

WOULD GET OIL FROM COAL

British Scientist Points Out How the Country Can Procure Adequate Supplies of Fuel.

Great Britain could produce enough oil for its navy and merchant marine from home-mined coal if the necessity arose. This was revealed by Dr. C. H. Lander of the fuel research board at the recent meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

Production of oil from home resources is extremely important to Great Britain, since an almost complete substitution of oil for coal has taken place in the navy and is being gradually followed by the merchant marine. Although coal, peat and shale can be made to yield liquid fuel, coal alone can be regarded as a possible source from which sufficient quantities could be produced by practical methods.

A ton of average bituminous coal will yield 14 gallons of fuel oil, or about six per cent by weight of the raw material used. For every 1,000,000 tons of oil produced 16,000,000 tons of coal will be used, and will yield also 11,000,000 tons of coke and 56,000,000 cubic feet of rich hydrocarbon gas, so that if satisfactory low temperature process on carbonization proves feasible the 35,000,000 tons of coal used annually for domestic purposes would produce 2,100,000 tons of oil, more than the peace requirements of the navy, and leave an enormous amount of manufactured fuel, which it would be necessary to induce domestic consumers to use in place of raw coal.

NO CONSIDERATION AT ALL

Naturally, Young Lady Was Indignant at the Demand Made by "Gump" Behind Her.

Judge Gary said at a steel men's banquet in New York:

"We are all selfish, of course—that's nature, but the selfishness of the bolshevistic, communistic class is something out of the ordinary.

"It reminds me of the young lady with the tall bunch of feathers in her hat. It was at the matinee, and a man behind her asked politely if she wouldn't take her hat off. She complied—she knew she had to, but she was careful to say to her companion in a loud, indignant voice that the man was sure to hear:

"Ain't some people the selfish hogs? That gump asked me to take off my hat, and I was too much of a lady to refuse, of course; but wouldn't you think the darn old selfish pig might have known that holdin' the hat in my lap like this the feathers would be bound to come up above my eyes so I couldn't see nothin' at all of what was happening on the screen!"

"Getting Back" at Witty One.

Boston's merchant prince, Edward A. Filene, contrives to find time for many nonbusiness activities. He undertakes and capably discharges no end of public duties; he is a leader in various movements; he is particularly interested in activities calculated to bring workers and employers closer together. Also he has a reputation as a public speaker. Here's a Filene anecdote, told as narrated—not by Mr. Filene—to me:

The toastmaster at a big dinner was eager to shine as a brilliant wit. This ambition led him to perpetrate several crude, not to say cruel, jokes. When he came to introducing Mr. Filene, he told the audience that Mr. Filene had attained wide fame as an after-dinner speaker. "In fact," he added, "all one has to do is to drop a dinner in the slot and up comes a speech from Mr. Filene."—Forbes Magazine.

Shaw Pulls Some Old Stuff.

There is a story told of George Bernard Shaw that when some one in the audience hissed his play, he said to the offender, "I perfectly agree with you, sir, but what are two against so many?"

Witty enough that, but not entirely original. In 1747, John Brown was invited to become pastor of a church at Hingham. There was one man opposed to his appointment who said that he liked Mr. Brown's person and manner but disapproved of his preaching.

"Then," said Mr. Brown, "we are agreed. I do not like my preaching very well myself, but how great a folly it is for you and me to set up our opinion against that of the whole parish."—Boston Transcript.

Indian Fashion.

A woman who had been visiting in the West and who had seen many interesting Indians, bought some Indian dolls for her little Chicago friends.

The dolls were dressed in Indian fashion—shawl, colored handkerchief about head, moccasins, patchwork skirt and hand-made stockings. When she got home she looked to see what kind of underwear the Indians had made for the Indian dolls, and every one of them wore a georgette chemise!

Must even fashions as well as modern civilization reach the Indians?—Chicago Journal.

Room for a Slump.

"I tell you, I can't lose, I'm going to get in on the ground floor." "The ground floor isn't the lowest level. There's the cellar."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

URGES USE OF WATER POWER

Prominent Engineer Shows How Fuel Consumption Could Be Cut by Its Employment.

A saving of 400,000,000 tons of coal a year could be accomplished if the latent water power in the United States were developed to capacity. Dr. Charles P. Steinmetz, chief engineer of the General Electric company, declared at a dinner of the advisory council of the Federated Engineers' Development corporation, of which he is a member.

The state of New York could cut its coal bill for industrial enterprises and public utilities to one-third of its present cost, he said.

"There is available in the state 4,000,000 horse power, or a saving of 34,000,000 tons of coal annually," he said. "At present the consumption of fuel in New York is 54,000,000 tons a year. The recent strikes in the coal fields and on the railroads have shown that neither one of these public services can be relied upon, and the solution to the problem is for the state to become independent of both.

"Ten million tons of coal are saved annually in New York through the use of water power developing 1,300,000 horse power. The country at large uses 10,000,000 horse power, an annual fuel saving of 80,000,000 tons, and there is a latent horse power of 50,000,000, or a saving of 400,000,000 tons. It still would be necessary to use 1,000,000 tons of coal each year for heating.

NOT SO "HA'D" AS REPORTED

It Must Be Admitted Old Caesar Got Out of a Difficult Situation Rather Neatly.

After raking the lawn during a warm summer morning, old Caesar decided that it was too hot to keep on, so he went in search of the woman of the house, who had hired him for the day. "Miss' Lutie," he said, "Ah done got a message dat mah sister put here in de country's had a had fall, and dey wants me to come right away."

That afternoon the woman's husband met old Caesar down town. "Why, Caesar," he said, "I thought you'd had to go to see your sister in the country."

"Yassuh, yassuh," the old negro hurriedly assured him: "Ah done started, suh; yassuh. Den," he added in a sudden burst of inspiration, "Ah done got anudder message said she didn't fall so 'had."

Drivers' Code Criticised.

"Don't you all up here have any code for an automobile driver to use?" asked the young man from Virginia after he had guessed for the third time at what the driver ahead intended to do when he held his hand out. "There should be laws to make them use one set of signs.

"There, see that fellow. He has his arm out straight. That should mean he is going to turn to the right. But you see he is only stopping. For that he should have his arm turned up straight from the elbow.

"If he wanted to turn in to the left he should have swung his hand in circles, to indicate that he intended to pull around on his own side of the road. If things like that were generally used there would be fewer accidents."—New York Sun.

Serum for Snake Bites.

Sixty drops of venom, which will form the basis of a serum to cure snake bites, were milked from 33 copperhead and moccasin snakes in the Bronx zoo, New York. Experiments in Brazil, establishing that whiskey is no remedy for snake bites, have led to an increased demand for serum.

Groups of sober animals and groups of intoxicated ones were bitten by snakes in the experiments. The sober ones outlived the drunks by five or six hours, indicating that the increased circulation due to alcohol speeded up the work of the poison.

Serum has been delivered by airplane in response to radio calls, and is infallible as a cure if injected within six hours, according to Director Dittmars of the Bronx zoo.

Looking-Glass Country.

According to a copy of the Russian Journal, Ekonomitse Heskala Zizu, which has just been received at Paris by a French socialist, the editors offer a month's subscription for 1,200,000 rubles. For a two-months' subscription the price is 3,000,000 rubles. The apparent paradox is explained by a note saying that the difference in price for the first and second month's subscription is due to the estimated depreciation of the ruble in the next four weeks. The amount of this depreciation is so uncertain, however, that subscription prices cannot be quoted more than two months in advance.—New York Times.

"Little Mothers" Work in Shifts.

Youngsters who use the wide plaza in front of City hall as a playground in the evenings have adopted a system that makes lighter the task of those who look after babies. Under the system one youngster will herd a group of about twenty or twenty-five wards on the steps and keep them amused and safe for 15 minutes or so. Then she is relieved in turn by another.

Of course, the system doesn't always run along smoothly. There are quarrels about time and turn of work, but for the most part it enables all the East side "little mothers" to get in a turn at playing and roller skating without neglecting their little broods.—New York Sun.

FOR BETTER PULPIT DELIVERY

Enterprise Started in New York to Teach Art of Elocution to Preachers.

Ingersoll used to say that on the stage they pretend to be natural, and in the pulpit it is natural to pretend. It was a wicked saying when printed without the winning smile; but what would he have said had he heard of a theater school organized to teach preachers, not how to act, but how to use their voices to the best advantage? Such an enterprise is now afoot in New York city, conducted by Evelyn Hall, an actress, under Theater school auspices—which proves that the melancholy Preacher of Jerusalem was wrong when he said there is nothing new under the sun. Nor is it a thing to be laughed at. Many a good sermon is spoiled because the preacher does not know how to deliver it. Surely, if the preacher has the best of good news to tell, he ought to use every aid of art to tell it. Joseph Parker learned much from his friend, Sir Henry Irving, and Beecher used to study Edwin Booth—asking him to repeat the Lord's Prayer, that he might hear it in a manner worthy of its depth and beauty. As between an untaught voice and an artificial elocution there is little to choose; but without going to either extreme there is an art of using the voice which brings out its natural quality and power, and it should be employed in the service of the Gospel.—Christian Century.

VICTIM OF PRACTICAL JOKE

Rather Mean Trick, Credited to Member of Washington Club, Played on Business Man.

They are telling a story around the Racquet club of a practical joke played upon an out-of-town visitor who is most punctilious in the manner in which he draws all the contracts for the company of which he is president. It appears that a short time ago he came to Washington prepared to close a deal involving a small amount of money. When the papers were finally typed he scanned them carefully, and when about to affix his signature he was asked by one of the other parties of the deal to use his fountain pen, as he wanted to keep it as a souvenir of the occasion. Rather appreciating the compliment, he did so, and that night extrained for Boston. A day or two after his arrival home he had occasion to look up the contract, and found, to his dismay, that there were no signatures to the agreement. His Washington friends had simply made him use a fountain pen that was filled with disappearing ink. When the hoax was explained to him by wire he sent back the following message: "Returning with my own ink. The dinner is on me."—Washington Star.

Live Chicks Shipped Afar.

Through Ohio, Indiana and Iowa hundreds of thousands of live chicks but a few days out of their shells, are shipped to Manitoba, Canada, every spring. The seasons are so late up there, says Consul General Britain, in a statement to the Department of Commerce, that it is difficult to procure fertile eggs in sufficient quantities early enough to supply the demand for young chickens and to produce birds for breeding purposes. The snow remains on the ground until April and the chickens cannot get out on their runs until late, and in order to obtain young chicks at an early date, large quantities are imported from this country as early as March. Heated cars keep the youngsters warm, and, generally speaking, the loss in consequence of the long haul and bad weather is insignificant.

Petroleum Fires.

An American consular officer in France has furnished some interesting details concerning the manufacture and use of petroleum briquets as fuel. It appears that these briquets weigh only half as much as coal, and that they produce twice as much heat. They keep indefinitely in good condition, they are in no way dangerous, give off no smoke or odor, and burn with a very white flame, eight or ten inches high. They consist of petroleum, either crude or refined, mixed with certain chemicals, the precise nature of which is a trade secret, and solidified in molds under a pressure of 300 pounds per square inch.

X-Ray Replaces Radium.

That radium is a failure and that many leading surgeons have discarded it in favor of X-rays is the opinion expressed by Sir Thomas Parkinson, a distinguished British surgeon, who was consulting physician to the American hospital for English soldiers, and who is also physician to the prime minister, Lloyd George. He says that radium is not only not effective as a remedy, it was positively dangerous, as its burning effect aggravated instead of curing maladies.

Church Vessels Stolen.

Sacred vessels stolen from the Russian church in the Rue Darne, Paris, were of considerable commercial as well as intrinsic value. The vessels were of silver and ornamented with precious stones. They were originally presented to the church by members of the Russian imperial family. It is believed that the thieves, who broke open the cabinet in which the vessels were kept, had hidden themselves in the cellar of the church during the service.

SAWFISH LOST TO AQUARIUM

Miami Beach Officials Had a Prize, but the Nine Specimens Died in Short Order.

The officials of the aquarium at Miami Beach a short time ago endeavored to secure in a big net a porpoise to see if it could be kept alive in an outdoor tank, and when hauling it in were surprised to find that a sawfish had become entangled. A successful effort was made to bring this specimen in alive, and it was placed in the 36-foot tank inside of the aquarium.

It was tempted with different varieties of its natural food, but it would not eat or move around in the tank, excepting perhaps once in 24 hours, it would move a few feet but always along the bottom. Four days after it was placed in the tank it gave birth to nine young, each about one foot long, six inches of which was saw, and nature had provided that each little saw was inclosed in a glutinous veil, thus protecting the mother and the other offspring from the saws.

At the end of three weeks the mother died, either from starvation or a broken heart, but the little fellows, knowing nothing else, began to eat what was offered, little shreds of spiny lobster and cut up mullets, thriving and growing very nicely, not being interfered with by the other fish, and taking a good deal of exercise swimming the length of the tank, generally near the floor. After three months, during which time they had grown to a little more than two feet in length, they were attacked by some sort of parasite and one by one died.

ATTAIN AGE OF PATRIARCHS

Residents of Belgian Village Round Out Century of Life as a Matter of Course.

That which Ponce de Leon vainly sought seems to exist at Hainaut, in Hainaut, four miles from Mons, in the midst of the coal and metallurgic region of Belgium. It is a village of 3,000 inhabitants, where almost everybody reaches the age of the patriarchs.

They have just been celebrating, one after another, two diamond weddings (sixty, sometimes seventy-five, years of married life); five golden weddings (fifty years of married life), and the one hundred and first anniversary of a man, Francois Colin. But even this centenarian does not constitute a phenomenon in this privileged community, for there was born, in the last year of the Eighteenth century, a woman who saw the end of the Nineteenth century and died only at the end of the first lustrium of the Twentieth century.

It is noteworthy that the Methuselahs of Hainaut are all former workmen and workingwomen, who knew neither the benefits of the eight-hour day nor those of the anti-liquor laws. Will Hainaut, under the new regime of the least effort and of the utmost abstinence, remain the paradise of long life? In some fifteen or twenty lustriums we shall know if they are right.—Exchange.

Land of Caves.

The Shenandoah valley is achieving a reputation for its caves. It has a large collection of great ones and innumerable smaller ones. Those of Luray, in Page county, have been known for some time, and have been visited by thousands of persons from all over the world, but in recent years other caves have been discovered and opened which are just as notable and interesting. They are Weyer's cave, in northern Augusta county; Endless cavern, in Shenandoah county, and the Shenandoah caverns, which were the last to open. Some persons claim that the latter are the most wonderful of the group. The reason for the presence of these caves is that there is a great deal of soft limestone in this vicinity, and the water has gradually washed it away and left these great holes.

Remarkable Golf Stroke.

Driving against odds of 100 to 1, Capt. E. C. Carter teed off perfectly and put a golf ball over a castle wall and won a remarkable wager. Captain Carter won the Welsh open championship and immediately afterward a fashionable lady golfer offered to wager 100 pounds to 1 that he couldn't put the ball to Harleck castle, a historic structure of the Thirteenth century standing on a huge rock overlooking the royal St. David's course. It is 200 yards from the nearest point on the links to the battlements which are 200 feet above the level of the course. Captain Carter's first attempt failed, but he scored the second time.—London Mail.

Human Hair From China.

Human hair, obtained from the heads of thousands of Chinese coolies, recently arrived in a southern port in a 50,000-pound shipment on the steamship Hattie Lucenback. It is the first consignment of a total shipment of about 300,000 pounds of human hair now en route to this port from China. It is stated that the hair is to be used in the manufacture of press cloth and will take the place of camels' hair for this purpose.

Testing Wooden Crates.

The forest products laboratory of the forest service, United States Department of Agriculture, was recently called upon to test wooden crates that would be satisfactory for carrying army aircraft bombs. Seven types of crates were tried in the experiment and the type was evolved that would not only carry 300-pound bombs, but also 1,300-pound bombs.

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