

AMERICAN PEARLS FOUND IN PLENTY.

The pearl boom is the latest successor of Klondike and its attendant excitements. For several weeks the people of Arkansas have been worked up over the discovery of pearls in some of the lakes and rivers of that State, and in some places half the population have been industriously digging mussels in the hope of sudden wealth, while the rest of the country has been agitating itself on the subject of dollar wheat. A New York di-

Several Memphis citizens have invested money in leases in White County, and the concern already referred to will make an organized effort to develop the industry in the lakes and ponds which it controls. This company has already taken out several hundred dollars' worth of pearls, but so far the work has all been done by colored diggers and divers, who are paid \$2 per day for their services. On account of the color of the water they

has received an offer of \$100. He found them all in the course of a week. Many of the natives in White County have in their possession pearls of more or less value taken from the ponds before the excitement set in. Many of them decline to say anything about their finds, as they don't wish to encourage a rush to the spot.

WORLD'S LARGEST OXEN.

Weigh 7300 Pounds—Yokes Seven Feet Long—Have Hauled 11,061 Pounds.

The greatest yoke of cattle ever seen in this country is owned by J. D. Avery, of Buckland, Mass. They are named Joe and Jerry. Their age is eight years and they measure ten feet in girth. They stand seventeen hands high, and their measurement from tip to tip is fifteen feet eleven inches. There is not a difference of ten pounds in weight between them,



SCENES AND INCIDENTS OF AMERICAN PEARL FISHERIES.

mond broker recently exhibited a very large pearl which had been sent to him from the Arkansas field, just what part of it he refused to say.

The stone is one of the finest specimens of the "sweetwater" variety ever seen in New York. It is perfectly formed, slightly oval in shape, of a pure white, and weighs thirty-five grains. It is valued at \$800. Another broker recently received a consignment of Arkansas pearls, which included a pink pearl, weighing twenty-six grains. It is worth not more than \$100, however, on account of a slight blemish on one side. Many smaller pearls have come from this same region during the past week, and there is talk of a New York company to work some of the Arkansas pearl lakes. It is possible, however, that they will be late in the field, as a Memphis company has already leased one of the most promising lakes for a term of five years for \$4500, and individual speculators have obtained control of several others.

The Klondike excitement is not to be compared with the enthusiasm in Northern Arkansas over the recent finds of pearls. At Helena and Little Rock family parties are going out to camp along the river and hunt for pearls. Most of these parties have found only small stones, but one woman picked up a pink pearl worth \$50, and two small boys who were looking for clams and not for pearls found two stones which they sold for \$25 apiece. Most of the valuable finds, however, have been made in the lakes and ponds, which are controlled by private individuals or by companies. In some places the owners have had to stand guard with shotguns to keep off the enthusiastic pearl seekers, who have been accustomed to hunt clams wherever they wished, and who think that the mere fact that the shells may contain gems worth \$100 or so ought not to make any difference in this right.

The Arkansas pearl fisheries are recommended as a good substitute for Alaska for those who are in search of hardship and adventure. There is not so much frost and snow, but there is plenty of malaria, which is apt to carry off the unacclimated visitor, and the swamps and forests which one has to traverse in order to reach the lakes where the treasures lie will supply the adventurer with as many unpleasant experiences as Chilcot Pass. Besides the malaria that hangs round the lakes and swamps, they contain sulphur and iron, which give the water a decidedly unpleasant yellowish tinge. The places in which pearls have thus far been discovered are Murphy and Walker Lakes, Cross Lake, Sulphur and Four-Mile Ponds and the creeks flowing into them. These are all in the Bald Knob country southwest of Memphis.

have to feel for the clams, which are buried in the mud, with their hands or bare feet, and so can work effectively only in shallow places. As soon as machinery can be put in, however, the bottom of the lakes, including the deeper parts, will be thoroughly dredged, and it is expected that more satisfactory results will be obtained. It is the theory of the Memphis men who are backing the enterprise that mussels occasionally shed their pearls, and that others that have died still contain the gems, and will be found buried deep down in the mud at the bottom of the lakes.

It is possible, too, that the manufacture of mother of pearl will be started to utilize the shells, as is done in Lower California, from whence most of the pearl used for buttons for our waist-coats and dresses now come from. Mother of pearl, it may be explained, is simply the smooth inside lining of the shell, which is cut out and used for buttons and ornaments.

Instances of rich finds are reported every few days from Bald Knob or the adjoining country. A few days ago a colored man, who gave his name as Harris, walked into a Memphis jewelry store and exhibited a small bag of pearls. Most of the stones were small and worth not more than \$4 or \$5 each, but there were a few of larger size, including one or two pink pearls of very good quality. An offer of \$100 was made for the lot. The colored man held out for more, and finally accepted \$150. He said that he had worked for a month and had opened thousands of shells to get the stones. He ac-

and the two together tip the scales at 7300 pounds. They hold the world's record for one pull, having drawn 11,061 pounds of stone, loaded on a dray, on a level, just eight feet in one draw. They are models of symmetry in build, are extremely kind and docile and beautifully colored. The best of care is devoted to them, one man spending several hours every day in grooming and cleaning them. They have been on exhibition at all of the principal agricultural fairs in the country.

In speaking of his handsome yoke of oxen Mr. Avery said: "The oxen have not by any means reached their limit; they have gained in weight some seven hundred pounds the past year and are capable of carrying another thousand pounds. Unlike other large cattle, their flesh is distributed very evenly, which adds very much to their looks, and they stand on their limbs as straight as a pair of calves."

"They are remarkably intelligent and well trained, as you can judge from the position which they take in the photograph. They are very active and can easily walk a mile in thirty minutes. They are colored, like all pure Holsteins, black and white. Their coats are as fine and glossy as a thoroughbred racer's. They are still working moderately when at home. Their yoke was made to order, and probably is the largest yoke ever worn by any team. It is seven feet in length and weighs 200 pounds."

"Their owning glory is their magnificent set of highly polished horns. For size, quality, mating, and beauty



THE WORLD'S LARGEST OXEN.

knowledge that he was from "down White County way," but refused to tell where he had found the gems, as he said that there were more in the same place, and he was going back after them.

A man named Deale, in Bald Knob, sent a dozen pearls to New York, and

combined their equal does not exist in the world. It may be of interest to know that their food consists of eight to twelve quarts of corn and oats ground together, two quarts of flax meal, and from six to eight quarts of bran each day, with an occasional change to suit their appetites."

THE REALM OF FASHION.

The popularity of the shirt waist, writes May Manton, has become an established fact. For warm weather wear they are made of thin washable stuffs. For the cooler season, of silks



SEASONABLE SHIRT WAIST FOR COOL WEATHER.

and soft wool stuffs, but in all essentials they are the same. The design shown in the illustration is peculiarly well adapted to autumn use and to tafetas, whether checked, plaid or plain. The back shows a shallow rounded yoke to which the body portion is attached the fullness being arranged in three box plaits. The fronts are simply gathered at the neck and shoulders

ber of seams, and fullness forming flukes are cut in each seam as an extension below the waist line. The crush collar extends round the front of the throat and meets the standing portion, which is seamed to the back, the closing being at the left side. The two-seamed sleeves are cut with slight fullness at the top. The model is entirely correct in fit and finish, and is adapted to all manner of fabrics, including zibeline, canvas cloth, whipcord, broadcloth or camel's hair.

To make this basque for a lady in medium size will require three yards of forty-four-inch material.

Ladies' Tailor-Made Basque.

Whatever else may or may not be in style the tailor-made basque is always worn. While in common with all other gowns it is subject to variations its essential characteristics are always the same. The model shown in the illustration is made of two-toned covert cloth, a novelty that has been introduced this fall, and that promises to become a general favorite. It is cut with a plain round back, and shows side forms and single under-arm gores for small and medium sizes, with double under-arm gores for those exceeding thirty-six-inch bust measure, as larger, plumper figures are so rendered easier to fit. The front shows double darts and double-breasted portion which is seamed to the right side at the centre-front and laps over onto the left. The closing is effected invisibly at the centre-front by means of hooks and eyes, and the double-breasted portion buttons over into place, the handsome buttons and fine black mohair braid forming the only trimming. The sleeves are two-seamed and close-fitting well above the elbow, the slight fullness being ar-



PROMENADE COSTUME.

and drawn into a belt at the waist line. At the centre is a double plait in which button-holes are worked, the closing being effected by means of studs. The adjustment is snug and trim, the fitting being accomplished by means of the shoulder seams and under-arm gores.

The sleeves are one seamed with the fullness arranged in gathers at the shoulders and again at the wrists, where they are finished by straight cuffs and a tiny double quilting that runs up the opening. At the neck is worn a high roll-over collar of the latest style, with stock and bow of the material. The waist is lined throughout with heavy lawn, the slight stiffness of which causes it to retain its set.

To make this waist for a lady in the medium size will require five and one-half yards of twenty-two-inch material.

Promenade Costume.

A promenade costume of Castor colored wool, showing lines of a deeper tone, is illustrated in the large engraving. May Manton says: The full fronts are composed of soft silk and the free edges of the basque are trimmed with black velvet ribbon. The stylish hat has a soft puffed crown of velvet, with aigrettes rising at the left. The basque, which is a decided change from the round waists of last season, has the fanciful fronts arranged upon a fitted lining that closes in the centre-front. The vest of silk is gathered at the neck and laid at the waist line in plaits; a tiny pointed girdle finishes the lower edge. The closing is effected through the centre-front, but may be made on the left side if preferred. The fronts that open widely over the vest are uniquely shaped. The back is fitted with the usual num-

ranged in plaits at the shoulder seam. The neck is finished with a straight standing collar edged with double rows of braid.

To make this basque for a lady in



BASQUE OF COVERT CLOTH

the medium size will require two and one-half yards of forty-four-inch material.

KEYSTONE STATE NEWS CONDENSED

CAPITOL PLANS.

Those of Architect Cobb of Chicago Accepted.

The Capitol Building Commission has finally hit upon a design for a new State House. The prize winner is Henry Ives Cobb, of Chicago. His plan has been adopted and he has been chosen to superintend the construction of the building. Mr. Cobb will begin work at once on the working plans, and expects to have them ready for bidders within a month. Contractors will be allowed two weeks to prepare bids for the construction of the Capitol. Work will begin on the legislative building before the close of the year, and it is proposed to have the structure ready for the next Legislature.

The following Pennsylvania pensions have been granted: Hugh Bigley, Pittsburgh; George F. Cunningham, Markleysburg; Christian Wetach, Allegheny; William Long, Washington; Hugh M. Cramer, Wilmington; James W. McMaster, Latrobe; John T. Fry, Blairsville; Retner Clark, Sparta; Byram M. Fullerton, Youghiogheny; Joseph L. Gray, Pittsburgh; Michael Mall, Allegheny; Jeremiah Shaver, Port Matilda; Stephen W. Cooper, Erie; Samuel Bailey, Goehenville; Henry Skiles, Incomar; Michael McMachen, Bavington; Sam. Scritchfield, Manns Choice; Peter Redinger, Everett; John G. Mazer, Sand Patch; Samuel C. Robb, Fort Palmer; Reuben Sanner, Mason; Margaretha Kauff, Allegheny; Frances Forquer, Allegheny; Martha A. Charin, Erie; Mary J. Eichelberger, Everett; Jane Kiefer, Smithton; Mary J. Martin, Eakins Corners; Abner B. Hazeltine, Matthews, Run; Jacob Shirey, dead, Mariasville; Richard Worthington, Carmichaels; Harrison Markley, Six Mile Run; William H. Crookly, Glencoe; Henry C. Allen, Altoona; Thomas Rees, Johnstown; Abraham Hill, Livermore; Henry Meintel, Hollidaysburg; Milton Rippenback, Bradford; Winchester Davis, Uniontown; David Lowery, Osceola Mills; William Hess, Blooming Valley; Meslack Hyatt, Greensboro; Samuel E. Ehrhart, Sunville; Spencer Brougham, Sayre; Daniel Ream, Johnstown; Jacob Louerbaugh, Harmarville; Mary Dewey, Rummerville; Mary Ann Shirey, Mariasville; Matilda M. Kennedy, Valley; Ann E. Suter, Napier; Frederick D. Williams, Allegheny; John P. Charlton, Washington; James Durkins, Pittsburgh; Alfred L. Coulter, Apollo; George Newman, Callery; James Davis, Erie; Eli Woodring, Swoyersville; Charles M. Ward, O'Shanter; Samuel Loux, Erie; John Butler, Wypogap; Henry Mattison, Cranberry; Mark M. Vanbuskirk, Francis; Ellen Dunn, Beaver; Julia E. Matthes, Pittsburgh; Susan Canaman, Strattonville; James Galbraith, Boalsburg; Elias B. Wilson, Cassville; Martin Pfeil, Pittsburgh; Hiram R. Minor, Hoboken; John Reid, Fleming; Archibald Van Kirk, Wampum; John Freyburg, Saxton; Levi Gee, West Newton; Abraham Lovison, Corry; James McDevitt, Patton; Joel Horn, Mariasville; John Holby, Blairsville; minor child of Edward Hoffman, Pittsburgh; Mary E. Bowman, Pittsburgh; Elizabeth McCabe, Mutual; minor child of Christian Mithshelen, Pittsburgh.

Four unknown men were run down by a Comenough engine near Summerhill, on the Pennsylvania railroad, Friday and ground to pieces. There was nothing on the remains by which they could be identified. It is supposed that they were on their way to Johnstown to look for work. John Womer, engineer, and J. J. Skelly, fireman, of Comenough, were backing the "snapper" from Gallitzin to South Fork to help an eastbound freight over the mountain, and while going through the cut the men were run over. They stopped the engine. On going back with lanterns they found four bodies, legs, arms and quivering pieces of flesh scattered about. None of the bodies have been identified.

Prof. Samuel Miles Hemperly of Myerstown was on a stepladder a few days ago engaged in trimming and tying up vines growing on the wall of his residence. He suddenly lost his foothold and fell twenty feet. While falling he accidentally struck the pruning shears into his neck, severing the jugular vein. He soon bled to death. Prof. Hemperly was 50 years old, a graduate of Heidelberg college, Ohio, and principal of the Myerstown academy for four years. He was professor of mathematics in Palatine college at Myerstown for sixteen years.

The Wyoming county soldiers' and sailors' monument was unveiled Tuesday before a large assemblage. The addresses were by Judge Alfred Darto of Wilkesbarre, Hon. Terrence V. Powderly and others. The shaft is of Vermont granite, thirty-nine feet high and weighs seventy-two tons. Figures of a soldier and a sailor guard the base, while a heroic figure stands at the top. It is the finest memorial in Northern Pennsylvania.

Three men driving a heavy wagon burglarized the residence of J. C. Kallenbaugh in the vicinity of New Lebanon the other night and secured \$10 without arousing the occupants of the house. They then repaired to a barn and measured 30 bushels of wheat and drove away. They also visited James Chapel, in the same vicinity, and found a small amount of money and stole about 20 bushels of wheat.

John H. Mitchell of Lemont Furnace, deliberately committed suicide, by throwing himself in front of a passenger train on the Southwest Railroad a few days ago at Uniontown, as it was entering the town limits at Fayette street. The engineer saw a man standing along the track, and was horrified to see him deliberately step over when not more than a rail length away and lay his head across the rail.

The body of Achilles Felker, who on Wednesday shot and killed his cousin, Cora Gress at Gouldsboro, was found Thursday morning in the barn of Geo. Felker, the murderer's brother, six miles from Stroudsburg. He killed himself with the shotgun used in the murder of his cousin. The top of his head had been partly blown off.

Mrs. C. A. Sampson of Monongahela, City, found particles of gold in the gizzards of two chickens, and when the news became known midnight marauders visited her chicken house, killing seven. It is supposed that someone dropped a piece of jewelry in the fire and the chickens found the gold among the ashes.

The machinery, leaseholds, etc. of the Enterprise Coal company, owned by Mercer and Grove City capitalists, were sold the other day at sheriff's sale for \$10,870. This company has a suit pending for \$30,000 damages against the Pittsburgh, Shenango and Lake Erie railroad for freight discrimination.

About two years ago Patrick Callahan, of Greenville, then an employe of the Conesaut Harbor Dock Co., lost a leg by a falling ore bucket. Last Thursday a verdict for \$9,000 was given him in the United States court at Cleveland.

Andrew Alken of New Castle, was taken with apoplexy while in a wagon and died in a few minutes Tuesday.