

A WONDERFUL OIL WELL.

A singular freak of nature occurs in the Kane geyser, or Spouting water well, which during the past year has attracted such general attention in Pennsylvania. The cause of the action has been so erroneously represented that a correct explanation seems to be demanded.

This well is situated in the valley of Wilson's Run, near the line of the Philadelphia and Erie railroad, four miles southeast from Kane. It was drilled by Messrs. Grubert and Taylor, in the spring of 1878, to a total depth of 2,000 feet. No petroleum was found in paying quantities and the casing was drawn and the hole abandoned, since which time it has been throwing periodically—10 to 15 minutes—a column of water and gas to heights varying from 100 to 150 feet.

During the operation of drilling, fresh "water veins" were encountered down to a depth of 364 feet, which was the limit of the casing. At a depth of 1,415 feet a very heavy "gas vein" was struck. This gas was permitted a free escape during the time the drilling was continued to 2,000 feet.

When the well was abandoned, from failure to find oil, and the casing drawn, the fresh water flowed into the well and the conflict between

the "water and gas geyser wells."—*Stowell's Petroleum Reporter.*

LARGE PLOWS.

As an illustration of the immense in land-worrying machinery, we give on this page an engraving of a mammoth plow recently built by the well-known plow makers, Deere & Co., Moline, Ill., for a Missouri railway company. It is calculated to cut a ditch 30 inches wide and 2 feet deep, and is attached to a platform car of a construction train by means of timbers framed and extending out, so that the plow cuts its ditch a sufficient distance from the track. It requires the full power of the locomotive to draw it through the soil, which is a black muck surface and hard clay subsoil. Three furrows, of 8 inches in depth, are required to complete the ditch. One mile of ditch, 2 feet deep and 3 feet wide, is made every four hours. The plow weighs 1,700 pounds, and thus does the work of 1,000 men. The beam is made of swamp oak, the toughest kind of timber, and is 14 by 8 inches in its dimensions, and of proportionate length. No handles are used, the plow being regulated in the manner already

ORIGIN OF THE COLORADO CANYONS.

Pah-goo, a Ute Indian, relates to George what some of the traditions of his tribe respecting the cataclysm which gave Colorado its present peculiar appearance. Pah-goo calls the Colorado river the Toom-pinto-weep, and says that there is an old river bed fully half a mile deep. His forefathers had a tradition that, long years ago, they had lived near a vast warm lake northeast of the big river; that the country was warm, full of big trees and big deer, and big oxen with white horns; that big fishes and snakes as long as a 100 lodge poles abounded in this lake; that one day all the big oxen began to roar together, and that they raised such a steam from their nostrils the earth reeled and the sun was obscured; that suddenly the lake fell, and continued falling for three moons, and then became much reduced that they knew it not any more, but that the big lake they found had been drained away to the south, and that its warm waters had cut out through the mountains the present canyon of Green river, and of the big river (the Colorado); and that the old bed in the Toom-pinto-weep is where the lake



A LARGE PLOW.

the water and the gas commenced, rendering the well an object of great interest. The water flows into the well on top of the gas, until the pressure of the confined gas becomes greater than the weight of the superincumbent water, when an explosion takes place and a column of water and gas is thrown to a great height. This occurs at present at regular intervals of 13 minutes and the spouting continues for 1½ minutes. On July 31st, Mr. Sheaffer (aid McKean county) measured two columns, which went to heights respectively of 120 and 128 feet. C. A. Ashburner says: On the evening of August 2d, I measured four columns in succession, and the water was thrown to the following heights: 108, 132, 120 and 138 feet.

The columns are composed of mingled water and gas, the latter being readily ignited. After nightfall the spectacle is grand. The antagonistic elements of fire and water are so promiscuously blended, that each seems to be fighting for the mastery. At one moment the flame is almost entirely extinguished, only to burst forth at the next instant with increased energy and greater brilliancy.

During sunshine the sprays form an artificial rainbow, and in winter the columns become incased in huge transparent ice chimneys. A number of wells in the oil regions have thrown water geysers similar to the Kane well, but none have attracted such attention. As early as 1833 a salt well, drilled in the valley of the Ohio, threw columns of water and gas at intervals of 10 to 12 hours to heights varying from 50 to 100 feet. This well is possibly the first of

named. The landside is a piece of bar iron 8 inches wide and 1½ inches thick. It is larger than merchant iron is made, and was especially forged for this job. The share is of the best cast steel, ½ inch thick by 9 inches in width. This is also of extra large size, and was rolled to order in Pittsburg. The top of the mold board stands 36 inches from the ground, or the base of the plow. It is made of the best cast steel, with iron lining securely bolted to the back. The plow is rigged out with an immense gauge wheel and standing cutter. It is said that its performance is entirely satisfactory to the railroad company.

A VALUABLE INVENTION.—Wentchester, South Carolina, has a cotton factory that spins yarn directly from the seed cotton. The machinery is simple, and it is claimed that by its use the value of the staple can be increased nearly 100%, taking into consideration the amount of money saved on bagging, ties, packing, weighing, storing and shipping. The Atlanta Constitution predicts that in the course of the next two years at least 100 of these factories will be in operation, in Georgia, as "wherever there is a grist mill, planing mill or saw mill, a yarn factory can be added without an increase of power, and at a very little increase in cost."

The highest inhabited house in the world is said to be the one erected for the miners employed on Mt. Lincoln, in the main range of the Rocky mountains, Park county, Col. It is 14,157 feet above the level of the sea.

waters were drained. All the big deer and the oxen with white horns strayed away eastward and perished in the mountains. A big flood soon after the above occurrences formed Grand River canyon, and after this flood came a small race of people who had skin canoes, and who brought seed corn of a small kind, called it Spanish chiquito mays; that these people were almost white, and that they taught the Utes how to make good spears and bows and arrow-ware; that they built stone houses in the cliffs, and cultivated pumpkins, corn and beans; that they had silver and gold in abundance, and iron tools that they had obtained in the high mountains to the northeast; that afterwards, from the northwest, big red Indians came over to this country and killed and drove off the little people, who finally all went south, as well as the big red men, who are the Apaches, Navajos and Kiowas.

These small and nearly white people were undoubtedly the Aztecs, who certainly wandered in the direction of Colorado, being driven there by the occasional plagues which nearly depopulated northern Mexico centuries ago. Pah-goo declares that "grande lagarico" (probably alligators) were found among the Apache and Navajo Indians, but that they all disappeared as the country became drier and colder. It appears from the traditions that melted rocks were poured out everywhere and left the country desolate. It is also of tradition that in the old river bed of the Colorado there is plenty of gold, which fact was related by the Aztecs to small men.