

SOME FIGURES ON THE ICEMAN

He Handles an Immense Amount of Congealed Water Daily

From the Philadelphia Record: "How'd you like to be the iceman?" Snyder, the calculating barber, was artfully executing a quickstep on the razor-strop when the above little ditty floated in from the busy thoroughfare, causing a smile of contempt to fit across his features. "That simply makes me weary," he remarked, as with a flourish he daubed the patron's face. "You hear that latest acquisition in the way of slang phrases repeated by men of every station, just as if the iceman's lot was an earthly paradise. As a matter of fact, the individual who embarks on a career which involves the marketing of congealed moisture doesn't have to run around searching for his troubles. How many people do you suppose ever think of the amount of money that drips right out of the iceman's hands when the sun beams down on his heavily loaded wagon? Don't amount to much, eh? Well, you'll change your opinion when I bring up a few figures for your consideration. Starting out with a ton of ice, I estimate that melting alone causes a dead loss of about 100 pounds to the dealer. That doesn't seem much, but when you calculate that about 100 wagons a day right here in town lose that amount the figures are amazing. One hundred thousand pounds at, say 10 cents per hundred, runs up the tidy little sum of \$100. Three hundred and sixty-five times \$100 gives us the annual loss locally of \$36,500. Takes a little nerve, doesn't it, to be an iceman? Then if during the summer these drippings could be collected I figure that they'd supply all the hospitals in town with ice water baths for sunstroke patients. Frozen into a solid lump, the entire year's drippings would make a cube as big as a ten-story office building. Then, again, the waste when the cakes are cut is enormous, to say nothing of what vanishes into the air when the ice is whisked clean with a brush broom. But, without going into further details, I think you'll agree that the man who peddles ice has enough trouble to worry him into an early grave. Tonic?"

KEYLESS LOCK.

Is the Latest Innovation Proposed for Postoffice Boxes.

Washington Times: There is more than \$400,000 of the people's money locked up in postoffice keys, each and every keyholder being required to put up with the postmaster a deposit for his key, the amount deposited being returned when the box is given up and rent paid. Postmasters are required to keep a strict account of the key deposit fund, while the postoffice department here has a regular division set apart for keeping this account. As a postal official puts it, there is a great deal of trouble and no money in the transactions, and the final outcome of the trial of the keyless locks which are to be tried in the principal offices of the country is eagerly looked for. The department has long wanted a keyless lock, but none of the lock inventions until the present was regarded as in any way calculated to prove acceptable. Contracts have been made for a supply of the new locks, which will first be tried in New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago and St. Louis, as the largest and most important offices, and then in St. Paul, Minn.; Cleveland, Ohio; Hartford, Conn.; Madison, Wis., and Rockford, Ill. These offices will be fitted out as soon as the factory can complete the making of the boxes. If they prove in every way satisfactory to the department and to the patrons they will be placed in offices throughout the country, but not to the entire exclusion of the lock boxes. It is the belief of the postoffice department that the keyless box will prove a blessing.

A report on the precious stone industry of the United States in the year 1898 has been issued by the Geological Survey. Some of its salient features are: The finding of rock crystal at Mokelumne Hill, Cal., of such purity and size as to almost rival the Japanese, and the successful cutting of these in the United States up to over seven inches in diameter; the increased output of the Ferguson county, Mont., sapphire mines and the yielding of fine blue gems up to two carats each, and the discovery of a new locality where the stones are more varied in color than those of any known locality; the continued output of the new Mexican turquoise mines and the opening up of mines in Nevada; the finding of magnificent green and other colored tourmalines at Paris Hill, Me., and Hadam Neck, Conn.; the increased sale of Australian opals; greater use of all the fancy or semi-precious stones; the greater importation of uncut diamonds and the increase of the diamond cutting industry in the United States; the unprecedented increase in the importation of cut diamonds and the revival of the precious stone industry in the United States. The value of all the precious stones found in the United States in 1898 was \$160,920, as compared with \$136,675 in 1897.

POINTERS ON MOSQUITOES.

Male Is a Musclican, but Female Is Bloodthirsty.

When a man hears for the first time that it is the female mosquito that does all the biting it makes him feel right glad. Further comfort is afforded by the knowledge that the male mosquito has probably the keenest musical sensibilities of any of his class of insects. He has quite a brush of hairs on his antennae, and with them he hears. Mayer stuck one of his kind on a glass plate and sounded tuning forks about. When one tone was made certain hairs would vibrate, while all the others were still. Another tone would start another set to vibrating, and so on. Also, if the tuning fork were at one side of the mosquito, the hairs on that antennae trembled most violently, so that when the male hears—or, rather, feels—the voice of his beloved in one antennae, he wheels about so that vibration is equal in both and flies straight ahead to meet her. That is about all there is to the male mosquito, though, except that he cannot bite, for the sufficient reason that he has no apparatus with which to saw through the skin. So to speak, he has the pumps, but no drill. But the female is thoroughly equipped for getting through even a politician's hide. The only mystery is what possesses her to want to bite at all. How did she come by her harkering for blood? The scientists give it up. If she laid her eggs in the wound, like the carrion fly, it would be easy to answer the question, but she doesn't. If she stung to defend herself, like the wasp, it would be easy. It must be her brutal passion for blood that prompts her to attack helpless human beings. She cannot get this craving by inheritance, for the chances are that none of her ancestors as far back as William the Conqueror ever had a taste of human blood, and yet sit out on your front stoop of an evening, and a mosquito, not half an hour out of the water, will make as straight for you as if she had been born for that purpose. When one thinks of the great clouds of these torments that live and die in swamps where no warm-blooded animal ever comes, for fear of being mired, one can easily believe the estimate of entomologists that not one in a million ever samples red blood.—Ainslie's Magazine

SPECULATE IN HISTORIC SPOTS

What the Birthplace of Famous Men Are Worth as a Business.

Last year no fewer than 36,000 people passed the turnstiles which guard the entrance to the little room in which Burns first saw the light. In 1896, the centenary year of Burns' death, the number reached 38,000, and as 2 pence is demanded from each visitor a very simple calculation will show what a large sum of money is annually obtained by this means. The cottage is a very humble, one-storied little erection, with a thatched roof, and the poet's father, when he first went to live there, would have opened his eyes pretty widely had anyone been able to tell him what a sum was one day to be received for it. The place was bought from him (after the poet's death) by a corporation of shoemakers, who afterward sold it to the present trustees for \$30,000. Another famous birthplace which attracts a large number of people is that of Thomas Carlyle at Ecclefechan, which is twenty or thirty miles north of Carlisle. There is no fixed scale of charges for visiting this cottage, but as 1,205 people climbed the stairs last year and each probably left something with the caretaker it will be easily seen that here, too, is a nice little property. There are other places, more or less well known, scattered about in different parts of England and Wales, which the tourist often visits. Shakespeare is still a veritable little gold mine to Stratford-on-Avon. People from all parts of the world make pilgrimages to the little Warwickshire town in order to see the famous poet's birthplace. The charge for admission to the house is 6 pence, but as an interesting museum is usually visited at the same time, for which an extra 6 pence is demanded, few persons leave the building without leaving 1 shilling behind them. Then there is Ann Hathaway's cottage to be also seen. This is a mile away from Stratford, at the pretty little village of Shottery, and it is where the poet's wife was wooed and won. The writer, during a recent visit to it, was informed that on an average 100 people a day all the year round came to see the cottage, and as each visitor pays 6 pence \$3,500 or \$4,000 a year must be made out of it.

Make an Interesting Find. Some chalk diggers have made an interesting find of a skeleton at Swanscombe, Kent, England. It was that of a short, very thick-set man, and it is thought he was probably a Roman. A careful search was made for coins or weapons, or anything that could give a clue to the period or nationality of the skeleton, but nothing was found except some flints, rudely shaped with some kind of splitting or chipping implement. The skeleton must have been where it was found for many hundreds of years. It was in the heart of a chalk hill which had never been excavated before.

Fire Department Chaplains.

The New York fire department is to be equipped with chaplains, just the same as a regiment of soldiers. The officials consider that it is as necessary to have chaplains at fires as it is to have them accompany troops to the firing line in time of battle. Loss of life at fires is sometimes very heavy, as was recently shown here. There should always be some one present to administer spiritual consolation. Fire Commissioner Scannel has appointed two chaplains for the department. They will hold the rank of chief of battalion, and will perform the same duties as chaplains in the army, in all cases accompanying their battalions into action. The only distinction between army chaplains and fire chaplains is that the latter will receive no compensation for their services.—New York Correspondence Pittsburg Dispatch.

How Glass Affects Bacteria.

The extreme delicacy of many scientific processes is indicated by the report of Dr. Martin Ficker, a German investigator, that bacteria are affected favorably, or otherwise, by the character of the glass containing the water in which they are suspended. Marked differences in the behavior of cholera germs were noted, according to the kind of glass composing the vessels used. The degree of alkalinity imparted by the glass to the water is believed to be an important factor in these experiments.

Negro Colony to Be Established.

A negro colony is to be established on the farm of former Sheriff W. Howard Lako at Oak Grove, near Flemington, N. J. Everything has been planned on a big scale. The town has been laid out by a competent engineer, and the maps provide for every need of a modern town. Historic and beloved names have been selected for some of the streets, while other thoroughfares will bear the names of states in the union. Lincoln avenue promises to be the principal one in the town. The industrious and religious interests contemplate a big shoe factory to be run on the co-operative plan. A large grove has been set aside for camping grounds. Many of the leading colored people of the state are persuading their brethren to purchase lots. A great many of those who indorse the plan are preachers. The name of the town will be Remo.

A Credit to the Cloth.

The Rev. G. W. Woodward, a Methodist minister of Goodland, Kas., makes the following announcement in a local newspaper: "I wish to inform the good people of this town that I will not accept complimentary tickets to public entertainments or to socials, and when money is being raised for anything that is good for the people, do not pass me by. Let the people pay what they promised on my salary, let my salary be paid, and then if I play deadbeat, ring me off."

Cotton Belt Bulletin.

PINE BLUFF TO CHICAGO

Via Cotton Belt Route

Leave Pine Bluff 1:10 p. m., arrive Chicago 11:45 next day. Only one change; through sleepers.

Mardi Gras, New Orleans, La., and Mobile Ala., Feb. 27, 1900. Rate, one fare for the round trip. Dates of sale, Feb. 19 and 20, except from Louisiana stations. Agents in Louisiana will sell Feb. 29 to 27 inclusive. Return limit, March 15.

Mardi Gras, Memphis, Tenn., Feb. 26th, 27th, 1900. Rates: One fare for the round trip. Dates of sale: Feb. 25th, 26th and 27th, 1900. Return limit: March 5th, 1900.

Iron Mountain Rates.

Mardi Gras Festivities, Memphis, Tenn., Feb. 26-27. For this occasion the St. L. I. M. & S. Ry. will sell tickets for one fare for the round trip—\$5.00. Tickets on sale Feb. 25, 26 and 27, limited for return to March 5.

Annual Meeting Southern Baptist and Auxiliary Convention, Hot Springs, Ark., May 10 to 17, 1900. For the above named occasion the St. L. I. M. & S. Ry. will sell tickets from Pine Bluff to Hot Springs and return for one fare for the round trip. Tickets on sale May 7 to 10 inclusive. Limited for return 15 days from date of sale.

Mardi Gras Festivities, Mobile, Ala., Feb. 27, 1900. For the above named occasion the St. L. I. M. & S. Ry. will sell tickets from Pine Bluff to Mobile, Ala., at one fare for the round trip—\$17.10. Tickets on sale Feb. 19 and 20, with final limit for return of March 15, 1900.

Mardi Gras Festivities, New Orleans, Feb. 27, 1900. For the above named occasion the St. L. I. M. & S. Ry. will sell tickets from Pine Bluff to New Orleans at one fare for the round trip—\$13.25. Tickets on sale Feb. 19 and 20, with limit for return of March 15, 1900.

Art Calendars.

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Not one of the many venereal diseases is so much to be dreaded on account of its frightful effects on the system, and yet none are so amenable to treatment if taken in time. Scrofula, Eczema, copper-colored spots on face or body, sore throat, falling of the hair and all the symptoms attending this terrible disease are speedily and permanently removed. If you have this loathsome disease and will put yourself under the treatment of DR. HILL he will clean, purify and restore your system to perfect health in from 15 to 40 days.

NERVOUS DEBILITY The follies of youth, lost manhood, impotency and like sexual diseases are cured to stay cured. Try his treatment before it is too late. It is something original and perfectly safe. All losses quickly checked. You will see the effects of this grand treatment in 3 days and in a short time will feel like another person.

RHEUMATISM It is foolish to suffer with this painful disease when relief is absolutely given you, no matter how bad your case, Lumbago, or muscular rheumatism, Sciatica and chronic joint affections quickly cured. After years of study on this one subject the doctor has brought his treatment well-nigh to perfection. You will never regret having put yourself under his care, if you are afflicted with Rheumatism.

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