



Dr. Wiley is chief of the Bureau of Chemistry of the Department of Agriculture. He is the man who recently studied the effect of boric acid and borax on the "poison squad."

OLD CURIOSITY SHOP.

QUAINT NEW HAMPSHIRE STORE FILLED WITH ANCIENT RELICS.

Historic Clock Brought to Little Town of Walpole About 150 Years Ago Among Possessions of D. W. Smith, the Shopkeeper.

Walpole, N. H.—Walpole has an old curiosity shop of more than local fame. For a number of years Walpole has been noted for its summer visitors. Through them the little old curiosity shop has gained a wide reputation, and with its property, a lifelong resident of the town is now pointed out as one of the sights of the village.

Walpole is one of the most historic places in the state, and lies in a historic country. Just across the river the first blood of the revolution was shed at the Westminster court house and the first bridge across the Connecticut was constructed. Here was the first settlement in this part of New England. Most of the houses are 125 years or more old and many date back even earlier.

About ten years ago Daniel W.

Smith, then quite an old man, became interested in family relics and heirlooms and began slowly to gather together a collection of antiques. Since that time he has picked up many valuable and historic articles from the most improbable places. He takes the material collected from miles around to his little red shop, near the center of the town, and there it lies until under his masterly touch it is transformed from a rusty relic of the past into a thing of beauty.

Mr. Smith's shop itself looks its part. It is situated well back from the road, and is an ancient looking as the contents within. Mr. Smith himself is a quiet, unassuming person. He is white-haired and old, but his kindly eyes shine forth a welcome to all visitors.

If one is able to strike him in a reminiscent mood he will tell interesting tales of his most valuable pieces, relating the deeds and lives of the first inhabitants of the town over 200 years ago.

Many articles were picked up under peculiar circumstances, and their history is most entertaining.

This building is his workshop and

home, where he spends all of his time when not traveling about the country. One of the most interesting rooms is filled with the skeletons of former glory, which he has gathered together from every direction. In one corner is an apparent pile of iron junk, but from this will come an ancient clock of majestic proportions. Bits of broken china almost worth its weight in gold will be cunningly glued together. Battered pewter sets will be hammered into shape again.

In the next room may be seen the objects ready for the finishing touches.

As soon as he finishes an article Mr. Smith stores it in his rooms upstairs. Here several rooms are filled with beautiful pieces of furniture, precious china brought over from the old country many years ago, pewter plates and platters cherished by the thrifty Puritan housewife, as well as the many curious implements used in those days.

The most valuable thing in the shop is a clock which Mr. Smith picked up several years ago in a farmhouse away back on the hills. The children had played with the works until they were almost beyond repair, and the case was about to be consigned to the woodpile. Its exact age is not known, but it is certain that it was brought to Walpole by one of the early pioneers, John Kilburn, about 1750. This clock is especially valuable to the town, as Mr. Kilburn was prominently connected with its early history. It is Mr. Smith's intention to present it to the library of Walpole.

Mr. Smith has several high-boys, bureaus and desks brought from Holland and England fully 150 years ago, some of which are beautifully carved and inlaid. A picture embroidery made before the revolution is another valuable relic, as is a flintlock pistol captured from a British officer in the battle of Bennington by one of the ancestors of a prominent family near here. Other ancient firearms, including a sword from the battle of Bunker Hill, are numerous.

In china Mr. Smith has several rare pieces of old Dedham ware which are estimated to be at least 125 years old.

Its Taste.

"My husband," she said, "doesn't know what whisky tastes like."

"Neither do I," replied the man who could quit drinking whenever he wanted to. "The stuff we get is all diluted with prune juice or something else that spoils the real taste of it."

His Experience.

"After all," said the philosopher, "the real joy of a thing is in the anticipation of it."

"Well," replied Henpeck, "if there's any joy in matrimony that must be it!"—The Catholic Standard and Times.

CIL WELLS IN THE APENNINES.

French Corporation Obtains Valuable Concessions From Italy.

Rome.—The existence of deposits of petroleum of considerable importance is not generally known even to the Italians.

As early as 1893 a French company obtained a concession from the Italian government to explore a certain tract in the Apennines, near Piacenza, and to exploit any deposits of petroleum found there. The success of this company was sufficient to cause the formation of another French syndicate four years ago and last July these two were absorbed by a Genoese company with a capital of \$3,000,000. The wells already bored are some 95 in number, of which 70 are practically exhausted. The remaining 25 produced about 13,200,000 pounds of crude oil in 1905, and with the eight wells now boring it is expected that the total production for 1906 will reach over 22,000,000 pounds. The concession of the new company comprises about 11,000 acres and, as it is said to be all petroleum bearing, a great development of this industry may be expected in the next few years.

The wells, none of which are "cushers," reach a maximum depth of 1,300 feet and the engineers in charge say that those which are exhausted may be made to yield again by deepening. This has not as yet been undertaken, perhaps because by the terms of the grant it is necessary to bore new wells in order to maintain control of the territory. It is curious to note that a central motor is used to operate by means of cables the pumps of the various wells. It is said that in the refining process as carried on here there is a net loss of three per cent.

\$2,000,000 TO REMOVE A LAKE.

Steel Trust Will Drain It Because It Floods a Minnesota Mine.

Duluth, Minn.—The United States Steel corporation is preparing to spend nearly \$2,000,000 in draining Trout lake, seven miles from Grand Rapids, Minn., and reducing what is now a beautiful body of water four miles long and a mile wide, to a mere mud hole.

Trout lake is near the Canisteo mine, which has been opened by the steel trust. Into the deep shafts that have been sunk water from the lake pours constantly, making it necessary to work the pumps day and night. With the enlarging of the underground workings, the expense from the excessive moisture in the soil will increase. So the trust decided to get rid of the lake.

For some time agents of the corporation have been purchasing and obtaining options on the land abutting the lake shore. This work is about finished, and it is expected that before long a deep canal will be built that will carry the water into Swan river, several miles away.

The towns of Bovey and Coleain are situated at one end of Trout lake. They are beauty spots, especially in summer, because of the lake, which is a favorite resort for campers and fishermen. But these towns have nothing to say about the fate of the lake because they are practically controlled by the iron mine interests.

REFUSES TO BURY DEAD.

Richmond (Va.) Clergyman Does Not Believe in Funeral Services.

Richmond, Va.—The people of Richmond were much surprised when it became known abroad that Rev. John W. Dougherty, pastor of the Apostolic church, had refused to conduct the funeral services over the remains of Joseph Heywood, who was killed by falling from a smokestack. The funeral took place from the Denny street Methodist Episcopal church. Rev. Charles H. Gallagher, the pastor, officiating. When asked to explain his course Mr. Dougherty said:

"My authority is the word of God. In my ministrations as pastor I have served for 18 years, and my present convictions are the logical consequence of long periods of devotional thought. As to the burial of dead bodies, of course, I raise no objections. It is a necessary and sanitary practice. My protest is raised only where religious observances are called for. I hold this to be a violation of the principles and practices of Christ. Christ came to resurrect, not to bury, the dead, and although he was buried to burst his sepulcher, defying death and the charnel customs of those who would bury the dead, I therefore hold that the dead should bury the dead. My mission is to save the living. It is nowhere in scripture recommended that the dead be buried by church observances, Christ distinctly by precept and example to the contrary of this practice."

Will Keep Eyes on Men.

Superior, Wis.—Several girls of this city have formed a girls' protective association. It is a sort of love trust, its purpose is to keep tabs on young men of the city. They will keep each other informed as to actions of the men and protect members of the society from attentions of any youth against whom there is the slightest breath of suspicion. If a member hears of any young man falling by the wayside she immediately reports to the rest. That young fellow is thereafter tabooed. On the contrary, if a young man shows signs of reformation this also is noted. He is correspondingly encouraged. The discovery of the organization has created quite a furore among young men of the city. All are wondering how they stand on the books of the society.

Giant California Cedar.



Room in the Old Hutchings house—first in the valley—built around an eight-foot Cedar tree, Yosemite valley, California.

Room in the Old Hutchings house—first in the valley—built around an eight-foot Cedar tree, Yosemite valley, California.

GOLD IN PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

AURIFEROUS DISTRICTS FOUND IN TWO OF ISLANDS.

Ore is Low-Grade but Can Be Mined With Profit—Bullion Bars Are Sent to Manila For Shipment.

Manila.—The chief subject of interest in the islands at this time is gold mining. After two or three years of pioneer work on the part of enterprising prospectors results are beginning to appear and even those who were most skeptical are no longer sitting in the scorners' chair. It has been demonstrated beyond the peradventure of a doubt that these islands contain gold in paying quantities. It is a low-grade ore proposition, however, such as that of parts of the Klondike and all of the auriferous region of South Africa, and offers no inducement to the man with the pan or cradle. In this case it takes gold to get gold. The two gold-bearing districts are the province of Benguet, in the northern part of the island of Luzon, and the island of Masbate, in the south. On many claims in both of these places considerable development work has been done. Probably in the neighborhood of \$600,000, exclusive of labor, has already been expended in actual cash.

Meanwhile nearly every day sees a bar of bullion come into Manila from one or other of the various claims, bearing rich and eloquent testimony to the fact that there is gold here and that it is being extracted. These bars range in value from \$300 to \$1,200. The quartz from which this gold is taken assays, according to reports, all the way from \$3 to \$140 and \$150 a ton. Of course, the latter figures are extremely exceptional, but com-

servative estimates, which appear reliable, place the average yield on some of the claims at \$10 a ton. At present only one mine has a cyanide plant in operation and it has only begun, so that full demonstration of what can be done with the auriferous ore of the Philippines has not yet been obtained. Moreover, no mine has more than one ten-stamp mill in operation, while most of them could accommodate 200 or 400 of that capacity at not much greater cost. As some of the mines are more than paying their running expenses with this limited machinery it is argued that the prospect when capital is applied in large quantities and the mines are run at something like their full capacity is almost boundless.

Factors which contribute to the optimism felt are the abundant and continuous supply of good timber in the mining districts and available water. In Benguet transportation is not what it might be, but it presents no serious obstacles, while in Masbate it is excellent. Naturally, with the sight of the bullion bars arriving here and being purchased by the banks for transportation to San Francisco, and with the character of most of the men who are interested and showing their faith in the gold resources of the islands, a feeling of confidence and optimism prevails and it is believed that within a year or two the mineral wealth of these islands will make the world sit up and take notice.

Has 17 Babies in 17 Years.

Des Moines, Ia.—Mrs. Mary McIntyre of Grimes, Iowa, gave birth, the other day, to her seventeenth child. She is the mother of two pairs of twins. She has been married 17 years and all her children are living. Mrs. McIntyre is a first cousin of Pugglist John L. Sullivan.

Chicago Of 1845 in Old Directory.

Directory Published When Metropolis was a Small Town.

Chicago.—What is believed to be the oldest city directory in existence is arousing great interest among members of the Chicago Historical society. With its yellow leaves and its quaint phrasing, the book is regarded as a volume most valuable to the society. Its owner, Lieut. William Moore, of the Stanton avenue police station, is considering offers for its purchase.

"A business advertisement and general directory of the city of Chicago for the year 1845-1846, together with a historical and statistical account," is the title given the book by its compiler, J. Wellington Norris.

The title page explains that the book was in its second year of publication. Concerning the previous edition the author, evidently a person of consequence, remarks in his preface that he "can not refrain from an expression of his thanks for the flattering interest" which his friends "have taken in the enterprise." Although admitting that he is "influenced by pecuniary considerations," he declares that the volume is none the less correct.

At the time of the appearance of the book the population claimed for Chicago was 19,864. This total, however, was accomplished by much careful padding of the informal census, most of which is admitted by the author in his preface or elsewhere. In his tabulated total he admits there were only 1,613 families in the "settlement."

Copious illustrations, mostly of churches, appear among the opening pages, with a map of Chicago. A few sketches on the map near Thirty-first street are explained by the artist as "haystacks." Below that point,

and everywhere west of the river, the country is described as "prairie."

The town contained 43 lawyers, 28 physicians, 17 clergymen, one dancing master, and had 18 hotels, six weekly and two daily papers, besides supporting "two flouring mills."

The book was presented to Lieut. Moore by William Clancy, 4520 Wood lawn avenue, whose grandfather was the original purchaser.

WILL TAKE FOOD FROM AIR.

Crookes' New Method of Making Nitric Acid Interests Scientists.

New York.—When scientists read the cable report of Sir William Crookes' discovery of a commercial method of extracting nitric acid from the atmosphere they said there was no longer any fear of scarcity of food from overpopulation, because the result of the discovery would be a doubling of the world's crops.

Nitric acid adds greatly to the productivity of the soil. Nitrate of soda, used for that purpose now, has grown so scarce, it is said, it soon will be exhausted. At present the cost of extracting nitric acid from the air is expensive. Prof. Charles F. Chandler, head of the department of chemistry in Columbia university, explained, but said that with the cheapening of electricity, which is employed in the process, nitric acid manufactured by the new method would be cheaper than nitrate of soda.

"When a practical working process is perfected," said Prof. Chandler, "every waterfall in the country will be available for the production of the atmospheric fertilizer. Scientists have been working on this problem for a hundred years, but real headway has only been made recently."

SHIP HAS A NARROW ESCAPE.

Meteor from the Heavens Just Misses the Ocean Liner.

New York.—The narrow escape of a liner from destruction by a meteor is related by Capt. Anderson, of the African Prince, one of the vessels of the Prince line. Writing to his principals, he says:

"On the evening of October 17 I was on the bridge with the second officer, when suddenly the dark night was as light as day and an immense meteor shot, comparatively slowly at first, because the direction was so very perpendicular to our position, then more rapidly, toward the earth. Its train of light was an immense broad electric-colored band, gradually turning to orange and then to the color of molten metal.

"When the meteor came into the lenser atmosphere close to the earth it appeared, as nearly as it is possible to describe it, like a molten mass of metal being poured out. It entered the water with a hissing noise close to the ship and the consequence had it struck the ship would have been annihilation without doubt and not a soul left to tell the story of another mysterious loss of a vessel in every way fitted to undertake the voyage. I am of opinion that some such cause must be attributed to losses so mysterious that neither steamship engineering nor ordinary theory can explain them."

TO RAZE A NOTED PRISON.

HISTORICAL LANDMARK OF PARIS WILL BE TORN DOWN.

Prison of St. Lazare, Where St. Vincent de Paul Died, Now a Moral Plague Spot—Was Sacked During Revolution.

Paris.—The famous prison of St. Lazare, one of the great historic landmarks of Paris, is about to be pulled down, and what for some years has been a moral and physical plague spot will give way to fine, open squares and commodious dwellings. Romantic and tragic memories cling about the old structure. St. Lazare, as its name indicates, was at first a lepers' hospital built at the end of the eleventh century on the site of a basilica dedicated to St. Laurent. It sprung rapidly into fame, for kings used frequently to visit it in token of humility and faith.

In 1632, leprosy having practically disappeared in France, the hospital was handed over to St. Vincent de Paul, who established there a number of priests of his mission known as the congregation of St. Lazare. St. Vincent himself died at St. Lazare, and his cell is still shown to visitors with two stones worn hollow by the knees of the saint. St. Vincent's suc-

cessors neglected the work commenced by him and the house was turned into a sort of reformatory for insubordinate priests and unruly sprigs of nobility for whom their parents had secured "lettres de cachot."

The Lazarists having stored large quantities of provisions in view of a possible famine the mob of Paris sacked the establishment on July 13, 1789, the eve of the storming of the Bastille, and released 40 prisoners.

During the terror many "el-devants" were confined there before being tried by the revolutionary tribunal. It was from St. Lazare that Andre Chenier was led to the guillotine. After the revolution the surrounding lands were sold and built upon. St. Lazare itself remaining a prison, but only women were confined there.

Many celebrated female offenders have been lodged at St. Lazare while awaiting trial, among them the famous Mme. Humbert.

From the hospital which adjoins the prison a long subterranean passage leads to the plain of St. Denis and in 1871 a number of federals escaped from Paris through this tunnel.

Of recent years the prison has been used solely for the confinement of the pitiful outcasts of society who are gathered in from the streets and boulevards of Paris.

Letters Save Detective's Life.

Trenton, N. J.—A package of letters in his inside pocket saved the life of Isaac Uditte. Uditte is a detective employed by a railroad company, and it is his business to catch trespassers on the railroad property. He came across three tough looking individuals, and, catching one of them, he chained him to a barbed wire fence while he turned his attention to the others. One of the men suddenly pulled a revolver from his pocket and ordered Uditte to release his partner. Uditte paid no attention to the demand. The tramp pressed his revolver against Uditte's side and fired. The bullet cut his way half through a package of letters and railroad tickets and stopped. In the excitement the tramp was released from the fence and the three escaped in the darkness.

He Mistook.

He was treating his pretty city cousin to the opera. "Wouldn't you like to step out and get a libretto, Josh?" she said, as the first curtain fell. "No," said he, "by gosh, I wouldn't. A fellow what can't set out a show 'bout snenkin' out 'twixt every act for librettos and cocktalls and sich ain't no man, 'cordin' to my way of thinkin'."

The Cotton Crop of Oklahoma.

New State Will Raise 1,000,000 Bales the Present Year.

Kansas City, Mo.—Some cotton brokers estimate that Oklahoma and Indian territory will raise 1,000,000 bales this year. This means \$50,000,000 paid in cash in about one-half the geographical area of the state, or almost \$50 per capita to every man, woman and child. The cotton is running from 35 to 37 per cent. lint. In Guthrie 1,350 pounds of seed cotton produced 580 pounds of lint. The staple is good and late weather conditions have been favorable to color.

The complaint of all cotton men is the shortage of cars and the scarcity of labor. To relieve the pressure railroad companies are moving both baled and seed cotton in open flat cars. The danger from fire is great, every passing locomotive scattering a shower of sparks. Once ignited a bale of cotton is almost inextinguishable. Fire eats into the lint faster than water can follow it. The safest way is to pick out the burning cotton by hand. Fire has been found in cotton bales after they had floated 200 miles down a river. Many costly fires have

taken place at compresses and railroad yards in the two territories this season.

The demand for labor in Oklahoma and Indian territory was never before so great. It is desirable to run compresses the greatest possible number of hours. A number of compresses are idle on Sundays because the men are unwilling to work seven days a week, though offered \$2.50 on Sunday.

Keeps Currants 26 Years.

Hagerstown, Md.—Mr. and Mrs. Levin D. Spessard, of Chewsville, Washington county, gave a reception at their home in honor of Victor D. Hardie and his bride, the latter being a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Spessard. At the dinner, which was served to the 60 odd guests, were pies made of currants that had been canned by Mrs. Spessard 26 years ago. The currants were as good as if put up only last year.

Has Much Public Business.

Notwithstanding the public buildings owned by New York city it pays in rents \$332,000 annually.