

A BIG PURCHASE.

HOW DUPONT SUPPLIED THE POWDER FOR THE CIVIL WAR.

As "Mr. Jones," the Great Powder-Maker Bought All the Saltpetre There was in England and Charged the Government Nothing for His Services.

On the banks of the Brandywine, in Delaware, are the great Dupont Powder Mills. Established in 1802 by the French Royalist, Eleuthere T. Dupont de Nemours, who found republican France an uncongenial home, they have grown to be the greatest mills in the world for the making of explosives.

The secretary of war was startled. If England should prove unfriendly during the course of the war which was opening, the saltpetre market would, of course, be closed to the United States.

"The government must buy a large amount at once," he said. "Excuse me," said Mr. Dupont, "the United States cannot go into the market and buy saltpetre at any reasonable price—indeed, it might not be able to buy it at all, but the Duponts can get it without exciting comment."

"Will you go to England and buy it—buy all there is?" Mr. Dupont agreed to go, and he and the secretary of war talked a few moments longer; they made a few figures and the powder man was provided with letters of credit on the Rothschilds.

On the next steamer he sailed for England and presented himself with letters of introduction to the Rothschilds. "Very sorry, Mr. Dupont, your letters of credit have not arrived," and he was politely bowed out.

He next presented letters of introduction to Baring Brothers, the London correspondents of the Duponts. One of the firm, a Mr. Archibald, cordially received the powder manufacturer.

He pressed the harbor master for the clearance papers. The polite official explained that it would cost him his position if it was known that he had violated the rules.

"And how much is your position worth?" "Three hundred pounds a year." Mr. Dupont looked at the harbor master attentively; he was a man of over sixty years.

When Mr. Dupont reported to the secretary of war there was a love feast in the office of the war department. After the congratulations were over the secretary said: "How much do we owe you, Mr. Dupont?"

The powder maker named the amount of his expenses, to which he added \$15,000 to the harbor master. "But what charge do you make for your services in the negotiation?"

Then this Franco-American, who might have demanded a princely sum for his extraordinary services, bowed to the secretary and replied: "I have had the distinguished honor of helping the government; I wish nothing further."

There is a sequel to this story. When the war was over, Mr. Dupont, realizing the tremendous risk run by the government in relying upon native saltpetre, set himself to inventing an artificial substitute, and hereafter, with mountains of nitrate of soda in Chili, and potash everywhere, the United States will never be in such straits again.

In 1884 this distinguished powder maker fell a victim to his enthusiasm for his business and while experimenting with high explosives, was killed in an explosion.—New York Tribune.

OBSERVATIONS.

Oak Grove is very popular for holding family picnics. Nearly every day, if you chance to pass by you can see families preparing to take their dinner under the shade.

The captive Spanish officers are at Annapolis, where every kindness is being shown them by the authorities and the public. Captain Eulate, of the Vizcaya, is reported crazy.

A Maine soldier writes home that an Arkansas guard was chinning the Maine sentry, who was pacing his parallel beat.

An authority states that there are eight classes of people who are a detriment to a town; First, those who go out of town to do their trading.

Men, women and children who are troubled with sores, humors, pimples, etc., may find permanent relief in Hood's Sarsaparilla.

Our Tiny Pacific Islands. Some We Have Owned Since 1857 and Still Uninhabited. How many persons know that the United States has possessions in the South Pacific that might be used as a coaling stations in our campaign against the Philippines?

Neither island is inhabited, except by sea fowl and a multitude of half-starved, vicious rats. The latter do not hesitate to attack a human being.

NIAGARA FALLS.

Low-Rate Excursion, via Pennsylvania Railroad. The Pennsylvania Railroad Company has selected the following dates for its popular ten-day excursions to Niagara Falls from Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington.

Excursion tickets, good for return passage on any regular train, exclusive of limited express trains, within ten days, will be sold at \$10 from Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, and all points on the Delaware Division.

Schedule of Trains to Eaglesmere. Train on P. & R. leaving Bloomsburg at 7.30 a. m. connects at Halls at 10.23, reaching Eaglesmere at 12.20 p. m.

Jurors for September Court. GRAND JURORS. Benton twp.—C. B. Meyers, Berwick—Fred Chrisman.

TRAVELER JURORS, FIRST WEEK. Beaver—Samuel Clingerman. Benton twp.—Bruce Ash.

TRAVELER JURORS, SECOND WEEK. Beaver—John Clingerman. Benton twp.—H. O. McHenry.

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