

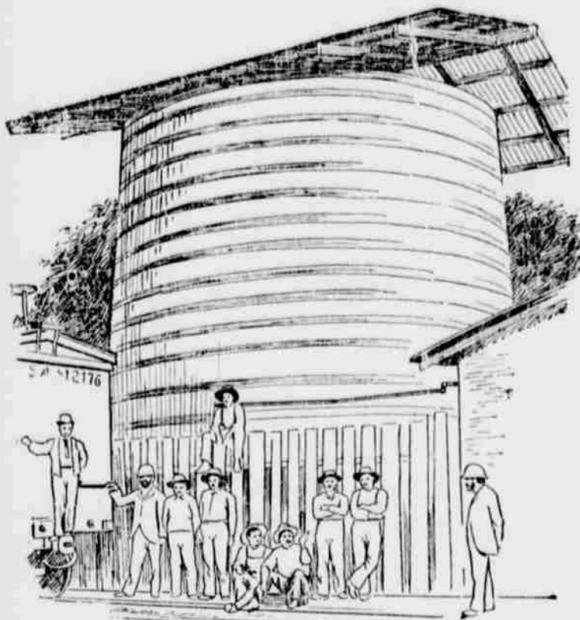
WORLD'S LARGEST CASK.

BUILT IN CALIFORNIA AND WILL HOLD 97,000 GALLONS.

Holds Enough Liquid to Give 9,000,000 Persons a Full Glass Each—Its Lumber Would Build a House Two Train Loads of Redwood Used to Make It.

The largest cask in the world has recently been completed at St. George Vineyard, located at Malvern, Cal. It contains 97,000 gallons, or enough to give 9,000,000 persons each an ordinary wineglassful of its contents. It is built of the very finest California redwood, and in all the vast amount of lumber used in constructing it there is not a single flaw.

The object of building so large a cask is to keep on hand at the St. George Vineyard a uniform supply of wine, the contents of the cask being that wine of which most is sold. To build a cask of this size, referred to as an impossibility at first, but



A CASK THAT HOLDS NINETY-SEVEN THOUSAND GALLONS.

after the matter was thoroughly discussed the members of the vineyard company made up their minds to try. So the redwood forests of Humboldt County were called upon to supply the necessary lumber.

The selection of lumber for the cask was no ordinary task, for not more than one stick in a dozen of those presented for examination would do. At last enough lumber of the very first quality was found, and then the work of drying it so that there would be not the slightest danger of shrinkage began. It required just two years to complete this task. The lumber ready, two entire trains of cars proved necessary to convey it to the nearest point to the vineyard. This lumber was amply sufficient in quantity to erect such a house as does not exist in California.

The hoops that bind the cask together are of finely tempered steel. In the aggregate they would fill two large freight cars and their total weight is 40,000 pounds. The cask towers to a height of thirty feet and is twenty-six feet in diameter. If its contents could be placed in unbroken bulk in freight cars it would take thirty of the biggest to hold it.

There is only one cask in the world which can be legitimately compared with this giant of California, and that is the great tun of Heidelberg, Germany. The California cask was not constructed with the intention of outdoing any one, but simply for business reasons. The difference in size of these two tuns can best be understood by considering the fact that the German cask holds 42,000 gallons and the California cask 97,000, showing the former to be less than half the size of the latter.

Considering the contents of the cask from the measurement of gallons, the idea of its immensity is not so fully impressed as when figuring on a basis of lesser quantities. For instance, the cask holds 388,000 quarts, or 776,000 pints, or 3,004,000 gills. An ordinary glass of wine is about a third of a gill, perhaps a little less. This huge cask would hold a sufficient quantity to permit 9,012,000 persons to partake of a glass. Therefore, if every inhabitant of the greatest five cities of the United States should pass in procession before this huge redwood receptacle each could take a drink therefrom.

Figuring the value of the contents of the cask at the price it would be retailed by the glass in the States where wine is not made, the total reached is \$901,200, so near a million that it can, without great stretching, be called a million dollar cask.

Looking at the wine from still another standpoint, quantity being always the primal basis, the cask contains sufficient to fairly flood quite a section of the land about it should it break, and the chances are it would sweep along at first with sufficient force to seriously affect small buildings which might be in its pathway. Certainly it would drown any human being who happened to be in the way of the flood. While the exact number of tons of grapes whose juice is required to make enough wine to fill the cask has never been estimated, the proprietors of the vineyard say it would run into hundreds of thousands of pounds.—New York Herald.

COAL MINE RUN BY WOMEN.

How the Stalwart Daughters of a Pennsylvania Miner Help Their Father.

An anthracite coal mine that is almost entirely operated by American female labor is the unusual spectacle that can be seen in the Mahanoy valley several miles southwest of Shamokin, Penn. The owner and operator of this mine is Joseph Mans, an industrious native of Germany, and his four grown daughters and three younger girls assist him in operating the colliery in a manner that would make many mine owners and slate pickers envious.

The Mans coal mine is located on the southern side of the mountain that marks the lower extremity of the Shamokin coal basin, and is rather a primitive operation. The women mine workers who have employment there for several years past are Katy, Mary, Lizzie and Anna Mans, daughters of the mine owner, whose ages are about twenty-two, twenty-one, twenty and eighteen years respectively. They are

been softened by the valuable assistance the girls have since rendered him. Of the seven later additions to the family four are boys and three are girls, so that Mr. Mans is now looking forward to having four young miners to assist him in cutting coal from the bowels of the earth before many years pass by.

While Mr. Mans and his athletic daughters operate the mine his wife attends to the household duties and tills their farm, which, according to his story, is a better paying investment than the mine. Since acquiring possession of the colliery Mr. Mans has made many improvements to the property in the shape of new and deeper openings and the introduction of machinery for preparing and hoisting the coal.

Mr. Mans says that it is a common thing for women to work in and around the mines in the section of Germany where he was born, and prominent mining officials recall many instances in which women and girls performed similar duties in the coal mines of England and Wales. In the latter country, however, the custom is almost obsolete now. About eight years ago Mrs. Daniel Grassens, a German woman, donned man's attire and secured employment in the Ginet mine, near Shamokin, as an inside loader. She worked on the same shift as her husband and succeeded in hiding her sex for several months. As soon as the foreman discovered that she was a woman she was discharged, although her work had been entirely satisfactory. It is said that Mr. Grassens and his mine-working wife are now prosperous German farmers in the Mahanoy valley.

THE MODEL KITCHEN.

Proper Arrangement and Furnishing of This Important Part of a House.

Very little attention is given to the furnishing of the kitchen, even in the most particular households. If a new house is being built the careful housewife may ask the architect to provide certain conveniences for the room, but generally the matter is left wholly to his directions, and unless he is a tyro he is not apt to disappoint expectations.

Modern improvements in plumbing and in ranges provide the most convenient of permanent fixtures. It is scarcely necessary to warn one against the old style of shut-in plumbing, that left innumerable crevices and crannies to give lodgment to dirt and vermin. The very best results are obtained from the use of iron pipe instead of lead, and if this be used there is much less chance of "sweating," and the consequent rotting of the adjacent wood, particularly if the pipes be painted. The woodwork of the kitchen is fully as important as that of any of the rest of the house. Pine is generally chosen, and is as good as any other wood; it should be oiled and given several coats of hard varnish, or else painted in yellow or buff.

All closets and cupboards should be built from the floor to the ceiling, without the slightest opening above or below. The door should cover just as



RESPECTIVE VIEW.

much of the front as possible, leaving room only for a narrow jamb and a shallow sill, in order that when they are opened the entire exterior may be exposed to view. Earthenware tubs are cheaper in the long run than wooden ones, although their initial cost is considerably greater. But if wooden tubs must be used, be sure they are put in most carefully, as under the best of contractors they give more trouble than any other kitchen fixture.

Above all things do not stint money in laying the kitchen floor; this must be constantly scrubbed, and if the wood checks and splinters the task is



KITTY MANS, THE SIX-FOOT COAL MINER.

Thirteen years ago Mr. Mans was employed in the mines around Shamokin, but, desiring to branch out for himself, he leased this mine, which was barely a hole in the ground at that time. Since then he has purchased the mine and tract of coal land outright, and the disappointment he and his wife felt when their first four children proved to be girls instead of boys has

heart-breaking. The highest grades of Georgia pine should be used, in narrow strips, and it should have frequent dressing. It is no economy to lay a cheap floor with the idea of depending upon a covering of oil cloth or similar material.

A very common mistake is made in putting in a sink that is too small, and in providing no place for the draining

of dishes. A sink is never too large, even for the smallest family, and if space will permit it is well to put in one that is a couple of sizes larger than



needed. At both ends should be wide draining shelves. An admirable feature, if one can afford it, is a panel of tiling adjoining the sink. This should be copped with a strip of wood containing hooks, from which may be hung lasting spoons, collanders, measures, and so forth.

As to furnishing proper, this is a very simple matter, although many people seem to think that it is sufficient to tramp into the kitchen the dilapidated and broken-down furniture from other parts of the house. There should be two plain deal tables, a large one and a small one, the latter just about the height of the range or stove. This will be found extremely convenient in cooking if drawn close to the range to hold utensils. The chairs should be of the kind that have solid wooden seats, but there should also be at least one comfortable rocking-chair. Anything that is in the nature of an ornament and has no utilitarian use is wholly out of place, and should be banished from the kitchen.

The design presented has a kitchen arranged in accord with the suggestion contained in article.

A description of design: A. Movable table. B. Boiler. C. Closet. E. Low table. F. Counter shelf. H. Chairs. M. Dresser. N. Towel Rack. P. Pantry. R. Range. S. Sink. T. Hinged table. V. Veranda.

FISHES WITH FOUR EYES.

Chinese Monstrosities Imported to New York as Curiosities.

A certain New York dealer in fancy creatures, pet and singing birds and such like things is just now exhibiting a Chinese four-eyed fish, the like of which, he solemnly declares, was never



FOUR-EYED FISH FROM CHINA.

seen in America before. Certainly, says the New York Herald, it is a curious creature, and, to all appearances, it has the four eyes its owner claims.

They are set in pairs high on the sides of the head, one "eye" of each pair looking straight up and the other sideways, each pair being fixed in a sort of fleshy protuberance that gives the fishy monster a most extraordinary appearance.

The thing was imported from China. It is a species of goldfish and is confessedly a sort of manufactured freak. The story told by the dealer to account for the extra pair of eyes is sufficiently marvellous to strain the believing powers of the most credulous. He says the Orientals who breed these fish place them in a tank which is kept in absolute darkness, save that from a lens or a mirror placed above the tank one single tiny ray of light is shot down into the water. The fish naturally seeks this ray of light and spends most of his time where it falls vertically upon his head. In time, the dealer continues, the extra pair of eyes develop.

Now, this is a fish story, indeed, and no reader need believe it unless he wishes to. It is given here simply to explain the curious freak which the New York dealer has for sale, and which he says would be cheap at \$100 of any man's money.

"In fact," he continued, "three New Yorkers have already paid \$100 apiece for three other fishes of this same type."

The Chinese have a curious name for this fish. The nearest approach to an English translation of this name is "celestial telescope," the word "telescope" being used because of the protuberant structure of the eyes.

Besides the double complement of eyes, the celestial telescope has a number of other curious characteristics. Its body is short and chunked and its tail is very long, perhaps twice or thrice as long as the body; more than that, it is so divided as to seem to be four tails instead of one.

But, notwithstanding this surplus of apparent propelling power, the celestial telescope is an exceedingly slow and awkward fish in getting about, and seems to be even more stupid than most other fish. For instance, it will not feed at all as other fish do; its food must be placed in the water on the end of a little straw or stick, in such a way that it can see it plainly, and then the food must be held in position a long time before it can be induced to eat

Test of a Rifle's Power.

The power of the Lebel rifle was exhibited at Berny, in France, recently, where a soldier was called on to shoot an escaping bull. The bullet from the rifle penetrated the animal's skull and left the body near the tail.

The Senate of the Connecticut Legislature rejected a proposed bill to grant divorce for incurable insanity.

STYLISH SUMMER WEAR.

FEMINE FASHIONS FOR THE HOT WEATHER SEASON.

Ladies' Shirt Waist of Figured Sappet—It is Becoming and Neatly Finished With Machine Stitching—Smart and Effective Design For Ladies' Jacket Basque.

Figured sappet (one of the newest materials in summer wash fabrics) is selected for this becoming waist that is neatly finished with machine stitching. The back and front yokes, writes May



LADIES' SHIRT WAIST.

Mantons, are made double, the under yoke being straight on its lower edge. The gathers are joined to the straight lower edge of the under yoke or lin-



TIGHT-FITTING BASQUE.

ing, and the pointed yoke is stitched down on its lower edges, thus insuring a neat and strong finish. The right-front is finished with a box-plait, stitched on, through which button-holes are worked for the studs or buttons used in closing. A narrow casing is applied at the waist line in back, through which tapes are drawn and tied over the fronts to adjust the fullness under the belt that encircles the waist. The turn-down collar is mounted on a high-standing band, which can be joined to the shirt waist or made separately, as preferred, the neck being finished with a fitted band, to which it can be buttoned. The stylish sleeves bear the unmistakable stamp of this year's cut. They are gathered into the arm-hole, the very scant fullness at the lower edge being gathered into straight cuffs; at the back are slashed openings, finished with under and overlaps. Percale, dimity, lawn batiste, organdy and gingham in stripes, checks, figured and plain effects, will make up stylishly by the mode.

To make this shirt waist for a lady in the medium size will require three and one-half yards of thirty-six-inch wide material.

Ladies' Tight-Fitting Jacket Basque. The double-column illustration shows an extremely smart and effective design particularly adapted for wear between seasons. As represented, it is made of smooth-faced cloth of satin finish in hussar-blue. It is neatly finished with a machine stitching and decorated with braid, portraying the military style of trimming and the military cut as well. The basque, of becoming length, is trimly adjusted to the figure by the usual number of seams, the fronts having double-breasted darts. The closing is effected invisibly through the centre-front. Above the closing the upper edges of the fronts are reversed to form pointed lapels that meet the rolling coat collar. Below the waist line at the back coat laps and plaits are formed in regular coat style. The fronts are decorated with brandebourgs, and the curving seams of the back are defined with braid that finishes in trefoil effect. The stylish sleeves have a slight fullness at the top and are close-fitting below; the wrists being completed by machine stitching and a decoration of braid above in hussar style.

Serge, chevrot, tweed and cloth are among the materials selected for mak-

ing, while braid is invariably the accepted decoration.

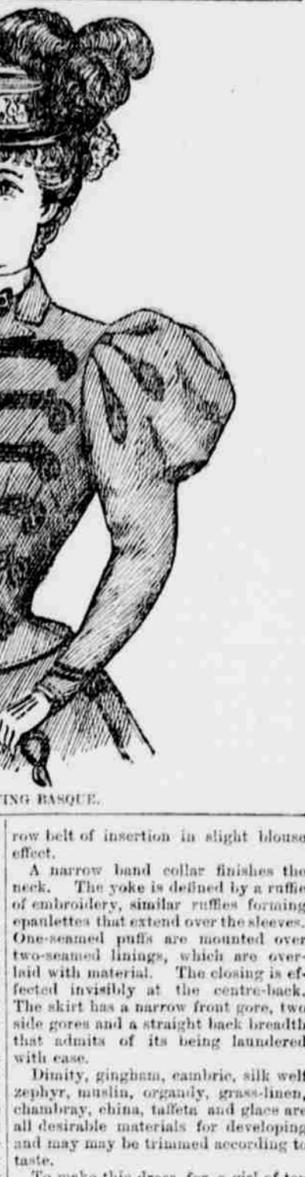
To make this basque for a lady in the medium size will require two and one-half yards of forty-four-inch wide material.

Deep Collars Favored.

Deep collars are on every possible kind of frock from evening gowns to blouse shirt waists, and the square ones, shaped behind after the sailor collar, are particularly pretty, as well as one of the touches that distinguish a gown as being of this season. The fact that chokers are less elaborate than of yore is not conspicuously apparent. Those extreme towers of lace and mull that appeared on some model gowns last year were never generally worn, and neck arrangements are certainly as elaborate now as is consistent with the idea of the frock. Smaller sleeves have naturally pushed the high trimming to the nape of the neck, a generally becoming fashion, and fewer yards of plished mull are required now perhaps to give an equally extravagant effect, for if less is worn about the shoulders there must be less about the throat.

Pretty Summer Costume for a Girl.

The pretty costume shown in illustration will prove most serviceable for summer wear. It is developed in batiste, daintily trimmed with embroidery and bands of insertion. The foundation consists of a fitted lining. The material of the dress is applied back and front to yoke depth. The full portions of the waist are gathered at the top and sewed to the lower edge of the yoke and again gathered at the waist line, where it falls over the nar-



GIRL'S COSTUME.

years will require three and three-fourth yards of forty-four-inch material.

Parasols Will Be Popular. Bright red silk parasols will be very popular this season, and the old Victorian style with fringe around the edge have come back again.