

Annual Clearance Sale

Our great sale that the people are waiting for starts Tuesday, January 2, 1912, lasting until Feb. 3rd.

Nearly \$90,000 of Men's, Women's and Children's Wearing Apparel to be sacrificed at this sale. Goods are offered At From 50c to 80c On the Dollar

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SUBMARINE CABLES.

The Complicated Work of Laying Them on the Ocean's Bed.

The laying of an ocean cable is a complicated operation. First, the route of the proposed cable must be determined. This can usually be done by reference to charts of the ocean. It often happens, however, that there are no reliable charts in existence. Then the whole route must be surveyed in order to determine along which path the cable can be laid with the least risk of disturbance and strain.

What is sought is a fairly level platform at the least practicable depth below the surface, free from ridges which might cut or chafe the cable, and from hollows or ravines across which the cable might not be able to support its weight. The ocean, as we all know, has its hills, mountains and valleys just as the land has. It is important to have the route as short as possible, for every extra mile means an expenditure of about \$1,000.

Then comes the making of the cable. This is a very tedious job. First there are the copper wires forming the conductor of electricity, which are covered with four distinct coatings of gutta percha. Over this are wound two layers of tape. Then come two layers of Russian hemp. After this comes a covering of steel wire. And over all there are two coatings of very strong canvas ribbon, coated with a mixture of pitch and gutta percha.

Each set of cable machines can make three miles of cable a day. That part of the cable near the shore is protected by additional thicknesses of steel wire to prevent injury from anchors. As fast as the cable is made it is coiled down in immense tanks of water and tested continually to see if its electrical condition is perfect.

When complete the cable is coiled away on board the ship that is to lay it in its ocean bed. Cable ships are twin screw steamers of great size, with their holds occupied by tanks in which the cable is coiled down.

When everything is ready the cable ship proceeds to the point where the laying of the cable is to begin. The shore end is landed, spliced to the deep sea portion and connected up to a set of instruments in a house on the shore.

Part of the electrical staff is left in this house, and a series of signals is passed between the ship and the house all the time that the cable is being paid out. As the cable may be and often is as much as 2,000 miles long, it will be imagined what close attention to their duty must be given by the electricians.

The ship meanwhile goes on to its destination at the rate of five miles or so an hour. It is not possible to go faster than this or the lives and limbs of the men in the cable tanks who are handling the cable and seeing that it runs out freely might be endangered.

The work, of course, goes on night and day without stopping until at last the farther shore is reached and the second short end is spliced on and landed.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

His Idea of Art.

Robert Henri, the New York painter, was talking about those millionaires who buy, merely to show off, doubtful "old masters" at

fabulous prices.

"Their knowledge of art," Mr. Henri said, "is about equal to that of the sausage manufacturer who said to Whistler:

"What would you charge to do me in oil?"

"Ten thousand," said Whistler promptly.

"But suppose I furnished the oil?" said the millionaire.

Wanted It Up to Date.

Vincent is having his first lessons in geography, and when he returned home from school the other day he asked his mother how often the world turns around.

"When I went to school," replied his mother, "it turned around once in twenty-four hours."

"But, mamma," insisted Vincent, "how often does it turn around now? Everything has changed since you went to school."—Indianapolis News.

Worse Than That.

She had just finished reading Edward Everett Hale's "The Man Without a Country," and as she laid it down she sighed and said:

"I cannot imagine anything worse than a man without a country."

"Oh, I can," said her friend.

"Why, what?"

"A country without a man."—Ladies' Home Journal.

Returned His Love.

Friend—What's the matter, old man? Doesn't she return your love? Jilted One—That's just the trouble. She returned it and told me to give it to some other girl.

Obedient Orders.

As indicating with what exact obedience the oriental servant obeys his master's orders, a distinguished British diplomatist now serving his country at Washington, tells of an incident in India. It appears that an eminent British general during a campaign in that country had ordered his man to prepare his bath at a certain hour. One day a fierce engagement was going on, but the servant made his way through a storm of bullets and appeared at the commander's side.

"Sahib," said he, "your bath is ready."

Circumstances Alter Cases.

"You were never married, I believe?"

"No, I was never married."

"That's singular, isn't it?"

"No, not at all. You see, the first time I fell in love I said to myself, 'I'll marry her or none.'"

"Why didn't you marry her then?"

"Well, you see, after I had become better acquainted with her I said to myself, 'I'll marry none rather than her.' Since that I've got along very well with none."—London Answers.

A Sarcastic Man.

"Well," said the sarcastic man as he walked out of the concert between numbers, "I'm ever so much obliged to the girl who sits in front of me. I don't know what her name is, but I'm obliged to her."

"You mean the one with the frightfully high coiffure?"

"That's the girl. And she's got a bow on top of that."

"I don't see what you're obliged to her for."

"For not carrying an umbrella."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

WILY PRAIRIE DOGS.

They Squared Accounts With the Rattler in Their Home.

Any one on the plains will tell the stranger that rattlesnakes may frequently be seen to enter or to leave the humble tenement of the prairie dog. This sight has given rise to the belief, for a long time tenaciously held in the west, that the reptiles and the small owls which frequent these underground dwellings are on the best of terms with the prairie dogs and that all live together on terms of perfect amity.

This belief is, of course, without foundation. It is known that the rightful owners of these prairie homes, although sometimes forced to submit to eviction or intrusion, know how to balance the account when opportunity offers.

A cattleman riding after some steers managed to get close to a colony of prairie dogs and to watch their quaint antics.

Considerably apart from the others two dogs were sitting with their noses close together. They appeared to be much concerned by the movements of a big rattler that was lazily crawling about near them. When the snake moved a length or two the dogs became greatly agitated and danced about like lunatics, but when the rattler ceased his motion they were, with their noses together, managing somehow to keep abreast of him without seeming to follow him.

Once the snake coiled, and then the dogs had business elsewhere, but when he straightened out they were close beside him again.

In the course of his wriggles the rattler came to a hole. He stopped there, as if undecided as to whether it would be worth while to enter. The dogs began to act in a most unaccountable manner, as if they had been feeding on loco weed and were just beginning to feel its effects. They danced on one hind foot and rolled. They dashed up behind the snake as if they were anxious to put him in the hole and every now and then would come to "attention" with their noses together, as if talking it over.

The snake soon began to slip into the hole. The dogs, although intent on his movements, remained perfectly quiet until the last of him had disappeared. Then they got to work in earnest and kicked dirt into that hole in a way that would put a railway section hand to shame.

They work systematically. When the entrance was well filled with loose dirt they tamped it and threw in more dirt and tamped that. They were not satisfied until the entrance to that hole was blocked and packed down with dirt as solid as the original soil. Then the little fellows seemed greatly amused and rubbed noses many times before they danced off to join their friends and relatives.—St. Louis Republic.

Mannish.

"She is such a mannish sort of woman."

"Mannish? Why, I have never noticed anything mannish about her. She dresses in a most becoming manner, she has a dainty personality and she doesn't seem to be at all inclined to engage in athletics."

"Oh, I know. But she can open a telegram without being agitated a bit."—Chicago Record-Herald.

SNARED BY A TRUST.

It Was a Nice Little Family One, and He Couldn't Beat It.

"Owing to a railway smashup I got left in a little town one night a year ago," said the commercial traveler, "and the way I came in contact with a trust almost made my hair stand on end."

"It was a wretched town and a still worse hotel. My room was small, and the bed was as hard as a board. I got up feeling mad, and, after a miserable breakfast, I was ready to boil over. The boiling came when the landlord presented me with a bill of \$4."

"Is this correct?" I asked as I look at the figures.

"Entirely so," he replied.

"Then you are an old highway robber."

"The landlord had three sons, and when they began to take a share in the altercation I turned on them and made a number of fiery remarks. When I stopped for breath the old man, who turned out to be a justice of the peace, sat down in a chair and calmly announced:

"Hear ye! Hear ye! I now declare this court duly opened. James, have you any business?"

"I have," replied his eldest son, who announced to me that he was a constable and that I was under arrest. He then made a charge against me. One of the other brothers testified as to my language, and his honor fined me \$10. As the third brother hadn't taken any part I turned to him and sarcastically asked:

"Where do you come in?"

"Me?" he replied. "Oh, I'm the local marshal, and as you are evidently a desperate character I shall lock you up for a couple of days and then run you out of town."

"It was a nice little family trust, you see," smiled the commercial traveler, "and I couldn't beat it. I was locked up for forty-eight hours, but I had to pay the hotel bill and the fine, and when I was at liberty and got my mouth open to say something else the jailer laid a hand on my arm and whispered:

"Don't do it. I am the old man's son-in-law, and if you kick against my jail he'll make your next stop twenty days."—Boston Herald.

To Settle the Question.

He was engaged to be married, and every one knows how the engaged man talks when he gets a friend cornered.

"She is the loveliest and best girl that ever lived," he asserted.

"Sure!" inquired the friend.

"Sure! Of course I'm sure. You don't doubt it, do you?"

"Certainly not," replied the friend hastily, "only—"

"Only what?"

"Oh, I suppose it's all right, but I'd like to introduce you to Dobby."

"Who's Dobby?"

"Oh, another friend of mine who told me yesterday that he was engaged to the loveliest and best girl that ever lived, and I'd like to have you two get together and settle the matter."

Plants That Wear Overcoats.

Plants have developed almost as many dodges for perpetuating their existence as animals, only we don't so easily recognize them. Did it ever strike you that every seed, bulb or tuber is not merely a reservoir of material for the plant that is to grow out of it, but also a mass of fuel for supplying heat necessary to the sprouting seedlet? More than this, if you look at the early spring buds and flowers you will notice that those which are likely to be exposed to frost, such as catkins or willow and hazel, are well protected by a thick covering of soft material, a regular plant overcoat.

Postage Stamps.

For all practical purposes the history of postage stamps begins in the United Kingdom about the year 1839-40. The adhesive stamp such as we know today was made experimentally by James Chalmers in his printing office at Dundee, Scotland, in August, 1834. These stamps were printed with ordinary type and were made adhesive by a wash of gum. The idea "took" at once, and by 1837 the commissioners of the postoffice authorized their general employment. From Great Britain the invention spread over the continent and the world.—New York American.

Training Her.

"Yes," said the mother, "Mary is very ambitious. She vows she will marry a foreign count or a grandee of some kind, and she wants to be accomplished."

"Accomplished?"

"Yes. Nothing will satisfy her short of being fitted to become the wife of a nobleman."

"Are you educating her?"

"Yes; I am teaching her to wash and iron."—Exchange.

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