

THE OBSERVER

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WATER POWER THE POWER OF THE FUTURE.

Mine troubles in Europe and America, with a threatening shortage of coal, have called forth a reminder from technical men that in the future the world is likely to be far less dependent upon soft coal for industrial purposes than it is now.

Some statisticians compute that, at the present increasing rate of coal consumption in this country, present soft coal fields will be exhausted in 150 years. But before that time water power, transformed into electrical power, will have established itself as a substitute for coal—cleaner, cheaper and just as reliable.

In Europe "houille blanche," or "white coal" as water power is sometimes called, has already worked wonders. Countries that are rich in coal, such as England and Germany, are deficient in water power, while countries that are without coal, such as Switzerland and Italy, have abundant energy in their rivers. At present the coal countries lead in manufactures, but, thanks to modern electrical progress, the others have recently been developing a new and magic industrial life based upon water power.

River energy in Italy alone has been estimated at as much as 10,000,000 horsepower, and in the last twenty years the entire north of the country has been transformed by manufacturing development. Iron and copper are smelted by electrical forges, and even farms are supplied with power. Milan was the first city in Europe to be lighted with electricity, and it derives power from the falls at Palermo for transportation and factories besides. Rome is lighted and its streetcars are operated by means of hydro-electric power produced at Tivolo.

For South America water power

may prove even more important than to the rest of the world, as present knowledge indicates that that continent is practically without coal. Already development of water power has begun. Lima, Peru, is lighted by electricity while Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, transmits the hydro-electric power fifty miles for its street cars, lights, telephones and factories.

In the United States the greatest single water power development is at Niagara Falls, where about 400,000,000 horse power is generated and sent out within a radius of 200 miles, including Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse and Toronto, at a price not more than half that of power derived from coal.

The petrified body of an Ohioan, buried 22 years ago, has been exhumed. As he looked perfectly natural he must have been a politician.

Young women of a Pennsylvania town have organized an antiwearing society. They won't even be able to swear in their votes when they get them.

Ex-President Diaz is pawning his diamonds. There was a time when he could get press notices without doing that.

A Chicago saloonkeeper shot a waiter because he was too slow, but he was even slower after that.

Reports say Chinese suffragettes are smashing things. They should be handy with the flatirons if not with the bricks.

RINGS OF AIR.

How to Blow Out a Lighted Candle Twelve Feet Away.

The distance from which an average man can blow out a candle rarely exceeds three feet. If he is an adept at blowing smoke rings, however, a candle may be extinguished at twelve feet. Of course the smoke isn't necessary. An ordinary air ring will do and has the added advantage of being invisible. Simply pucker the mouth as you would to blow a smoke ring and expel air in a quick, sharp manner. It takes a good deal of practice to do it.

An easier way to show the effect if one is doubtful is to place a sheet of cloth or canvas over the open side of a box otherwise closed, making a small, round hole in another side. Then tap in a sharp manner on the canvas and invisible air rings will be produced. If the hole is pointed at a person's face and the rings are made he will feel them as they strike his face. Only a few trials are necessary to extinguish a candle at twelve feet. To render the rings visible a smudge may be burned in the box, or a small dish of ammonia may be placed side by side with a small dish of hydrochloric acid, the combined fumes of these liquids making a dense smoke.

The explanation why one can put out the candle at twelve feet is that the energy of expulsion is conserved and practically all retained in the smoke ring, while a simple blowing has to

set in motion a whole stream of air and is therefore wasteful.—Chicago Record-Herald.

BOTH SIGNED THE NOTE.

A Financial Formality That Puzzled Both Clay and Webster.

The men in official Washington seem to have less of a halo about their than in the good old days, when the towering form of Webster or Henry Clay would attract more attention on Pennsylvania avenue than a brass band or a tango dancer in 1914. In a bank the other day I saw a note indorsed jointly by Henry Clay and Daniel Webster. The story is told that Clay asked Webster to indorse a note with him for \$500.

"All right," said the studious and thoughtful Webster. "I'll do so, Clay, if you'll make it \$1,000 and give me half." Clay agreed to the compact, and the two set out for Banker Riggs, signed the note with due solemnity and secured the proceeds. As they swung across the threshold again on the avenue and divided the money Webster in his ponderous voice remarked to Clay, "Henry, why do you suppose Mr. Riggs wanted our names on that note?"

"It baffles me, Daniel," responded Clay. "Perhaps he desired some memento to hand down to posterity, for I cannot at this moment conceive how it is going to be paid for the present generation."

The canceled note is today a valued souvenir, worth many times its face, because of the illustrious signers.—Joe Mitchell Chapple in National Magazine.

Twain's Rate.

Mark Twain went to just one automobile show in his life. He went with a Detroit friend. After he had been shown the cars and other sights the friend said: "Come on over here. The greatest salesman in the automobile business is working, and I want you to hear him."

They went to a place where the salesman was talking to a possible customer about the merits of his car. He was rattling outward so fast that Twain gasped.

"Sakes alive," said Twain in his slowest drawl, "if my publishers ever heard me talk as fast as that man does they wouldn't pay me 30 cents a word or even 2 cents. They'd make me produce words about a hundred for a nickel."—Saturday Evening Post.

Scandal.

How is it that the evil which men say spreads so widely and lasts so long, while our good, kind words don't seem somehow to take root and bear blossom? Is it that in the stony hearts of mankind these pretty flowers can't find a place to grow? Certain it is that scandal is good brisk talk, whereas praise of one's neighbor is by no means lively hearing. An acquaintance grilled, scored, deviled and served with mustard and cayenne pepper excites the appetite, whereas a slice of cold friend with currant jelly is but a sickly, unrelishing meat.—Thackeray.

Well Acquainted.

An American girl was taking a Liverpool girl home to the States with her and toward the end of the journey remarked: "It is delightful to feel that one is so near home. We ought to sight Sandy Hook this afternoon." "Shall we?" exclaimed her friend. "That will be nice. Don't tell me which one he is. I can always pick a Scotsman out of a crowd."—Chief Steward.

Strong Prescription.

Lawyer: You say that the defendant

Prices Drop Still Lower This Week

Every suit and coat in our entire stock must be sold at once, and lower prices are offered on every garment this week.

Take Your Choice of Any

Ladies' and Misses' Suits

in Our Entire New Stock for Exactly

HALF PRICE

\$40.00 Suits for... \$20.00 | \$25.00 Suits for... \$12.50
\$35.00 Suits for... \$17.50 | \$20.00 Suits for... \$10.00
\$30.00 Suits for... \$15.00 | \$15.00 Suits for... \$7.50

"All Other Prices on New Suits Reduced Accordingly."

The largest assortment of Spring and Summer styles in the city to select from and a wide range of new colors and fabrics. Included are many of the popular Silk, Moire and Poplins, also the Balmacaan styles in various materials.

All Ladies', Messrs', and Children's Coats Reduced 1-3

\$40.00 Coats now... \$26.70 | \$17.50 Coats now... \$11.70
\$35.00 Coats now... \$23.35 | \$15.00 Coats now... \$10.00
\$30.00 Coats now... \$20.00 | \$9.00 Coats now... \$6.00
\$27.50 Coats now... \$18.40
\$25.00 Coats now... \$16.70
\$20.00 Coats now... \$13.40
Child's Coats Reduced one third.



A Complete Line of Jet Trimmings and Bead Novelties.

W. West & Co THE QUALITY STORE

Many New Novelties -In- Fancy Frill Collars Just Received.

CURIOUS PIPEFISH.

The Males Have Pockets in Which They Carry Their Young.

The kangaroo has always seemed to have the monopoly of that convenient way of carrying its babies in a pouch, but it has been discovered that a fish has the same useful receptacle, which it uses for the same purpose. The pipefish, as it is called from the length of its jaws, has a pocket on the under side of its body nearly half its length. It is found in the male species only and is the only part of its body which is unprotected by large flat plates, which take the place of scales in its protective armor.

If a pipefish is taken from the water and its little ones shaken out of the pouch back into the water they always seem either unable or disinclined to run away. But if the father is placed in the water again all the small fish immediately swim back into the pouch. These curious little creatures have prehensile tails, which they use to hold on to the seaweed to protect themselves from being carried away by the tide. The pipefish is similar to the small eel, being about a foot in length and an inch in thickness. But, unlike the eel, it has a very long jaw and the peculiar defensive armor already mentioned.—New York Sun.

MRS. SUDBROCK WINS.

Breadbaking Contest Decided Saturday Afternoon—Winners Out.

Winners have been decided in the Eastern Oregon Produce company baking contest, and Mrs. Emma Sudbrock won first prize. Those who competed using the Eastern Oregon best hardwheat flour, were:

First prize, Mrs. Emma Sudbrock; second, Mrs. J. P. Bell; third, Mrs. F. B. Tufeson; fourth, Mrs. C. N. Palmer; fifth, Mrs. J. A. Enberg; sixth, Mrs. E. E. Woodruff of Union; seventh, Mrs. M. McMurray; eighth, Mrs. D. C. Owen; ninth, Mrs. W. T. Patton; tenth Mrs. A. W. Wilson; eleventh, Mrs. J. W. Stotts; twelfth, Mrs. J. L. McPherson. Special biscuit prize, Mrs. E. H. Boylen.

The judges were Mrs. D. Fitzgerald, Mrs. A. E. Jones and Fred Dutil. Today the company is distributing the bread put into the contest, with needy families.

FOR SALE—Two and a half inch Studebaker wagon. Cheap. Inquire 1521 Madison. 5-11-7t.

La Grande National Bank

Organized in 1887.

DESIGNATED DEPOSITORY OF UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. UNITED STATES POSTAL SAVINGS DEPOSITORY.

Capital \$100,000.00
Surplus \$140,000.00
Total Resources \$1,000,000.00

For twenty years, in all kinds of financial weather, we have successfully catered to the monetary wants of the people of La Grande and the Grand Ronde Valley.

We respectfully solicit your business.

La Grande National Bank

La Grande, Oregon



WE EXPECT A RUSHING SEASON

in the lumber line. All indications point to brisk building business this Spring, and we take this opportunity to suggest early orders. We know our stock and are sure of it. We want you to know, and so print this short notice.

WENAH LUMBER COMPANY

Complete Equipment for Resetting and Repairing Rubber Buggy Tires

LA GRANDE IRON WORKS

D. FITZGERALD, Proprietor

Complete Machine Shops and Foundry