

BOER LANGUAGES.

The Different Kinds of Dutch Spoken in South Africa.

It seems a strange thing to say, but there are three Dutch languages in South Africa. The earliest Dutch settlers at the Cape were largely Dutch sailors and others belonging to the lower orders of Amsterdam, Rotterdam and other Dutch seaports. Their language was a low Dutch dialect to be distinguished from the language of the Netherlands which could not prevent the dialect of the settlers from still further degenerating into a mere colloquial patois.

The second of the three Dutch languages referred to might be called "ecclesiastical Dutch," or, if you like, African Dutch. It is the language of Holland as that language was written about 200 years ago. It is the language of the Dutch Bible and very much resembles our own authorized version in its simplicity and directness of style. It is the language of the Dutch psalm and Gesang books and of the devotional works of old Dutch divines, which make up the balance of the Dutch farmers' literature. In it are also written many tracts and a few devotional works by living ministers of the Dutch Reformed church. To the Boer wherever you find him it is the language of his church and of his religion. This is the Dutch language which the leaders of the Dutch Afrikaner party are determined to preserve. It is never spoken by Afrikaners among themselves, however, and it is never written grammatically by them in their correspondence. The Boer has no fear that his "Huis-taal," Cape Dutch, will die out, but fears that his children will forget or neglect to learn the language of his church and of his forefathers.

The third Dutch language might be called modern literary or "high Dutch"—that is, the language written and spoken by educated Hollanders of today. It is doric, involved in construction and very artificial in style as compared with the language of the Dutch Bible. Its pronunciation has also changed considerably in the interval, and even an educated Dutch speaking Afrikaner listening to a voluble Hollandic speaker can hardly make head or tail of what he is saying.—Scotsman.

A Legend About Cats. The ancient Greeks thought that all creatures except cats had souls and that that animal lost its soul through a bargain made between a bridge architect and the devil. The architect had besought the devil to get his help in constructing an exceedingly dangerous bridge structure, and his Satanic majesty only consented to lend aid on condition that the first creature to cross it should lose its soul.

This was agreed upon, the bridge finished in due time and the devil went to the opposite side to await his prey. The shrewd architect took good care to send a cat over before any human being was allowed to cross. On learning of the bargain the cat recrossed the bridge and scratched the architect's eyes out.

Either Drinking in Russia. The habit of ether drinking is known to be prevalent in some parts of Russia, also in east Prussia, and all the efforts of the authorities to combat the evil have hitherto been almost fruitless. An idea of the extent to which the habit prevails may be gathered from records given in the Russian newspapers of a recent accident which occurred at a place called Trossno. Ether is drunk by farmers on festive occasions, when it appears to be consumed in pintfuls. A farmer, celebrating his son's wedding, in the fullness of his hospitality got in two pintfuls of ether. During the process of decanting the ether into bottles a violent explosion took place, by which six children were killed and one adult dangerously and fourteen others more or less severely injured.—British Medical Journal.

Naming a Town. According to a local tradition, probably invented, Sayville, N. Y., received its name in a peculiar fashion. The settlers were gathered in debate upon the shore, trying to agree upon a name for the place, and one after another proposed his suggestion with, "Say, boy, 'll this do?" After many suggestions had been rejected some one proposed that the oft repeated word "Say" be made the first syllable of the name and that "ville" be added as the second syllable. The idea took, and, says the legend, then and there the settlement was christened Sayville.

Favored the Clarinet. "So ye're goin' to make yer by a musician," said Mr. Rafferty. "I am," answered Mr. Dolan. "I'm goin' to have 'im learn to play the clarinet."

"Why don't ye learn 'im the violin?" "Because I want 'im to have every advantage. A violin makes the music, but a clarinet is a heap more to be depended on in a scrimmage."—Washington Star.

Casey's Generous Gift. "When Mr. Casey died, he left all he had to the orphan asylum."

POLLY LARKIN.

"Do you know, Polly, that there is one thing the Berkeley students are lacking in?" said an old friend the other day, as she laid down the news paper, adjusted her glasses, looking over the rim and getting ready for a friendly talk. "What is it?" I enquired. "It is manners, Polly, manners. Seems to me they teach every thing else but manners in that big university and they don't touch on that, if the newspapers are to be believed. You see, I have been reading about Carrie Nation's visit to Berkeley. She went as the guest of the Berkeley students, by their own invitation, mind you, and it took the whole police force available in this temperance town, beside the presence of watchful and anxious professors, to keep the riotous undergraduates in check. Forewarned was forearmed and Mrs. Nation stole a march on the boys and went an hour earlier than was expected and missed the noisy greeting the boisterous boys had planned. Then they gathered in front of the hall where she was to speak and loudly demanded her appearance, and gave vent to their college yells, songs, etc., and kept up the racket while the lecture was going on. They didn't have the manliness to behave like gentlemen, Polly, and pay the admission fee and show their good manners by going in quietly and listening to what she had to say. They made a rush for the door in an attempt to break it down, but failed; then they tore around to the rear door, where they gained access and poured into the room like a crowd of hoodlums. An glad to say that Professor Carey stood up in the middle of the floor and denounced their conduct as being the most ungentlemanly he had ever seen the college boys guilty of, but it didn't phase them one bit. Mrs. Nation bent a hasty retreat and secured her valise and cloak, but some ruffian stole her bonnet as she went, and I wish the faculty could find out who it was and make the culprit wear it every day for six months during school hours. I warrant it would break him of stealing souvenirs. She gave those boys some pretty hard hits, and if they had one spark of manliness smothered in their breasts it ought to have made them mortally ashamed of themselves. She addressed them on the subject of 'Rum and its Evils,' and the gallery goes, true to the name they have gained in all places of amusement, made their noisy comments. Her remark that her temporary residence had been in some fourteen jails brought such a round of applause that she acknowledged it by stating that she knew they cheered because she got out, and that she went to jail to keep them out of bads. At the conclusion of the lecture the boys crowded out and waited for Carrie but she had been carried out the rear door and spirited away to Oakland; meanwhile the boys annoyed the police by throwing eggs."

"Of course this rowdy element did not consist of all the students by a great deal. The well-behaved and gentlemanly students were vastly in the majority I am happy to say, for the credit of the fathers and mothers as well as for themselves and California, and the splendid university we are all so proud of. I'm ashamed of those boys who act like hoodlums, Polly, and so is everybody else who has the interest of the State and this institution at heart. Why do these boys think they are privileged characters to be insulting, boisterous and rude, just because they happen to be students in one of the greatest institutions of learning in the United States? Why shouldn't the same privilege be given our high-school students? The latter would be arrested on short order if they should indulge in such conduct; in all probability they would be suspended and it would take months to straighten out matters and explain to parents and teachers just how they came to be guilty of the conduct unbecoming a boy of gentlemanly instincts and good home training. 'T's a poor rule that don't work both ways,' Polly."

Then this little lady rocked to and fro and silently dreamed of the chivalry that has passed, but which gave such a rosy glow to the memory of the days in which she danced the minuet with the knight of her choice. Beautiful days those were, and she smiles as she thinks of a summer day in her life when she plighted her troth to her knight of the minuet. She loves to tell of those days—the bridal day that rolled on apace, the careful training of her own sons and daughters, the flight of her darlings from their own home-nest to make homes of their own. Here the bright picture ceases until she can catch a glimpse of the land beautiful through the gates ajar, for the sable mantle of grief fell upon her joyous heart when her knight passed out of her life, leaving her with only pleasant memories of the past and a longing for the day when they shall be reunited.

I am always glad to note the steps taken by the Women's Improvement clubs for the betterment of their town. Redding is right in line in the good cause and the ladies are making active preparations to carry out extensive plans for the betterment of their town. One of the first important steps is the improvement of the sidewalk on the north side of Tehama street, along which shade trees are being planted. It is to be cleared of rocks, gravelled, and put in excellent condition at the club's expense. As this sidewalk is the main route for pedestrians going to and from the Redding cemetery it will be of

the greatest importance to the residents and will be hailed with delight. Another good work they are engaged in is the planting of locust and cork-oak trees in the North Pine street school-yard. The school trustees, who are just as enthusiastic when it comes to the advancement of the town, will plant trees along the sidewalks and put the sidewalks in good condition. The Women's Improvement Club is now a member of the State Federation of Women's Clubs and will work in harmony with that organization. They are adding new members all the time and they will be a power when it comes to beautifying the town of Redding.

Here is a fashion note for those who are tired of the tiny buttons that have been the fad in shirts, waists, etc., for several seasons past. Some of the latest and most up-to-date shirt waists for this summer have pearl buttons as big as a quarter of a dollar. They will meet the popular fancy of those who are always wanting a change, even in fashions. But I feel a good deal like a young lady I overheard expressing her opinion in regard to them. She said she felt toward the big buttons like she did toward big strawberries—that they were coarse and beefy, while the smaller strawberries were delicate and impressed one with the idea that they were refined and dainty. "I know it is an absurd application," she said, "but that is just the way it strikes me. However, I might just as well be out of the world as out of the fashion, so wrap one up for me." How inconsistent we mortals can be, sometimes.

"Buttercup"—Line your hat with white lace or chiffon and trim with black velvet ribbon and blue forget-me-nots. It will be girlish and very pretty.

BRIEF REVIEW

The Marble Quarries.

At frequent intervals you see the old disused Roman quarries—disused probably on account of the poor color of the marble, writes G. St. John Hart in Pearson's, in describing the Roman quarries. As you climb higher you hear constant reports of blasting; at first a deep "boom," followed by a sound like the rattle of musketry, vastly multiplied by the echoes. The first visible sign of the operation is the sight of the masses tumbling down the mountain side, thirty and fifty-ton blocks looking like pebbles. The distances are enormous, but the animated black specks one knows to be men are clearly silhouetted against the surrounding whiteness. Something like a black ant suddenly makes its appearance and blows a sonorous blast on a horn; other horns—numbers of them—take up the warning note, the sound gradually dying away in the distance. Then more ants are visible swarming to the shelter of a bomb-proof or casemate. After the last horn has ceased sounding not a soul is to be seen; then comes the boom, the rattle and the falling pebbles, and presently the ants swarm out again, apparently from all sides, and proceed to drill more holes and put in fresh blasts. The men must love the sound of that horn, for it means a ten minutes' loaf for them.

Gas Engines.

Probably it is a question in the minds of most engineers whether or not the gas engine can as yet be economically substituted for the steam engine in moderately large-sized power plants. That in the hands of a number of builders the large gas engine has reached a point where it can fairly rival the steam engine in reliability and good running qualities there can be no doubt, and, as engine-runners become better accustomed to the new motor, complaints on this score will rapidly decrease. In point of fuel economy, as is well known, a gas engine of moderate size is on a parity with the largest and most completely equipped triple-expansion steam engine.

Driest Spot on Earth.

The reputation of being the driest spot on earth is claimed by many spots in many climes. The latest claimant is Payta, in Peru, a place about five degrees south of the equator, on the coast that has risen forty feet in historic times. Professor David G. Fairchild, a recent visitor, reports having reached there in February just after a rain of more than twenty-four hours, the first of eight years. The average interval between two showers is seven years. Sea fogs are common. Of about nine species of plants noticed seven were annuals and their seeds must have remained dormant in the ground for eight years. In spite of the lack of rain, the long-rooted Peruvian cotton is grown in the dried-up river bed, furnishing crops that yield subsistence to the natives.

Roman Bronze Coins.

The most valuable collection of bronze Roman coins ever dispersed at auction was sold lately in London. It belonged to E. Binz, and the 420 lots yielded \$7925. It included the finest known specimen of the aesterius, with bust portrait of Diadumenian, A. D. 217, which brought \$100.

After fourteen years' study of the monkey race Professor Garner has come to the conclusion that their vocabulary is not large enough to hurt.

The hunting of birch saplings suitable for barrel hoops in the Maine woods occupies 2000 men.

A New York boy recently died after being inoculated by a fly with the virus of an infected sheep.

The Philippines are rich in timber, hemp, rubber and tobacco.

INACTIVE OLD AGE.

More Conducive to Dearthness Than to Shortening Life.

There is far more evidence for the belief in the dearthness of old age after active work has been laid aside than for the shortening of life which results from the enforced inactivity. Two notable instances and perhaps freer from doubt than most as to whether it is enervating alone that kills and not the disease of old age or a more specific malady are those of Napoleon and the Great Bismarck. The one lived six years in St. Helena, the other eight years at Friedrichruh, each "eating out his heart." If ever there were men who were killed by the total suspension of their activities, these two ought to have been, but it would be extremely difficult to show that they were. Though Napoleon was no more than fifty-three, yet it was the specific disease of cancer of the stomach of which he died, and the connection between his exiled loneliness and the direct cause of his death does not seem very apparent. On the other hand, Bismarck at the age of seventy-five, when he was dismissed from the chancellery, could not have had a likelihood of more prolonged years than he actually achieved out of office even if he had continued in office until the end. A wise man if not too dyspeptic will never lose touch with actual life. There are old men with young hearts, and the elder when he has a young heart is perhaps the most delightful type humanity can show us.—Saturday Review.

Frank of a Thunderbolt.

The annals of a French academy of science tell of a tailor's adventure with a thunderbolt. He lived in a house provided with two chimneys—one for a fireplace and the other for a stove, the latter not in use during a thunder storm. A violent report was heard, and everybody thought that the house had been struck by lightning. Instantly a blue flaming ball dropped into the fireplace and rolled out into the room, seemingly about six inches above the floor. The excited tailor ran around the room, the ball of fire playing about his feet. Suddenly it rose above his head and moved off toward the stovetop hole in the ceiling, which had a piece of paper pasted over it. The ball moved straight through the paper and up the chimney. When near the top, it exploded and tore the chimney into thousands of fragments. The sight of the debris left by the explosion showed the family what would have been the consequences had it exploded while on its gyrating passage through the room.

Learns From the Animals.

Learn of the animals. The horse teaches us to be silent under punishment and patient in suffering. From the lion we learn bravado. From the cat we learn to prowl at night. From the dog we learn how to be faithful to a friend. The ape teaches us about patience. The elephant teaches us how to be calm in adversity. The hippopotamus teaches us how to die without a murmur. The antelope teaches us the foolishness of idle curiosity. The hoplode teaches us the evils of gluttony. The ant teaches us industry and wisdom in council. The hen teaches us to go in out of the way (yet I have seen fool hens which did not know the difference between sunshine and rain). Some men might learn of hogs how to be gentlemen.—New York Press.

The Missionary Apple Tree.

In the rectory garden of Preston, near Woking, England, there stands what is familiarly known as the missionary apple tree. The tree is a large one and of a good age and has been so named for the reason that for many years past it has been the custom of the rector of the parish to collect the fruit, sell it in the best market and devote the proceeds to the missionary cause. Quite a large sum of money has been raised in this way, and the apples, which are of the Blenheim orange variety, always find a ready sale at excellent prices among the gentry and farmers of the district.

African Natives and Salt.

To obtain salt the Bakalulia and other African natives burn banana leaves and certain grasses and, collecting the ashes, place them in a large funnel ingeniously made from large banana leaves. Through this they percolate water and then evaporate the filtered water by boiling, obtaining a fairly white salt composed of a very small amount of chloride of sodium and a very large amount of chloride of potash and other salts. Prior to the advent of the traders and the missionaries this was the only salt they had to satisfy the natural craving of a vegetable eating people.

The Worship of the Moon.

The Moslem still slaps his hands at the sight of the new moon and mutters a prayer, although the Koran appears to forbid the practice in the words, "Bend not in adoration of the sun or moon." Herodotus accuses the ancient Persians of being moon worshippers, and, though they denied the practice, the following passage from the Zend Avesta would seem to be conclusive: "We sacrifice to the new moon, the holy and master of holiness; we sacrifice to the full moon, the holy and master of holiness."

Punctuality a Thief of Time.

Mr. Max Hecht writes: "On Thursday of last week at 3.30, the hour fixed for the rehearsal of 'Trial by Jury,' I met Mr. Gilbert at the stage door of the Lyric and congratulated him on his punctuality. 'Don't,' he replied, 'I have lost more time through being punctual than through anything else.'"—London M. A. P.

Enrolling Officer—What is your name?

Enrolling Officer—Owen Espy Casey. Enrolling Officer (with evident irritation)—Shoot a few of those initials! O. N. S. P. K. C. what?—Chicago Tribune.

Sure Thing.

"Name the world's greatest composer," said the musical instructor. "Chloroform," promptly replied the young man who had studied medicine.

If society took better care of its poor out of jail there would be less need of jails or jailers.—Boston Transcript.

CHOICE MISCELLANY

Two Compliments.

When the present king of Portugal was a youth of seventeen, he visited London and there met Sir Edwin Landseer. Being very fond of natural history, the young king was delighted to meet the great animal painter, and said so.

King Carlos spoke English very well, says the author of "Some Eighteenth Century Men of Letters," but like all persons who have learned a language by grammar and dictionary he used words in an equivocal sense.

"I am so glad to make your acquaintance, Sir Landseer," he said with much enthusiasm. "I am so fond of beasts."

Landseer accepted the compliment as it was intended and always protested that with one exception it was the greatest he had ever received. The exception came from a dog seller who was walking along a London street with a terrier under his arm. Landseer, as always, was attracted by the bright little face.

"His ears are not cropped," he observed. "No, sir," replied the dog seller. "Landseer says ears ought not to be cropped."

Another New Anesthetic.

The London Lancet announces that there has lately been discovered by Hungarian chemists a valuable local anesthetic, the alkaloid novocaine. Its hydrochloride has properties like those of cocaine, and it produces a more lasting effect. The base is obtained from an Indian plant (Gusu basu) whose leaves were some time since employed in dentistry. The alkaloid hydrochloride is a yellow amorphous, hygroscopic powder, easily soluble in water. A solution of one-tenth or two-tenths per cent produces marked and persistent anesthesia of the cornea. A one-tenth per cent solution brushed on the mucous membrane of the cheek has a like effect. Solutions exceeding five-tenths and a 2 per cent solution causes ulcerative keratitis in dogs and rabbits which lasts ten days, during which period the anesthesia also lasts. Subcutaneous injections apparently do not produce anesthesia. The general effect is that of a paralyzing poison. Experts are of the opinion that its chief use will be in dentistry.

The Original Trust Buster.

At the present time, when rumors are rife concerning the existence of "rings" for maintaining high prices for the food of the people, it is interesting to see how such persons were dealt with in the good old times. In 1548 was passed "the bill of conspiracies of victualers and craftsmen," and it enacted that as of late divers sellers of victuals, not content with moderate and reasonable gain, have conspired to sell them at unreasonable prices, etc., etc., after the 1st of March next any butchers, brewers, bakers, poulterers or fruiterers conspire, promise or make oaths, they shall for the first offense forfeit £10, or twenty days' imprisonment on bread and water; for the second offense £20 or the pillory, and for the third offense £40 and the pillory, with the loss of one of their ears." If any such conspiracy was entered into by the company of victualers, its incorporation was to be dissolved.—London Chronicle.

Yet the King Liked Sousa's Band.

In the words of the song, who is Sousa, what is he that all the agents commend him? He is the conductor of what is called a military band; he comes from America, for which great country, so I learned from a press paragraph lately, he has written a national anthem or march, and he has been and may be now playing in London. I attended one of his concerts recently and it went on slowly recovering; not that his band is at all a bad one. On the contrary, it seemed to me quite as good as those that play by order of the London county council in public parks. The Americans are, they themselves state, a great people, and apparently they like great noises. In no other country in the world but America could Sousa and his band have gained the reputation they have there.—Musical Critic London Saturday Review.

An Irish Inscription.

Perhaps one of the most curious collections of mural inscriptions in Ireland, where they abound, is to be found in the ancient city of Galway. It has four gates, we are informed in "House Mottoes and Inscriptions," facing respectively north, south, east and west, and on each was a precatory motto. That facing north bore the words:

From the ferocious O'Flaherty's, Good Lord, deliver us!

On the east gate:

From the devilish O'Daly's, Good Lord, defend us!

On the south gate:

From the cutthroat O'Kelly's, Good Lord, save and keep us!

And on the west gate:

From the murderous O'Madden's, Good Lord, preserve us!

The Mystery of Atlantis.

The fascinating legend, which has led to many speculative theories and fanciful stories, of the existence of a great and populous continent in the Atlantic ocean west from the strait of Gibraltar necessarily occupies the attention of men of science. Such an occasion took place at a meeting of the Royal Irish academy in November, when the Atlantis problem was discussed by Dr. R. F. Schaff, who contended that the evidence showed that the fabled Atlantis was situated in the Atlantic ocean west from the strait of Gibraltar. Dr. Schaff also defended the theory of a land bridge, in the same latitudes, connecting Europe and America and persisting until miocene times.

Better Left Unsaid.

Mrs. Homer—You can't go home while it is raining so. Stay and have dinner with us. Mr. Widdas—Oh, no, thank you. It isn't as bad as all that.—Chicago News.

Gossip.

"Isn't that merely idle gossip?" "Gossip, my dear," answered Miss Cayenne, "is never idle. It is the most industrious thing on earth."—Washington Star.

HUMOR OF THE HOUR

Fully Prepared.

"If I ever go out after dark I am fully prepared for holdups."

"Indeed?" "Yes, I have a gun in each of my overcoat pockets and a police whistle hanging round my neck. If I see a suspicious man approaching me in front and am pretty sure his confederate is coming at me from the rear I am ready to let the first ruffian have the contents of the barrel right through my overcoat and then whirl around and let his confederate have another barrel before he can get away."

"That seems like a good scheme. Do you go out after dark much?" "No, I never go out after dark."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Pat's Retort.

An American once asked Pat to show him the largest hotel Ireland could boast of. Pat takes him to the largest he knows.

"Oh!" exclaims the American, "this hotel would sit in one corner of some of the hotels in New York."

Just as they were at the door coming out they saw two horses drawing a large piece of iron (about twenty feet). "What is that for?" asks the American.

"Oh," exclaims Pat, "we're building a new hotel in the next street, and that's the poker."

Wanted to Be Sure.

"And you're really a lord?" said the maiden. "Of course. Do you think I'm an impostor?" "No; oh, no, but papa says one can't be too cautious these days. Would you mind bringing me one of those abstracts of title I hear so much about before I give you my answer?"—Chicago Post.

His Opportunity.



"Prove it!" "How can I?" "Jump overboard, and if that man eating shark gets you I will believe that you are a man."

Point of View.

Mrs. Newrich (in art store)—What! A thousand dollars for that little picture? Dealer—Yes, ma'am. You see, it's done in oil, and genuine oil paintings are rather expensive.

Mrs. Newrich—Yes, I suppose so. The oil trust monopoly is certainly getting to be something terrific.—Chicago News.

Effective.

Bjorks—Do you believe in the possibility of the cure of disease by suggestion? Bjorks—Why, certainly. I was feeling pretty sick last week, and my wife suggested that I go to a doctor, and it cured me right away.—Somerville (Mass.) Journal.

Slandering a Noble Professor.

Caller (behind the scenes)—You have been doing this kind of work for twenty years and acting the part of the villain all that time? Veteran Actor—Yes, rather more than twenty years. I was a real detective before I went on the stage.—Chicago Tribune.

Quickest Way.

Mr. Kidder—People say that it is impossible to find a needle in a haystack, but they're wrong. Mrs. Kidder—How would you go about it? Mr. Kidder—Walk across the stack in my stocking feet.—Denver Republican.

Practicing Up.

"That fellow is making an awful fuss trying to get those tight gloves on, isn't he?" "Doesn't seem to understand it very well, for a fact, but with a little practice he'll get his hand in."—Baltimore News.

She Took It.

Dr. Youngman—My dear young lady, you must take exercise for your health. Miss Sweete—Thanks for the advice, doctor. I will certainly jump at the first offer.—New York Times.

Quick Conclusion.

"I see that one Pennsylvania convict fatally assaulted another." "They must have some bad men in that penitentiary."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Subterfuge.

"I don't believe that half the stories the gossips tell are true." "Neither do I," answered Miss Cayenne. "But half's a plenty."—Washington Star.

The Responsibility Placed.

"So their marriage was a failure." "Not at all. Marriage is all right. It was the man and the woman who were failures."—Philadelphia Press.

Short Street Men.

Oliver Cromwell, Claverhouse and Mehemet All must be content to take it out in brains, for they all lacked inches. Two of these great names naturally suggest that of another famous soldier and usurper, Napoleon Bonaparte. Le petit corporal, as his men lovingly called him, stood about five feet (French) in his stockings, say five feet 1 1/2 in English. In stature the Iron Duke beat him by about six inches, while the 5 feet 4 of Nelson place him midway or thereabouts between the victor and the victim of Waterloo.

Cheap Life Saving.

Bill—The lifesaver has a thankless task. Job—Why, I saw a man offer him a dollar yesterday for saving his life. Bill—Perhaps that was all he thought it was worth.—Towns and Country.

FACTS IN FEW LINES

The average New Yorker pays \$10.44 street car fare a year. The cost of producing sugar in Cuba averages 1 1/2 cents a pound. The world's population is increasing about 500,000,000 a century.

Three thousand men are employed in the Aberdeenshire granite quarries. Alsace-Lorraine is one of the best recruiting grounds for the German army. False teeth were among the prizes raffled for at a recent bazaar in Montrose.

Windsor castle has been provided with an electric carpet beating machine. Tottenham, England, is to be provided with a motor fire engine costing \$37,500.

Consumption causes the death of four times as many negroes as whites in New Orleans. Berlin is to be provided with a statue of General von Roon, who reorganized the German army.

Large numbers of swans from Russia and north Germany are now wintering on the Swiss lakes. Near Tiverton, Devonshire, there is to be seen a blackbird with a white head and speckled back.

Granite laden trolleys are being used to test the stability of the new footway extensions at London bridge. Strong protests are being raised in India against the abandonment of the dumduin bullet for frontier fighting.

Part of the mane of the charger ridden by the Duke of Wellington at the battle of Waterloo has been sold in London. One hundred and fifty steel wagons, each of 80,000 pounds capacity, have been ordered in Leeds, England, for South Africa.

Some of the employees on Sir Redvers Buller's Devonshire (England) estate have been in the same service for over fifty years. To pay for the reorganization of the Korean army the government has decided to put an additional tax of \$20 per acre on land.

Fifty dollars is to be given every Russian soldier and sailor now on the active list who served in the Russo-Turkish war twenty-five years ago. About 47 per cent of the men annually enlisted pass into the British reserve after three years' service and about 40 per cent after seven years' service.

It has been decided by the Belgian government not to work the state coal mines in the Campine district, but to increase the taxation payable by the colliery companies. Handmaster Landfried, who has died at Hove, England, aged sixty-eight, was one of the trumpeters of the Seventeenth lancers, who sounded the charge at Balaklava.

On being brought into court at Birmingham, England, a prisoner complained that he could not have any breakfast because the police had taken possession of his false teeth. Because Hungarians were attacked in certain passages of his book an author has been sentenced in Hungary to eight months' imprisonment and ordered to pay about \$400 in fine and costs.

The disastrous effects of the drought in New South Wales may be judged from the fact that a meat preserving company at Albury has purchased 120,000 sheep at from sixpence to a shilling per head. Before the tomb of the late Cecil Rhodes, in the Matopos hills, Rhodesia, was sealed up several pieces of granite were taken as relics from the walls of the chamber. One of these has just arrived in London.

As they are "dangerous and mischievous creatures, accustomed to sting mankind," no one has a right to keep bees in unreasonable numbers or in an improper place, so the Dublin king's bench has decided. It is estimated that the Eskimo population of Alaska, Labrador and Greenland has declined from 30,000 in 1880 to 15,000 at the present time owing to the thinning out of the seal, walrus, polar bear and other sources of food supply.

The Royal academy was 134 years old on Dec. 10, having been founded in 1768 by King George III., who nominated thirty-six academicians and appointed Joshua Reynolds, who was knighted on the occasion, to be the first president. Sir E. J. Poynter is but the tenth holder of his distinguished position.

Electricity is taking the place of gas and ether in dentistry. The current, which is of the form called high frequency, is applied to the jaw where the operator desires to render it insensible by means of a heat apparatus, and the patient feels nothing more than a slight heating of the affected part. This method is much safer than gas, cocaine and other anesthetics.

A boot scraping and cleaning machine is one of the contrivances for enabling us to do without the servant girl. There are scrapers for taking off the cakes of mud that stick