

WHO USES SNUFF NOWADAYS?

Chewing and "Rubbing" Largely Practiced in the Mill Towns.

Year by year with never a set-back, the American Snuff Company has steadily increased its business, its dividends and its surplus, while the uninitiated continue to ask, Who uses snuff nowadays? The company's annual report for the fiscal year ended Dec. 31, 1908, shows net earnings of \$3,474,318 compared with \$2,170,585 for 1907; a net balance applicable to dividends on common stock of \$2,154,318, a surplus for the year of \$1,214,080 and a profit and loss surplus of \$56,888,310. After paying dividends on the preferred stock at the regular rate of 6 per cent, quarterly dividends at varying rates each quarter, amounting to 14 per cent for the year, were paid on the common stock, says the New York Commercial. A 5 per cent quarterly dividend has been declared on the common stock payable April 1 to stockholders of record March 13. This puts it on a 20 per cent basis.

The American Snuff Company was formed in 1900 to take over the snuff properties of the American Tobacco Company, the Continental Tobacco Company, and some smaller allied concerns. It has outstanding \$12,000,000 of preferred stock and \$11,001,700 common stock, with assets valued conservatively at \$31,341,642.

An official of a prominent Boston wholesale house which distributes the products of the American Snuff Company through New England yesterday explained the mystery of what becomes of all the snuff in these days when the habit of taking snuff is generally supposed to have died out. He said that snuff is no longer snuffed to any considerable extent; but the habit of chewing or "rubbing" snuff has been introduced into the mill towns throughout all the Eastern States. The strength of the position, from a business standpoint, lies in the fact that the women in the mills are as much addicted to the practice as the men. This man, who is an expert in the tobacco trade, attributes the introduction of the snuff-chewing habit to the Swedes, and he says that the American Snuff Company has found it necessary to manufacture special brands of the class of goods made in Sweden to satisfy this demand. He says that very little snuff is snuffed in the old way.

ON AN OCEAN LINER.

It Doesn't Pay to Get Haughty with the Stewards.

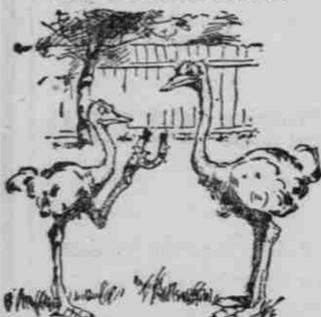
"Never, oh, never, speak harsh words of rebuke to a steward on an ocean liner," declared a Congressman of New York.

"One summer I journeyed over to the other side. The first day out, at meal time, I found that I had to embrace the table leg to get near enough to operate with my knife and fork. For my unpleasant seat I called the steward to account. Most harsh was my criticism. Then I told him I would have my meals served thereafter in the upper cabin.

"The next morning the cabin steward told me of a better room, and that I should get it immediately. It was more costly and elaborately furnished than the one I occupied with my traveling companion. Then, too, it was on the main deck. I looked over the new room and decided to change. I had my luggage, with that of my friend, moved below. When my friend found the new quarters he gasped with horror. 'Man alive!' he said, 'this is the worst hole on the ship. You and I are in for a great big seasick.' We got every jar of the ship and good and seasick, too.

"The day I landed the dining room steward met me on the deck. 'Much obliged for changing,' he said. 'It was at my request that the cabin steward got you to move. The gentleman ahead of you in that cabin and who wanted to move gave me \$75 to fix the deal. I thank you for what is a most glorious tip.'—Washington Post.

Toddy's Friends in Africa.



"Say, ma, can I eat this horseshoe?" "Yes, my child, but be sure and remove the nails. I'm so afraid of appendicitis."

No Longer in Control.

Knecker—Did Jones lost control of his auto?
Bocker—Entirely; his chauffeur won't let him use it at all.

A good many people believe that to know a lot of contemptible gossip, is to be wise.

SUCCESS OF DES MOINES PLAN; CITY RULED BY A COMMISSION



IOWA'S law authorizing the establishment of commission government in cities of 25,000 or more population, which has been very successful in its first year of trial by Des Moines, according to reports from that city, was enacted by the Legislature in the spring of 1907. Applying to eight cities by virtue of the population clause, it was instituted in Des Moines, a city of 75,000 inhabitants, soon after the Supreme Court of Iowa, in February, 1908, upheld its constitutionality without a dissenting opinion, and has become widely known as "the Des Moines plan." In its general features the plan provides for a method of city government that has been tried, with good results, for several years in Houston and Galveston, Tex.

Instead of a mayor and a board of aldermen or councilmen, the "Des Moines plan" makes the governing power of a city a commission consisting of a mayor and four councilmen. Large powers are combined in the commission, which makes the local laws and executes them through a division of authority whereby each member of the commission becomes the head of a department. These departments are as follows: Public affairs, accounts and finances, public safety, including fire and health; parks and public property, public improvements.

The Iowa law may be adopted by any city within the State having sufficient population, which makes it eligible for eight cities. Cedar Rapids has followed the example of Des Moines and has elected to try it. If 10 per cent of the voters of an eligible city petition for the purpose an election must be held to decide whether the city shall adopt the law. A majority of the voters may adopt it or may drop it after trial. Initiative and referendum provisions form an important part of the law. At the demand of 25 per cent of the voters there must be a referendum on any action of the commission, positive or negative, and the decision of the majority of voters at the referendum election is made binding on the mayor and councilmen. All ordinances granting franchises must be submitted to the voters for adoption or rejection. Sessions of the commission must be public.

To judge from the reports from Des Moines, the plan has been especially effective in financial and police matters. For the second year in its history, it is said, the city has lived within its income, having a surplus of about \$20,000, instead of a deficit of \$50,000 or more. The five members of the commission have been paid \$3,000 each, whereas councilmen were formerly paid \$250 each, but it is estimated that business methods of administration have saved more than the \$15,000 total cost of the commission. Every department of the government has been reorganized; sinecures have been abolished, and it is even stated that "there are no more political jobs." Streets have been kept clean, better lighted at less cost, and paving contracts have been carried out in the spirit and the letter of the contract. Each commissioner takes personal pride in his department and feels personal responsibility for it.

POPULAR SCIENCE

Heretofore, says Dr. L. O. Howard, it has been supposed that the gipsy-moth was distributed only by caterpillars carried by moving objects, such as carriages. The moths cannot fly, and the part taken by birds and winds in distributing them or the caterpillars he regards as problematical. Yet recently isolated colonies of these moths have been found in the woods far from roads and paths, and the question arises, How did they get there? Dr. Howard requests information and suggestions on this point.

Recent excavation at the Maumbury Rings Circle, in England, is regarded as corroborating the tradition that a Roman amphitheater once existed on that site. A stratum of quartz, flint and fragments of shells, such as the Romans placed on the surface of the arena where gladiators fought, has been found there. A very interesting fact is that other remains indicate that the place was used by Neolithic people as a flint workshop. It is apparent that they used picks made of deer's antlers to excavate the pit where the flint was found. The pit is 30 feet deep. The place seems to have been almost continuously occupied since Neolithic times.

It is known that the Christian era, based on the birth of the Savior, is older by several years than the time assigned in the calendar; but the precise year in which Christ was born has never been finally determined. Lieutenant Colonel G. Mackinlay has recently investigated the question anew, and has stated his conclusion in a book, for which Sir W. M. Ramsay has written a preface. The date on which he fixes for the Nativity is 8 B. C., according to our present chronology. He bases his reasoning on the assumed association of John the Baptist with periodical "bright shinnings" of the planet Venus, the suggestion being that these special apparitions of Venus are the groundwork of the story of the "Star of Bethlehem."

Prof. Todd, the astronomer of Amherst College, who is conducting experiments in South America, ascended a mountain in the Andes to an altitude of 14,000 feet above sea level, and there remained for one hour in a steel tank of 270 cubic feet capacity, filled with air compressed to the same tension that air maintains at an altitude of 1,000 feet. His pulse was reduced from 104 to 91. His breathing and physical condition remained normal. A decompression of the air to its normal tension at 14,000 feet was then made in seventeen minutes. The experiment is looked upon as being important as regards the treatment of diseases affected by various degrees of air pressure. Experiments heretofore conducted

in the Andes to see what effect high altitude had on human life show says the Boston Transcript, that at 14,000 feet and over the air pressure is so light as to produce incapacity for work, prostration and sometimes death. At the level of the sea the air pressure is approximately 15 pounds to the square inch. At an altitude of 14,000 feet it is approximately 9 1/2 pounds.

Experiments to determine the effects of light on a number of dyed colors were undertaken by Herr T. Frusher who exposed for a period of forty days samples of a number of colors, with the following results: Of the natural coloring matters, camwood, the fastest of the red woods, and fustic, the fastest of the yellow woods, both fade a little; logwood in pale shades is considerably decolorized, the destruction of color not being so apparent in dark shades; logwood blacks finished with chrome turn greener than unfinished blacks; vat-dyed indigo gives the fastest of all blue colors. Among the artificial coloring matters tested, alizarin blue antracene brown, in pale shades, are only moderately fast, galloxyanin is not quite so fast as alizarin blue; naphthol black, diamond black, anthracite black and other wood substantive azo blacks are much faster to light than logwood black.

A BRILLIANT GERMAN IDEA.



Prof. Eugen Hornel, the Berlin sculptor, suggests that houses in earthquake regions be built of steel and riveted to a rocking steel foundation. This would give the houses an agreeable motion that would make an earthquake a pleasure. If the motion became too violent, probably the furniture could be riveted to the floor and the people lashed to the chairs.

He Did It.

"I refused Jim and he swore he'd do something desperate."
"Goodness! Why, he proposed to me yesterday."
"The dear boy! So he kept his word, after all."—Cleveland Leader.

An Innuentation.

The daughter of her mother was doing a stunt at the piano.
"My daughter's music," said the proud parent, "cost us a lot of money."
"Indeed!" rejoined the visitor. "Did some neighbor sue you?"—Boston Post.

About all the future some people have left is longing for spring when it is winter, and longing for summer when it is spring.

THE TURTLE'S HEAD.

Chopped Off, It Retains Life for a Number of Hours.

On the counter, in a porcelain dish, stood the severed head of a large turtle.

"That is rather gruesome," said a man who was buying oysters.

The oyster opener glanced at the head carelessly.

"It is a bet," said he. "I bet Gus Schmidt that the head would keep alive twenty-four hours. It's nearly twenty-five now since I chopped it off. Gus is late. But I win anyhow," he added.

"Where's my money? Pay me my money!" a deep voice shouted at this moment, and a short man swaggered in.

"You've lost, Gus," said the oyster opener. "There is still life in her."

"There is—nit," said Gus Schmidt. "Nix on the life."

And he extended a stumpy finger fearlessly toward the turtle's mouth.

"Gee!"

Startled, amazed, Gus Schmidt leaped back. For in the turtle's open eyes a fierce light had flashed, the ugly mouth had opened and shut with a sharp snap, and the head in some strange way had advanced an inch or two toward the tempting finger, much as a piece of steel advances toward a magnet.

"This may surprise you, Gus," said the oyster opener, wiping his wet hands in order to pocket his winnings.

"But it don't surprise me none. I've seen turtle heads keep life in 'em long-er'n this here."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Audubon Couldn't Sell Groceries.

It is not generally remembered that the worldwide reputation of Audubon as a naturalist, incidentally, is due to his failure to establish himself permanently as a Missouri grocery merchant and dealer in the best brands of Kentucky whisky.

In 1810 he and Ferdinand Rozier, of Ste. Genevieve, loaded a keelboat at Louisville with 310 barrels of whisky and groceries, and started down the Ohio and Mississippi to Ste. Genevieve to open a grocery store. The trip was made during the winter, and the streams were so full of ice that the boat was drawn up against the bank and winter quarters were established just below Cape Girardeau.

When Ste. Genevieve was reached, after the opening of navigation, the firm of "Audubon & Rozier" opened its store and did a prosperous business. But the business was done by Rozier, for Audubon preferred the woods to the counter, and devoted more of his time to sketching and stuffing birds than he did to marketing the 310 barrels of good Kentucky bourbon, or any other groceries.

This led to a dissolution of the partnership. April 11, 1811, Audubon, convinced of his unfitness for business, sold out to Rozier and took up the work for which he was better fitted than any one who had lived before or who has lived since, and from a fourth-rate grocer became the great ornithologist. The grocery business which Audubon abandoned, grew until it "extended throughout all of upper Louisiana."

Talk and Money.

Wilbur Wright, on the broad green plain of his school of aviation at Pau, talked about his early struggles.

"We had, in those Dayton days," said he, "wonderful offers, magnificent promises, but when it came to the actual laying down of money, then gloom descended on the scene. Our friends, with their mouths full of millions and their quite empty hands, reminded me of a Dayton barber. This barber said one day as he shaved me:

"That's a fine pup of Simmons. I'd give anything for it."

"Well, it's for sale, isn't it?" said I.

"The barber burst into sneering laughter.

"Oh, yes, it's for sale," said he; "but do you know what Simmons wants for it? Why, \$2!"

His Burst of Generosity.

"Your boy's injury is not as severe as I had anticipated," the surgeon assured him. "I shall not have to amputate his leg."

"I am glad to hear you say so," said Mr. Tyte-Phist, with emotion. "Still, if it had been necessary, in order to save his life, I—I was willing to bear the expense of it!"

MISLEADING ESTIMATES.

Why Municipal Lighting Plants Generally Cost More Than Expected.

It is most unusual for a municipal lighting plant to be erected at a cost that comes anywhere near the estimate presented to the city officials. In some cases these officials are directly to blame for accepting the estimates of representatives of manufacturing companies, who are, of course, more anxious to make a sale than to protect the citizens from ultimate disappointment. When an electrical engineer is called upon for an estimate it might seem as though the council had done its full duty, but in some cases at some cases attention to secure a per-struction cost is... overcome professional honor, and estimates are submitted which are absolutely inadequate. The only remedy for this would seem to be to obtain an independent estimate from a consulting engineer who would have no further interest in the matter.

Perhaps, however, the most common cause for disappointment is due to the fact that engineers in estimating cost fall to take into consideration what ought to be well known by this time—that cities cannot, as a rule, construct plants at as low figures as private companies can. This is due partly to the inexperience of city officials, which is taken advantage of in many cases and also to the fact that the large amount of red tape which seems to be a necessary feature of such contracts has to be allowed for by bidders. It is therefore perfectly possible that an estimate for a municipal plant may be exceeded by 30 per cent when it would be an adequate one if the construction were to be undertaken by a private company. This is a feature of municipal ownership which has not been heretofore given the consideration that it deserves.

Why He Wept.

Little Bobby had been scraping the snow from the sidewalks for two hours. The minister, passing down the street, found him weeping as though his heart would break.

"What's the trouble, my little man?" asked the minister in consoling tones.

"Boohoo!" sobbed Bobby, as he mopped his eyes with his sleeve. "Bad tramp came along and stole the snow shovel from the little boy next door."

"Well, my lad, it is nice to be sympathetic, but you must not worry too much over other people's affairs."

"Oh, it isn't that, sir; I'm weeping 'cause he didn't steal my shovel, too."

About 75,000 fox skins are sold out of Maine every year. Very few of the sly animals are shot. Many are killed by the use of poisoned bait, while hundreds are killed in drives.

D. C. BROWN, M. D.,
Physician and Surgeon.
Holbrook Arizona

SIDNEY SAPP,
Attorney at Law and Notary Public.
Holbrook Arizona

THORWALD LARSON,
Attorney at Law.
Holbrook Arizona

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