

CHEAP FUEL IN GERMANY.

Briquettes Made of Peat and the Dust and Waste of Coal Mines, Generally Used.

Among the several branches of German industry which deserve the attention of Americans by reason of their economy, their recovery or utilization of some raw material which exists unused in this country, or because they invoke the most intelligent application of scientific knowledge to technical processes, may be reckoned the manufacture of briquettes from brown coal, peat and the dust and waste of coal mines.

Briquettes form the principal domestic fuel of Berlin and other cities and districts in Germany; they are used for locomotive and other steam firing, and are employed for heating in various processes of manufacture.

The average selling price in large quantities was \$3.16 a ton.

CARP OUSTING WILD DUCK.

Useless Themselves, They Have Destroyed the Wild Rice Fields in Ontario, Canada.

The singular complaint comes from various parts of northern Ontario that fish are responsible for the disappearance of certain kinds of game. In localities which were formerly noted for the excellent duck shooting which they offered the birds are now not to be had at all.

The ducks, geese and other aquatic birds were formerly in the habit of frequenting the large fields of wild rice in the lakes and streams of parts of Ontario, but now these fields have been, in many instances, destroyed by the German carp, which has found its way into these waters.

The Ontario inspector of fisheries, who has been in northern Ontario for the last few weeks, reports that the German carp has not only become dangerous to other fish, as has been frequently claimed, but that in Cook's bay, Lake Simcoe, where there were formerly hundreds of acres of wild rice, not a spear of that plant is to be seen to-day.

The most incredible part of it is that the fish have entirely destroyed the fields in one year. The aquatic birds which visit the locality, finding that all their usual feeding grounds have disappeared, cut short their visit and move away in search of others.

It remains to be seen what the effect of this wholesale destruction of aquatic vegetation will be upon the game fishes of the locality. The fishery overseer of the district declares that it is a question whether the spawn of the muskellunge can be protected and developed without the rice beds. He does not accuse the carp of eating the eggs of the other fish, but states that they keep the water continually disturbed, and that to their presence in these waters must be attributed the decrease in the number of muskellunge frequenting them for spawning purposes.

BOOTBLACK LOSES FORTUNE.

New York Shiner Wins \$40,000 at Races and Doesn't Know When to Quit.

Herman, the bootblack, was at the southeast corner of the New York city hall. He has been playing the races, and is not a bit bashful about telling how much he won. "At the end of the eastern season last fall," he said, "I had cleaned up about \$40,000. I made all this money in just about four months. Me Tammany friends in the city hall gave me the straight things to bet, and I made money so fast that I had to put some fresh pockets in me buds."

"When I was making me killing plays on the tracks I didn't wear no different clothes than what I have on now, and that's the reason I never got touched. When the Tammany government went out my luck went out, too. One day at aqueduct I lost over \$10,000. After that I couldn't find noth' but stiffs, and three days ago I was broke. I hadn't enough to buy a new shoeblackening outfit, and I went to the leader of me district and he gave me the money to buy this box and set of brushes."

Herman asked the reporter not to print his full name. He said his wife didn't know he had been "leading a double life."

TWAIN'S VOW OF SILENCE.

The Humorist Says He Will Make No More Speeches from the Public Platform.

Mark Twain has retired from the public platform for ever. His appearance at Missouri university, where he received his degree of LL. D., was his last as a public speaker. On this occasion he talked for nearly an hour. He was in a brilliant mood. There was a flash in every word he uttered, and he proved the truth of the assertion of Julian Hawthorne, that no man in the world can handle a joke for all it is worth and bring it out so forcibly and clearly as Mark Twain.

"Please announce in the papers," said Twain, "that I have retired forever from the public platform." When interviewed concerning the recent dispatches to the effect that the German translations of his works have been excluded by the Russian authorities, Mark Twain was not a bit worried. "I am not in the least surprised," said the humorist. "The books of hundreds of other authors are excluded every year from Russia, and the fact that my works are barred gives me little concern. I am but one of a vast number whose books have been excluded and are being shut out every day by the Russian authorities and I take it as no special compliment that I am among so many."

"Russia has a great many Germans in its population and is gradually Russifying them, and naturally it does not wish any literature circulated that would influence any of the people in favor of a monarchy."

"In some of my works I may have said something that could have been colored into a pronounced expression of views against the Russian government, and it is probable that this accounts for the fact that my books have been barred, and I think that the political cast of some of my stories is alone responsible."

TELLS OF FLOATING ISLANDS.

Steamer Returns to New York and Reports Remarkable Experience in Caribbean Sea.

The Norwegian steamer Donald, from Banes, with fruit, has arrived at Philadelphia, and Capt. Warnecke tells this remarkable tale:

"We were two days out from Banes, and about 30 miles from Watlin's island, in the Caribbean sea, when we came upon a floating island. I, with the mate and several of the crew, rowed toward it. Thousands of little monkeys scampered all about the shore, and when we were in range they began a bombardment by shying coconuts at us. We captured two monkeys."

"The following day we discovered another floating island. This time we were greeted by a covey of parrots of most brilliant plumage."

Capt. Warnecke declared that the eruption in Martinique had shaken up the entire district, and the small pieces of land had become separated from some inhabited island.

TWENTY-STORY HOTEL.

Magnificent Structure to Be Erected at New York at a Cost of Ten Million Dollars.

Through the sale of the Plaza hotel property at Fifth avenue, Fifty-eighth and Fifty-ninth streets, New York city, to the George A. Fuller company and allied interests, there is to be erected on the site a new 20-story hotel which those interested in the enterprise say is to be the finest structure of its kind in the world. The price paid to the New York Life Insurance company for the property is \$3,000,000, and among transactions involving no element of trade it is believed that the purchase rank as the largest in the city's real estate annals. Including the cost of the new hotel building the enterprise will involve nearly \$10,000,000. Associated with the George A. Fuller company in the purchase are the Central Realty, Bond and Trust company and Hallgarten & Co. Through the bankers, it is understood, considerable foreign capital will be interested in the project.

MARCONI HAS NEW RIVAL.

Wireless System of Telegraphy Is Reported to Have Been Much Improved.

A new system of wireless telegraphy, which it is asserted is far superior to the Marconi system, will soon enable the public to send the messages as quickly as by wire telegraph. Initial station in New York city is in the Chesbrough building, and on the top of the building the apparatus for sending and receiving messages have been installed. The system is of American invention, the work of E. H. Smythe, of Chicago, and Lee De Forest, a graduate of Yale university.

The system differs radically from that of Marconi, as messages can be sent and received as rapidly as the operator can work, the speed of 40 words a minute having already been attained. Distinct messages have been received over a distance of 75 miles.

Punishment or Reward.

England wants Kruger to go back to South Africa and settle on a farm. Whether this is to be a sort of punishment, says the Chicago Record-Herald, or not, must depend upon the way one looks at farming.

Missouri Mule a Superbally Nov. Missouri mule raisers, remarks the Chicago Record-Herald, will now have to hunt another market for their surplus stock.

AMERICAN MANNERS.

Are Much Better Than the Average Britisher of London Has Any Idea Of.

The ordinary Londoner who has not had the good fortune to cross the Atlantic is wont to picture his American cousin wearing a goatee and a victim to the constant chewing of tobacco and liberal expectation. On arriving in New York he is amazed to discover that the goatee is conspicuous by its absence, tobacco chewing unnoticeable and expectation practically unknown. In this respect he finds the New Yorker far more cleanly in his habits than the Londoner, more especially on public cars and in public places, says an eastern exchange. The unrestrained indulgence of spitting on and off the tops of buses and in railway trains, and the random chewing and smoking of tobacco in and around London are simply odious, and make traveling intolerable and oftentimes disgusting even to a smoker. Here the strange prohibition against spitting in public places and the sensible regulation as to smoking are so thoroughly observed that traveling becomes a pleasure. If London would only copy the most admirable example existing in New York in this respect the English metropolis would soon be rid of a most unwarrantable and filthy habit.

CHINA MAKING PROGRESS.

Industrial and Commercial Growth of Asia's Greatest Country is an Assured Thing.

Europeans and Americans who have lived long in China are quite unanimous in the opinion that the greatest country of Asia, taking account of area, population and natural resources, is making steady progress industrially and commercially, and the general belief is that more rapid gains are assured for the next few years. Statistics of exports and imports tell the same story. So does the development of railways and telegraph lines. The world-wide importance of this progress is not easily exaggerated. It promises to insure the existence of the Chinese empire as an immense independent state, for it lessens the force of such pretenses as might have been discovered or invented for dividing or seizing the country. It also makes the international importance of China so evident and so great that no one European power is likely to find the way open for the absorption of so rich an empire, while the more progressive the Chinese become the less chance there will be for an agreement between the leading nations of the west as to the terms of a possible partitioning of the middle kingdom.

WEARINESS OF WEALTH.

Godless Magnificence and Selfish Prodigality of Some Rich New Yorkers.

The very rich men of the world are growing exceedingly tired of the vast wealth accumulated. In New York scores and hundreds of men to-day are paying anywhere from \$9,000 to \$16,000 a month rent for suites of rooms, not homes which they have built for their families, but simply apartments which they have rented for awhile, says a writer in Homiletic Review. The godless magnificence, the selfish prodigality, the overwhelming ostentation of the wealth of New York in certain circles cannot be described; but it is all an indication of the fact that the climax has well-nigh been reached in the display of what wealth can get. The world is waiting now to know what wealth can give. It is the nemesis of vast wealth that it brings its own retribution, and that retribution is the weariness of being unable to find happiness in merely having things.

THE LITTLE FINGERNAIL.

It Was Worn Long Many Years Ago, But Now It is Carefully Manicured.

Forty years ago in certain parts of the United States it was the custom to grow long nails. I well remember some of the swells and puffers who devoted more attention to their little finger nails than they did to their teeth, and often have I seen the fifth digit with a claw on it an inch and a quarter in length. The nail was carried in a stall, and on occasion was split after the manner of a steel or quill pen, so that its wearer could sign his name to a check with it, says a writer in the New York Press. The trimming of nails to-day is an art which gives employment to many pretty women who style themselves manicures. Nearly every first-class, up-to-date barber shop has its manicure, who delights in the man needing a shave or hair cut with an innocent flirtation. She dresses garishly and has a strut on her that would arouse the envy of a saddle-astride fox chaseress.

New Chance for Bachelors.

The National Dressmakers' association will hereafter endeavor to find husbands for worthy seamstresses who are unable to conclude matrimonial negotiations without help. This is a praiseworthy enterprise, says the Chicago Record-Herald, and should be looked into by all bachelors who are charitably disposed.

Tourists in Italy.

Of 954,000 foreign tourists who visited Italy during the year ended June 13, 65,000 were English. It is estimated that the visitors spent \$70,000,000 during their stay in the country.

In Northern Norway.

Trondjem, the northernmost town of any size in Norway, is as far from Berlin as Rome is.

SOUTH PRAIRIE.

The weather man must have turned over a new leaf the way it has been raining lately.

Mr. Farley has sold out his lease on the Daniels place to some newcomer from California.

Fred Christensen, in company with his best girl, visited his parents at Oretown last week, his brother taking his place at the cheese factory.

This is good weather for fishing. Mrs. Powell landed a 12lb. salmon with a hook and line a few days ago.

Chas. Wells and family, in company with friends from Portland, spent a few days at Netarts beach last week.

Work on the road is suspended on account of more funds.

Howard Brooks is working at the Hadley logging camp.

Attacked by a Mob

and beaten, in a labor riot, until covered with sores, a Chicago street car conductor applied Bucklen's Arnica Salve, and was soon sound and well. "I use it in my family," writes G. J. Welch, of Te-konsha, Mich., "and find it perfect." Simply great for cuts and burns. Only 25c. at Chas. I. Clough's drug store.

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Are You Engaged?

Engaged people should remember, that, after marriage, many quarrels can be avoided, by keeping their digestions in good condition with Electric Bitters. S. A. Brown, of Bennettsville, S. C., says: "For years, my wife suffered intensely from dyspepsia, complicated with a torpid liver, until she lost her strength and vigor, and became a mere wreck of her former self. Then she tried Electric Bitters, which helped her at once, and finally made her entirely well. She is now strong and healthy." Chas. I. Clough, druggist, sells and guarantees them, at 50c. a bottle.

Dr. P. J. Sharp, the experienced dentist is located in Dr. Wise's dental parlors, and is prepared to do nothing but first class work and give the best of satisfaction. If your teeth need fixing call upon him.

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