

SCENES IN COAL FORESTS IN PRE-HISTORIC TIMES.

The coal beds that furnish us with fuel were formed during an age when conditions on our planet were vastly different from what they are today. The crust of the earth was in a very unstable state; it was shrinking with many incidental convulsions. The atmosphere was heavily charged with water-vapor, and so loaded with carbonic acid as to be almost unbreathable.

The sun was bigger and much hotter then and temperatures all over the world were higher than the torrid zone at the present time. Most of this country was covered with swamps. All of these circumstances, of course, were wonderfully favorable to the development of plant life.

What is now the State of Pennsylvania was an area corresponding typically to this description. It was a flat region, devoid of mountains. The great range of the Appalachians had not yet been uplifted. Indeed, large parts of it are formed of carboniferous beds folded into long ridges which must originally have been flat.

The steaming, vaporous landscape, over which were scattered many shallow ponds, offered everywhere to view an extraordinary luxuriance of vegetation, consisting mainly of plant forms unfamiliar to us today. Extremely abundant were gigantic mosses resembling in kind our little club mosses, but vastly magnified, attaining the size of forest trees with trunks sometimes 130 feet long and ten feet thick. These contributed more material than any other plant to the coal that was to be.

In the muddy ground, forming immense luxuriance of vegetation, only to be re-submerged later on. Thus the coal today is found in a series of layers, with strata of rock (representing the deposits of silt and sand) between.

Buried beneath water and rock (air being excluded thereby), and subjected to pressure and heat, the woody material underwent a slow smothered combustion, and was thus transformed into coal. What remained of it was mainly carbon. An average chunk of anthracite is about 95 per cent. carbon.

Bituminous coal contains about 33 per cent. of volatile matter; whence its smokiness. In good anthracite there is only about 3 per cent. of such matter; it is for this reason an almost smokeless fuel. All of the Pennsylvania anthracite was originally bituminous coal, but high heat and great pressure drove the volatile matter out of it.

In the Pottsville region of Pennsylvania the average total thickness of anthracite seams is 120 feet. This represents an original vegetable deposit at least 1200 feet thick. One can imagine the enormous length of time that must have been required for the growth of so vast a quantity of woody material.

Animal life in the carboniferous epoch was almost wholly aquatic. The waters teemed with creatures multitudinous. Insects swarmed everywhere. It was particularly the age of cockroaches. Huge reptiles crawled sluggishly over the wet sands of the seashore. As yet there were no birds and no animals. Millions of years were to pass before the world would be ready for their advent.

Simple Rat Pest Remedy.

A resident of Williamsport suggests the following simple remedy for ridding premises of rats:

"You gentlemen can clean out all the rats by using common fly paper, sticky side up, placed on runways or any old place where the rat or rats can get a foothold on the sticky paper. The paper never lets go. It is always looking for a place to catch hold of it, better than any rat trap. You can use it but once that is, when it catches a rat or mouse. It just rolls the rat or mouse up, then good-night rat or mouse. Watch the paper and see a circus when one gets a foothold on the paper. No patent on the article; any grocery store has it for sale.

"If you do not believe that it will hold on get a piece of the paper and place your hand on it."

211 Phone Calls for Each Person in the United States.

Washington.—The Bureau of Census has compiled its report on the telephonic enumeration of every five years, taken in 1917, and says the average number of messages per year for every man, woman and child in the United States was 211. There were 53,234 separate telephone systems and lines operating 28,827,188 miles of wire, enough to girdle the earth at the Equator 1,153 times. Nearly 22,000,000,000 messages were sent over these wires during the year.

The industry gave employment to 262,623 persons, more than 65 per cent. of whom were women. The Bell telephone system controlled more than four-fifths of the wire mileage.

Pershing Gives His Flag to Wellesley College.

General Pershing's four starred flag of red with four white stars, together with his war helmet and the personal battle pennon of the German Emperor, were presented to Wellesley College through the Azora Society and a receiving committee from each class. The General's wife was a member of Azora and he is now an honorary member. The presentation was made by Countess de Tiedekerke, chairman of the Belgian Purple Cross, now visiting in this country.

A Child's Prayer.

"Give us this day our daily bread—the little one paused—" and, Oh Lord, if it's just as venient as not, make it gingerbread."

—Most of our real difficulties come from trying to avoid what seems difficult.—East and West.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

DAILY THOUGHT.

GIVE THE BEST YOU HAVE.

Give the world the best you have, and the best will come back to you. Give love, and love to your life will flow. A strength in your utmost need; Have faith, and a score of hearts will show. Their faith in your word and deed. Give truth, and your gifts will be paid in kind. And honor will honor meet; And a smile that is sweet will surely find. A smile that is just as sweet.

For spring it is predicted that dyed lace will be much in evidence in delicate pastel colors, and that laces thus developed will be Cluny and Irish and used to trim blouses for suit combinations.

It is said that the long overblouse is now at the height of its popularity, and that by spring there will be comparatively few of these blouses worn by the ultra-smart women.

Advance information on spring suits is to the effect that an extensive use of embroidery will prevail. This may be true of the dressy suit, but there is always need of the strictly tailored suit for general wear.

Some lovely French blouses in draped effects are attractively trimmed with flowers and fancifully original created for millinery trimmings.

The sleeve cape sleeve is seen everywhere, in both dinner and afternoon dresses, and in all manner of materials—silk, velvets and cloth predominating.

An especially charming head dress for a young woman to affect for evening wear is developed with a circular piece of maline, caught to the hair in a bandeau of tiny flowers. The maline piece is cut large enough to fall about the shoulders, veiling the face as well as the back of the head.

Fluted ribbon as a brim facing is a millinery suggestion for spring used on a sailor shape with wide, rolling brim, the ribbon fluting being attached to the crown and extending out to within an inch or more of the brim edge.

Sharp wits will discover ways and means to overcome the apparently impossible. One day last summer when hurrying with a large amount of sewing, and with no fire in the house, I found it essential to press a number of seams quickly, says one ingenious woman. I heated my largest sized curling iron over an alcohol lamp and rubbed it over the dampened seams as I would an iron. The result was entirely satisfactory, and I have since found it a specially good method for pressing velvet or velveteen seams, as it does not injure the pile. Now I keep a curling iron for pressing use only.

Mrs. Evelyn S. Trenbath, wife of Rev. Robert W. Trenbath, rector of St. James' Episcopal church, Montclair, N. J., has conferred a boon on sufferers from poison ivy by announcing as a remedy the green leaves of common catnip rubbed on the affected parts until the juice runs. This never fails, Mrs. Trenbath says, no matter how advanced the case may be, and is simple to use, especially in the case of children.

As a child I learned a Latin quotation which has always stood by me and which I have had occasion to use with grown-ups as well as with children. The translation is this—"In essentials unity; in nonessentials, liberty; in all things, charity." If all team-work could be carried on in the spirit of this wise counsel, think of the petty quarrels and big feuds that might be avoided!

We mothers cannot begin too early to teach our children to "play fair" and to work together harmoniously; to emphasize the essential of life and not to quarrel about the nonessentials.

In the kindergarten the children learn in a very practical and effective way, although they probably could not state it in so many words, that the chain is only as strong as the weakest link. If Tommy is disobedient and pulls Sally's hair, then the harmony of the circle is suddenly broken. The other children are quick to appreciate this and when the next one is called upon to select a partner for a game, you may be sure Tommy is not chosen. Soon he begins to feel his exclusion, and it does not take him long to put cause and effect together. In the future he will think twice before pulling Sally's hair!

Treatment such as this proves far more effective than the kind usually administered by an older person. Most children are born with a keen sense of justice, and do not protest at having to suffer the just consequences of their wrong-doing, especially when meted out to them by a tribunal of their peers. This suggests that it is often a wise plan to keep hands off and let the boys and girls adjust their own differences. This helps to promote a good team spirit.

When the children leave kindergarten it is most important to foster

their love of playing and working together in groups. I have known of no better organizations for the purpose than the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts. The former takes boys of twelve and over and the latter starts with girls of ten.

The Girl Scouts also have an organization known as Brownies which looks after little girls from six to ten. Any parent wanting to know more about the scouts can obtain their handbooks at headquarters; Boy Scouts of America, 200 Fifth avenue, and Girl Scouts, 527 Fifth avenue, New York.

The scout motto, "Be Prepared," is a great incentive to boys and girls alike to get together. To make the troop strong each boy and girl must develop strength of character, for we cannot have any weak links in the chain. With an efficient captain in charge to hold aloft a high ideal of service there are no limits which the scouts may not attain.

It will be a fortunate day for this country when there are kindergartens and scout troops in every city and village in the land.

On the Wing.

Hub—That new cook is a bird.
Wife—Yes, a bird of passage. She is going to leave tomorrow.

Believe Woman Suffrage Doomed.

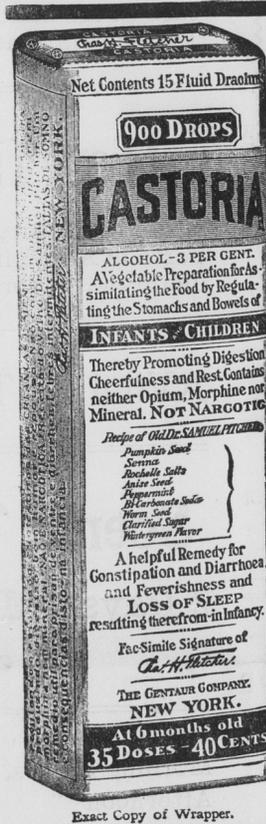
Officers of the National Association opposed to Woman Suffrage are firm in the belief that the suffrage amendment will fail of adoption by the necessary 36 States. Mrs. Mary Kilbreth, president of the organization, claims that the association voices the sentiment of a large majority of the women of the country. She says she is much encouraged by the fact that woman suffrage has been rejected by popular vote in 22 States.

About the Month of February.

It is said that February this year in addition to having two holidays, is distinguished for having five Sundays, a thing which has not happened before for seven hundred years and which will not occur again for a like period of time. The first day and the 29th, or last day of the month are both Sundays. And there's the ground hog's holiday besides a day when Bill Fairman and his good fellowship club "prey."

Cleaned Out.

Judge—Have you anything to offer the Court before sentence is passed on you?
Prisoner—No, your honor; my lawyer took my last dollar.



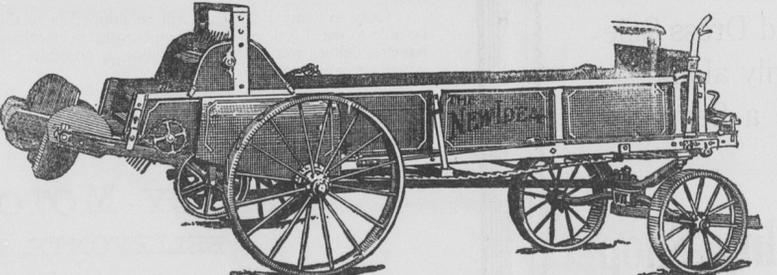
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Benjamin Franklin
—whose picture appears above, was one of the great men of the earth. He constantly preached Thrift. He knew that civilization could not advance unless people saved and used their accumulated savings for new enterprises. Banks gather these savings and make them available for use. Will you not join the great army of the prudent and let us help you with a bank account? We feel sure that we can help you in many ways.

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that you buy your next Spring or Winter Suit and Overcoat

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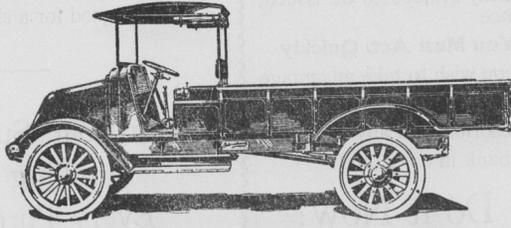
Do You Have a Bank Account?

If you don't you are depriving yourself of the advantages that the splendid banking institutions of Centre County offer you. Any one of them will open an account with you for what might appear to you as only a trifling deposit, because bankers know that small deposits often grow to become large ones, as people discover what saving means to them. There is a lot in that old song about a little bit added to what you've got makes a little bit more. And when you put a little bit in the bank invariably you commence to get interested in seeing it grow.

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