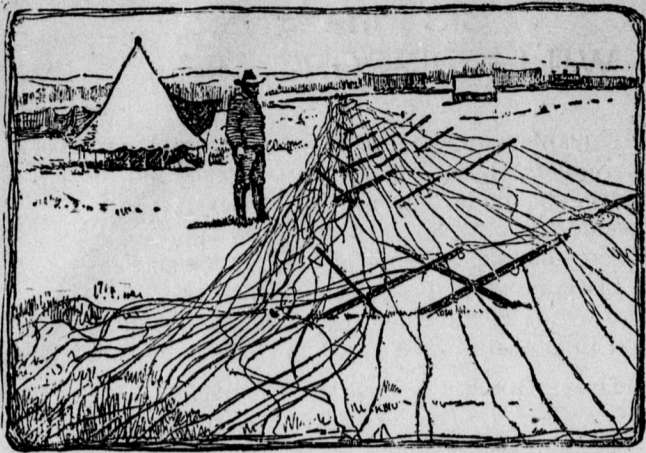


BARBED WIRE IN WARFARE.



SPIKED WIRE ENTANGLEMENTS PLACED AROUND CHIEVELEY STATION IN SOUTH AFRICA AS PART OF THE BRITISH DEFENSES.

The Blossburg "Gusher"

Greatest Strike on Record.

PENNSYLVANIA'S NEW KLONDIKE.

A RIVER of oil has created a second Klondike in Pennsylvania. It has made a city of a mountainside hitherto sacred to rattlesnakes.

It has added millions to the real estate values and made heiresses of poor farmers' daughters for many a mile around.

Most important of all, it has proved that the geologists were wrong when they decided, years ago, that oil would never be tapped east of the Allegheny watershed, and it suggests the possibility of the world's oil market being flooded to such a degree as to bring prices down to next to nothing—that is, if Mr. Rockefeller were not here to keep them up and put the difference in his pocket.

Such, in brief, are the facts concerning the Blossburg Oil Company's well, the source of a river which is jealously caught and imprisoned as it gushes from the earth, because every gallon of it is worth money.

It is pouring out wealth at the rate of \$365,000 a year—a thousand dollars a day—and it represents only the beginning of what may be expected of a region where land is ten thousand times more valuable to-day than it was before the oil discoveries.

This last is a literal fact. If the

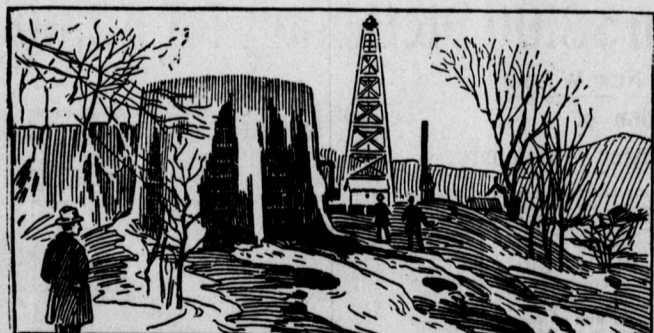


DELAVAN AYLESWORTH. JOHN AYLESWORTH. (The brothers who have struck oil.)

mountainside had been offered at auction before a drill had been sunk it would not have fetched ten cents an acre. Now there is not an acre that would not sell for \$1000, with a mob of bidders fighting for precedence.

Pine Creek, the most famous trout stream in Pennsylvania, is the center of this oil rush, which rivals the gold rush of Cape Nome. The big well—there are many smaller ones around it, and more are being sunk every day—is three-quarters of a mile south-east of Gaines, Tioga County. It penetrates the rock for 654 feet near the edge of a bluff that rises 120 feet from the bed of Pine Creek.

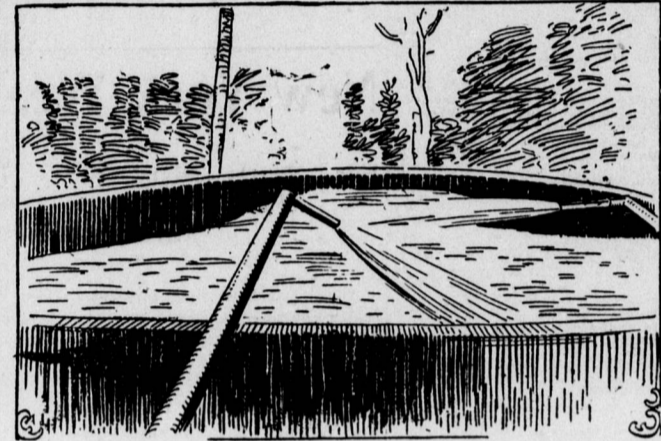
There was a time when the hills for miles in every direction were covered with the finest pines in Pennsylvania. But the creek has floated out billions of feet of timber, and now the region is a desolate one of stumps and brambles, repellent alike to the agriculturist and the artist.



The story of the "Great Gusher," as it is known in the parlance of oil men, is one of the romances of fortune, deserving a place beside the bonanza tales of California and Nevada. Those for whom the well is pouring forth its \$1000 a day are country merchants and professional men, formerly of moderate means, none of whom knew anything about the oil business. They are former Senator Walter Merrick, John Aylesworth, Del. Aylesworth, William Aylesworth, Dr. D. O. Merrick, George Clark, J. D. Connors, W. S. Scott, Mark Davis, W. H. McCarty, A. L. Botchford, H. R. Whittiker, F. H. Stratton, W. C. Babcock, F. L. Jones and W. A. Roberts.

The company is not incorporated and business is carried on as a co-partnership.

The drilling of the Great Gusher was a forlorn hope. The company had already drilled one well on its lease of 155 acres and had found the sand as dry as powder. Under the lease a forfeit would have to be paid if two wells were not sunk. The forfeit would amount to about the same loss as the drilling of a well.



OIL FLOWING INTO TANK FROM THE BLOSSBURG "GUSHER."

With the slenderest shadow of a hope—merely, in gambling parlance, to "have a run for their money"—the partners decided in favor of the well. In selecting the bluff near the upper end of the property they disregarded the advice of experienced oil prospectors. To drill there was pronounced an act of folly.

To emphasize the hopelessness of the case work was begun on Good Friday, April 13. Any gambler would have laid big odds against such an unhappy combination.

For ten days the drill burrowed its way through varying strata. On Monday, April 23, it gnawed slowly for an hour through a hard formation more than an eighth of a mile below the surface.

"She's struck sand!" shouted the driller.

It was only that the drill had dropped into a softer formation—and the sand was likely to be as barren as Coney Island's—but force of habit impelled this cautious man to connect the well with the storage tank provided to save the first rush of oil.

He was just in time. Before the tools could be withdrawn from the hole a yellow torrent gushed forth and filled the tank with a roaring and a splashing that sang of millions.

"She's struck oil!" was the shout; and it echoed down the valley and beyond, till at every farmer's door and on into the cities were echoed the magic words, "Struck oil!"

Every telegraph wire in the land flashed the story of the Blossburg Oil Company's Great Gusher, and capitalists began to speculate on the strange developments that might follow the discovery of a subterranean petroleum lake east of the Alleghenies.

As for the Great Gusher, it spouted forth 2200 barrels the first day and 2500 the second day.

Before noon on the third day it had



repaid the partners their entire expenses on the lease—the investment had cost them only \$5200.

At the close of the fifth day they were \$14,000 richer for the mere trouble of catching the oil.

Then the Great Gusher sobared down to the cheerful song of \$1000 a day, and this it continues to sing,

week days and Sundays, with no sign of weariness.

It is the greatest well known to the northern oil fields since 1882, when the Cherry Grove field, in Warren County, Penn., made the world ring with tales of sudden fortune.

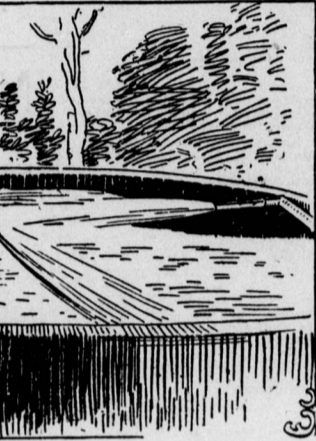
Cherry Grove knocked the bottom out of oil prices and ruined thousands of men engaged in the oil business elsewhere. Blossburg may do the same thing if it proves to be over a big lake of oil and not merely a small pool, as was the case with Cherry Grove, which exhausted itself in a year.

This important question can be settled only when test wells have been sunk for miles around, and from the way speculators are rushing into the Pine Creek region doubts must soon be dispelled.

The Blossburg property is being honey-combed with drills. A well near the Great Gusher is yielding 540 barrels a day, and another is productive in a smaller degree.

Just what kind of sand the oil comes from no one knows. As soon as the tools pierced the shell the well flowed and no sand was bailed out. Whether there is ten feet of it or fifty, whether it is brown, white or gray, no one knows as yet. The company has been kept too busy caring for the oil to worry about the color or thickness of the sand in which it has been stored up.

The little town of Gaines has acquired some of the character of a Western mining camp. The hotel has been overflowing for three weeks and the proprietor has secured every vacant



room in town for his guests. The telegraph and telephone have become metropolitan in their activity. Keen men with large bank accounts roam everywhere, snapping up speculative chances. Their talk is all of barrels and dollars, leases and wells, drills and pipe lines.

The Standard Oil Company, alive to the great possibilities of the new field, is laying a four-inch pipe line across the mountain to connect with their main pipe line twenty miles away.

On the lighter side of human nature at the Pine Creek rush are ranged the clairvoyants and hazel twig magicians who infest new oil fields. One of these "oil smellers" will sell out his occult gifts as a prospector for from \$10 to \$150, according to the means and credulity of his client.

Some of the individual cases of sudden fortunes are full of interest.

Joseph Bernauer was a poor man two years ago. His little farm on the bank of Pine Creek yielded him a living and that was all. He peddled milk every morning and evening to the housewives of Gaines.

His farm proved to be right on the oil belt and his income from royalties is now over \$500 a month.

This discovery has made a group of country storekeepers and small farmers rich in a trice. Men whose total worldly possessions were worth perhaps \$500 have been offered \$125,000 for their rights in this gusher.

How to Live a Century.

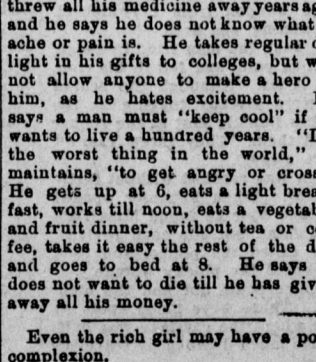
Dr. D. K. Pearsons, of Hinsdale, Ill., a millionaire who is making it his business to give away his money to enterprising colleges in the West, recently made some very interesting statements in explanation of his condition of hearty and hopeful health at the age of eighty years.

He says he expects to live until he is a hundred, and his rules of life are worth considering. "Most men dig their graves with their teeth," he said. "My stomach is my friend and I'm happier than any other man on earth." He says the man who wants to live to a ripe old age should keep cool, not overload the stomach, breathe pure air and lots of it, eat a vegetable diet, not eat late suppers, go to bed early, not fret, not go where he'll get excited, and not forget to take a nap after dinner.

Though he is a doctor himself, he threw all his medicine away years ago, and he says he does not know what an ache or pain is. He takes regular delight in his gifts to colleges, but will not allow anyone to make a hero of him, as he hates excitement. He says a man must "keep cool" if he wants to live a hundred years. "It's the worst thing in the world," he maintains, "to get angry or cross."

He gets up at 6, eats a light breakfast, works till noon, eats a vegetable and fruit dinner, without tea or coffee, takes it easy the rest of the day and goes to bed at 8. He says he does not want to die till he has given away all his money.

Even the rich girl may have a poor complexion.



DR. D. K. PEARSONS.

Most Beautiful Woman in Cuba.

Senorita Silvia Alfonso y Aldama, whose portrait is here shown, has been voted the beauty queen of Cuba. The election was recently held in Havana preparatory to the carnival to be shortly given there, over which Senorita Alfonso will reign. Some



SENIORITA SILVIA ALFONSO.

twenty well-known beauties of the island were contestants for the honor. Senora Josefina Herrera de Pulido, the daughter of Count Fernandina, was the last Cuban senorita to be similarly honored.

Silvia Alfonso was born in Cuba, but was educated in Paris. She lived in New York from time to time during the past four years, during the progress of the recent insurrection.

She will be the recipient of every honor during festival week and will remain supreme for two years until the next festival is held.

Makes Chain Armor Shirts.

Owing to the cleverness of a Sheffield manufacturer the ancient custom of wearing chain and mail is likely to be revived. The abandonment of the coat of mail was due to the superior piercing ability of the modern missile, which rendered the coat useless for ordinary purposes of protection. Moreover, its unwieldiness made it worthless as a protection against the attack of steel. Now, however, the cleverness of a Sheffield manufacturer has produced a shirt of mail that weighs less than twelve pounds, that can readily be worn beneath the coat, and is impervious to every attack except that of the composition bullet. His product is having a large sale, and is likely to be more widely used as it becomes better known.

It is composed of small steel rings linked together so finely that even the point of a pin cannot penetrate through them. At the same time they can be worn without the slightest discomfort.

They cover the entire breast and back from the neck to the thighs and extend down the arm to the elbow. Thus it will protect anyone from an attack of dagger or sword in every vulnerable place. Its value as a protection against assassination is evident.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Encouraging Marriages.

The Mayor of Cardiff, Wales, recently awarded what is known as "the Bute marriage dowry" to a domestic servant. The dowry was instituted by Lord Bute to enable deserving couples to marry. It is the interest on \$5000 and is awarded once annually. This year the amount was \$140. The lucky young man to whom the domestic is engaged is William Cam, who has been ten years in the service of a Cardiff carriage builder. When paying over the dowry the Mayor reads a passage from the Bible relating to marriage, and delivers a little homily to the intending bride and bridegroom.

Making a Collar Button.

In the first stage of the manufacture of a single-piece collar button there's a circular disc stamped out of a strip of metal. Being fed into several machines, it at length gets into the third form, so like a grandfather's hat.

Rapid blows, and many of them, from powerful hammers bring it to the fourth stage.



VARIOUS STAGES OF MANUFACTURE.

Then a machine turns up its edge. Still another rolls it over. Then its head is put into shape. Last comes the polishing. How seldom do we stop to think of all the brains and energy that go into every tiniest article!

The average distance traveled by British engine drivers is from 30,000 to 50,000 miles every year. There are about 20,000 drivers in the United Kingdom.

When a mystery is unraveled there's pretty sure to be a long yarn.

SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

The American water hyacinth which is not infrequently an obstruction to navigation, in southern rivers has been successfully killed on the Mississippi canal, New Orleans, by a chemical spray.

A specimen of edible earth lately brought from Fiji—a soft, pale pink, silvery substance—proves to be an aluminum silicate, probably kaolin, with about 7.6 per cent. of iron oxide as a mechanical impurity.

The water storage required to produce one horse-power for one hour, with an available head of 10 feet, would be represented by the capacity of a tank 20 feet square and 10 feet deep; at a head of 140 feet the storage tank would still be required to be 10 feet square and about three feet deep.

A French inventor says that he has solved the problem of sending a number of dispatches simultaneously on a single wire. His system, which was explained before the Academy of Sciences, was recently tried successfully between Paris and Pau. Twelve independent currents were sent on the circuit at once in either direction, making a total of 24 telegrams.

The public library building in Chicago is protected against the invasion of fire from the outside by means of a so-called "water curtain." At the top of the building is a system of tubes through which water, supplied from a tank, can be caused to flow over the outside walls. Recently the efficiency of the water curtain was tested by the occurrence of a fire in a large spice mill adjoining the library building. The water being turned on, the outer walls were immediately covered with a liquid sheet which, as the temperature was low, became eventually a sheet of ice.

A flexible metal hose is made at Pforzheim, Germany, by rolling up a metal band like a screw thread, the specially profiled edges engaging in one another so as to form a continuous joint, which is made tight by a cord of rubber or asbestos. The metals chiefly used are galvanized steel and phosphor-bronze. The pipe is remarkably flexible, and its one disadvantage of tending to un-twist through rough usage is overcome by making it double, with opposite windings. It is intended for mining purposes instead of rubber hose. It is made up to eight inches in diameter, and to withstand pressures up to 200 atmospheres.

It is a curious thing that in all the balloon ascensions and experiments that have been made in recent times, there has been collected no satisfactory data on so important a question as how long a time a balloon will remain in mid-air. It is, however, the general opinion that, because of the change of the temperature of the day to that of night and its effect on the gas with which the balloons are inflated, it has been possible to keep the ordinary balloon in the air for only about 30 hours without replenishing the supply of gas. Some Berlin scientists are to make an effort in gathering more exact information soon, when they will be sent up on one of these airships, containing 315,000 cubic feet of gas. Provisions for ten days will be stored in the car, which will be eight feet square and will accommodate five persons, with sleeping quarters for three.

Ants Useful in Surgery.

Many useful discoveries have been made by savage people and utilized by civilized men for the amelioration of human suffering. The native Brazilian, far removed, as he usually is, from doctors and surgeons, depends upon a little ant to sew up his wounds when he is slashed or scratched. This odd creature is called the surgical ant, from the use to which it is put. The ant has two strong nippers on his head. They are his weapons for battle or forage. When a Brazilian has cut himself, for example, he picks up an ant, presses the nippers against the wound, one on each side, and then gives the bug a squeeze. The indignant insect snaps his nippers together, piercing the flesh and bringing the lacerated parts close together. The Brazilian at that moment gives the ant's body a jerk and away it flies, leaving the nippers embedded in the flesh. To be sure that kills the ant, but he has served his most useful purpose in life. The operation is repeated until the wound is sewed up neatly and thoroughly.—Chicago Chronicle.

A New Way to Sterilize Milk.

A certain degree of heat kills the bacteria that promote the souring of milk; hence by raising the temperature of that fluid nearly to the boiling point it is effectually sterilized. Such treatment, however, robs milk of its characteristic flavor, imparts a new taste to it, robs it of its ability to yield cream, and otherwise affects it in an undesirable way. But a method of conducting the operation has been found which is said to be free from these objections, while retaining the advantages of sterilizing. Niels Bendixen of Copenhagen has just published a paper in which he describes the process. He saturates the milk with carbonic acid before applying heat, raises the temperature to 122 degrees, and finally removes the carbonic acid by exposing the milk to sterilized air. He alleges that milk so treated forms no skin, does not change color, and retains the cream yielding power. Just how the carbonic acid accomplishes this result is not clear, but its share in the work is affirmed positively.

TRAVELS OF THE JIGGER.

The Flea Seems to Circumnavigate the Globe.

The very small species of the flea, commonly known as the jigger, whose native home is tropical and subtropical America, set out in 1872 to circumnavigate the world and has now half completed his journey. His arrival in India and Madagascar is almost simultaneously reported. On his conquering way he has badly frightened many barbarous tribes by his propensity to bore through the skin and find lodgment under it, and many villages and sometimes whole districts were abandoned by the natives during his journey across Africa, says the New York Sun.

In September, 1872, a sailing vessel from Brazil dumped a quantity of sand ballast on the beach at Ambriz, a little south of the Congo. This event has historic importance from the fact that the jigger crossed the ocean in this sand and it is believed to have been his first introduction to foreign territory. His rate of advance across Africa depended upon the means of transportation at hand, for the jigger will not hop when he may ride. It was 13 years before he struck the caravan route to Stanley Pool, and then he journeyed quickly and comfortably with the porters in the freight service to that starting point of the upper Congo steamers, which carried him half way across Africa. Twenty years after his arrival in Africa the jigger appeared on the shores of Victoria Nyanza, and six years later he was hopping along the sands of Zanzibar island.

The jigger was thus established in 1898 at the busy mart whence many vessels sail for the East Indies and Oceania. It was predicted that he would soon invade India, and, sure enough his arrival at Bombay, whether he had been brought by coolies returning from Africa, is now reported. "Le Tour du Monde" says he may be expected in French Indo-China at any time and that he will evidently invade the whole of southern Asia, and letters from Nossi Be, in northwest Madagascar, report his advent there and on the adjoining islands, where he is flourishing and multiplying in the sandy soil.—Pittsburg Daily News.

QUAINT AND CURIOUS.

While cutting timber in the forests near Cromwell, Ky., lumbermen found a bone in the heart of a solid oak tree. How it got there is a mystery.

It was a belief among the Egyptians that the third finger of the left hand was connected with the heart by means of a slender nerve. From that belief came the custom of wearing the wedding ring on that finger.

The Eads bridge across the Mississippi river at St. Louis has always been subject to the phenomenon known as "creeping rails." The creeping occurs always in the direction of the traffic, and varies with the amount of tonnage passing over the rails.

A. A. Putnam, an electrical engineer of Rochester, N. Y., made an oral will the other day by talking into a phonograph. He signed his name on the wax roll of the machine with a hot copper wire, and the witnesses did likewise. Legal authorities say that the will is valid.

A curious plant is the tooth brush plant of Jamaica. It is a species of creeper, and has nothing particularly striking about its appearance. By cutting pieces of it to a suitable length and fraying the ends the natives convert it into a tooth brush, and a tooth powder to accompany the use of the brush is also prepared by pulverizing the dead stems.

A singular accident occurred near Juliet, Ga., a few days since. A flying pigeon collided with a southern railway train which was coming at high speed. The beak of the pigeon broke the glass in the locomotive cab and so great was the velocity of the bird that the window was not shattered, but a round smooth hole was made, similar to that caused by a bullet when fired through glass. The bird was instantly killed, but in his flight his sharp beak came in contact with the engineer's face and the man's eye was put out.

Mrs. Davis Sweet of Boston in stepping from a chair several weeks ago struck her foot lightly against one of the rounds. Intense pain followed and the usual remedies failed to give relief. Finally her doctor cut into her foot and near the heel attached to a tendon was a large piece of bone that was tearing the flesh. Upon being removed it was found to be the exact counterpart of an incisor tooth, the only difference being that it had enamel on the back while the front was of double thickness. The doctor is unable to give any explanation as to the piece. He does not believe it is part of the heel.

In the province of Cordoba, Argentine Republic, is a great salt lake, which recently has been surveyed by an Argentine surveyor. The lake is 50 miles long from east to west, and 31 miles wide at its broadest point. The average depth is from 12 to 16 feet. Some fish live in the lake, but they are small, and do not thrive well because of the extreme saltiness of the water, which is a 6 per cent. solution. The shores of the lake and its 15 islands are thickly wooded with pine and quebracho. The lake is called Mar Chiquita, and the region about it is entirely uninhabited. Many wild animals abound there.