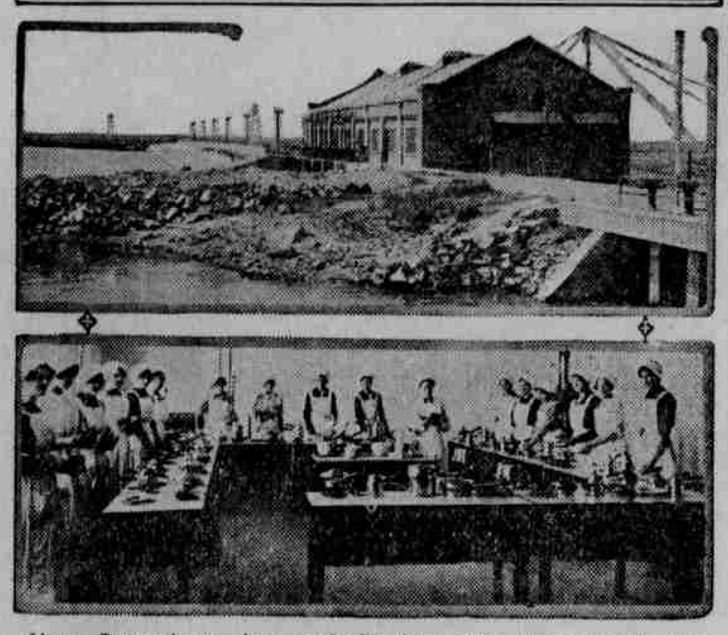
Miniature Electrical World Replaces Big Desert Waste



Above—Dam and power house on Snake river, Idaho, that impounds water enough to grow luxuriant crops on 120,000 acres formerly barren land, and uses the rest to light and heat the houses and perform many of the daily functions in five towns and upon several thousand farms.

Below—Class in domestic science at the Rupert Electric high school, where electricity is used not only for cooking, but also for heating and ventilation.

Uncle Sam, by means of great irrigation projects, has turned many stretches of desert into blooming gardens but there is one project that stands out particularly as an example of what man can do toward altering the conditions established by nature.

Along the Snake river in Southwest Idaho there is a stretch of territory 40 miles in length which was once a barren desert, but is now dotted with green farms and prosperous, bustling towns. This metamorphosis has been brought about by the building of the Minidoka dam on Snake river, but it is not merely the transformation that has been wrought in the appearance of the country by the miracle of irrigation that is of chief interest. The Minidoka project has an attraction all its own because of the varieties of public service which the water impounded behind the dam renders.

Here is to be found a miniature electrical world. Electricity, generated at minimum expense by water power and sold by the government at cost, is used almost exclusively for light, heat and power in the five towns located in the district and also upon the several thousand farms scattered throughout the project. It operates a large grain elevator, a sugar refinery and an alfalfa meal mill. It heats and ventilates schools, churches and a 50-room hotel. It heats and lights the farmers' houses and furnishes power for the farm machinery.

Approach to Communism.

An economic unit has been created in a waste of sand and lava ash—or rather has grown up there under the wing of the government, the only possible way it could have grown—which represents a close approach to communism.

A portion of the water impounded by the dam enters canals and is distributed by the gravity system over 71,000 acres. Half of the water, in passing over the dam creates 10,000 horse power which lifts the remaining part of the first half of the water to higher benches of land that otherwise would still be barren. Thus more than 120,000 acres in all have water.

After lifting water for the extra 44,000 acres, there remains power sufficient to provide nearly all the essentials and many of the luxuries of life.

By law the United States reclamation service is required to supply water and power, when power is available, at cost. Hence the charges are low. For light, the average farmer's bill runs to about $1.25 a month. For light, ironing, washing, vacuum cleaners and cooking, the cost in the average household is $3.00 a month. In winter, adequate power for heating a 5, 6 or 7-room house is obtained at from $6 to $8 a month. Soft coal costs $8 a ton on the project and as considerably more than one ton a month is needed for continuous heating and for cooking, the actual money saving is large.

Electricity Heats Schools.

In Rupert and Burley, the principal towns, 75 per cent of the buildings and homes, large and small, are heated by electricity. Last year Rupert completed a high school housing 600 pupils which is ventilated and heated throughout by electric power from the government plant. Burley has now invested $80,000 in a concrete school building, also to be heated and ventilated by electricity, which will house 2,000 pupils.

In the Rupert school, fresh air is drawn from the roof at the rate of 50,000 cubic feet a minute. It passes through electric coils which heat it to 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Next it is washed and humified and then reaches a large motor-driven blower. This forces the air into two chambers, in the one of which a portion is raised to about 100 degrees and in the other of which cool air is retained. Separate ducts carry the air from the two chambers to each room in the building. The ducts are connected and there are connections controlled by dampers, so that the temperature in each room is maintained at 68 degrees.

Hot water is provided electrically also. The domestic science department has a complete outfit of electric plates for the use of the individual students, as well as a large electric range for baking and cooking on a larger scale. Practical use is made of the domestic science department in the preparation of hot lunches at noon for all the student body. The food is sold at low prices. Meal tickets can be obtained either for cash or in exchange for such supplies as milk, eggs and butter.

The building is splendidly lighted and is used in the evenings as a social center. The auditorium seats 500 people.

Farmers Use Current.

Power is sold to individuals on the project but the more economical way involves group purchases.

"Organizations of the farmers have been formed," said a government official. "Each organization deals with the reclamation service in purchasing the power required for the use of all the members of each organization. It is then distributed over lines constructed by each group. One morning last summer I drove out into the country about 8 miles from Rupert and stopped to chat with a homesteader. His house was a modest structure costing probably not to exceed $250. The place was well shaded with Carolina poplars and had a well-kept white clover lawn in front.

"I observed a power line leading directly to the house and inquired about it. The farmer said he was one of the directors in the Farmers' Electric Co. and used electricity for many purposes. My curiosity was aroused, and I went into the house to investigate.

"I found every room lighted and heated with electricity. In the kitchen was a large electric range, the very latest on the market, with four hot plates, a large oven, and a broiler. Water for stock and household use was pumped electrically, and the same force will be used about the barn for various purposes. This unpretentious home on a farm only four miles from desert possessed conveniences and up-to-date labor-saving equipment which probably cannot be found elsewhere except on the farmsteads of the very rich in the oldest districts of the country."

Broiled Lizard Pleases Marines' Palates.

Perhaps broiled lizard will never find its way to the menu of fashionable American restaurants, but Uncle Sam's marines attached to the American legation at Managua, Nicaragua, have found, as entremets to the lotus, fried or broiled iguana steaks, served with a pasty sauce made from alligator pears, to be everything claimed by the native epicures.

The iguana, or giant lizard, has been used for food by the natives for many years, and iguana steak finds much favor with them because of its gamy taste. The iguana is herbivorous.

Drug Business Grows.

During the five years between 1909 and 1914 there was a substantial increase in the manufacture of druggists' preparations, patent and proprietary medicines and compounds and perfumery and cosmetics in the United States says Uncle Sam. Reports for 1914 were received from 4,082 establishments, with products valued at $172,008,946. The number of establishments in 1914 exceeded that in 1909 by 440, or 12.1 per cent., and the value of the products increased during the five-year period by $30,067,334, or 21.2 per cent.

Millions in Sand and Gravel.

The United States produced 76,603,303 short tons of sand and gravel, valued at $23,121,617, during 1915, says Uncle Sam.

PROBLEMS TO BE SOLVED

Many Puzzles That Have Baffled the Cleverest for Centuries Offer Chances to Brainy People.

For the man to whom the mysterious appeals there is no lack of problems which have baffled the cleverest brains for generations, and in many cases for long centuries, and still remain as far from solution as ever.

If he is mathematically inclined he can win immortal fame by solving the problem of how to "square the circle." The cleverest brains of all ages and countries have wrestled in vain to discover exactly the relation between the circumference and the diameter of a circle.

One Dutch professor gave nearly 50 years of his life to the task; he worked out the equation to over 700 places of decimals, and was then little nearer the end of his calculations than when he began.

No less elusive is the square root of two. Thousands of years in the aggregate have been spent in endeavoring to make this calculation; it has been worked out to 111 places of decimals by one enthusiast, but the exact square root remains, and probably always will remain, unfound.

Ever since the days of the Pharaohs scientists have been searching for the secret of changing base metals into gold; but the "philosopher's stone" has always proved a will o' the wisp in its tantalizing elusiveness; and although Edison declares the day of its discovery is drawing near, it still seems as remote as ever.

Countless men, too, have been driven to despair and almost to insanity in their efforts to discover perpetual motion; and the man who finds its secret will certainly win a fame greater than that of Newton himself.

No scientist has yet satisfactorily explained what is the relation between sun spots and the mariner's compass—why the prevalence of spots on the sun makes the compass erratic and unreliable; and none can prove whether Mars is inhabited or not; or tell exactly what a comet is, or what effect, if any, the moon has on the weather. These are all problems, the solution of which would make your name famous throughout the world.

If you would try something possibly simpler, the world would much like to know the secret of the rocking-stones—those huge masses of rock, some nearly 100 tons in weight—which are so delicately poised that the pressure of a finger will set them moving. How and when did they get there, and with what object?

What, too, were the origin and purpose of the monoliths at Stonehenge, on Salisbury plain; and by what means in those prehistoric days were the enormous cross slabs raised into position?

"Chiggers."

Visitors who went to Ft. Harrison to say farewell to the boys who have gone to the Mexican border are now recovering from the "chigger" bites they received on that occasion. "Chiggers" are not abundant in Marion county, but those that lay in ambush in the grass at Ft. Harrison fully made up in pernicious activity whatever was lacking in mere numbers. Many persons had there a first introduction to the chigoe, which is of the order diptera, family pulicidae, species sarcopsylla penetrans. It is sometimes, in addition to its Hoosier name of chigger, called the jigger and the sand flea. Only the female attacks man. When she gets ready to lay her eggs she bores deeply into the skin, usually of the feet and ankles. This insect is found at its best in the West Indies, but is nearly as active in the Southern states. There is no complaint of any innocuous desuetude of this insect in Indiana. The chigger deposits in the perforation she has made in the flesh a bladder or sack containing about 60 eggs. The old-fashioned Hoosier way of ridding oneself of chiggers and chiggerettes was to rub the red spots denoting their location with a well-salted bacon rind. And there are also chiggers in Texas.—Indianapolis News.

Temptations of the Tongue.

A preacher at East Northfield spoke on the Temptations of the Tongue. It is a good topic and should be frequently utilized. A thoughtless or reckless tongue can do more harm than a whole church can do good. The preacher's sermon was based upon the third chapter of James. Read it. You need it. We all need it. No man can be a Christian unless he puts its meaning into his life. Every pulpit should read the chapter often. It is one of the finest in the Bible. There is no better literature anywhere. It could be studied as an example of style. The world needs that kind of gospel. This country needs it. The city needs it. There is too much thoughtless talk going on. Too many people think what they think is absolutely true, and so they deride others who do not think as they do. This is unjust and wicked, and it is the part of a true religion and a clean civics to look at it that way.—Ohio State Journal.

All He Wanted.

Pride in the national dress of his country and love of his profession were blended in a somewhat incongruous fashion in the answer of a Scotch farm laborer who called at a Glasgow recruiting depot recently. "Now," said the sergeant, after the necessary preliminaries had been gone through, "what regiment would you like to join?" "Never mind that," was the hearty response. "Jist gi'e me a kilt an' a horse an' let me awa' to the

Of Printed Challie With Chiffon Frills

Sometimes a simple gown is so altogether charming that it may be indifferent to current styles because it is destined to outlive them. In the picture two views of an afternoon frock are given of a design so altogether good and artistic that it fits into the modes of today and those of yesterday and tomorrow. It has permanent good style to recommend it, inasmuch as it is a beautiful adjustment, by simple means, of drapery to the figure and bespeaks the work of a tasteful expert.

Nothing more unusual than a printed challie is used for this really extraordinary frock. It would be incomparably refined in gray and white and there are many beautiful designs in challies and many soft colorings that may be used with equal success for making it. It is cut with a kimona waist folded in at the waistline to panels which extend down the front and back of the skirt. One cannot tell by looking at it alone whether it fastens at the back or front, as the bodice laces together at both places with baby velvet ribbon. All edges of the bodice are finished with a silk-covered cord, and there is a girdle made of it. Two strands of the girdle terminate in a flat button at the front at one end and at the other in two loops that fasten over the buttons. The girdle is spread at the middle of the back, where four small silk-covered buttons hold it to place, and it is tacked to the waistline across the back and sides. It hangs free at the front in the manner of a classic girdle.

The straight-hanging skirt pays its respects to the modes of today with shirred side pieces that add to its fullness. It is finished with a four-inch hem headed by an overlapping tuck.

Hanging from the girdle is a small reticule made of the material and edged with the silk-covered cord. The neck and sleeves are filled in with soft frills of white chiffon knife plaited.

This is one of those models which is well suited to a slender figure, especially when made up in a lightweight but not transparent material, like challie. The heavier figures may choose sheer fabrics in soft weaves, such as voile or mull, for making it. In this case it will need an underslip of silk.

Julia Bottomley

To Smarten Up the Costume

It is no secret that a supply of pretty accessories may be depended upon to smarten up even a meager wardrobe to the point of making it interesting. They are a great help to the tourist who wants to travel light (as all good tourists do) and still be presentable for whatever may come up in the way of entertainment. Crisp neckwear, bright girdles and gay handbags help out immensely. They must be depended upon along with the costume blouse to furbish up the traveling dress for some occasions.

Ribbons need no excuse for their gay suggestion of dressy elegance. They make up a considerable part of all summer neckwear and nearly all girdles and bags. In the picture given above a small cape of rose-colored ribbon, a neck ruff of gray satin and velvet ribbon, and a vanity bag of white and gold brocaded ribbon attest their importance in the wardrobe.

The cape is made of plain satin ribbon in a soft shade of rose color, made of four overlapping ruffles. It is finished with a plaiting of ribbon about the neck, a scant ruche and ties of ribbon. Three small ribbon roses finish it.

For an older woman a useful ruff is made of gray taffeta ribbon laid in full double box plaits and banded with velvet ribbon which is finished with bows and hanging ends, one at each side. It is a real protection for the throat. The vanity bag of white and gold brocade has a "gate" fastening of French gilt and is finished with a white silk tassel at the bottom and handle of heavy white satin ribbon.

Julia Bottomley

About 420 different species of plants are utilized in the manufacture of perfumes.

Comparisons.

"So your boy Josh is a soldier now?"

"Yep," replied Farmer Corntossel. "And I want to tell you the discipline is doing him good. It's the first time in many a year that Josh couldn't put on airs 'cause he was better dressed than I was."—Washington Star.

Spoke in Ringing Tones.

"Bridget, why don't you answer the doorbell?"

"Oi didn't hear it sayin' anything, mum."

"You must have heard its tongue goin'. Bridget."—Boston Transcript.

Versatile.

A lady stopping at a hotel on the Pacific coast rang the bell the first morning of her arrival and was very much surprised when a Japanese boy opened the door and came in.

"I pushed the button three times for a maid," she said sternly, as she dived under the bed covers.

"Yes," the little fellow replied, "me she."