

WASTEFUL AMERICA.

We Are, So It Is Charged, a Most Prodigal People.

Americans are the opposites of the Japanese in that they are probably the most wasteful and extravagant people under the sun. James J. Hill once voiced a declaration to the effect that the greater part of America's progress had been gained by using up the stored capital of preceding ages—something for which we are indebted to nature, not to our own energies. Soil, mines, oil and gas reservoirs, forests, fisheries—all have been drained and drained, with little or no thought that exhaustion of either was calculable. We eat three times as much as is demanded by nature and more than is good for us, and we throw away annually enough to feed the whole population of Japan. Into our rivers in the form of polluting sewage go fertilizers to the value of millions, which other peoples save and which we would be doubly benefited by saving. We could economize greatly if we cared to in the quantity of iron and other metals we use; but, possessed with the infatuation that they will never "run out," we are as prodigal with them as with everything else, whereas the limit of the supply is claimed to be easily calculable.

But it is in the waste of the forests that American improvidence finds its worst illustration. The nation has been willing to see its forests so devastated that the present annual "cut" and fire waste cannot be continued for twenty-five years longer without destroying every patch of timber in America.—St. Paul Pioneer-Press.

SPORT IN AMERICA.

The Change That Has Come Since the War Between the States.

Before the civil war we Americans had few outdoor pastimes. There was some fox hunting in the south, some shooting in the north. There was considerable fishing, very little angling. Tennis and golf were unknown to us. Croquet was decorously played. Driving and riding were restricted to the few who could afford the time and expense. One or two cricket elevens struggled for existence. There were no bicycles, no motors, of course, only an absurd velocipede or two. Extreme youth "few kites," played marbles and whipped tops. Among their elders, however, there was a mining, artificial attitude toward all outdoor sport which found its fullest expression in a quadrille, at croquet or a sentimental sailing expedition under the calmest of skies.

However, even then we had yachtsmen—naturally corollary of our superb commercial navy—and we had good horses and were breeding better ones,

and we by inheritance were a nation of men who handled a rifle properly.

War came and left us with its immense accumulation of good and evil, and it seemed then that out of sheer weariness of sadness and trouble the germ of the old play spirit, so long dormant, awoke among us to save us from ourselves.—Collier's Weekly.

Puncturing a Fallacy.

The barber applied the rich brown dye with a fine tooth comb, combing it evenly into the grizzled locks of the old man.

"Hair dye, sir," he said. "Plain, unvarnished hair dye is the base of that absurd fallacy about people turning gray in a single night.

"If you investigate those yarns you find that invariably they concern persons in prison. Orsini, pining in jail, had his hair go black on him. Marie Antoinette, languishing in a cell, found the deep hue of her hair changing to an ugly gray. Raleigh, imprisoned in the tower, developed grayish streaks with incredible speed.

"The secret of all that, my dear, is this:

"These prisoners in order to conceal their gray hair dyed it, using a poor sort of dye, one of those sorts that have to be applied every day or two. In prison, naturally, they could not get hold of this dye, and hence their locks whitened at a miraculous rate. When people said of them pityingly that their terror of sorrow had turned their hair gray in a single night they acquiesced themselves in the deception, for is it not embarrassing—I leave it to you, sir, is it not embarrassing—to explain to the world at large that one uses hair dye?"—St. Louis Globe Democrat.

The Turquoise Land.

Sinal was known as the "turquoise land" in very ancient times, and Dr. Flinders Petrie believes that it was the first mining center in the world. In his book on the subject Dr. Petrie tells of the various expeditions sent to Sinal by the Egyptian government. At the head of the party was the "commander," or "bearer of the seal of the god," the pharaoh. The official staff consisted of "masters of the house of metals," or assayers, scribes and secretaries, to make inventories of the output of the mines. Even more modern were the "devisers of metals," or prospectors. The working staff consisted of miners and their assistants. The commissariat had cooks, bakers, water carriers and even a doctor attached. The mines could only be worked for a certain period, from January to May, which is exactly the best period for archeological work in Sinal today. The miners lived in camps, and the so called forts and camps were really miners' villages.

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