

TRINIDAD'S CURIOUS LAKE.

Its Mass of Asphalt With Its Islands and Its Eddies.

The asphalt lake at Trinidad occupies a depression of about 114 acres and is probably the center of an extinct volcano. It is a lake in most senses of the word, for there are well defined shores and islands scattered through it at intervals, and the surface is in constant motion. There are also movements which may be ascribed to currents and eddies. The center of the lake is about a foot higher than the edges, this relation being maintained, although the lake as a whole has been lowered by the constant removal of material from it.

The depth of the deposit is not accurately known, but the lake fills up quickly when the surface is removed. The surface is not level, but is composed of irregular tumescent masses of various sizes. As the spaces between are always full of water, these masses are prevented from coalescing. The softer part of the lake constantly evolves gas, which consists largely of carbon dioxide and sulphureted hydrogen, and the pitch, which is honey-combed with gas cavities, continues to exhibit this action for some time after its removal from the lake.

The asphalt from Trinidad in its fresh state can be picked up and moulded without softening the hands. The substance is pulled apart on the surface with picks, and the pieces are carted away to the ships. In the bay of Cardenas, Cuba, asphalt is drawn up from the bed of the sea through eight or nine feet of water.—Harper's Weekly.

ENGLAND'S GUINEA HAWK.

They Have No Such Coin There, Yet Still They Use It.

Strangers in foreign countries always find some difficulty in getting used to the current coinage. In England they find themselves up against quite a number of problems, not the least of which is the guinea, and the difficulty is not lessened by the fact that the guinea is practically obsolete as a coin of the realm. The English physician's fee is always calculated as so many guineas, and the same thing holds good at a sale of pictures or whatnot at Christie's salesrooms.

The guinea is a gold coin current for 21 shillings sterling, or about \$5, but it has not been coined since the issue of the sovereign in 1817. The guinea habit has been defended by some subtle dealers on the ground that it obfuscates the "foreign visitors to British salesrooms." On the other hand, those astute cambists have been known to growl at a few thousand sterling added to the price of a valuable picture by the addition to the guinea style of bidding. The story runs that the guinea was so called from the pieces struck from the bullion captured by Sir Harry Holmes in 1696 from 100 Dutch sail in Schelling bay, the bullion being from Guinea. But Shakespeare has an earlier play on the word when he mentions "guinea ben" in "Othello" as regards the auction usage of the guinea. There can be little doubt that it is a survival of the times when the extra shilling was treated as a five per cent commission, payable by the buyer. Double commissions are, however, now obsolete.—Chicago Record-Herald.

BEN SELLING'S RECORD PROGRESSIVE

While a Legislator Aided in Placing Upon Statute Books Many Popular Measures.

Referring to his record as a progressive, Ben Selling, progressive Republican nominee for United States Senator, in a recent interview, said: "I am proud to say that as a Republican I have been in the Oregon Legislature on and off for about 16 years. During that time it was my pleasure and duty to aid in originating and writing upon the statute books of this state such progressive measures as the Australian ballot law, the initiative and referendum, recall, the Presidential preference primary law and many other reform measures which have given to the people their rights. These measures have taken Oregon from under machine control and placed the nominating machinery in the hands of the people where it belongs. Bear in mind I have been at this work for 16 years, laboring consistently for everything that would bring about the present Oregon sys-



BEN SELLING Progressive Republican Candidate for United States Senator.

tem. This being true and a matter of record, my contention is that myself and others who worked with me, are the true progressives in Oregon. "The people of Oregon do not have to guess as to my progressive work. It is an open book. It is recorded on the statute books of this state. Judge your progressive candidates by what they have done, by their records as progressives, and I shall be perfectly satisfied with the verdict expressed by the people next November."

LOWELL FAVORS SELLING

Opponent in Primary Supports Him as Regular Party Nominee.

In giving his unqualified indorsement of the candidacy of Ben Selling, progressive Republican nominee for United States Senator, Judge Stephen A. Lowell, an opponent of Mr. Selling in the primary election, said recently:

"Senator Selling is the regular constituted nominee of the party. He has been a burden bearer in the past political contests and is entitled, under all rules of the game, to his reward. He is a progressive Republican, not only today, but was such when it took some courage to occupy advanced ground. He is a substantial business man, with a home and interests in the state. Why should any honest man who believes in fair play in politics, as well as in every day affairs, refuse to support his candidacy. I am with him to the end and he ought to win by 10,000 plurality in November."

Persistent Advocate of Popular Rights

Editor Davey, of the Harney County News, says of the progressive record of Ben Selling, progressive Republican nominee for United States Senator:

"Ben Selling was an earnest and persistent advocate of popular rights and privileges when the men who are now leading the noisy band of Roosevelt shouters were among the most hide-bound stand-patters, some of them going so far as openly to refuse as members of the Legislature to vote for the successful candidate of their own party for United States Senator, just to emphasize their opposition to the popular system of election."

Having to his credit a record of 16 years of active endeavor in the progressive cause, friends of popular government in this state should have no hesitancy in supporting Ben Selling for United States Senator.

There is one thing about Ben Selling's progressiveness—it was not born yesterday. He has always been a progressive and as the Republican nominee for Senator is entitled to the vote of every progressive.

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REPUBLICAN PROSPERITY.

A Personal Message From President Taft.

The President of the United States in the following authorized interview, given especially to American Industries, explains why he is confident that his administration as Chief Executive has been for the best interests of the country and warrants him in believing that he will have the continued support of the great army of businessmen and the better element of labor.

"I have every confidence that I will receive the support of the great army of business men in this country, and of that large portion of labor which is employed by these comparatively smaller concerns and industries," said President Taft when asked to explain his confidence for the benefit of the readers of American Industries.

"American business men, whether engaged in retail, wholesale and jobbing business, or in manufacturing, have all been working largely toward the same end, but they have been actuated by two distinct motives, one wholly legitimate and proper, the other illegitimate, being made so by the prohibitions of the Sherman Anti-trust law.

"The tendency of modern business has been toward combination of capital and plants. Many have followed this tendency solely with the purpose of decreasing the cost of production and the cost of conducting their business, and in that they have been perfectly legitimate and have played an important part in our industrial development. Others, however, taking advantage of this general tendency, have sought to carry their combinations so far as to assure them a monopoly of their industries or lines of business, a monopoly which would enable them to fix prices, not alone to the consumer but often on that which is the raw material of the smaller business man and manufacturer, at a point which would yield to those who controlled the industry what they might themselves regard as a satisfactory profit. My policy has been perfectly consistent and undeviating. I have maintained, and the Supreme Court has upheld my contention, that combinations effected with the purpose of acquiring a monopoly were illegal. And when the Department of Justice has acquired evidence of such an intent I have instructed it to bring suit and, if the evidence warranted

"In this policy I have been promoting the interests of the great majority of the comparatively smaller business men and manufacturers of the country, and of their great army of employers. The number of concerns affected by the prohibitions of the anti-trust law is very small when compared with the great number of producers and manufacturers and businessmen in this country whose interests are favored by the strict and impartial enforcement of the law. The aggregate capital of the comparatively smaller businessmen, producers and manufacturers will far exceed that of the so-called trusts, or those who may be tempted to form trusts, and the employes of

the former will far exceed those of the latter. And these smaller businessmen and their employes represent the bone and sinew of the industry of the United States. To them I look for support in the coming election because I have served them faithfully and have safeguarded their interests against those who, actuated solely by selfishness, would have injured them.

"This army of comparatively small manufacturers, producers and businessmen would be the first to suffer from the general depression which would inevitably follow the victory of those who oppose protection and advocate measures which run the gamut from radical tariff reduction to absolute free trade. They are the ones who would have suffered most from the enactment of the ill considered tariff bills passed by the Democrats. And they would suffer severely from the uncontrolled combination of business which is prohibited by the Sherman law.

"The employes of these smaller, by comparison, businessmen, producers and manufacturers are generally on friendly terms with their employers. They realize that their interests and those of their employers are inseparable, that the depression which would injure their employers and curtail their business would rob the employes of work; and so I believe they also will support the Republican ticket in November.

"They, both employes and employers alike, are intelligent men. They must realize that it was in their interest especially that I vetoed the pop-gun tariff bills of the last two sessions of Congress. Take the Steel bill, for example. Its passage would not seriously have affected the Steel Trust with its vast ore holdings. But it would have ruined hundreds of the smaller manufacturers. As I sought to make plain in my veto message, there were 245 industrial concerns, scattered through 18 states, which would have been seriously injured by the Democratic bill. Many representatives of organized labor testified that they would be seriously injured by its passage and urged me to disapprove it. Take the manufacturers of machine tools alone. There were 225 of them who testified that the provision placing machine tools on the free list would compel them to close their factories and to throw all their employes out of work.

"Of course people who are not directly interested have a vague impression that the Steel bill affected only one big corporation engaged in the production of pig iron and steel, but the fact is that the steel bill affected other industries which produce far more than 50 per cent of the iron and steel products of the country and I believe that every owner and every employe of an industry so affected realizes the loss in which would have come to him had I permitted the Democratic Steel bill to become a law.

"It has been the constant and undeviating aim of my administration to protect the great number of comparatively smaller business concerns of the country from extortion, by those who have sought to acquire monopolies on the one hand and from that injury which must inevitably result from the ruthless destruction of the protective tariff

on the other, and in affording this protection to the employers the administration has been equally benefited their employes.

"These are the reasons why I believe that although 'Big Business' may strenuously oppose my reelection and may finance with a liberal hand the campaign funds of my opponents, I can rely on the support of the great army of comparatively smaller businessmen and their host of employes.

John Health, Michigan Bar, Calif., writes: "I was afflicted with kidney and bladder trouble for nearly six years. Had a very bad spell some time ago and was unable to stir without help. I commenced using Foley Kidney Pills and can truly say I was relieved at once. I take pleasure in recommending Foley Kidney Pills."—At Lamar's Drug Store.

Mrs. I. C. Hastler, Grand Island, Neb., had something she wishes to say about Foley's Honey and Tar Compound. "My three children had a very severe attack of whooping cough and suffered greatly. A friend recommended Foley's Honey and Tar Compound, and it did them more good than anything I gave them. I am glad to recommend it."—At Lamar's Drug Store.

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RIDDLES OF THE UNIVERSE.

A Scientist Says Science Really Knows Very Little.

I have been asked to define the word "energy." I cannot. Suppose that I should be asked, "What is the cause of light moving with the incessant specific speed of 186,383 miles during each successive second of time?" I would be utterly unable to reply. First, I cannot think of the cause of this unthinkable velocity. How answer? The fact is, science does not know what anything really is.

Electrons are the vanishing points. They are on the limit of knowledge, of even hope, of thought. All are agreed that they are electricity, but that does not help in the solution of any riddle of the universe.

It does not seem possible that science will come to an end in any attempt at explaining. Some new discovery surpassing all others may yet be made. Really, such a discovery must be made or science will come to an impenetrable wall, for we cannot at present think of mind, life or an electron. How progress or advance in search of anything if we are unable to think of it? This is a gloomy outlook, but just now it appears to be hopelessly impossible to discover any fact as to what mind, life and electricity are.

I have printed during thirty years that the human mind is illimitable in its powers, but I may be obliged to finally admit that it cannot find what itself is—Edgar Lucien Larkin in New York American.

An Artist's Fate.

One of the most remarkable and most artistic of twenty-four hours' records stands to the credit of Sir Edwin Landseer, who had promised a picture for the spring exhibition of the Royal British Institution in 1845. On the day before the opening he was found standing in front of an untouched canvas. "I shall send that to the institution tonight, a finished picture," he declared to the astonished messenger who had been sent by the hanging committee to see if the promised picture was ready, "and have consequently given orders not to be disturbed." True to his word, Landseer put the finishing touch to his canvas and dispatched it to Pall Mall that very evening, and as "The Cavalier's Pets" it was one of the greatest successes of the exhibition.

Antiquity of Gloves.

How early did mankind think of the convenience of the fingerless glove? Little was said of gloves in ancient times, but in most cases it is obvious that they had fingers. Those worn by the secretary of the younger Pliny, used when he visited Vesuvius, so that he might keep on jotting down notes in spite of the cold, must have been fingered, no less than those of the glutton in Antiphanes, who wore gloves at table so that he might handle the meat while hot and get in advance of his bare handed fellow diners.

Not Right at All.

"Have you anything to say before sentence is pronounced against you?" asked the judge. "The only thing I'm objecting to," answered the convicted burglar, "is being identified by a man that kept his head under the bedclothes the whole time. That's not right at all."

Worse Still.

Bangs—How did old Heavyweight treat you when you asked him for his daughter? Acted like a pirate. Didn't he? Pitts—Pirate? He acted like a freestater!—Judge.

Plain Speaking.

"Why, it's as plain as the nose on my face." "Well, anyhow, it ain't as plain as a face behind your nose."—London Star.

Blunder is the revenge of a coward. Disimulation his defense.

SOURCE OF SHELLAC.

East India Insects and Trees That Produce the Substance.

India is the home of the Coccus lacca, the insects that produce the resinous substance known as shellac. The females puncture the twigs of several different kinds of trees, among them the bo, the bilhar and the butea, and the twigs become incrustated with a hard, nearly transparent, reddish, resinous substance that serves the double purpose of protecting the eggs and finally furnishing food for the young insects.

The incrustated twigs are broken from the trees before the young insects escape and are thoroughly dried in the sun. These dried twigs are called "stick-lac," and from them shellac and a dye analogous to cochineal are prepared. "Seed-lac" is the resinous concretions separated from the twigs, coarsely pounded and triturated with water in a mortar, by which nearly all of the coloring matter is removed.

To prepare shellac the seed-lac is put into oblong cotton cloth bags and warmed over a charcoal fire. When the resin begins to melt the bags are twisted, and the pure clear resin is allowed to flow over fig wood planks or the smooth stems of the banyan tree and cools in the thin plates or shells which constitute shellac.

Pure shellac is very valuable. It is much harder than copalony and is easily soluble in alcohol.

They Have an 'Arbor.

A member of the London county council was regretting the lack of art sense displayed by his fellows when they placed an open space at the disposal of the people. He pleaded eloquently for fountains, goldfish in ornamental basins, lions and unicorns in stucco and emerald green garden seats. "Why," said he, in a splendid oration, "we want something homely and countrylike—a little arbor here and there. If a foreigner came to this country and asked to see one we've never an arbor worth showing to show him."

Then up and spoke another member, who, prior to attaining the height of his civic ambitions, had been a petty officer in the navy.

"Oh, we 'ave'n't, 'ave'n't we? And wot about Portsmouth 'arbor?"—London Strand.

And He Got That Wrong.

Ernst Thälman, the international banker, was greatly liked by newspaper men in Wall street. He spoke as an authority on all banking questions—in a strong German accent, however. Shortly before his death a reporter—one of his friends—interviewed him in regard to European finances.

The next day he met Mr. Thälman in Broad street and was halted by the banker, who made a great show of anger.

"I saw you yesterday," he said. "I told you nothings, and you got that wrong in your paper."—New York Mail.

Not Reciprocated.

"How many children have you?" "Three. Two grown up daughters and a son in college."

"How proud you must be of them?" "I am, but somehow or other I don't seem to be able to act so that they can bring themselves to feel proud of me."—Detroit Free Press.

Deceiving.

Minister—I'm sorry to find you coming out of a public house again. Hambleh—Aye, sir, it's wonderful what an awful deceivin' thing this mist is. D'ye ken, I went in there the noo thinkin' 'twas the butcher's shop.—London Tit-Bits.

She Hated Flattery.

"I hate flattery," she said. "Of course you do," he replied. "Every pretty girl does." Then she drew a long, deep sigh and permitted him to press her cheek against his own.—Chicago Record-Herald.