

## MONTANA'S QUEER MINE.

**It Closes Its Own Mouth When It Is Raining.**

**The Narrow Escape of One of the Mine's Owners Who Went Down Below During a Rainstorm—A Natural Wonder.**

Recent reference to the natural wonders of Montana, particularly the chicken broth and bicarbonate springs, brings to light others of equal magnitude, says the Omaha Bee. Col. John Doyle's wonderful vinegar mine in Beaverhead county passes the domain of doubt into the sunlight of truth. It is backed by crisp affidavits, and affidavits cost one dollar each in Montana. The colonel and his partners did not confine themselves to vinegar. They discovered a mountain of pure alum in the Beaverhead range.

The discovery was considered a tempest and better than a gold mine. They kept the secret a secret for several weeks, during which a shaft was sunk to the depth of two hundred feet. The out was made all the way through a solid vein of alum, and it was estimated that the whole mountain was composed of it. A large pile of stuff was heaped near the mine ready for shipment and the miners had a scheme to flood the market with their product and raise in one million dollars at one fell swoop. The other day the colonel's partner went to town to lay in a supply of grub and the former remained behind to guard the treasure.

During the morning a heavy rain began to fall and continued all day, and in the afternoon the colonel had occasion to go down into the mine, making the descent by sliding down the rope, and when once down at the bottom was taken up with a contemplation of his novel and wonderful mine that he did not heed the fleeting hours until he happened to cast his eyes upward and saw that daylight had faded from the mouth of the shaft. He started to climb upward, but had not proceeded more than half way when to his horror he discovered that the heavy fall of rain so thoroughly saturated the alum sides of the shaft that as a natural result they had drawn together until the hole was scarcely large enough for a man to crawl through.

The imprisoned man recognized his awful position, and without losing much time struggled toward the top of the shaft. Every foot he advanced the shaft became smaller, and for the last ten feet he was compelled to dig his way up with a pocketknife, and when he finally reached the surface he was completely exhausted, his clothes were torn and his body badly bruised. The rain was still falling, which soon revived the colonel, and he started toward the camp to meet his partner, to whom he related his marvelous experience. Together they returned to their mine, or at least tried to, for although they searched for two days they were unable to find any sign of their late possessions. The rain had undoubtedly thoroughly and tightly closed up the discovery shaft and melted away every sign of the alum piled on the outside, so that to this time it has been impossible to find any trace of the mine.

### WALLED IN BY CORAL.

**Natives Found on the Hidden Plateau of a Very Little Island.**

A curious discovery has been made on the island of Kitaba, one of the Trobriand group, of the northeastern coast of New Guinea. A great many sailors passing this little island have imagined that it had no inhabitants because they saw no evidence of human occupation. Sir William McGregor, the administrator of British New Guinea, says the island has an area of only five or six square miles.

On all sides it presents a low and slightly sloping margin, usually about a quarter of a mile broad, covered by heavy timber. Within is a precipitous coral wall, which can be ascended only at a few places. The bank rises to a height of three hundred to four hundred feet. Once at the top the visitor finds within this wall a plateau which occupies the whole of the center of the island and is from fifty to one hundred feet below the coral wall surrounding it.

There about one thousand natives live and till their gardens. The rich, chocolate-colored soil yields them an ample supply of food. They are completely protected from the wind by the rocky rim that incloses their plateau. The island seems to have been an atoll which was lifted above the sea several hundred feet, so that the atoll ring now forms the coral wall surrounding the plateau. On this elevated and almost inaccessible plain are thirteen villages, each of which contains over twenty houses.

Sir William McGregor says the natives gave him a most pleasant reception. He found it difficult to travel through some villages on account of the yams, cocoanuts, nuts and other articles that were laid down before him for his acceptance. There are no intertribal hostilities, and it is not possible for the natives of other islands to oppress the people, because on their plateau, naturally fortified as it is, they are inaccessible to hostile tribes. The drainage of the plateau is excellent. There are great cavities in the coral wall through which the rainfall filters and makes its way to the sea.

### Courtjester's New Hat.

"And I want a large sheet of black courtplaster," said a young woman at a notion counter the other day, "which," she proceeded to explain to a friend at her side, "is my chief meeding implement. I always mend gloves with courtplaster, using black or the light tint according to the shade of the glove. I turn the glove inside out and fit the plaster over the rent, first, of course, drawing the edges together as a surgeon does a torn skin. It is much better than sewing and lasts longer, sometimes I get an ugly three-cornered rent in a gown. My courtplaster case mends the rent, leaving practically no indications of it. I mend fans, slippers, and a third were foreign-born or of foreign parentage."

## MAPPING THE WORLD.

**A Project in Which All Nations Have Wholly Entered.**

At the geographical congress at Berne a year ago Prof. Penck proposed the publication of a map of the entire world on a universal scale of one in 1,000,000, or about sixteen statute miles to the inch, the various nations to take part in the production of the map. The proposition was favorably entertained, and a committee was appointed to take steps for its realization. The geographers of various nations on the whole have received the idea with favor, and there seems to be no doubt that the map will be produced.

Each sheet of the map up to 60 degrees north latitude will embrace five degrees in each direction. The more northern sheets will embrace ten degrees of longitude. The representation of the whole earth, including the sea, will require 900 of these sheets, while the land alone may be shown on 700 sheets. It is proposed to give great attention to the physical and political features. Dr. Ravenstein, the English mapmaker, says that the rivers will be in blue and the hills in brown. Contour lines will be drawn at elevations of 100, 300, 500 and 1,000 meters, and the areas inclosed by them are to be tinted. It is expected that sheets which deal with countries already topographically surveyed will be engraved on copper. The remaining sheets will probably be lithographed.

The Greenwich meridian will be accepted for the entire map, says the New York Sun, and all altitudes are to be marked in meters. The official spelling of all countries using the Latin alphabet is to be retained. Other alphabets are to be transliterated in accordance with a system to be agreed upon, while names in unwritten languages will be spelled phonetically. It is estimated that the cost of an edition of 1,000 copies of this map, showing only the land surface, will be \$657,190, and as the sale of the first edition at 2 shillings a sheet would produce only \$478,595 the deficit would be made up by the governments concerned or by liberal private patrons.

Prof. Ravenstein says he sees nothing Utopian in the scheme. Difficulties may arise as to the spelling of the names and the introduction of the meter, but the essential thing to his mind was the introduction of a uniform scale.

### HAMMER-HEAD SNAKE.

**California Comes to the Front With a New Discovery.**

A letter from Dr. E. E. Brown says he and party have made the most wonderful discovery up in King's River canyon, says the Selma Irrigator. In crossing a small creek they came to a beautiful canyon or basin of about three acres of level meadows, surrounded by perpendicular walls some three hundred feet high. A fine stream of cold, clear water was flowing into the little meadow, but there seemed to be no outlet. There was no way of getting down into the valley, but quail and rabbits seemed to inhabit the little basin.

A pair of opera glasses brought to light a number of snakes basking in the sun on a flat rock. They were one to three feet in length, and had heads shaped exactly like a blacksmith's hammer. While the party were examining with the glasses the maneuvers of a number of the snakes crawling through the grass, a very large one was noticed making a sneak on a cotton tail rabbit. When within about two feet of the rabbit the snake stiffened the front half of its body and bent into a right angle. Then his snakeship straightened out suddenly, bringing the rabbit a swinging blow on the side of its head which laid bunny out completely.

Another snake was observed to creep onto a quail sitting on a scrubby tree. This snake twisted about four inches of its tail along a limb of the tree and used all the rest of its body for a hammer and handle to whack the quail on the head such a stinging blow that it died without a flutter of its wings. The snake seemed to have the wonderful power of lengthening its body out nearly double its normal length and as small as a whalebone whip, the heavier part being next to the part wrapped around the tree.

After killing the quail and rabbit the snake hammered the body into pulp, bones and all, with its head, and then swallowed the whole business. The swallowing showed that the hammer part of the head could be laid back out of the way while the swallowing was done.

Every effort possible with the appliances they had with them was made to get one of the snakes, but they failed. Dr. Brown says in his letter that he will have one of these snakes to exhibit at the world's fair if it is possible.

### One Jockey's Reward.

Not only their poets and philosophers, a Tennyson, an Owen, their statesmen and public benefactors, but also their jockeys are, by the Britishers, esteemed worthy of public adoration and munificent gifts. John Osborne is one of the oldest jockeys, being sixty years old, and having been for forty-five years engaged on the different race grounds of the kingdom. He won the Derby on Pretender in 1853; the two thousand guineas cup on Prince Charlie in 1873, and the Saint Leger prize on Apology in 1874. On his retirement he was invited to a public celebration, and offered a purse of eighteen thousand dollars, accompanied by speeches made by Sir Charles Russell, the famous attorney and member of the present liberal government, and by J. H. Houldsworth, dement of the Jockey club. Among those present at this curious meeting may be further named James Lowther, well known as member of parliament and ex-minister of state.

### The Wild Man of Borneo.

The most curious character on the island of Borneo is the white sultan or rajah of Sarawak. He is an Englishman, Sir Charles Brooke, and the United States is the only nation that recognizes his sovereignty. He rules over a part of Borneo as large as Ireland, and his subjects pay tribute to him in rice.

## FOOD AT THE FAIR.

**Provisions for Feeding the Multitude at the Exposition.**

**Immense Restaurants and Kitchens Throughout the Grounds—There Will Be Ample Room for the Hungry Visitors.**

To feed the multitude at the fair next year has been a question upon the solution of which the hardest work of the officials of the exposition has been expended. After months of labor and investigation, of trials and interrogations, the ways and means committee has arranged a plan by which eatables and drinkables will be furnished for all.

The most important concession in the hands of that committee will soon be granted, and, although the names of the parties who will be awarded the privilege of handling the restaurants in the large buildings have not been divulged, Secretary Crawford has intimated that all the restaurants outside of special concessions will be in the hands of one company. To feed the people it is calculated to take at least a trainload of provisions per day. It would be impossible to properly oversee the price lists and to prevent swindling or bad food if the restaurant in each building were in the hands of separate persons. Therefore the ways and means committee proposes to have things arranged so as to be able to place the responsibility for any laxity, and to prevent inadequate service to the public.

At the southern end of the grounds an immense kitchen will be built, capable of providing for a restaurant with a seating capacity of 15,000. In this kitchen will be cooked all provisions for the main building restaurants, thereby preventing the smell of cooking permeating the exhibit buildings, as would be the case were many kitchens established.

In the forestry, agricultural, machinery, manufactures, mines, transportation, fisheries, electricity and horticultural buildings space has been reserved for cafes. In the total space reserved it is calculated that between 12,000 and 15,000 people can be served at once. These restaurants will be fitted up with warming tables, so that meats, etc., will not be cold. In allotted the space for restaurants twelve feet square was figured for each person, so as to provide ample room for comfort. After the army of cooks in the mammoth kitchen have prepared the food it will be conveyed to the restaurant wagons fitted up with appliances for keeping things piping hot. This service will require about fifty wagons, and it is the aim of the committee to see to it that there is no delay in delivering the eatables.

The ways and means committee reserves the right on all successions to fix the prices and the measures. Secretary Crawford and Chairman Butler have become so expert that they can tell off-hand how thick a slice of beef should be to bring 35 cents, or how many peanuts legally constitutes a pint. The ways and means committee does not intend to have odium cast upon the fair by allowing things to run themselves, and restaurants to reap golden harvests for nothing. While it is the intention to make all concessions pay as well as possible, it is far from the calculations of the fair officials that comfort and fair treatment shall be sacrificed to gain.

Chairman Butler, in speaking of the plans of his committee, said the other day:

"Of course, we are going to make everything pay, but it is a mistaken idea circulated by certain newspapers that we have sacrificed too much space for restaurants and concessions. We have not encroached upon the exhibitors' space. Now my idea is that, if the fair is to be a success, it is very essential that the creature comforts of the visitors be looked after. First, feed a man if you want him to enjoy himself. The restaurants are something more than money makers."

"They are necessary conveniences. If we shut them out we destroy an element which is indispensable. As the matter was originally fixed the space for restaurant was marked on the plan of each building before any space question was considered. In total we have room enough in the large buildings to accommodate 12,000 people at one sitting. That takes up 120,000 feet or thereabouts. I have seen it in print that in the machinery building so much space had been devoted to restaurants that the exhibitors had left about 150,000 square feet less than was allowed that department at the centennial in 1876. You must take into consideration that we have immense buildings devoted to machinery, electricity, mines and transportation exhibits exclusively.

At the centennial all of those departments were comprised under the head of machinery. We have so thoroughly discussed the care and comfort of visitors that I believe we are now practicable beyond any addition to the arrangements. There will be no objectionable features to the restaurants in the large buildings as the cooking will be done outside.

"In addition to the restaurants mentioned there will be others on the ground and in Midway Plaisance that will probably seat 30,000 to 35,000 people. Equipped so thoroughly in every department, I can see no cause for alibiing that we will not attend to the wants of every one, and I think that no one will find any offensive feature in the whole place."

### Murders Awaiting Trial.

Among the prisoners now in jail in the United States under the charge of homicide there are ten clergymen, fifteen physicians, eight dentists, seven lawyers, twenty teachers, two planters, fifteen stock raisers, ten cattle traders, thirty-one merchants, eight contractors, thirteen druggists, four grocers, four real estate brokers, five livery-stable keepers, twelve millers, six brewers, ten hotel-keepers, twenty-eight saloon-keepers. Of the entire number nearly one-third were foreign-born or of foreign parentage.

## AFRICAN IRONMASTERS.

**Artistic Workmen Sometimes Found in the Heart of the Dark Continent.**

The Balubans, as the natives of the Mansanyomma district of central Africa are styled, enjoy an excellent local reputation as ironworkers. They find their crude material in the form of bog iron ore on the surface of the land. It rarely happens that digging to any appreciable depth is necessary. The smelting furnaces, which are constructed of clay, are described by London Iron as from six to ten feet high, from forty to sixty inches in diameter at the base and conical in shape. The ore is tipped into the furnace from above; the charcoal, on the other hand, is introduced into the furnace through side openings, which also receive a continuous air blast, while the iron and slag are removed from the bottom of the furnace about every eight or twelve hours, according to the degree of heat obtained.

The forge is a circular building, some sixteen feet in diameter, with a pointed roof and open side. At a distance it might be taken for a park band stand. In the center of this hut is the fire, which is maintained in constant activity by means of a unique pair of bellows, which merit a special description.

They consist of a block of wood, generally twenty inches long, hollowed out and fitted with a funnel head made of clay. At the lower end are two orifices, over which skins are stretched.

Motion is imparted to the instrument by the action of two small rods.

The hammer is of solid iron; the tongs are

marvels of simplicity—to-wit. A bent palm branch. An iron wedge driven into a timber hole serves as an anvil.

The recollections of the Balubans carry them back to the time when they wrought metals with stone tools.

Some of the natives are comparatively artistic workers. Very fine axes, tastefully inlaid with copper, are produced.

Strikes among these swarthy artificers, it should be noted, are of comparatively rare occurrence, probably owing to the fact that the malcontents invariably have their heads lopped off and their skins placed on one side for patching, or in case of need entirely recovering the aforesaid curious bellows.

### STOLEN DURING THE WAR.

**Two Hundred Pounds of Silverware Recovered from a Tennessee Cave.**

The unearthing of a large quantity of stolen silverware, gold-lined snuff-boxes, etc., in a cave near Jasper, Tenn., has created a sensation. The story beats fiction a long way. During the winter of 1863-4 the federal soldiers were encamped for some time on Battle creek. Among them was an Ohio regiment. Not long since a gentleman appeared in the neighborhood and told the correspondent of the Houston (Tex.) Post the following story: He was a member of the Ohio regiment referred to, and in his mess was a soldier who was a born thief and who never let an opportunity pass to steal anything he could carry away. During the time they were encamped at the mouth of Battle creek he hid his steals in a cave, and so clever was he in his work that no suspicion ever fell on him. A short time ago the two old comrades were together talking over their experiences, when the story of the stolen silverware was told and the correspondent made that the gentleman referred to visit the locality, search for the cave and, if possible, recover the hidden silverware and restore the articles to the rightful owners or their heirs. The old soldier who had so many years ago gone wrong is getting aged and feeble, and to ease his conscience and make reparation, as far as in his power, he begged his old commander to do this for him. He was successful in finding not only the place, but the plunder. At least two hundred pounds of silverware of every kind almost were found in the cave, ranging from napkin rings to solid silver water sets. Many of the articles have the owner's initials on them and all are in a good state of preservation. The articles have been taken to a store in the village near by and are being turned over to those entitled to them as rapidly as possible.

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They have the right to do this for themselves, and the restaurants will be responsible for the quality of the food.

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