

WEALTH IN WATER.

WHAT IRRIGATION DOES FOR THE BARREN DESERT.

Uncle Sam Has Undertaken the Work of Reclaiming Millions of Acres of Arid Lands—Now Has an Irrigation Fund of \$7,500,000.

It is not an extravagant prophecy to predict that the land values of the States west of the Rockies will, in the next quarter of a century, double in value and that the chief factor in bringing about the increased valuation will be water.

There are, in that great region in the West, known as the arid belt, 550,000,000 acres of vacant lands, exclusive of more than 120,000,000 acres in the Government and Indian reservations. This is about one-third the area of the United States, exclusive of Alaska, and is a little more than one-half the area of Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

Most of this land, under present conditions, is worthless. Some of it will never have an agricultural value, but the greater part needs only water to make it valuable to the agriculturist and horticulturist.

The territory now vacant is capable of supporting a population as great as that of the United States at the present time, provided ways are devised whereby the land may be furnished with water. It is the solution of this problem which brings together annually the body of men known as the "Irrigation Congress." It is this question which in several sections of the West, notably in California, is being solved in a practical way by both private and governmental enterprise.

There are about 70,000,000 acres of Western lands which are termed desert. It is in this desert region that most of the irrigation work is now being done. The deserts contain some of the richest soil in the United States. There are limited sections of the desert, like the Salton Sink, and "The Volcanoes" in the Colorado desert, which may never be reclaimed, but the greater portion have rich soil adapted to agriculture if water can be brought to the lands and distributed over them. Desert lands without water have absolutely no value, except such as may have deposits of minerals, therefore water gives them the only real value they have or may hope to have.

As a rule, such of the arid lands, lying outside the deserts in valleys, on the plains and upon the foothills, have a small value to grazers, for they furnish sparse herbage upon which the cattle may browse. These lands are considered, by cattlemen, to be worth about 50 cents per acre without water. To such lands water adds the total value of the reclaimed lands, minus the 50 cents per acre. It is by bringing water to these lands that wealth is being rapidly created in the West.

A little more than two years ago the drill was sunk deep into the earth upon the barren Colorado desert at a point now known as Coachella. Land there was actually valueless, though the government placed upon it the usual price of \$1.25 per acre.

The drill found a bountiful supply of artesian water. Other wells were drilled till more than 250 flowing wells are now pouring their streams upon



FLOWING WELL IN COACHELLA.

the parched lands. The result is that a large area of land in that section of the desert has an actual and a market value of from \$100 to \$500 per acre.

The season's crop of cantaloupes, watermelons and sweet potatoes have netted the owners of the lands from \$80 to \$150 per acre, proving that the values placed upon the lands are not fictitious.

Less than three years ago the Imperial Canal was begun. The Colorado River was tapped below Yuma and the ditch, seventy feet wide and nine feet deep, has been built 100 miles out into the desert, and from this has branched more than 800 miles of lateral canals. This has placed upon 500,000 acres of heretofore valueless lands a present market value of from \$20 to \$200 per acre and an actual value much greater, for the crops this year from most of the lands put under cultivation have netted the farmers from \$40 to \$100 or more an acre.

Some eighteen or twenty years ago the town sites of Redlands and Riverside were barren and unproductive. Lying almost upon the desert the lands were arid and little better than the actual desert to the lands. Water was brought to the lands, and the price soon advanced to \$20 per acre and orange and lemon groves were planted. Some of the optimistic ones prophesied that the time would come when the lands would be worth as much as \$200 per acre, but they were laughed at for their rosy views. Now lands wholly unimproved, in that section, are worth \$250 and \$500 per acre, and such as are set to oranges and lemons bring from \$1,000 to \$2,000 per acre. Water has created these values.

There are several methods of irrigation employed and several systems in vogue. The first systems employed in California were in the hands of companies or corporations which inaugurated them for profit and their rates for water were, in many cases, almost prohibitive. This led to the mutual water company system, commonly

known in California as the "Holt" system, because the first mutual water company was conceived and organized by L. M. Holt, now identified with the great Imperial canal system in the Colorado desert.

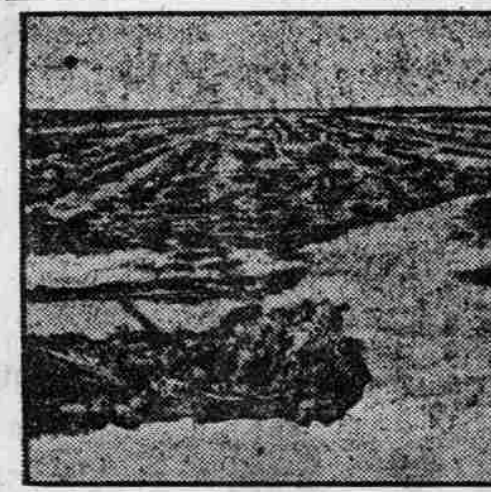
The first purely mutual water company to be incorporated in the United States was the Pomona Water Company, which was formed in 1878, under plans prepared by Holt. The second company was the Redlands Company, also one of Holt's, organized in 1881. The Imperial lands are under seven different mutual companies which furnish water only to stockholders of the company and to them at actual cost. There are still individual systems and corporations which furnish water for profit only, but the boards of supervisors of the various counties now fix a water rate above which the water companies are not allowed to charge.

The methods of irrigation are several. Damming of small streams in mountain canyons and forming reservoirs from which the water is drawn for irrigating purposes, is another method, and drilling of artesian wells and common method. Diverting the waters of wells where the water is lifted by windmills or other power is still another. In some sections reservoirs have been constructed for catching and holding the surplus waters from the winter rains to be distributed in the dry season.

The Bear Valley dam and the Sweetwater dam in Southern California are two notable examples of the first-named methods. These dams are built across canyons in the mountains and catch and hold the waters of snowed mountain streams. From these reservoirs large sections of country are amply supplied with water during the dry summer months.

The waters are conveyed from the reservoirs to the fields in cement-lined ditches or through expensive wooden ditches. Some of the largest lemon and orange orchards in the world are watered from these reservoirs.

The Coachella district, in the northwestern portion of the Colorado desert, is the most notable example of the artesian well system. This section is located seventy-six feet below sea level and the lands were absolutely worthless two years ago. Water has been made the land very valuable and has built a town which boasts a news-



FLOODING DESERT LANDS.

paper, a church, schoolhouse and several stores, besides dwellings and other institutions.

The artesian belt is limited. Fifty or sixty miles southeast of Coachella a well was drilled and flowing water was obtained, but it proved to be salt and unfit for irrigating purposes. Other tests have resulted in failure to find water at all.

The notable river diversion systems are those which have drawn from the Rio Grande nearly all its waters, the systems in vogue on the Gila River, the Kern River system, the San Joaquin and Sacramento River systems, the Imperial Canal, which diverts a portion of the waters of the Colorado River. All the systems now operative are under control of mutual companies, private companies or corporations.

The United States has now undertaken the great work of reclaiming her arid districts and in the irrigation fund is already more than \$7,500,000. A location for a dam has been selected on the Colorado River north of Yuma and a large section of land is soon to be reclaimed and made valuable. Similar systems will be established in Utah, Nevada, Colorado, and other States and Territories.

The government work is provided for by the sale of public lands. Once a territory is reclaimed the revenues from the water system go to the irrigation fund and the money goes to reclaim other sections.

Under the various systems now in operation and under way, both private and national, millions of acres of land will be reclaimed within the next ten years and billions of dollars of wealth will be added to the assets of the nation.—Arthur J. Burdick, in *Grit*.

FROGS DEVOUR THEIR KIND.

Nearly All Batrachians Are Cannibalistic in Their Natural Tendencies. A recent experience of C. W. Hodell of Baltimore may serve as a warning to other anglers who write to sporting goods stores from fishing resorts and order frogs in tens of dozens.

Hodell was in the Georgian bay country, where the red-eyed bass were biting hard at frogs, but not taking anything else. He telegraphed in for ten dozen frogs of all sizes in perfect condition, not a dead one in the bunch.

He was especially pleased by some three or four dozen of the little fellows not larger than the first joint of a man's thumb, the ideal size of frog for the small-mouthed bass. He knew that he could take these infants, hang them on a Bing hook which carries a number 2 spoon, and with them yank enough and more than enough. He went to bed filled with happy dreams of the things that were to happen on the morrow.

The next morning he took a supply of frogs and started out. It struck him that there were not so many frogs as on the night before, but he did not believe that anybody around the hotel would steal them and thought that possibly he might be mistaken. He caught some bass and returned late in the afternoon.

Examining his frog trap he found that his supply had dwindled perceptibly. He could not explain it and was worried.

Rising early the next morning, he

again looked at the frogs and was pained to discover that he had not more than a dozen of the little ones left. He had not used more than half a dozen of them. He could find no hole or crack in the trap which would permit them to escape. He was mystified and grieved.

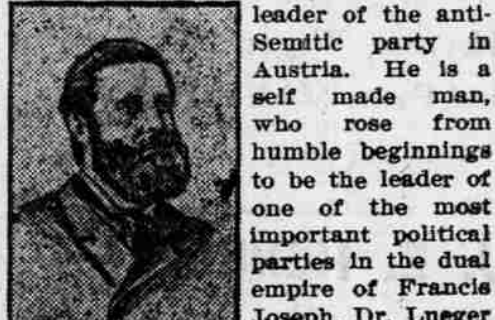
Then, even as he looked, his problem was solved. With a satisfied crouch, which said as plainly as English could say it: "This is a good thing," one of the big frogs hopped forward three inches, opened its mouth, seized a little frog and swallowed it.

Hodell stood staring. Another big frog swallowed another little frog. Looking closely then, Hodell saw the legs of two or three little frogs sticking out of the mouths of two or three big frogs.

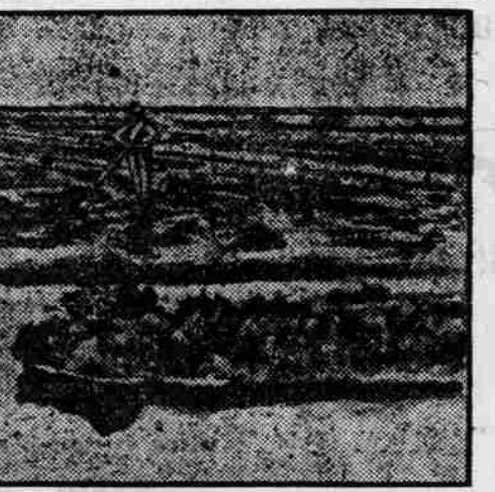
He called for help and he and the guide rescued the few little frogs that were left and put them in a separate compartment. The big frogs seemed to be very fat and sleepy.—New York Sun.

JEW-BAITING IN AUSTRIA.

Dr. Karl Lueger, Who Stands at the Head of the Anti-Semitic Party. One of the strongest men in the public life of the Austro-Hungarian empire is Dr. Karl Lueger, burgo-master of Vienna, and the leader of the anti-Semitic party in Austria. He is a self-made man, who rose from humble beginnings to be the leader of one of the most important political parties in the dual empire of Francis Joseph. Dr. Lueger began political life as an agitator pure and simple, and he addressed hundreds of meetings in support of the anti-Semitic program, denouncing the Jews as the origin of all evil in the world.



The principles which he represents are strong in Austria to-day and have been responsible for many political broils in the Reichsrath. To an American it seems singular that in the 20th century Jew-baiting should exist in a country such as Austria. That it does exist is evidence that Austrian civil-



ization has not progressed much since the middle ages, when Jews were accused of poisoning Christian wells and murdering Christian children. There was no justification for such charges then, nor is there any justification today for the anti-Semitic feeling of which Lueger is the chief mouthpiece.

Groom Was Too Liberal.

There is a young clergyman near Hagerstown, Md., who might be excused for saying "the guilelessness of some rural gentry passeth all understanding." He would probably deny saying it should you ask him, but he would not deny the following story, told by a relative:

A young couple with matrimonial intent, fresh from the green fields of their rural homes, went recently to the parsonage of the clergyman in question. The nuptial knot was tied. In the pause which followed the newly made Benedict looked even more embarrassed than before. He fished about in his trousers' pockets as if looking for something.

"What's the price?" he finally blurted out.

"The State allows me a dollar," said the clergyman, "but—" and paused. Some pauses are more eloquent than words. Evidently this was not.

"Well," finally remarked the groom as he handed the astonished divine a quarter, "if the State allows you a dollar, take this and the job will have netted you a dollar and a quarter. Good-day."

Wigs Cause Trouble.

Time-honored tradition in London has it that only princes and peers may have bewigged footmen on their carriages. The fact was learned by Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt last summer just after she had decided on having her servants rigged out in the fashion indicated. She wisely refrained, but a tempest in a teapot has developed over the fact that certain persons of the "new rich" have been appearing in Hyde Park with bewigged footmen and, oblivious to the customs they are trampling under foot, ride haughtily by with their footmen grandly powdered. Worst of all is the wife of a certain South African millionaire, who has the wigs of her footmen ornamented with five white curls on either side. In the days of the Georges only the royal family used five curls, and the conservative element shuddered when this example of lese majeste was shown. In London it is said that the court will soon post a list of regulations that will inform persons how many curls should be worn on footmen's wigs and also what persons are entitled to this mark of rank.

The Sailor's Psalm.

How many people—landmen, at all events—are aware that one of the psalms is often called the sailor's psalm? Those who were at the opening of the last London "Jack's Palace" by the Prince of Wales will know it, for the name was used there. It is, of course, Psalm 107, wherein occur the beautiful and familiar words, "They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters—these see the works of the Lord and his wonders in the deep." The psalm is usually read as part of the simple services which take place on Sunday on ships at sea. For that reason it is known as the sailor's psalm.

EDITORIALS

OPINIONS OF GREAT PAPERS ON IMPORTANT SUBJECTS

Old Books for New Readers.

AS the love for old books—that is, for the works of the standard authors of the past—should not be confined to old readers, it is gratifying to note that publishers both here and in England are making a feature of the reprints of former favorites.

Without reflecting upon the authors of current literature, it can truthfully be said that time is the great winner of literary chaff. That which survives the generation in which it appears is usually worthy of being read by succeeding generations, and not infrequently better worth universal perusal than the bulk of the books from which the worthless and purely ephemeral have not yet been eliminated. Plutarch never grows old with students of biography; Cervantes and Shakespeare are as delightful after three hundred years as when their immortal works were first published, and every generation has furnished authors worthy of being read by all generations.

Each successful author is unique. Take past writers of American literature as examples. Irving, Cooper and Hawthorne have had no successors in their own special fields. Scott, Thackeray, Dickens, George Eliot and Charles Reade among the English novelists of the past century have not been excelled or even duplicated in the present. The children of those who derived pleasure and instruction from these writers while living will find equal profit and delight in their perusal now that they are dead. "King's Treasures" is what Ruskin has fittingly named collections of books that have survived time's winnowing process; and these books cannot be made too cheap, plentiful or accessible.—Philadelphia Bulletin.

Wealth and National Stamina.

EXPENSIVE houses, rich furnishings, costly sports, extravagant entertainments, criminally expensive hotels and the like, everybody sees and knows about; and there are Americans who have a scale of living that would put the rich men of most other countries to shame. But the real question is not whether the amount of unnecessary or even vulgar expenditure be large, but whether such expenditure vitates taste, induces to idleness, and encourages vice. The only fair answer is that there is as large a proportion of idle and vicious among the poor or the well-to-do as among the rich. Most American men have occupations, and most of them have engrossing occupations.

But there is probably a larger proportion of American women who suffer from idleness than there was a generation ago, and the chief social danger from great wealth is the danger to women. Yet there comes up from the humbler social levels into the ranks of well-to-do life so many robust and well-balanced young women of every generation that those who are spoiled by fortune are, in comparison, inconsiderable.

Our democracy reinforces itself with a safe and vigorous womanhood, even more surely than with energetic manhood. If all the women in the United States between the ages of 18 and 40 could be appraised by the best standard of womanhood, they would show such an advance over their mothers as could perhaps not be shown by any preceding generation of men or women since civilization began. They owe much of it not to excessive wealth, but to the well-diffused prosperity that they have enjoyed. And excessive wealth and all its evils are, after all, only unfortunate incidents of this diffused prosperity.—The World's Work.

Parental Responsibility for Spoiled Children.

ONE of the saddest of sights is a spoiled child. Seeing such a child one almost revolts against the system that leaves the young in the care of their parents, however unfit those parents may be for their important responsibilities.

There are incompetent parents in all stations of society, but it would seem, from casual observation, that the poor are really wiser and firmer parents than the rich. Poor people perceive must discipline their children and keep them well in hand. The children of the poor must be taught to help themselves, to work about the house, to practice thrift. Fortunately the majority of poor parents in this country appreciate the value of education, and they send their young to the neighboring public or private school even though doing so cost them much pinching and labor. Between being disciplined at home and knocked

VALUE OF THE EGG CROP.

Year In, Year Out, It Beats Production of Precious Metals.

Russia is the largest seller of eggs in the world. She sells to foreign countries 150,000,000 dozen eggs nearly every year. In 1896 she sent abroad 1,475,000,000 eggs; in 1897, 1,737,000,000, and in 1898 1,831,000,000. Her sales are all the time increasing.

China is supposed to be the largest producer of eggs in the world. There is no such thing as statistics of poultry products in China, but there are over 400,000,000 persons in that empire who are very fond of eggs; it takes a good many eggs to supply them. The humblest farm but has hens in plenty, and they do their best to supply the demand. There is little doubt that China takes the cake as an egg producer. Her entire supply is usually consumed at home, though she sometimes manages to spare a few for Japanese consumers.

Great Britain is the largest buyer of foreign eggs in the world. Of course, no English breakfast table is complete without eggs as a complement to its toast and marmalade. Great Britain buys every year an average of 1,500,000,000 eggs from about twenty countries, and this is only 40 per cent of the consumption. British hens manage to produce three-fifths of the eggs that the home market demands. In 1901 Russia sold to England 539,058,000 eggs, and the next largest sellers were Belgium, Denmark, Germany, France, Egypt and Morocco. Great Britain spent \$23,745,194 in the purchase of eggs in 1901.

Our entire export of eggs in 1902 was only 2,717,990 dozen, valued at \$228,679, which cuts a small figure in comparison with Russia's total. But our hens are very industrious, and it is only the enormous home demand that keeps our exports at such a low figure.

In 1899 there were 233,598,005 chickens in this country, and they produced 1,293,813,144 dozen eggs; and the fact that we consumed 90 per cent of them shows that we are a nation of egg eaters. It is enough to make any hen dizzy to think that a train of ordinary refrigerator cars containing our entire egg crop of that year would have extended from Chicago to Washington, with several miles of cars to stretch along the track toward Baltimore.

In 1901 the receipts and consumption of eggs in New York City were 2,872,000 crates of thirty dozen each. Chicago has even a larger per capita consumption, or an average of 1,531,545 crates a year. Truly the egg industry is a great business; and when we con-

sider it in connection with the broilers, spring chickens, tough and tender, and roosters we consume, the poultry industry assumes prodigious proportions.

The total value of the poultry and eggs we produced in the last census year was \$281,178,247. The industry was worth more than all the cattle and hogs we slaughtered. It was worth more than the wheat crop of twenty-eight States and territories; and the value of our eggs alone was higher than that of the combined gold and silver product of the United States in any year since 1850, except in 1890, when the precious metals exceeded the eggs by \$9,418,125.

"The Weaker Sex."

The women who are attempting to run a big hotel for women in New York are solving some interesting problems. The hotel is called the Martha Washington, and the intention of the management was to run it entirely with women, as well as for women. Little by little the male sex has been enroaching, not because men were especially anxious to work there, but because the women could not do without them.

First of all, the girl "bell boys" had to go, because the women could not "make them mind." Boys were installed. They obey orders, but do not stay long, because, they say, "the women are nutty."

The head woman waiter could not enforce discipline among the women waiters. And so a man had to undertake the job. It was also found that carrying the soiled dishes from dining room to kitchen was too heavy for women. Men were put in to do this. Finally the rest of the girls struck and their places were filled with men.

How is it that women won't "mind" women? Would a regiment of amazons have to be officered by men?—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Scotland's Great Canal. Plans for the construction of a ship canal between the Firth of Forth, on the east side of Scotland, across to the River Clyde, on the west, have been definitely arranged, says the New York Times. The canal will cost \$50,000,000, but powerful support is expected from the British government. One of the great engineering features of the scheme will be the carrying of the canal through the high ground near the Loch Lomond end. Frequent passing places will be made.

An indication of the saving in distance that would be effected by the following figures: From the Clyde to ports on the east coast of Scotland, north-

about a good deal by their playmates, the children of the poorer families grow up pretty well broken, having a proper self-respect, but not unbearably conceited or selfish or vain.

Rich parents are prone to indulge their children. What with nurses, governesses, fine clothes, ponies and every toy he craves for, the little son of the millionaire is very likely to grow up in the notion that the world was made for his special use and pleasure, and that the business of all other people is to stand about awaiting and obeying orders from him. There are, of course, plenty of wealthy families in which the children are not spoiled, but the conditions make the parental duty really more difficult and perilous in an environment of wealth than in poor surroundings.—San Francisco Bulletin.

To Fight Forest Fires. EW realize what an immense loss the United States suffers each year through the destruction of timber by fires. In Oregon and Washington last year \$20,000,000 of timber was destroyed by fire in two weeks. From Maine to Puget Sound every timber region in the United States suffers annually from forest fires, and the yearly loss averages between \$20,000,000 and \$50,000,000. The forest fires which swept over New England in the early part of this summer will make the loss this year large—perhaps bring it up to the maximum.

This loss of timber by forest fires is an actual loss—wealth goes up in smoke and is vanished forever. New trees grow to take the place of the old ones burned, but the value of those destroyed is blotted out from the nation's wealth. Taking the average annual loss in the last twenty years to be \$30,000,000, it means that the country has been the loser of \$600,000,000 in that time. Though this loss has been going on year after year ever since the settlement of the country—in fact, was going on before its settlement—no systematic attempt to prevent it has been made except in the States of New York, Pennsylvania and Minnesota.

The danger arising from the deforesting of the great watersheds by the axe of the woodman has received a considerable share of popular attention, and the checking of it is one of the tasks set before the Bureau of Forestry. Investigation and study have been actively at work in that direction, but the matter of preventing fires has been entirely neglected heretofore by the general government, which now proposes to take the matter up from the beginning and study it thoroughly. It is true that in the national forest reserves there has been for some time a patrol system, charged, among other duties, with reporting and fighting fires, but no general principles have been laid down and no valuable data gathered from which to work.—New York Press.

Vacation Advice.

MORE attention should be given to relaxation and rest, especially in the home circle. Nothing has ever been found better for exhausted nature than sleep. Vacationists should not overlook this important fact. The stay-at-homes, who enjoy short trips and return to their own comfortable beds at night, can congratulate themselves on securing needed rest. Wise tourists plan to get all the sleep they require. This class believe in the advice of the famous writer, Dr. J. G. Holland, who once said on this topic:

"Sleep is a thing that bells have no more business to interfere with than with prayers and sermons. God is recreating us. We are as unconscious as we were before we were born; and while He holds us there, feeding anew the springs of life and infusing fresh fire into our brains and preparing us for the work of another day, the pillow is as sacred as a sanctuary.

"If any fanatic has made you believe that it is good for you to be violently awakened from your sleep at an early hour, and to go out into the damp, raw air, morning after morning, with your fast unbroken and your body unfortified by the stimulus of food, forget him and his counsels and take the full measure of your rest. When you get your breakfast take your exercise if you have time, or wait until a later hour in the day. Just as much labor can be accomplished in ten hours as in fourteen, with more efficiency and less fatigue, when rest and bodily exercise are properly taken."—Boston Globe.

A Common Weakness. Dr. Joseph Le Conte was an authority, recognized by the world at large, on the science of vision. One day, says the New York Tribune, he was showing a class how to detect the blind spot in the human eye. He took two coins and held them, one in each hand, before him on the table.

"Look at both of these steadily," said he, "and gradually move them in opposite directions. Presently they will pass beyond the range of vision. That is due to the blind spot. Continue the movement, and the coins will again emerge to view."

Then the philosopher and naturalist had his little joke. "You can experiment for yourself at home," said he. "But if you are unsuccessful, try some other object instead of a coin. Some people have no blind spot for money."

Oil Consumption. For many months the oil consumption of the world has exceeded the production, for which reason financiers and merchants have feared a possible exhaustion of the oil fields. Reports published in the *Manual of Statistics*, however, show an extensive decrease in the stock of crude petroleum in the greatest of all American fields, Pennsylvania, within the last two years and figures of equal authority indicate that for months the consumption of oil from Pennsylvania and West Virginia wells has been very largely in excess of production. The stock of crude Pennsylvania petroleum above ground in December, 1900, was 13,774,717 barrels, while in December, 1902, the amount thus stored was only 5,699,127 barrels.

Call for Sympathy. First Bachelor—I wish I could write a decent letter of condolence. Second Bachelor—Some one you know dead?

"No. Engaged."—Detroit Free Press.

When we visit in the country, we like the hostess' disappearance to be followed immediately by the sound of chickens squawking in the back yard.

NEW ORLEANS' NAVAL STATION.

When Completed It Will Be One of the Finest in America.

Whether it be the Panama or the Nicaraguan canal—it does not matter much which—New Orleans, by very reason of the establishment of its naval station below Algiers, is destined to become and is fast becoming one of the most powerful ports of the nation in naval construction as well as in its merchant marine, according to the *Times-Democrat* of that city.

Since standard rates for docking merchant ships have been established by authority of the navy department it has been actually proved by figures that up to the present time the revenue received from docking fees has paid the expenses of construction and repair, together with a fair rate of interest on the investment.

The local heads of the naval station have figures to show every dollar of revenue that has come to the government by reason of the docking of merchant ships since the acceptance of the floating dry dock, May 26, 1902, and the general public, too, has been more or less interested in the big floating hulk, which might be said to be half a city block long and about four stories high.

The docking, within exactly two hours' time, and which was forty minutes less time than allowed by the contract, of the big battleship *Illinois* on Jan. 6, 1902, marked an epoch in the naval, maritime and commercial history of New Orleans. Something over \$50,000 has been derived in revenue from merchant ships since then.

The congressional appropriations, amounting to \$750,000, became available after July 1. Then the work on the tract below Algiers, which will embrace a total of more than ninety acres, with a water frontage of 3,000 feet, began to go forward with all reasonable haste.

It is contended that by permitting the merchant marine to use the dock the coastwise trade is benefited. It is also contended by the department that it is non-use of every structure which brings about deterioration, and thus the department is subserving national and commercial interests by using the dock as much as possible.

The present head of all civil engineering work for the bureau of yards and docks, L. F. Bellinger, has just sent on to Washington plans and specifications for three more buildings for which appropriations have been provided. One of these will be the quarters of the commandant, which building will cost \$10,000. Two others, for officers' quarters, will cost \$7,000 each.

In the estimate of Engineer A. C. Cunningham, who was Mr. Bellinger's predecessor at the New Orleans naval station, a detailed statement was given, being forwarded to the chief of the bureau of yards and docks, of the sums that would be needed to carry on the work for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1904. Mr. Cunningham's estimate was \$2,082,800, and included among other items, the improvement of the water front at a cost of \$500,000; naval prison, \$70,000; central heating plant, \$50,000; locomotive crane, \$30,000; ordnance building and shops, \$108,000; gate and guardhouse, \$50,000, and many others.

WITH NATURE IN THE WOODS.

This Time We Go There, However, Without a Flowing Piece.

I think the day will come, and it is not, perhaps, so distant as it seems, when the idea of killing anything for pleasure will seem so strange as to be scarcely credible. The Anglo-Saxon's proverbial pastime of going out and killing something will seem hardly less amazing than the gladiatorial shows.

Ah, yes! to know all the birds of the wood—without a gun! With a gun how can one know them, what fascinating knowledge a man misses! A dead bird! A handful of blood-stained feathers! Little more than that! Carion for the sexton beetle or for the feasting fly! But the living bird—what a vivid, mysterious creature it is, with its lovely bright eyes, and those sad vowels in its throat! It seems strange to think of what that little head knows, secrets of nature eternally hidden from us. Is not the bird itself one of nature's secrets? The woodland, which to us is a wilderness, is to him a city, of which he knows all the streets and all the inhabitants. All the invisible highways of the air are to him like well-trodden paths, and when he darts off in that apparently casual way he very well knows whither he is going and what business takes him. When he sits and whistles for the hour on some swaying pinnacle of the greenwood there is some meaning in all beyond the music. That meaning will ever be hidden from us. If we could know it, as Tennyson said, we "should know what God and man are."

If, instead of shooting the bird, scotching the snake, smashing the beetle and pinching the tiny life out of the butterfly, we were to watch any one of these creatures on a summer day, the day would pass like an hour, so packed with exciting experience it would seem. Through what mysterious coverts of the woodland, into what a haunted underworld of tunneled banks and hidden ditches and secret passages the snake would show us the way; and we should have strange hearts if, as we thus watched it through its mysterious day, we did not find our dislike of the clever little creature dying away, and even changing into a deep tenderness toward the small, self-reliant life, so lonely a speck of existence in so vast a world.—Julius Norregard in *Success*.

Tenants and Cents