

ROMANCE OF COAL.

Some of the Products This Complex Material Yields to Man.

Coal seems to be rather an uninteresting thing. Who would imagine that the great, ugly black lumps could afford any one a subject worthy of study? And yet this same coal has given civilization many of its greatest possessions. The beautiful pink scarfs worn by women are colored with dyes that come from coal. The gas used to illuminate and to heat our homes is a product of the distillation of coal. Valuable chemicals, such as benzene, naphthalene and toluene, are coal products.

The tar used in paving streets and protecting roofs from rain is also a byproduct of the commercial treatment of coal, and finally aniline, the basis of aniline dyes and coloring materials, is one of the valuable chemicals contained in coal.

Coal is indeed one of the most complex materials to be found in all nature. To learn what it is we must go back to the dim, geological ages. The luxuriant vegetation of those past times, untrampled by human feet and uncut by human hands, year after year grew, bloomed, faded and decayed, forming deep beds of rotted, wood, fiber.

By degrees certain gases, such as hydrogen and oxygen, were partly lost from the mass of vegetable material. Pressure and heat converted this material into what we know as coal.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

MOUNTAIN CLIMBING.

Joys That Come in Reaching the Peak and Getting Back to Camp.

A great deal has been written by mountaineers about the joys of climbing, says Walter Prichard Eaton in Harper's Magazine. The joys of climbing are often a good deal like those of heavy dumbbell exercises. In Glacier park you want to sing the joys of coming back to camp in the afternoon and loading on a bed of balsam boughs, with your tent flap open wide to the view of lupines and violets in the meadow and distant snow capped peaks beyond. You want to sing the joys of fragrant food and steaming tea, of twilight slowly gathering as though so fair a day were reluctant to depart.

To ascend a peak, to see the tumbled world at its wildest, to sit again in camp tired and warmed with food, to hear with one ear the camp cook telling bear stories, with the other the birdlike calls of the ground squirrels, to smell the resinous wood smoke and the balsams, to catch now and then the tinkle of little ice water brooks from the snowfields, to watch the sunset blush on Heaven's peak and the stars come slowly out above the battlements of the divide—well, that is, I fear, to spoil you for any other life.

The little ice water brooks sing a siren song in the uplands started with violets, and were to him whose ears have heard! He can never be quite happy again east of the Great Divide.

An Aged Gander.

The birds that live to a great age are comparatively few. Gulls have been known to reach forty years, parrots frequently live eighty years and swans nearly as long. Ravens and owls usually die somewhat younger, but there is good reason to believe that eagles and falcons sometimes live more than a hundred years. Of barnyard fowls ducks and geese live longest. D. MacLachlan of Islay, Scotland, writes to the Field that he has a gander that is now sixty-six years old. For forty-five years it belonged to the proprietor of a hotel at Bridgend, Scotland. Twenty-one years ago the father-in-law of the present owner bought it. Mr. MacLachlan says that the gander looks as well as any young and seems as active as it ever did. There is no doubt about its age.

Her Adopted Name.

They were discussing the peculiarities of names, and Blotson suddenly said: "By the way, Cox, your wife's got a queer name, hasn't she—'Duty'?" Where did she get that name Duty?" "Oh, she adopted it," replied Mr. Cox. "She claims that every married woman's middle name is Duty, because she is either being done or neglected."—London Mail.

Explained.

"I know a man who is very successful in business, and yet all his customers know his talk about his goods is chiefly hot air."

"How does he manage to fool them, then?"

"He doesn't. He deals in furnaces."—Baltimore American.

Sheer Idolatry.

"Gadspur has a little white hen that lays an egg every day."

"I guess he's proud of that bird."

"Proud is not the name for it. Why, man, he has had a phonographic record made of her cackle."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

The Cithara.

The cithara, a musical instrument resembling the guitar, mentioned in I Maccabees iv, 34, employed by the Chaldeans, was probably introduced into Palestine by the Hebrews after their return from the Babylonian captivity.

Her Chance.

He (just to make conversation)—Do you think opals are unlucky? She—I should prefer a diamond if it's all the same to you.—Boston Transcript.

Skeptical.

"What is a skeptic?" "A man who always puts paste on the back of a postage stamp."—Puck.

TRICKING THE CREDULOUS.

Lures of Gold Brick Schemes For the Small Investors.

Will persons with money never learn how to take care of it? Will they never guard themselves against the horde of tricksters who make a business of taking advantage of the credulous and especially of credulous women?

Bear in mind that no one will make money for you when he can make it for himself. If he offers to give you the key to wealth, suspect him, for such keys are kept by their possessors and are not given away to strangers.

The postoffice a year or two ago showed that over \$150,000,000 had been lost by persons who listened to the gold brick schemes, but the game still goes on despite the vigilance of the postoffice department and the passage of protective measures, known as "blue sky laws," by many states.

Will the people never learn to discount the alluring literature which these shysters send out and which is written for them by some of the sharpest and brightest writers of our day whose services can be easily obtained for a few dollars?

Let wise investors who receive these tempting propositions to send them at once to the postmaster general at Washington for investigation. That is the business of the postoffice department, and it will be only too happy to take up such matters.

Small investors are particularly the victims of these bunco schemes, for the false notion prevails that a man or woman with a small amount of money cannot buy high class investment securities such as successful investors prefer. This is erroneous. An investment can now be made in the best of paying securities with as small an amount as \$10 through the partial payment plan, which is readily understood, though the term may sound formidable.—Leslie's Weekly.

A LITTLE PIECE OF LEAD.

The Costliest Thing This World of Ours Has Ever Known.

Just think of one small piece of lead, probably weighing less than an ounce, that cost the world some \$100,000,000,000 in money, probably \$100,000,000,000 in property, more than 11,000,000 lives and individual suffering and loss impossible of computation—a bit of lead that embroiled in war Germany, Austria-Hungary, Britain, France, Belgium, the United States, Turkey, Siberia, Italy, Montenegro, Roumania, Bulgaria, Albania, Egypt, Canada, Australia, China, Japan, South Africa, India and Russia and brought every other nation to the brink of internal trouble or outward disaster, the consequences of which are being felt by every human being, civilized or uncivilized, white, black, yellow or brown!

That small piece of lead was fired from a pistol in the hands of a crack brained youth of Serbian nativity into the body of the heir to the Austrian throne. The troubles arising from this mad act and its punishment set fire to the powder trains in Europe and led to hostile act after hostile act and finally and suddenly to open war in 1914.

That little piece of lead should be preserved as a memorial to all future generations and as the costliest thing mankind has ever known. It would become the greatest silent teacher the world has ever seen. It would teach restraint for the weak minded and violent; it would teach the importance of minor acts and things; it would teach peace as no costly monument, no book of horrors, no painting of tragedy could ever teach it.—Detroit Free Press.

Ox Bones.

Ox bones have a considerable value. The four feet of an ordinary ox will make a pint of neat's foot oil. The thigh bone is the most valuable, being useful for cutting into toothbrush handles. The fore leg bones are made into collar buttons and parasol handles. The water in which the bones are boiled is reduced to glue, while the dust which comes from sawing the bones is turned into food for cattle and poultry.—Exchange.

Fine Canal Locks.

Some of the locks in the New York barge canal are the finest in the world, the five at Waterford being the greatest series of high lift locks in existence. They have a combined lift of 180 feet, one foot less than the total lift of every lock in the Panama canal. The upper gates weigh forty tons and the lower about 100 tons.

Dislocation of the Hip Joint.

In demonstrating his now famous method of replacing in its socket a hip that has been dislocated since birth Dr. John Ridlon of the Presbyterian hospital, Chicago, said most of these cases were girls and in most of them it was the left hip. He could not offer any suggestion as to why this should be so.

Duets Popular.

Patience—What kind of singing do you prefer, solos or duets? Patrice—Oh, duets, by all means. "Well, come over to the house some time and I'll start the phonograph and the parrot going at the same time."—Tonkers Statesman.

Natural Tendency.

"Pop, do all trades have their own diseases?" "So they say, son." "Then is it only carpenters that have shingles?"—Baltimore American.

Gossip.

"Mrs. Gasley is a great gossip." "Yes. She has a good sense of sorrow."—Puck.

SHIPS AND THEIR SIZE.

Why You Cannot Compare the Vessels According to Tonnage.

The different uses of tonnage terms when speaking of ships are causes of confusion to the lay mind, states Captain C. A. McAllister, engineer in chief, United States coast guard, in the Popular Science Monthly. For example, steamship companies in order to impress upon the traveling public the size and consequent relative safety of their craft will advertise the sailing of a certain steamer of 20,000 tons, meaning, of course, gross tons. The company's agent, in entering her at the custom house, will take great precaution to certify that she is of only 7,340 tons when paying tonnage taxes. He then is referring to her net tonnage, and, in fact, that standard is used only when paying dues or taxes.

Displacement tonnage is almost exclusively applied to warships, as they do not carry cargoes. Strange to say, the tonnage of a battleship varies almost hourly, as coal or other weighty objects are used or taken on board. The tonnage of warships is, however, fixed. They are referred to in terms of the fixed tonnage.

A statement that a 10,000 ton battleship sank a 10,000 ton merchant ship does not mean that the ships were of equal size. The merchant ship would be much the larger owing to the different meanings of the term "ton" as applied to the two types of vessels. It is absolutely impossible to give rules for the relations of these terms, as the conditions vary too greatly. Generally speaking, the gross tonnage of a ship is from 50 to 100 per cent greater than the net tonnage. Tons displacement are always in excess of tons gross. Deadweight tonnage is on an average from 30 to 50 per cent greater than gross tonnage.

THE BIBLE NEGLECTED.

Though Still the Best Seller, It Is Not Read as It Used to Be.

Although the Bible still leads all other best sellers, few read it. People still present Bibles to brides and groom. People still present Bibles to children. Colporteurs still roam the country handing out Bibles among the villagers. Associations of devout enthusiasts still put Bibles in hotels. But the Bible is seldom read aloud in the home. And the type of American who daily reads his Bible in secret from a sense of duty is becoming more and more rare.

Quite apart from its moral and religious bearings, the neglect of the Bible involves a cultural handicap worth noting. It involves a cramping of the popular vocabulary, as no other literary masterpiece is such a well of English pure and undefiled. It involves a dulling of literary perceptions, as literature abounds in Biblical allusions which every reader of the Bible instantly understands, but which only readers of the Bible ever can. Finally it involves a failure to respond to many a good joke, as an astonishing percentage of the best jokes are nothing more or less than Biblical allusions.

It is mainly useless, we realize, to propose a course of self enforced Bible reading for adults. We insist, however, that parents who want their children to get the most enjoyment out of life may well see to it that their children develop an acquaintance with the Bible. It is the basis of keen speech. It is the basis of intelligent reading. It is the basis of culture. And by culture we mean a capacity for enjoying the fine and beautiful things of this world and the capacity for producing some.—Chicago Tribune.

Fright and the Hair.

The hair does stand on end under certain conditions, because there is a little muscle down at the root of each hair that will make each hair stand up straight when this muscle pulls a certain way. It is difficult to say just how these muscles are caused to act in this way when we are frightened. We know that when thoroughly frightened our hair will sometimes stand straight up, and we know that it is this muscle at the root of each hair that makes it possible, says the Book of Wonders, but why it is that a big scare will make this muscle act this way we do not as yet know.

Platinum Retorts.

Platinum is used directly in the making of munitions of war and indirectly in all sorts of operations that are incidental to warlike operations. To cite but one example, in the manufacture of cordite perfectly pure sulphuric acid has to be used, and sulphuric acid can only be perfectly purified in platinum retorts, each of which, by the way, represents a value of \$50,000 to \$75,000.

A Lot to Know.

When Disraeli was prime minister of England a good looking young man applied to him for a government position. "I know, sir," said the applicant wistfully, "how little I know." "Dear me," said Disraeli, "as much as that? I haven't got half that distance yet."

Biting.

Spinks—What made him so annoyed? Winks—He told his wife she had no judgment, and she just looked over him critically from head to foot and said she was beginning to realize it.

Word From Br'er Williams.

Don't be in a hurry for de long lane tur turn, fer de lion what's watin' whar de turn is may be mighty hongry!—Atlanta Constitution.

Every shadow points to the sun, and sorrow helps us to appreciate happiness.

WEDNESDAY

RIGHT in the midst of everything—a sudden thought: "Wonder how the fire is?" Then, it's leave your sweeping, run downstairs, rake and shake, shovel coal and fudge back again. Wouldn't it be fine to go right ahead and forget about the kitchen? It certainly would! And you can.

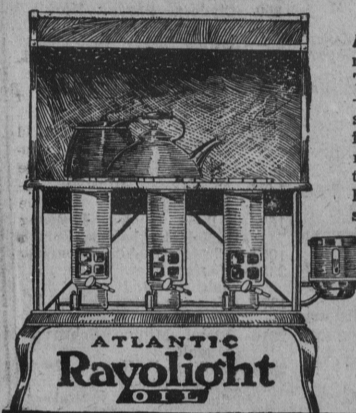
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PICKING MEN FOR WAR.

The Selective Draft Was Known in the Time of Moses.

Registration for a selective draft was known thousands of years ago. The first chapter of Numbers tells how Moses in the second year after the exodus from Egypt was commanded to choose from among the various tribes men to tabulate the names of the males over the age of twenty who were able to go to war. The passage, in part, follows:

"Take ye the sum of all the congregation of the children of Israel by their families, by their fathers' houses, according to the number of the names, every male by their polls; from twenty years of age and upward, all that are able to go forth to war, thou and Aaron shall number them by their hosts. And with you there shall be a man of every tribe. (Here are mentioned the men who are to assist in the registration.)

"And Moses and Aaron took these men that are mentioned, and they assembled all the congregation together on the first day of the second month, and they declared their pedigrees after their families by their fathers' houses, according to the number of the names from twenty years old and upward."—Chicago Tribune.

DIET AND DISEASE.

Rickets in Children Is Caused by the Wrong Kind of Foods.

"Beware of giving young children too much pasteurized milk, proprietary food or even cereals to the exclusion of brown bread and butter, stewed fruit or roasted apple and a little meat once a day," writes Dr. Beverley Robinson of New York in giving a warning note about rickets in the New York Medical Journal.

He adds that he is "considering especially children two or three years old who are healthy and vigorous unless rickets develops thereafter by reason of faulty dietary." And he quotes the following from Osler: "Like scurvy, rickets may be found in the families of the wealthy under perfect hygienic conditions. It is most common in children fed on condensed milk, the various proprietary foods, cow's milk and food rich in starches." "Rickets is the cause of knockknees and bowlegs. It is due to too little animal fat and protein in the dietary, together with too little lime salts.

Curious Choice of a Wife.

Some years ago an English curate surprised his parishioners by marrying a widow considerably older than himself. The astonishment was still greater when the cause was known. The curate had become engaged to a young girl whose frivolous conduct soon led him to regret the step. He offered a settlement for his release, but it was refused. He endeavored in every way to break the engagement, but without success.

"Is there nothing I can do to escape this?" he exclaimed one day in despair. "Yes," remarked the girl's mother, who was present and who had been the prime mover in the marriage negotiations, "by marrying me." The curate decided if he had to marry one of the two he preferred the mother and accepted her. The young girl married a wealthy stockbroker.

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