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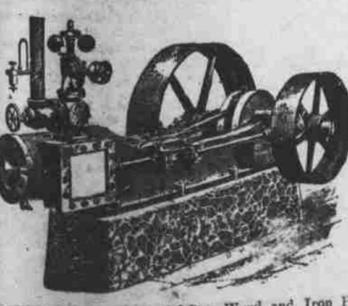
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PHONETIC ALPHABET.

Mr. Carnegie Backs the Movement for Reform in the Language.

Ready to Give \$10,000 to Prominent Educators Who Are Pushing the Effort to Simplify the Spelling of English Words.

Andrew Carnegie has come to the relief of "the English language as she is spoken." He has pledged his financial support to a movement which will bring about reform and correct abuses in the speaking and writing of English. This is in pursuance of a desire of Mr. Carnegie to have English the principal language of the world. The first step will be in the direction of reform and simplicity. The members of the various philological societies which have been laboring for phonetic spelling and the creation of a pronunciation alphabet aroused Mr. Carnegie's interest in the matter, and he will finance the undertaking until its completion to the extent of \$10,000 a year.

A meeting of educators, presided over by Mr. Dewey, of Albany, was held at Columbia university in New York city on Saturday, February 21. This committee discussed the matter thoroughly, but so far as can be learned no definite action was decided upon.

W. T. Harris, United States commissioner of education, who was invited to attend the meeting in New York, has been made aware of what transpired and the present status of the movement. He said to-night: "The need of a pronouncing alphabet for the use of the English language has long been felt. The movement has been fostered by the many philological societies, and when the matter was brought to the attention of Mr. Carnegie he consented to furnish the necessary money if the project was handled by responsible men.

"Take the word 'though.' It is argued that there should be a sign for 'th,' and the word would then be spelled by using the sign determined upon for the first two letters and the letter 'o.' For instance, the English pronunciation of the word 'post' is 'poust.' That is the way it is pronounced in England. We pronounce it 'post.' The accent on the vowel is almost lost. That is due to the 'school marm's' of our land, who for the last 100 years have been telling John when he came to the word 'post' and was inclined to drawl over the 'o' to hurry up and not drag it out.

"There are other great reforms in English that there is a desire to correct, but they are all overshadowed by the move for the alphabet.

"Mr. Carnegie's move is simply a plan to see what can be done along this line. I had no idea that the matter was to be made public until all arrangements had been completed."

A BIG SALT YEAR.

More of the Article Produced in United States Last Year Than Ever Before.

The reports to the United States geological survey for 1902 on the production of salt, arsenic and bromine in the United States, by Dr. Joseph Struthers, are now in press and will soon be issued.

The production of salt in 1902 amounted to 23,849,221 barrels—the largest quantity yet recorded for any one year—valued at \$5,668,636, as compared with 20,856,661 barrels, valued at \$3,617,449, in 1901, and with 20,869,342 barrels, valued at \$3,944,603, in 1900. The chief producing states are New York (35.3 per cent.), Michigan (34.1 per cent.), Kansas (9.1 per cent.), and Ohio (8.9 per cent.). The domestic consumption in 1902 was 23,132,579 barrels, as compared with not quite 22,000,000 barrels in 1901 and with about 22,240,000 barrels in 1900. The world's production of salt in 1901 was valued at \$45,980,672, as compared with \$42,456,593 in 1900.

The production of arsenious oxide (white arsenic) during 1902 was 1,333 short tons, as compared with 300 tons in 1901, when the Puget Sound Reduction company began the manufacture of this important substance at Everett, Washington. The imports of arsenic in 1902 amounted to 8,110,898 pounds, valued at \$280,055, as compared with 6,989,663 pounds, valued at \$316,825 in 1901.

The production of bromine during 1902, including the quantity of bromine contained in potassium bromide, amounted to 513,890 pounds, valued at \$128,473, as compared with 552,042 pounds, valued at \$154,473 in 1901, a decrease for the year of 38,152 pounds in quantity and of \$26,000 in value. There was practically no change in the bromine industry in the United States during 1902. Nearly half of the output was obtained from Michigan. So far as known, the entire central basin of the lower peninsula of Michigan contains one vast brine deposit, which carries a larger percentage of bromine than any brine yet discovered. The deposit extends from the Indiana boundary line on the south to Grayling, Crawford county, on the north, and from the Saginaw valley on the east to Lake Michigan on the west.

COWBOYS CAPTURE RED DEER.

American Westeners Find Them Harder to Catch with Lassoes Than Wild Horses.

Two of Buffalo Hill's cowboys, now performing at the Olympia, London, Tom Webb and St. Compton, had what they called the best day's sport they ever had in their lives on the grounds of Loudwater house, the residence of Panmure Gordon, at Rickmansworth, recently. They were invited to lasso a herd of red deer, and found them trickier to capture than wild horses, but after a determined contest the cowboys were victors.

The chase ranged over a 12-acre field, fringed with woods, out of which the deer were driven by beaters, whose attempts at capture they had hitherto defied. First came a fine stag, which seemed the leader. He eyed the cowboys with an air of defiance and contempt. The coils of rope hissed through the air and fell around the legs of the stag, but before the loops could be drawn taut the animal bounded five feet into the air. Several times the cowboys failed but eventually a coil fell round the stag's antlers.

With another, which had no antlers, capture was more difficult. After two had been taken prisoners, the deer began to practice sly tactics. They watched for the rise of the cowboy's arm, and jumped high in the air while the lasso fell harmlessly below them. It took two hours to capture the first five.

TONS OF STEEL BLOWN AWAY.

Estimated That Railroads of World Lose 247,000 Tons of Metal Which is Reduced to Dust by Friction.

About 247,000 tons of steel fly away in dust from the railroads of the world yearly, according to tables submitted to the mining and smelting section of the international chemical congress by Dr. A. Haarmann, of Osnabruck. Of this amount 19,000 tons is thus lost through friction on the German railroads alone.

The experience of Europe, it was announced, had now demonstrated that iron tires are as cheap as wooden ties.

England Has Electric Line.

The first railway in Great Britain on which electric motors have superseded steam trains is the branch of the Southwestern line between Portsmouth and Fratton Junction. Engine, luggage van and two passenger compartments are all combined in one car, and these cars are run not by a fixed time table, but according to the exigencies of the traffic.

A riot at the Milliners.

The milliners are joining in the crusade against the decorating of women's hats with stuffed song birds. It is evident, says the Chicago Record-Herald, that the milliners have found out how to make ribbons just as expensive.

To Raise Goats for Milk.

There has been started in Malden, Mass., a goat farm for the production of goat's milk. The promoters expect that there will be a large demand for the milk for the dietary treatment of sick babies.

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AN AUTOMATON CAT.

The Brilliant Conception and Invention of an Englishman.

Constructs a Tabby Which with Electric Eyeballs, Explosive Mouth, and Pin-Covered Hide, Puts All Other Felines to Flight.

A genius hailing from North London has been struck with a brilliant conception for ridding back gardens and outhouse roofs of phillandering cats.

It consists of nothing less than the invention of a fearsome automaton tomcat made up of a tin frame and covered with a fur coat.

"Tom" is as black as the darkest night, with a stiff black tail standing up defiantly in the air, and a ghostly look in its sightless eyes, which, when roused to anger, send forth a light calculated to make even Ulysses tremble. This baneful glare is produced by a four-volt electric battery stowed away in that portion of "Tom's" anatomy generally occupied by the digestive organs.

The general principle of construction, according to the British inventor, is based upon powerful clockwork, released by a lever when the tail of the animal is moved.

The clock works a pair of bellows, with two loud-screaming reeds, at the same time forming contact to light the lamps in the eyes, and forcing outward a dozen long needle points, which come up through the skin of the back. The tail also acts as a trigger, and releases a hammer formed of the lower jaw of the cat, which explodes two percussion caps in the mouth.

One night an experiment was made. The clockwork was wound up and the beast placed in a back garden. In due course a ferocious tabby of loose character and with chips off its ears walked up to the stranger to give battle, while a dozen of his lady friends sat around to see the fun.

In feline language, the tabby appears to have asked his lady friends not to crowd into the ring, and to watch closely while he prepared "Tom" for the undertaker. He began by walking up to a wall and sharpening his claws. Then he came back wagging all that was left of his tail in an aggressive and insulting manner, and took the measure of his silent enemy.

Without the slightest provocation he flew at the automaton cat, removed a lump of loose hair from his back, and broke his tail in half.

That ended the first round, but it was only the signal for the tin tomcat to get into action. The tail exploded the percussion caps in the cat's mouth with a sound resembling that of a 47; the electric eyes blazed out like Lady Smith searchlights, while heart-rending shrieks rent the air from the bellows inside, and the needle points got their business ends into the tabby cat.

Within a few seconds the garden was clear, and pale-faced pussies were tearing off through the quiet streets in search of home comforts. It was more than a month before they ventured to peep over the wall to see if the "black terror" was still in possession.

BOLD NEGRO PROJECT

Proposed to Effect Conquest of Hayti and Establish Government.

William Pickens, Yale's Brilliant Negro Orator, Asked to Become the Head of the New Movement—Details of the Scheme.

William Pickens, the negro who won the junior exhibition prize at Yale, has been asked to become the head of a new Afro-American republic to be established in Hayti, says a New York World dispatch from New Haven, Conn. In his oration, which won the prize, Pickens discussed Hayti's freedom and declared against it.

The scheme is to effect a conquest of the island of Hayti by American negroes and set up a government Utopian in character. The junta of the movement is at Sturgis, Ky., and the correspondent of the society is N. L. Mungrore. He says that Mr. Pickens act as secretary and board member in this section and says that the Yale man would eventually be chosen as president of the society. It is also suggested that he take the lecture platform and raise funds for the organization.

Mr. Pickens when seen said that he had the matter under consideration and would seek advice before enlisting his services in the movement. In discussing the plan he said: "Innovations and novelties in the methods of government are proposed after Hayti has been overcome. While the government would be republican in its political formation it would be administered as a gigantic corporation, of which all members of the society would be stockholders. All land titles and franchises are to be vested in the state. All dangerous and incorrigible criminals will be provisioned and set adrift on the sea to seek other shores.

"Agriculture, manufacturing and all other profitable industries are to be encouraged.

"Public schools are to be established and liberty is to be widespread, but the rights of each individual are to be bounded by the equal rights of every other."

WAKES, THEN DIES.

Woman Who Has Slept Since May 21, 1883, Passes Away Near Saint Quentin, France.

Marguerite Boyenval of Thenelles, near Saint Quentin, France, who had been in a cataleptic state since May 21, 1883, was awakened the other day and died the next morning. For some time she has been suffering from phthisis, and it is believed that the effect of this malady on her system conduced to her reawakening.

She moved her hand six days before her death for the first time and groaned slightly. When Dr. Charlier took hold of her arm she said: "You are pinching me," and subsequently replied to questions by "Yes" and "No." She was, however, in a state of great weakness, and gradually sank, finally dying.

Marguerite Boyenval's lethargy was caused by fright. She had had a child, which died shortly after its birth under circumstances which led to the opening of a judicial investigation. One day in May, 1883, while Marguerite was ironing, a neighbor said to her: "The gendarmes are coming to arrest you." Marguerite had a series of fits and gradually fell into her long slumber.

AMERICAN WOMAN UNDER FIRE.

Dr. Lorenz says the American woman can't cook. It might be added, says the Chicago Record-Herald, that she won't learn, either.

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