

**NOBODY WANTED IT.**

**A Hundred Years Ago Anthracite Coal Went Begging.**

**Man Who First Brought It to Philadelphia Was Denounced as an Impostor by the Wisest Quakers.**

[Special Washington Letter.]  
THERE has been a great deal said and written about anthracite coal, during the past year, but nobody has told anything interesting about where it comes from.

There lives in Philadelphia a veteran newspaper correspondent, well known to the writer, who is now about 55 years young; and he has been all over the region lately, with his nose for news and his accurate descriptive methods. He writes: "Similar to the electric telegraph, the type-setting machine, the graphophone, telephone and all other newly-discovered facts or laws of nature, coal had a hard time 'winning its way' with the people."

There is a local author named Watson, full name not given, from whose writing, of 1857, is quoted the following: "The Mount Carbon coal was known to exist in the neighborhood more than 50 years ago (about 1800), and some search was made. But the coal found being so very different from any which was previously known, it was not thought to be of any value, and the search was abandoned."

This means that more than 100 years ago people were digging beneath the soil for their fuel, but were not satisfied with the product found. The mountains were covered with boundless forests, and so the average laborer or business man, pointing to the trees, inquired: "Why dig?"

"It is supposed to be 107 years," says Watson, "since a blacksmith of the name of Whetstone found coal and used it in his stovetop. At a very early period a Judge Cooper declared his belief of the existence of coal in the district, and Messrs. Potts explored various places along the old Sunbury road, but success did not attend their operations. A Mr. William Morris afterwards became the proprietor of most of the coal lands at the head of the canal; he found coal and took some quantity to Philadelphia about the year 1800, but all his efforts to bring it into use failed and he abandoned the project and sold his lands to their late proprietor, Mr. Potts."

"It does not appear that much notice was taken of the coal from the time of Whetstone, and the search made by Messrs. Potts, until about 1829, when a person of the name of Peter Bastrus, a blue dyer, in building the valley forge, found coal in the tailrace. About the same time a Mr. David Berlin, a blacksmith in that neighborhood, permanently commenced and introduced the use of stone in the smith's forge, and continued to use and instruct others in its use many years afterwards. But old habits again became victorious, and appear to have held undisputed sway until Mr. George Shoemaker, an innkeeper at Pottsville, and Nicholas Allen discovered coal on a piece of land they had purchased, now called Centreville. Allen soon became disheartened and gave up the concern to Shoemaker, who, receiving encouragement from some gentleman in Philadelphia, got out a quantity of coal and

company—which appears to have been the first corporation to traffic in the newly-discovered fuel—is a singular exemplification of the wonderful growth and the small beginning of what is now the basis of the chief industries of our country. It was originated in 1773, on a very small scale, and began its career by purchasing a tract of land from one Jacob Weiss, on Summit hill, nine miles beyond Mauch Chunk, where the company made a large opening. The difficulty and expense of transportation, however, disheartened the stockholders, and the property was permitted to lie idle for some years. What are now known as the first and second coal regions were then undiscovered. Coal had only been found on the Summit hill



SOME FOREIGN-BORN MINERS.

and at the Beaver meadows, but even there they had no occupation of any continuous strata for miles. Indeed, the coal company had offered a bonus of \$200 to anyone who should discover coal on their lands nearer to the Lehigh than the Summit mine; but there were no claims for discovery. In the meantime, however, coal was used for the forge fires of the blacksmiths in the neighborhood, and also in some of the bar-rooms in the taverns along the roads not distant.

In 1807 the company, for the purpose of bringing their coal into notice, gave a lease of 21 years of one of their coal veins to Rowland and Butland, gratis, for the manufacture of iron, from the ore and coal to be dug. It failed of success. In 1813 the coal company gave a lease of ten years of their lands to Messrs. Cist and Robinson, conditioned that they should take to market annually 10,000 bushels of coal to their own profit. Five arks were dispatched. Three of them were wrecked in the Lehigh, two reached Philadelphia and the business was abandoned. White and Hazard gave \$20 a ton for that coal for their wire manufactory, and yet it was not enough to meet the costs of mining.

That attempt, however, led to future results of permanent good for in 1817 White and Hazard, from the need of such coal, were induced to visit the Lehigh with George Kauts, and there the three contracted with the coal company on a lease for 20 years, on condition that they should take 40,000 tons of coal annually for their own benefit.

In 1818 they procured a legislative grant to improve the navigation of the Lehigh—a measure deemed almost chimerical by many. After some time they procured a stock association and went on from year to year expanding and improving—taking, however, but little coal to market until the year 1820—when they got to Philadelphia 265 tons "as the first fruits of the concern." Little as that was, it completely coked the market, and was sold with difficulty. It increased each subsequent year up to 1824—making it that year a delivery of 9,541 tons. In 1825 it ran up to 28,393 tons, and kept along at nearly that rate until 1832, when it delivered 70,000 tons. From that time it went on regularly increasing, until 1839, when it had delivered 221,850 tons. "And now that it has got its momentum," wrote Watson, "who can guess where it will end?"

At the time of the historian's writing no one would have had the audacity to guess anywhere near the real figures of the anthracite coal production of Pennsylvania at the present day. From the output of a trifle over 200,000 tons in 1839 the industry grew until, in 1901, the coal fields of the counties of Carbon, Columbia, Dauphin, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Northumberland, Schuylkill and Susquehanna, comprising the Schuylkill, Lehigh and Wyoming regions, made shipments of anthracite coal amounting to over 45,000,000 tons.

For reasons inscrutable and incomprehensible to man, the tremendous furnaces of nature fused the limitless copper supply and deposited it in Arizona, where it is grudgingly today yielding to man's demands. For like unknowable reasons this great inexhaustible anthracite deposit was made and wedged into these mountains near tide-water. The deeper the diggings, the heavier the blasts, the greater the tonnage product, the wider and more inexhaustible seem the possibilities of this immensity of fuel. With all of his best appliances man could not expect to dispose of all of the anthracite in a thousand years.

The investigator says that this long-despised fuel which now moves all of the locomotives, trains, ships, engines and machinery of a continent, provides also comfortable and happy homes for more than half a million people in the contiguous region.

SMITH D. FREY.

Has Insured His Voice.  
A Russian tenor at Warsaw has insured his voice for 25,000 rubles.



**THE GOOD DIRT ROAD.**

**It Cannot Exist Where Surface and Subsurface Drainage Are Not Complete.**

The first and most important essential for a good dirt road is thorough drainage. Drainage to be thorough must not only take off the surface water but also the sub-surface moisture.

To have a dry and solid surface on a dirt road there must be beneath the surface a subsoil that is not saturated with water. No matter how well the roadbed be graded up, unless ample provision is made for thoroughly and speedily draining off the subsurface moisture the road will become "muddy" after every heavy rain—if the rains continue such roads become impassable.

While open ditches at the sides of the road will carry off the surface water, they will not drain the roadbed speedily enough to prevent mud and preclude sponginess, the condition so wearying to draft animals and detrimental to heavy hauling.

To afford quick and effective drainage a line of six-inch tile should be laid in the center of the road below the reach of frost.

In the level land where the soil is loose and porous such a tile so laid in a graded roadbed would drain a track 40 feet wide. As open side ditches, constructed so as to give a continuous and unobstructed flow of water, will not only carry off the surface water but also aid in draining off subsurface moisture, the addition of the six-inch tile as here suggested will speedily and thoroughly drain the roadbed.

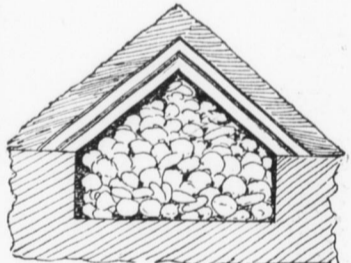
The distance which such a tile drain can be run without outlet will depend upon the lay and character of the land, varying from 30 to 60 rods. In very flat land, where not convenient to obtain frequent outlets, two six-inch tiles may be laid side and side of each other, which will permit a longer distance between outlets; but the outlets should be sufficiently numerous to rapidly drain out all subsurface water.

A roadbed cannot be thoroughly drained when the side ditches are so small that the water stands in pools or sink holes and only escapes by absorption or evaporation. Where surface and subsurface drainage are complete, good dirt roads may be had. Where they are not good it is impossible to have good dirt roads.—Farmers' Voice.

**EXCELLENT ROOT PIT.**

**Its Designer Considers It Indispensable for the Successful Wintering of Root Crops.**

Last winter my beets, turnips and carrots were for the first time preserved in a pit; results were wholly satisfactory. The root did not shrink and grow wilted as they will in a cellar that



DESIRABLE FORM OF ROOT PIT.

is too dry and warm. The pit was 2x18 foot. The roots were thrown in mixed just as happened, spaces between the roots being filled with the sandy subsoil. The sand filling does much to preserve firmness and quality. The heap was covered with three inches of straw, then a layer of boards, then more straw, and finally with six to eight inches of soil.—G. B. Fiske, in Farm and Home.

**Growing Onions Under Glass.**  
The Farm and Fireside says that there is a chance for profitable work in some sections growing the Prize-taker or other Spanish onions under glass, and selling the young plants by the hundred or by the thousand to those who want them to set out in the spring, and yet do not want to bother with a hotbed or have no greenhouses. This method of starting onion plants under glass and transplanting them seems to grow more popular each year, as it gets well-ripened onions into market much earlier than when they are grown from the seed, and the Spanish onions seem to be best adapted to that plan where they can hardly be grown out of doors.

**Cure of Wagon Boxes.**  
It pays to have a good bottom in the wagon-box and it also pays to have a hired man who will not throw a chunk of rock salt or coal as large as a cook stove from a car into the wagon, breaking a hole in the bottom large enough to throw a cat through. A man who will do this ought to be made to furnish enough coal for one stove all winter. I am of the opinion that the wagon would save the bottoms of the boxes, and I know that it is necessary to have a good plate on the side, where the front wheel cramps in turning. Neglecting this means a new box sometimes.—Midland Farmer.

**She Was Not Superstitious.**  
During a marriage ceremony at Northeast Harbor, a week ago, the long veil of the bride in some unaccountable way became loosened, and fell. A superstitious bride would have been horror-stricken at such an occurrence—perhaps would have fainted, perhaps postponed the event. Not so this bride. She just stopped the proceedings long enough to readjust the refractory adornment, glanced smilingly at the groom, and then, with a let-the-procession-move look toward the minister, resumed her position at the altar. The reverend gentleman proceeded, and it was noticed that he gave an extra tug at the nuptial knot.—Kennebec Journal.

**Southwest Colonist Excursions.**  
Low one-way and round trip rates to Kansas, Indian Territory, Oklahoma and Texas, on the 1st and 3d Tuesdays of each month. Write for particulars and literature. James Barker, Gen'l Pass. Agent, M. K. & T. Ry., 501 Wainwright Bldg., St. Louis.

**At a Brooklyn Boarding House.**  
Mrs. Oldb (severely)—Mr. Choosey, will you pass the butter?—Mr. Choosey (emphatically)—You bet your life—if it's no better than usual.—Judge.

Many of us might be happy if we did not suffer from disorders of the liver. Then we ought to use Dr. August Koenig's Hamburg Drops, which cure the disorders and bring the whole system to a healthy condition.

"De man dat's allus tryin' to git sumpin' foh nuffin," said Uncle Eben, "is purty 'like to wind up by bein' one o' de people dat git nuffin' foh sumpin'."—Washington Star.

Piso's Cure for Consumption is an infallible medicine for coughs and colds.—N. W. Samuel, Ocean Grove, N. J., Feb. 17, 1900.

Schoolmaster—"Now, let us have 'Little Drops of Water' again, and do, please, put a little spirit into it."—Glasgow Evening Times.

**Stops the Cough**  
and works off the cold. Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. Price 25 cents.

Self-trust is the essence of heroism.—Emerson.

Carpets can be colored on the floor with Putnam Fadeless Dyes.

A clean youth makes a clear old age.—Ram's Horn.

Tact teaches men when to be silent.—Chicago Daily News.

Right ends are never furthered by wrong agencies.—Ram's Horn.

Necessity knows no law; therefore it is the mother of invention.—Judge.

Some people mistake spectacular effect for success.—Chicago Daily News.

Experience with many people is merely the raw material for conversation.—Judge.

It is perhaps because art is long that so many artists are short.—Chicago Journal.

German Instructor (to usually late student)—"I see you are early of late; you used to be behind before, and now you are first at last."—Harvard Lampoon.

"Dar is two kin's o' friends," said Uncle Eben; "dem dat wants to do you favors and em dat expects you to do favors foh dem. I kin tell you in one guess which kin you has de mos' of."—Washington Star.

Putting It Delicately.—"There are just as good fish in the sea as ever were caught," asserted the maiden lady of uncertain age. "But you never cared much for fish, did you?" returned the pert young thing, with delicate significance.—Chicago Post.

Merchant—"Yes, I've lost my entire fortune. Our most trusted employe robbed us of enough to force my company into bankruptcy." Friend—"But you surely saved something from the wreck." Merchant—"No, I've found the receiver as bad as the thief."—Philadelphia Press.

A One-Sided Contract.—Bilks—"Yes; my wife and I have agreed that whenever I make a mistake I am to acknowledge the fault at once." Jinks—"But when she is in error, you will call her attention to the fact?" Bilks—"Well, hardly. That would simply be another one for me to acknowledge."—Detroit Free Press.

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**LYDIA E. PINKHAM'S VEGETABLE COMPOUND**  
*I Did Not Feel That I Could Walk*

"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM:—It is with thankfulness I write that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has been of the greatest help to me. My work keeps me standing on my feet all day and the hours are long. Some months ago it didn't seem as though I could stand it. I would get so dreadfully tired and my back ached so I wanted to scream with the pain. When I got home at night I was so worn out I had to go right to bed, and I was terribly blue and downhearted. I was irregular and the flow was scanty, and I was pale and had no appetite. I told a girl friend who was taking your medicine how I felt, and she said I ought to take it too. So I got a bottle of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and commenced to take it. It helped me right off. After the first few doses menstruation started and was fuller than for some time. It seemed to lift a load off me. My back stopped aching and I felt brighter than I had for months. I took three bottles in all. Now I never have an ache or pain, and I go out after work and have a good time. I am regular and strong and am thankful to you for the change. I recommend Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound whenever I hear of a girl suffering, for I know how hard it is to work when you feel so sick."—MISS MAMIE KEIRNS, 553 9th Ave., New York City.

Women should not fail to profit by the experiences of these women; just as surely as they were cured of the troubles enumerated in their letters, just so certainly will Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound cure others who suffer from womb troubles, inflammation of the ovaries, kidney troubles, irregular and painful menstruation, nervous excitability, and nervous prostration; remember that it is Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound that is curing women, and don't allow any druggist to sell you anything else in its place.

Miss Amanda T. Petterson, Box 131, Atwater, Minn., says:  
"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM.—I hope that you will publish this testimonial so that it may reach others and let them know about your wonderful medicine.  
"Before taking Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound I was troubled with the worst kind of fainting spells. The blood would rush to my head, was very nervous and always felt tired, had dark circles around eyes. I have now taken several bottles of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and am entirely cured. I had taken doctor's medicine for many years but it did me no good.  
"Please accept my thanks for this most excellent medicine which is able to restore health to suffering women."

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