turns of insulated wire around a soft iron bar produced a magnet when the current was turned on, and thereafter it was no longer necessary to utilize the old loadstones.

In 1832 Faraday discovered that if a coil of wire was brought near a magnet a current of electricity was generated. From this simple experiment the great dynamos and generators of today were evolved. So in 600 B. C. electricity was generated by friction; in 1793 A. D. by chemical action, and in 1832 A. D. from magnetism.

Thus in brief is the history of electricity. It was long in coming, but the progress in its development during the last few years by the General Electric company and other concerns seems little short of the magic first associated with the hidden force by the ancient Greeks. Little did they dream of the force and power within their grasp, and it is even hard for us today to associate the little loadstone with the mammoth 12,000 horsepower generators of New York and Chicago power houses, or the 6,000 horsepower induction motors of the Adirondack pulp mills.

PRIVATE RIGHTS ON PUBLIC LANDS.

The proceedings of the convention in Denver called to consider questions relating to the control, use and disposition of public lands indicate that the purpose of the gathering has been misrepresented to some extent and that the hostility of the western people to the "land policy" of the government has been exaggerated, says the Butte Inter Mountain.

Presumably there are stockmen who honestly believe that the rights of individuals to the use of the public domain have been established by custom. Certainly there are government agents who have given abundant cause for opposition on the part of settlers as well as stock growers to the manner in which official authority has been exercised by subordinates. The people of the west are more directly and

more greatly and more personally interested in the wise and economical use and disposition of what remains of public lands in the west than any administration officials can be. President Roosevelt knows by personal experience and investigation something of the interests and rights of stockmen upon the public lands. He knows, or ought to know, from his experience in the bad lands the absurdity of considering large parts of the domain as available for either homestead or forest reserve purposes. There is no possible excuse for misunderstanding of the facts by either the president or the people who now utilize the public lands as he has done in years gone by. The latter cannot fail to appreciate the importance of preserving forests in the mountains if the land is to retain its value for any purpose. The basis for differences between the administration and the people of the west must be found, as suggested in Senator Carter's address, in the manner of application of the policy rather than the policy itself. There may be some unavoidable hardship to individuals in some instances, but the general welfare cannot be subjected to the pleasure or profit of a few persons.

The state of Montana derives a considerable and rapidly increasing revenue from rentals for use of lands held by the state in trust for the people of the state. The right of any citizen of the state to free and undisputed use or possession of such lands might be as reasonably assumed as the right of any citizen of the United States to like use or control of lands held by the national government as a part of the public domain. No one is heard declaiming against the policy of the state which has fixed the price of state lands far above that ever charged by the national government. No one is likely to raise a question of doubt as to the wisdom of the state policy to conserve the public interests at the same time that the full use of the lands is available to the citizens. Probably the national policy might be popularized by the more frequent employment of agents qualified to determine for what purpose the lands are best adapted, but any attempt to dispute that national authority or to defeat earnest endeavors to preserve the resources of the public domain remaining in the west, whether undertaken for commercial or political ends, is certain of failure in the result from the power of public opinion in the west rather than from the power of government authority.

**A RAILROAD CONUNDRUM.**  
When an American citizen purchases railway transportation, why should he be prohibited from selling or giving it to some other person? If he buys livestock, merchandise, or admission to a public entertainment, he can dispose of the property or right as he sees fit, but in the case of railway transportation it is different. This red tape restriction in the railroad business is the subject of comment in a Washington dispatch which says:

A new principle probably will find acceptance in the newer philosophy of interstate and intrastate commerce—sale of passenger transportation exactly like potatoes are sold, as a commodity conveying absolute title transferable at the option of the buyer. It is rapidly becoming the belief among government officials who have to do with these matters that the plan in vogue on the New York Central lines must be universally adopted by all railroads. This plan is:

One may go to any New York Central ticket office and buy a mileage book at two cents flat a mile. A 500-mile book costs \$10; a 1000-mile book, \$20. This book may be used by a man and his wife, the conductor "pulling" for instance 200 mile coupons for the journey of the man and wife to Albany, 100 miles from New York city. This rule applies to every station on the entire system. Furthermore, the buyer may take with him any one he pleases to take, whether or not a member of his family. For instance, if he see a friend on the train, he may instruct the conductor to pull twice the mileage for the distance the two are going from the same book. Or he may take thus as many persons as the mileage of the book will carry.

Again, if he be temporarily in the state or on the Central's lines, and when ready to leave that region he have an unused part of one of these books he may dispose of it to any one else without violating the rules of the company. There are no restrictions as to who shall use it.

On New York Central branch lines, the passenger rate is two and a half to three cents a mile, if ordinary tickets be bought, but these two-cent-a-mile books are good on any part of the system.

This rule is on the theory that purchase of passenger transportation is not merely a personal contract limited to being carried out only as to the original buyer, but that rather it is the purchase of a commodity such as the purchase of a sack of potatoes, with the feature of a contract to give safe carriage to the holder of a ticket. The commodity is to be con-

sumed in quantities and manner to suit the wish of the original buyer.

There is a disposition among legal representatives of the government to hold that any railroad company could be compelled to adopt the Central's method of selling passenger transportation, without further legislation, but that there be a law enacted making it plain beyond all question that that is to be the rule.

Make Rubber From Wheat.

Wheat and hogs, hitherto regarded by the farmer of the Mississippi valley simply as food products, have assumed a new commercial importance. In brief, wheat and hog's spittle will produce rubber. The importance of the discovery can scarcely be overestimated, coming as it does at a time when the world is anxiously asking from where its future supplies of rubber are to come. In half a decade, it is said, the annual consumption of the elastic material will be at least 80,000 tons. Even 100,000 tons is regarded by many as a conservative estimate.

It was by accident that Mr. Carr, the English inventor or discoverer of the substance, made the first step in his great discovery. He was but a small boy then. Passing one day through a field of wheat he plucked a few grains of the cereal, and, chewing them, formed the glutinous compound so familiar to every country lad.

Many years later, recalling his early experience, he began putting his theory to the test. His first laboratory was small shed in his back yard; his apparatus a coffee grinder and a kettle of hot water. Later he was able to obtain the use of the best shops and laboratories in England.

Gudgeons Ready To Be Caught.

The world may be growing better, but it's not growing much wiser—in spots. The unfortunate individual who affords profitable occupation for the bunco man we have with us always. Just why the benighted victims of gold brick games, loaded dice, the "dead brother" act, the green goods enterprise and other hoary devices for separating the fool from his money do not learn a few things is a mystery. But in spite of the universal publication of accounts of swindles, the crop of dupes continues as luxuriant as ever.

The Oldest Human Being.

The oldest living human being of authentic record is Mrs. Mary Wood, of Hillsboro, Ore., a few miles west of Portland. Mrs. Wood is 120 years old. She was born in Knoxville Tenn., May 20, 1787, which the records of Knoxville show. When she was 65 years old she rode the entire distance across the continent from her old home in Tennessee to her present home in Oregon.

The Sunflower.

"The sunflower," said a naturalist, "is the most deceitful of all plants, for it has fooled six nations."

"Six nations believe that the sunflower turns toward the sun, and so thoroughly are they deluded they call it by a name which bears witness to their error," says the Louisville Courier-Journal.

"Thus the French call the sunflower tournesol. The Spanish call it girasol. The Italians call it girasole. The Hungarians call it naptaforgo. Each of these words mean 'turn to the sun.' The English and Americans don't go quite that far in admitting themselves to be the plant's dupes. They only call it sunflower. They mean by that name, though, quite as much as the other names imply. The belief is general among six nations that the sunflower turns with the sun and always faces the luminary."

"As a matter of fact there is only one flower that turns or keeps with the sun, namely, the sun spurge."

Must Post Their Tariffs.

WASHINGTON, June 18.—An order has been issued by the interstate commerce commission regarding the posting of the tariffs of railroads. Under the new rate law, it is required that copies of the tariffs shall be posted in two conspicuous places in every railroad station in order that they may be inspected conveniently by the public.

Numerous minor but important changes have been made in the rules covering the construction and filing of tariffs. The new rules also permit carriers to authorize fast freight agents to act for them in the publication and filing of tariffs under power of attorney.

The commission expresses the opinion that carriers may lawfully make special rates for the movement of federal troops when such movement is under orders and at the expense of the United States government, and that the rates so made need not be posted or filed.

The shortest street in the United States is Hague street, in New York. It is only long enough to accommodate two houses.

PUBLIC LANDS CONVENTION.

Federal Officials Invite Suggestions From Residents of the West.

DENVER, June 18.—The public lands convention, which met in this city today for a three-days' session, got down to business this afternoon and listened to addresses by James R. Garfield, secretary of the interior; Richard A. Ballinger, commissioner of the general land office, and Henry M. Teller, United States senator from Colorado. Permanent organization was effected by the selection of Dr. J. M. Wilson of Wyoming, as permanent chairman and Fred Johnson of Colorado as secretary.

The first speaker of the afternoon was Secretary Garfield. He urged the convention, in its discussion of the present land laws, criticism of which, he said, had been the cause of the calling together of the convention, to confine its discussion to the effect of these laws on the nation and not any particular section of the country. The public lands, he said, were not an asset of any locality. They belong to the people of the west. He welcomed criticism which was constructive, but thought that criticism as merely an attack, without a suggestion or improvement, was worthless.

Mr. Ballinger confined his address to a history of the land office and its duties. He explained at length the present land laws.

Dr. Wilson in taking the chair just before adjournment, compared the convention to a stockholders' meeting and the representatives of the government to the directors of the corporation. It was the duty of the directors to take their orders from the stockholders, he said, and if they did not, at the next regular meeting the directors would be removed.

United States Senator Carter of Montana, who was chosen temporary chairman, made the following statement regarding the position of President Roosevelt on the public land question:

"The president is irrevocably opposed, it seems, to the continuance of the free and unregulated range, but is not absolutely committed to any scheme for the accomplishment of his purpose. This is what he informed me. His policy, as I am informed by him, is the regulation of the public range of the west by the government. The president added that if it was found there were any harsh rules in force in the administration of the policies, these harsh rules, not the policies, would be modified."

Senator Carter, in his address as temporary chairman, went over the history of the development of the west. He expressed the opinion that the day of the great open range is past. He said among the questions to come before the convention was whether the lands of the United States shall be made a source of revenue by requiring permits for the use of the public range, or whether the leasing shall prevail. He said that the federal government as a land owner had just as strong a right as private individuals, and no stronger.

Williston Project Completed.

WILLISTON, N. D., June 17.—With the pressing of an electric button by President Roosevelt, setting the pumping machinery of the Williston irrigation project into motion, the first undertaking of the reclamation service is complete. With many prominent officers and visitors here and thousands of people from all over this section in attendance, the day will long be remembered as the greatest in the history of western North Dakota.

The Williston project is the most unique of its kind ever attempted and will stand as a monument to the ingenuity and skill of the engineers of the reclamation service. Because of the instability of the channel of the Missouri river, it was found necessary to construct works to lift water by means of pumps instead of depending upon the force of gravity. Large beds of lignite in the vicinity afford cheap fuel for the power house and the pumps have been located on floating barges, which will accommodate themselves to changes of the channel and the water level. Pipes with flexible joints deliver the water into basins located a short distance from the shore. Nearly 20,000 acres of land in this vicinity will be irrigated by water from this system, and an area of similar extent in the Nesson valley will also be benefited by pumping systems. The soil in the vicinity is a rich loam and the reclamation service officials believe it will become the most productive in the northwest as a result of the irrigation system.

Suffering From Heat.

CHICAGO, June 18.—Three deaths and many prostrations because of the heat were reported this morning. The mercury at 10 o'clock was 87 degrees, one degree higher than at the same hour yesterday.

BOSTON, June 18.—All heat records for June 18 were broken generally throughout New England today. Four deaths and many prostrations occurred. In Boston, the highest official temperature was 94 degrees.

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LETTERS FROM HEYWOOD.

Orchard's Testimony Strengthened By Documentary Evidence.

BOISE, June 18.—The prosecution in the Steunenberg murder trial offered one of its most important pieces of evidence against William D. Heywood today, when, recalling Harry Orchard for re-direct examination, it introduced and secured the admission of four letters, tending to show that Heywood, in the fall of 1905, when Orchard swears he was engaged on various crimes for the federation leaders, had participated in a plan to deceive Mrs. Orchard No. 2, of Cripple Creek, as to the whereabouts of her husband.

Over a protest from the defense, Orchard was allowed to testify that, early in the summer of 1905, Heywood told him that Mrs. Orchard was writing him for information as to Orchard's whereabouts. Orchard swore that he proposed that he should write his wife a series of letters that were to be falsely dated and delivered to Mrs. Orchard by agents of the federation. He said that he first wrote two letters, which he dated at San Francisco, and had them delivered through Paddy Mulliney, who represented the federation at Cripple Creek. Orchard identified the two letters and, over all objections, Judge Wood admitted them.

Next Orchard swore that he wrote a third letter, purporting to come from Nome, Alaska, and that, under the general arrangement that he had made with the federation's officials, Marion Moore carried the letter to Nome, where he went as organizer of the federation, and posted it. This letter, bearing the date of Nome, August 5, 1905, was produced, identified and admitted in evidence.

Orchard then identified a letter which Heywood wrote to Mrs. Orchard, and that, too, was admitted in evidence and handed to the jury.

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