

World's Engineers Approve This Means of Water Storage

Philadelphia, Pa., Nov. 14.—The efforts of the Water Conservation Association of Pennsylvania to stir up interest throughout the state in the question of building storage reservoirs for river regulation are attracting a good deal of attention here, particularly among those who heard the discussion at the Twelfth International Congress of Navigation held in Philadelphia last May. This congress was attended by the leading engineers of the world. After considerable debate the congress recognized in an important way the usefulness of reservoirs in the regulation of the flow of streams. A portion of the resolution adopted by the congress is as follows: "The navigability of rivers having but one current can be improved, as has been stated many times at the Navigation Congresses, by various methods, such as: regulation of the bed by permanent works, regulation of the bed by mechanical dredging, increase of depth by additional water supply furnished by storage reservoirs; canalization of the bed; combined action by two or more of the above processes; construction of a lateral canal." The importance of this international recognition of the feasibility of storage reservoirs can only be appreciated when one realizes that for many years prominent engineers, notably those connected with the United States war department, have argued against storage reservoirs for river regulation. These engineers, however, are gradually coming to advocate the construction of such reservoirs.

Will Aid Flood Campaign.

There isn't any doubt that Pittsburgh, working through her Flood Commission, is dead in earnest in the matter of reaching a solution of the problems presented by the floods that sweep down Pennsylvania rivers annually and cause losses running into many millions of dollars. Not only is the Smoky City determined to solve the question so far as possible for herself, but she invites the co-operation of other places which are affected. Pittsburghers have already spent \$125,000 in getting at the exact situation with relation to floods and methods of prevention. Now she proposes to spend close to a million for the construction of walls which will take care of the rise up to a certain point. That will protect from perhaps four out of five, or even a greater proportion, of floods such as the city has had in the past. For the others, the Flood Commission decides, the only remedy is the construction of retaining reservoirs at the headwaters, which can be put to the double purpose of holding back the surplus in time of freshets and supplying water for whatever purpose desired in time of drought.

The construction of these reservoirs is a matter for the state and the nation at large. And here is where Johnstown could give helpful co-operation. The influence of our business men and manufacturing interests, if enlisted in an effort to show the state the necessity of flood prevention work, would be considerable. Joined with the influence as well as the national congress the great necessity for taking up this flood problem in earnest and in a large way. Congress at the last session recognized the question by making a small appropriation for the purpose of investigation. If that investigation results, as it certainly will, in showing that it is possible to save the public millions, and if it is found that the public affected is willing to co-operate in the prevention work, we may expect something very tangible in the way of flood protection at an early day.

It is true that Pennsylvania's situation in respect to flood danger is not nearly so bad as that of many other places, for instance, along the lower Mississippi. But it is a fact now generally recognized that the only way to handle that problem successfully is to go back to the headwaters and begin there. Every step taken up here among the mountains will not only protect us who live here, but will protect those below us. In recognition of this fact the co-operation of the state and the nation is pretty certain to come. If Johnstown business interests, either as represented by the Chamber of Commerce, or through an independent organization, will join with those of Pittsburgh and other places, we will be able to help others some and ourselves a great deal. Johnstown Leader.

A Smart Official.

The French director of posts has turned a paternal eye in the direction of the telegraph and telephone girls. An official circular sent to postmasters directs that the girls employed by the state must either live at home or form themselves into housekeeping groups. These girls, explains the director, are properly paid and can easily live in a wholesome way. But they spend their money in dress instead of in food and as a result they appear to be anaemic. Then a sentimental public rears upon its hind legs, complains that the girls are overworked and so makes trouble for the department.

Peculiarities of Greenland.

Greenland is green in more ways than one. Its wonderful miniature trees are a most beautiful green, and travelers declare no such color is found elsewhere in the world. Greenland is practically a great group of green mountains covered with ice that has a green tint and which has formed great ice-bound glaciers that are tied between the mountain ranges and can be penetrated only by a drill. Where the sun strikes with sufficient force the ice and snow let go and the glaciers, which are called "live," often melt enough to slide and dash down the mountain, or drop with an awful force into the inlets. Very often such glaciers do a lot of damage to shipping that has sought shelter in bays or inlets. During the long night period the country is often illuminated with what we term northern lights, or aurora borealis. Without this electrical display the country would be wrapped in darkness of a peculiar density.

Flowers From Cold Storage.

The cold storage plant now is necessary to the hothouse to supply flowers out of season. The fancy of society women and debutantes for unusual blooms at unusual seasons has caused the horticulturist to work overtime devising how the wants of the millionaires can be satisfied. One way is through cold storage. Cold storage flowers may be bought in practically every florist's store in New York now. The cold storage device is used to retard the growth of plants so they will not bloom until wanted. The roots of the plants are kept frozen for months at a time, and when the hothouse keeper gets an order for flowers four or six weeks in advance he takes the plants out of cold storage and puts them in the hothouse. Forced temperature causes the plants to bloom, and the gardener makes a big profit.

What Indian Will Do for a Friend.

James Oliver Curwood, author of the novel, "Flower of the North," tells the following story in support of his claim that the unsophisticated Indian is the best friend on earth. When traveling from the Barren Lands Mr. Curwood and an Indian hunter, Mukoki, whose life he had once saved, came across the skeleton of a fine moose, the author expressed his regret that they were too heavily laden to carry the magnificent antlers back with them. Months later a package arrived for Mr. Curwood in the Detroit custom house. In it were the horns cut from the moose. Mukoki had traveled back two hundred miles into the wilderness with dogs and sledge to do this favor for a friend.—Harper's Bazar.

Something New to Him.

A couple of old ex-clowns met after a separation of many years. One wore a silk hat and looked like ready money—the other was a ragged, broken-down old specimen of humanity. The prosperous one said: "Well Joe, how have you been?" "Bad, Tom, not lucky. But tell me, Tom, you look mighty wealthy. You must have struck the right road." "Yes, Joe, I started business after I left the circus and I've cleaned up." "I'm glad to see someone of the crowd beat the game," said the other. "Well, Joe, I must be off," said the prosperous one, finally. "I have a big deal on and besides I've got to go and eat." "Eat," gasped the ragged one.—"Eat!" Say, Tom, what is that, an Olympian game?"

Queer Beehives.

In the prettily-situated mountain village of Hoefel, in Silesia, there are a number of curious beehives in the shape of life-size figures cleverly carved in wood and painted in colors. The figures were carved over a century ago by monks of the Naumburg Monastery, who were at that time in possession of a large farm in the district. There are twenty of these strange beehives, and they represent different characters, ranging from Moses to a military officer, a country girl and a night watchman with a spear. The figures are hollow with the exception of the heads, which are solid, the openings for the bees being in front, in the middle of the figures.—Wide World.

Postman "Gave It to Him."

A substitute mail carrier was making an unaccustomed route and was on the lookout for vicious dogs. As he went into a yard the woman of the house opened the door and a small bulldog ran out. The postman retreated, but the woman stopped him by calling, "Give it to him!" When the dog bounded up the carrier kicked him and end over end. "Oh, you have killed my dog," the woman shrieked. The postman defended his action by saying, "Lady, you said 'Give it to him,' and I did, good and hard, too." She snapped, "I meant for you to give him my letter, you idiot."

How "Lo" Explained It.

In the early days of the Klondike gold-fields, the miners lived almost wholly on canned goods brought from the United States and Canada. To an old Indian who frequented the diggings, the cans were a constant surprise—the meat, vegetables and fish all amazed him. When the first phonograph was imported, however, he had come to consider himself wise in the ways of the paleface. After listening gravely to a song by the machine, he said, with the assurance of one to whom everything is entirely clear, "He canned white man."—Youth's Companion.

What Kalamazoo Means.

A contraction of an Indian phrase descriptive of the stones seen through the water in its bed, and which, from a refractive power in the current, resemble others swimming beneath the surface. Such is the explanation, and the only one, as far as I know, that has been given, of the meaning of the word Kalamazoo; and the author of this remained unknown to me until a short time ago, when I accidentally discovered that it was H. R. Schoolcraft. . . . The fact is that the alleged word nekkanamazo given by Schoolcraft is a deliberate alteration by him of kikalamazo, written by the French at a period when some dialect of Ojibwe, to which the word belongs, was still using the letter l. It is a slight (very slight) alteration of old Ojibwe kikalamazo, meaning "he is unconvinced by smoke in his lodge."—American Anthropologist.

Relief for Poor London.

A recent sale in Hanover square, London, would lead one to infer that the stories of suffering and privation that come from that city have been greatly exaggerated. At this sale a riviére composed of 36 square cut old brilliants brought 2,700 guineas, more than \$13,500, and five necklaces of pearls went, respectively, at \$14,000, \$17,000, \$14,000, \$10,000 and \$12,500. A tiara of pearls and diamonds brought \$7,500 and a ring with an extraordinary pearl set with a choice diamond brought \$2,750. It is to be hoped that the prices received from the sale of these jewels, a number of Americans doubtless being among the purchasers, will relieve to some extent the poverty of London.

One of the Family.

Tibbie had been placed by her aunt in a situation as maid of all work in a family of three. At the end of a week the aunt "stepped along in" to see how Tibbie was getting on. "Do you like your work?" asked the aunt. "This fair," said the laconic Tibbie. "And are they making you feel at home?" "Whiles they are, and whiles they aren't." "Now what do you be meaning by that?" asked the aunt, impatiently. "Aweel," said Tibbie, "they have na' asked me to gang t' kirk wi' them yet, but last night they went on wi' a grand quar' they were having, all the three o' them, wi' me taking the dishes off o' the table, just as if I'd been one o' the family."—Youth's Companion.

Washed Away the Hills.

In building both Seattle and Portland it was necessary to remove from the face of the earth several sizable hills. This work was done, for the most part, by hydraulic power. That is, the hills, composed mostly of dirt, were washed away by powerful streams of water. At Portland, Ore., electrical power, drying huge centrifugal pumps, lifted water from Guilds lake 400 feet uphill and hurled it through 14-inch nozzles against the great piles of dirt and gravel. In this way the hills were washed away much quicker and cheaper than they could be cut up and carted away with steam shovels and dirt trains.

Before the Hatching.

A peculiar and invariable symptom of the chicken mania is the mathematical facility of the victim. He becomes a hog for figures and hen statistics, and performs prodigies of arithmetical stunts with them. Give him a hoarse-throated rooster and three industrious hens and he can figure himself into the millionaire class within three years at the outside, forgetting that there are about five hundred different ways in which a chick can die and it is never satisfied until it has tried every one of them and invented some of its own.

Such a Reasonable Milliner.

"John," said Mrs. Younghusband, "I want always to please you, so I took back the hat you didn't like." "I'm glad of that, my dear," said Mr. Younghusband. "I'm afraid that hat was a little too ornamental." "I knew you thought so, and I had a bunch of robes taken off and that big bow of cerise left off, and the milliner didn't have to use so much velvet." "That's good. Leaving all those things off ought to make some difference in the price." "Of course, dear, but the milliner was real reasonable. She only charged me \$10 more."

Another Precocious Child.

A director of one of the great transcontinental railroads was showing his three-year-old daughter the pictures in a work on natural history. Pointing to a picture of a zebra, he asked the baby to tell him what it represented. Baby answered "Colty." Pointing to a picture of a tiger in the same way, she answered "Kitty." Then a lion, and she answered "Doggy." Elated with her seeming quick perception, he then turned to the picture of a chimpanzee and said: "Baby, what is this?" "Papa."—Woman's Journal.

Franklin as a Publisher.

It was in 1729 that Benjamin Franklin bought the Pennsylvania Gazette, says a writer in Harper's Weekly. Three years later he began the publication of Poor Richard's Almanac, which had an annual sale of 10,000 copies, a record-breaking circulation for its day. Franklin rated as the greatest journalist of the eighteenth century. The Pennsylvania Gazette had but ninety subscribers when he bought it, but it soon became a power in the Colonies. In 1765 he sold his share of it to his partner, David Hall.

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