

A Good Sign

Some grocers pile barrels of the standard flour in front of their stores, to show people who know good things from poor, that they sell Pillsbury's Best.

GALES POWERS' TRIAL

Captured Witness Gives Damaging Evidence Against Defendant.

Georgetown, Ky., Aug. 20.—In the trial of Caleb Powers the commonwealth, over objection of the defense, secured permission to introduce the witness Henry Broughton, who ran away and had to be captured. Broughton told of going to Frankfort at the instance of Powers and others with the mountain army of Jan. 25, 1900. After arriving at Frankfort he met Powers, and the defendant asked him to give him the names of several men, one of whom could be relied on to "do the killing" or to "do the work."

He gave Powers the names of Frank Cecil, Zach Steel and Anthony Broughton as good men to do shooting. Witness returned home the same day he went to Frankfort and did not go there again. He said he expressed pleasure on learning that Gobel had been killed. The defense laid the foundation for contradicting Broughton and also to show that on Jan. 25, 1900, witness was drunk and not responsible.

Copper Company Declares Dividend.
Boston, Aug. 20.—Calumet and Hecla directors have declared a dividend of \$10 per share.

Piano and Pianola Trust.
Trenton, N. J., Aug. 20.—The Eolian, Weber Piano and Pianola company, capital \$10,000,000, of which \$5,000,000 is preferred stock, has been incorporated here. The preferred stock is to draw 7 per cent cumulative dividends. The object of the company is the manufacture of pianos, organs, pianolas and other musical instruments. The incorporators are Harry B. Tremaine, Charles M. Tremaine, Edward R. Perkins, Westfield, N. J., and Edwin S. Votey, Summit, N. J.

Countess Von Walderssee Coming.
Berlin, Aug. 20.—Countess von Walderssee (formerly Miss Lee of New York) sails for the United States on the Hamburg-American line steamer Moltke. The official duties of Field Marshal Count von Walderssee and his engagements prevent him from visiting America with his wife, as he had long expected to do. He has never been in America, and it is now remarked in connection with the countess' visit that the count will probably never see the great republic.

No Flags in Trademarks.
Albany, N. Y., Aug. 20.—The attorney general's department has decided that the law passed by the last legislature forbidding the use of the United States flag for advertising purposes applies to trademarks in which the design of the national flag is substantially used. The law exempts the use of the flag design in newspapers.

Kansas River Still Falling.
Kansas City, Aug. 20.—The Kansas river here and west is falling rapidly, and no further fear of damage is felt. Every effort is being made to replace the two bridges washed out during the high water. Boats must be used for several weeks, however, to transfer persons between the two cities.

Harty Remains in Rome.
Rome, Aug. 20.—The Most Rev. J. J. Harty, archbishop of Manila, has postponed his departure from Rome, as he is desirous of assisting in the consecration of the Right Rev. Thomas A. Hendrick, the recently appointed bishop of Cebu, next Sunday.

VANDERBILT SUES EDITOR.

Alleges That He Was Labeled by St. Petersburg Paper.

Cornelius Vanderbilt has instructed a prominent law firm to bring suit for libel against the Novosti newspaper, whose editor Vanderbilt wants secretly published, says the St. Petersburg correspondent of the Philadelphia North American. "This is the editor's crime: 'When Cornelius and his friends visited St. Petersburg in their yacht,' wrote the newspaper, 'the ladies were hard up for jewelry. They had not dared bring their flares and other great jewels to so barbaric a country as Russia. Yet the ladies did not care to appear without jewelry at a dinner party given on the yacht to several members of the St. Petersburg aristocracy. So they made the rounds of the great jewelers of the capital, selected a quantity of bracelets, earrings, necklaces and headresses and had them sent to the yacht on approval. These borrowed plumes they wore at the dinner and sent them back next day with their regrets.'"

Vanderbilt denies the story and wants the Novosti man punished for libeling his friends.

A RECEPTION GARDEN.

Novelty For Newport Planned by Mrs. W. R. Travers.

Something new in the way of entertaining is what Newport hostesses are still striving for, and although it had been thought that the inventive genius of almost everybody had some time since run the very limit of possibilities, Mrs. William R. Travers appears to have made a discovery that is really novel and interesting, says the New York Herald. Mrs. Travers contemplates adding to the list of Newport's private attractions a Japanese garden, where she can give entertainments, either small or elaborate, within an environment that shall be at least somewhat suggestive of the sunny orient.

Definite plans have not yet been formulated, but Mrs. Travers owns a fine stretch of land which lies between the Ocean drive and the south shore, where the Japanese garden may be located.

A Business Epitaph.

Amusing epitaphs are not difficult to find if one is seeking them. The Chicago Republican cites a most singular one which may be found on a monument in eastern Tennessee:

Sacred to the memory of John Smith, for twenty years senior partner of the firm of Smith & Jones, now J. J. Jones & Co.

The names are not really Smith and Jones, but they will answer for the purposes of the story. "I met Jones later," says the narrator, "and he gave me a frank explanation of the inscription."

"Smith was a bachelor without relatives," he said, "but he knew a tremendous lot of country people, and if any of them happened to see his grave they might think that the old house had closed up and gone out of business. So I thought it no more than right to let them know that the firm was still alive."

Jamaica Bananas.

About 20,000,000 bunches of bananas grow annually on the island of Jamaica. Four-fifths of this amount are exported, and the remainder is consumed as food by the natives. A bunch of bananas, containing about 300 specimens of the fruit, sells in Jamaica for 15 or 20 cents.

Coast Steamers Collide.

Boston, Aug. 20.—The Eastern Steamship company officials have reported that their steamer, the City of Bangor, and the steamer Frank Jones have been in collision at Rockland, Me. The City of Bangor was unharmed and proceeded. The Frank Jones put back to the wharf at Rockland, but the damage she sustained was not known.

Doherty's Keep Championship.
Newport, R. I., Aug. 20.—R. F. and H. L. Doherty successfully defended their title as American tennis champions in doubles by defeating Collins and Waldner, champions of the west and east—7-5, 6-3, 6-3.

Big Fire in Quebec.

Quebec, Aug. 20.—The Northern railway shops have been completely destroyed by fire. Loss, \$75,000; covered by insurance.

BACTERIA FOR FARMERS.

New Branch of the Work of the Department of Agriculture.

The secretary of agriculture will ask congress next winter for a special appropriation for carrying on the work of soil inoculation, says a Washington special to the New York Times. This is a new branch of work in the department which has grown out of the discoveries made within the last few years in regard to the dependence of leguminous plants on bacteria which live on their roots. The discovery is described by scientists as one of the most important of those made as the results of modern agricultural experimentation.

The department will take up the plan of supplying free to farmers in all parts of the United States the particular bacteria for inoculation which they may desire and apply for. A large laboratory has been fitted up for this work.

The method will be to propagate the bacteria required in large quantities for each of the various leguminous plants, such as clover, alfalfa, soy beans, cowpeas, tares and velvet beans. All these plants are of incalculable value in different sections of the country as sources of forage for farm animals. In the west alfalfa is the universal reliance for stock raisers, and the farmers of the east are trying to establish it, but meet with great difficulty in doing so, chiefly for want of the special bacteria which should be found in the roots.

The function of these bacteria is to fix the nitrogen of the air and supply it as food to the plant. Without the presence of the bacteria the plant can get only the nitrogen which is supplied from the soil in fertilizers. With the aid of the bacteria the growing plant can derive the greater part of its food from the air.

The department will send the packages which contain the preparations for inoculation under the frank of the department or of representatives or senators who may apply for them in behalf of constituents. The bacteriologists of the department have been at work for over a year past on the scheme and have tested their work carefully at the Arlington farm. These tests have uniformly proved successful.

Secretary Wilson is very enthusiastic over the subject and regards it as the most important accomplishment of the many that have marked his administration of the department.

A COSTLY SPECIAL.

New Schedule of Trains on the Transiberian Railroad.

A new Transiberian railway schedule has been issued. Hereafter express trains will leave Moscow four times instead of three times a week. The trip from Moscow to Dalny, 5,368 miles, can now be made in thirteen days by fast trains and in seventeen days by slow trains. The distance to Port Arthur is 5,288 miles. The express trains only run from Moscow to Irkutsk, then to Manchuria station, 4,197 miles from Moscow, post and passenger trains, and from Manchuria station to Dalny, express and post trains.

The new tariff, including sleepers, calls for the following rates, first and second class: Moscow to Irkutsk, \$61.23 and \$38.00; Moscow to Vladivostok, \$119.46 and \$74.90; Moscow to Port Arthur, \$134.05 and \$84.50. These rates include the crossing of Lake Balkal by the steamboat. A special train of three passenger cars and one baggage car can be procured for the far east at 2 rubles per verst, or \$1.03 for 0.683 mile, on the Russian railways and 50 per cent on the Chinese roads. At these rates this special train from Moscow to Port Arthur would cost nearly \$3,200.

New Mosely Commission.

Mr. Alfred Mosely, whose commission of trade union leaders to the United States last year to inquire into industrial conditions here excited so much comment, is about to follow it with another, this time of educational experts, says the New York Commercial Advertiser. The commission will start from England in October, and arrangements have been made to insure the authoritative nature of the body. The idea is that it shall examine in detail American educational methods, the primary schools, technical schools, intermediate schools and colleges. It will not confine its investigations to one class, although the application of education to industrial efficiency will receive special attention. The original idea was to send a commission first to Germany and then to America, but it was found that each country would require a separate inquiry for itself.

A Use For Prairie Dogs.

Scientists may some time find use for mosquitoes. On the western prairie dogs have been regarded as even more useless pests, and now comes a man who says that they serve such a purpose that henceforth instead of states offering bounties for them they will encourage the propagation of the little beasts. Louis Grosvenor (nomen et omen?) has, according to the Omaha Bee, discovered that prairie dogs are a very great aid to the cultivation of alfalfa. Mr. Grosvenor says that alfalfa, to grow, must be infected with a certain fungus, and that there is no agency of infection so good as the despoiled prairie dog. His discoveries are the result of four years of tests.

New Flower in England.

Florists have long aimed at a blue rose and a yellow peony, and the latter has arrived first, says a London cable dispatch to the Chicago Inter Ocean. The plant is small and the blossom is of a golden yellow tint. It is grown at Cranbrook, in Kent, and its appearance has caused some excitement in the horticultural world.

PERILS OF THE X RAY.

Edison Says He Is Afraid of the New Light.

HIS EMPLOYEE LOST HAND AND ARM

Famous Inventor Tells How Clarence Dally Was Injured by the Rays—Has Abandoned Search For Fluorescent Lamp, Finding His Sight Impaired by Experiments. Will Have Nothing to Do With Radium.

That impaired sight, cancerous disease and even death may come to him who is continuously exposed to or inexperienced in the use of Roentgen rays has been demonstrated in a pitiable manner in the laboratory of Thomas A. Edison at Orange, N. J. Clarence Dally, an assistant to the "Wizard of Menlo Park," has contributed an arm and a hand to this demonstration, while Mr. Edison himself suffers from the disturbed focus of one of his eyes through experiments with the mysterious light in an endeavor to find for it some commercial utility.

Mr. Edison was recently seen at his home in Llewellyn Park, Orange, by a New York World reporter and asked to tell the story of the experiment which disabled Dally and came near making Mr. Edison sightless.

"Don't talk to me about X rays," he said. "I am afraid of them. I stopped experimenting with them two years ago, when I came near losing my eyesight, and Dally, my assistant, practically lost the use of both of his arms. I am afraid of radium and polonium, too, and I don't want to monkey with them."

"Up to two years ago I was deeply interested in X rays. I used a fluorescence which I invented, a pyramidal box with one open end, the smaller, and a larger closed end, the covering being a chemical sheet against which the object to be examined is placed, the rays being focused upon it. I was making experiments in a dark room that I had constructed in one end of the laboratory. I was looking for an improved crystal, and there were daily results that fascinated me and kept my eye glued to the fluorescence virtually all the time."

"I used my left eye, and one day when I came out of the dark room and closed my right eye for a moment everything looked double. I hastened to an oculist, who said that my eye was something over a foot out of focus. It is still imperfect, and I do not think that it will ever be entirely well."

"When I noticed the effect upon my eye I cautioned Dally. I told him that there was danger in the continuous use of the tubes, but he persisted because he was so enthusiastic upon the subject. The only thing that saved my eyesight was that I used a very weak tube, while Dally insisted in using the most powerful one he could find."

"The box of the fluorescence only partially covered his face, so that the light fell upon his hair and made it fall out—that is, what was left of it after exposing his head to the light in a reckless way to illustrate its power. Parts of his hand and arm were also exposed to the action of the light."

"I am keeping him on the pay roll, although he is not able to do any work, and I expect to take care of him as long as he lives. I have sent him away on a vacation to Woodbridge, N. J., where the change may do him good."

"Speaking of radium, Mr. Edison, what is your opinion of it?" asked the reporter.

"I have had several pieces of it from Mme. Curie in Paris, and I have experimented with it. I do not see its commercial utility, but it opens up a great field of thought and scientific research. It overturns all the old theories of force and energy and has set scientists to thinking. Do I believe that it is the solution of perpetual motion? No. I have a peculiar theory about radium, and I believe it is the correct one."

"I believe that there is some mysterious ray pervading the universe that is fluorescing to it. In other words, that all its energy is not self constructed, but that there is a mysterious something in the atmosphere that scientists have not found that is drawing out those infinitesimal atoms and distributing them forcefully and indistinctly."

"Did you ever find any commercial utility in the X rays or radium?"

"My researches, I might as well tell you now that I have abandoned them, were in the direction of making a fluorescent lamp. I obtained results which brought me each day nearer to the object of my desire. I found a crystal that was fluorescing 12,000 times, and I thought I had my lamp. Then came the question of practical use. I could make the lamp all right, but when I did so I found that it would kill everybody who would use it continuously."

"No, I do not want to know anything more about X rays. In the hands of experienced operators they are a valuable adjunct to surgery, locating as they do objects concealed from view, and making, for instance, the operation for appendicitis almost sure. But they are dangerous, deadly, in the hands of the inexperienced or even in the hands of the man who is using them continuously for experiment. There are two pretty good object lessons of this fact to be found in the Oranges."

Colored Pharmacists in Virginia.

The colored pharmacists of Virginia met recently and perfected an organization for their mutual advancement throughout the state, says the American Druggist. The organization will be known as the Virginia Association of Colored Pharmacists.

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DEMAND FOR RADIUM.

Chicago Professor Tells Why Scientists Seek the Metal.

QUANTITIES REPORTED IN AMERICA

North Carolina and Colorado Ores Said to Be Rich in Supplies of Pitchblende, From Which the Precious Substance is Obtained—Why It Costs So Much to Extract It.

Radium, the new metal which sends off waves of minute particles that will cure cancer and give flashes of light to the blind and which is expected to supersede and surpass X rays, is being sought on the American market by scientists at the University of Chicago. Although this magical metal is many times more costly than gold or diamonds and the French company which manufactures it is charging \$170,000 an ounce for it, the metal from which radium is extracted exists in the United States, and a company has recently been organized at Buffalo to produce it for the various universities in the country, says the Chicago Record-Herald.

Dr. Robert A. Millikan, physicist of note at the University of Chicago, says that he recently received a communication from this company and that he has replied that the University of Chicago research workers are desirous of securing a consignment of the precious substance.

"We have been too poor to buy any radium, although very anxious to do so, because the discussion of many questions brought up by its discovery is probably the most important among the physicists, chemists and pathologists of Europe today," said Dr. Millikan. "The Societe Centrale of Paris proposes to ask \$6,000 a gram for radium, which is a little more than \$170,000 an ounce. There is some quantity for experimental purposes here, unless there can be some reduction in the cost, we would have to spend as much as it might take to endow a department."

The scarcity of the world's supply of radium and the elaborate processes required for its extraction account for this enormous price. It is estimated that the complete supply of the world is not more than two tons. Professor Herbert N. McCoy of the department of chemistry says:

The new substance, discovered only three or four years ago, is found principally in uranium. Pitchblende is the name which the miners give to the mineral oxide form in which uranium is usually found. The chunks of pitchblende look like coal and are seen in lumps smaller than a miner's hand within veins of other minerals, gold, silver or mica, or in small lumps in granite.

"Pitchblende is but moderately abundant," said Professor McCoy.

"The cost of getting radium does not come from the scarcity of the uranium in this form, but because in the uranium the radium is found in very minute quantities. To get a little bit of radium out of the immense amount of pitchblende is like getting a tenth of a grain of gold out of three tons of sand. It is estimated that pitchblende does not contain more than one ten-thousandth per cent of radium. And, as has been proved by M. and Mme. Curie of Paris, who have led in this work, it is the most expensive process. Very naturally we are hoping that possibly some American will exercise Yankee ingenuity and extract the new metal more cheaply."

That America possesses a considerable amount of pitchblende and that an increase in the world's supply of uranium will be made, now that its great value is known, is believed by Dr. Oliver C. Farrington, curator of the department of geology at the Field Columbian museum and professional lecturer for the university. In speaking of America's stores of radium producing minerals he said:

"Outside of the United States the only places where pitchblende is found are Saxony, where the French chemists are getting their supply; Bohemia, Norway, where it is found in granite, and Egypt."

"In the United States there are three places where it is found in quantities. One of these is in North Carolina, in Mitchell county, where lumps of the pitchblende are found in mica. These lumps are not as big as your fist. They are sold for \$1 a pound. Uranium is used for an alloy. Uranium salts are used in photography and have been for many years."

"The other two places are in Colorado. One is in Gilpin county, where the pitchblende is found in silver and gold ore. This was for a time mined extensively and sold at \$500 a ton. But that did not pay, and it was given up. The second place is in the southwestern part of Colorado. Here uranium is found in sandstone. There is a yellow oxide of uranium which is spread out in extensive thin layers. It is called carnotite and was mined for a time, but finally given up as unprofitable. It had already been discovered that radium, with its remarkable powers, is extracted from uranium. But since then this has become more widely known, and it may now make a difference."

"If the powers of radium can be turned to practical uses, and the uranium therefore sets an increase in value sufficient to warrant the cost of mining and extracting radium, I think that uranium will be found in many places unknown at present. Already it has been discovered in a slag from blast furnaces at Iron works by the Curies. I look for an increase in the world's supply, just as there has been an increase in thorium since mantle lamps have created a demand for that element."

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