

MOATED CASTLES OF ENGLAND.

Some Picturesque Sights in a Land Falling Into Decay.

The castle moat, that ancient means of defence, so famed in song and story, is now scarcely more than a memory in all the broad lands of the queen's domains, Britain to the other, and scarce see more of a moat than an empty ditch around the castle. In nineteen out of twenty instances even the ditch has been filled up, and not a trace of the moat can be found.

There are just eight castles and manor houses in the entire United Kingdom around which is still to be found the moat filled with water, and to which access can only be had by means of a venerable drawbridge.

The nearest of these to London is Igham House, in Warwickshire. Not quite an hour's ride by train from London brings one to Igham Station. From here it is a four-mile drive to the baronial house. The road is splendidly kept, and is bordered by thick woods from almost the very door of the station until Ivy Hatch is reached, a charming little cottage boasting an age of nearly three hundred years. It is at the head of a steep, winding, green lane, which brings one to the wall surrounding the garden. This wall is of comparatively recent date, having been built during the latter part of the eighteenth century.

The garden is quaint, curious and old-fashioned, reminding one very much of the garden with which Scott surrounds Tully-veolan, with its trees and bushes clipped in fantastic shapes. A short walk over the tan bark path and one is at the moat, fully 40 feet wide, with its green water shimmering in the sunshine like an emerald of somewhat pale hue, out of which rise the massive walls of the castle, fully 500 years old. A bridge, solidly built, leads directly into the tower surmounted gateway.

It is a beautiful picture of the exterior of a typical mansion of the fourteenth century. Before us loom gray walls, covered in patches with dark green ivy, carved and fretted gateways, dark red roofs, quaint doorways, and leaden lattice windows filled with stained glass.

The distinguishing features of the interior are the baronial hall, and the private chapel. The hall is fully 100 feet long, with a ceiling supported by huge cross beams of oak. The walls, paneled with oak, are decorated at intervals with pieces of armor. What memories of medieval days such a hall revives! Days when the hall was filled by hundreds of rough knights and their ladies, and great tables groaned under the good cheer provided for them.

Over in Sussex stands all that is left of Bodiam Castle, still surrounded by the stagnant moat. Built by Sir Edward Delyvudge, in 1365, it has never been changed, and what remains of it is a perfect specimen of the architecture of that period. The outer walls and keep are still in a fair state of preservation, but the balance of the structure is nothing but a complete ruin. In one corner of the moat are to be seen two stone columns. Tradition has it that these were spanned by a crossbeam of wood, surmounted with rows of iron spikes, and that the first lords of the castle hurled malefactors from the castle walls at this point, impaling them on the spikes set in the wood.

In fair Cambridgeshire is the moated castle of Churcheleing, built by Edward I. in the thirteenth century. It is a noble pile, built in the form of a rectangle. Here Roger Bacon, the monk philosopher, spent many of his declining days, and here, in 1578, came Queen Elizabeth, to visit for three days.

Huntingdonshire has Hanham Hall, with its circular moat. It is an ugly structure. It is no longer inhabited, but is kept in good repair by its owners, who are doubtless proud of the fact that it was the residence of the Princess Elizabeth during the reign of Queen Mary.

The only moated castle that now remains to be mentioned is Great Tarrylly, in Surrey. The first structure erected on the site of the present castle was a hunting lodge built by King John about 1200. About sixty years later the lodge was destroyed by fire, and another and larger structure was subsequently erected. In 1380, for some unknown reason, the castle was besieged by peasants, and, after the capitulation of its little garrison, was entirely destroyed. For nearly two centuries no further attempts were made to build on the spot, but in 1552 the present structure was erected, and enjoyed, at that time, the reputation of being the most magnificent in all England. Its outer walls are built entirely of huge pieces of timber. It is a splendid specimen of the architecture of the time of Queen Elizabeth.

Nearly all of these castles and

manor houses are in the hands of impoverished families, and an American millionaire looking for an English home, rich in historical associations and unique, even in a land of castles, in the possession of a moat, could obtain any one of them at a bargain price.

WHY SHE KEEPS YOUNG.

Gives a Few Hints to the Faded Friends.

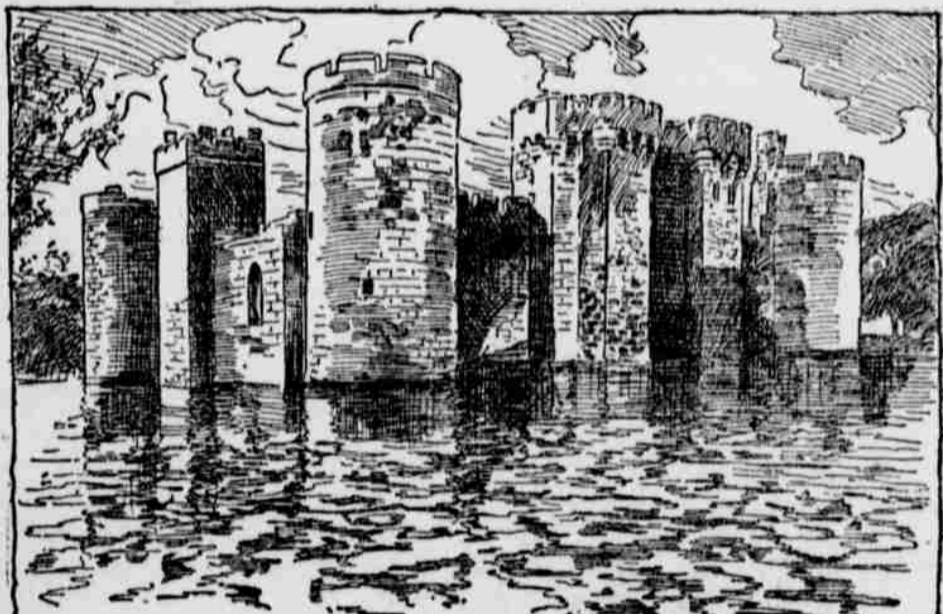
"Everyone has to do some disagreeable things in this world," said the pink-cheeked woman of 40 to the woman of 25, whose complexion looked like a bit of faded gray. "But there are always two ways of doing disagreeable things and the choice rests with the person who has to do them." The faded young woman looked puzzled and the wrinkle deepened between her eyes, says the New York Commercial Advertiser. "You and I illustrate the two ways of performing unpleasant duties," continued the pink-cheeked matron. "If I go to bed early it is because I want to keep young and healthy and good-looking as long as possible, or because I am tired or because my book is dull or for some other purely selfish reason. If you were tired to death you would stay up if you thought any one needed your society or you ought to finish your embroidery or you ought to send letters to China. If you wanted to do any of these things I wouldn't object, but you don't. It is the staying up because you feel it your duty to do so that is making you old before your time." The faded woman of 25 sighed and the cheery woman of 40 went on: "You give big parties because you think it your duty to entertain and make your house pleasant for your husband's friends. You always look like a ghost at the feast and have a nervous headache for a week afterward. You look forward with dread to a big dinner, but you give one every two weeks. I give parties, too, but not for conscience sake. I enjoy them. I never gave a formal dinner in my life and my only reason for not doing

the following resolution read: "That Hon. William F. King, member of the house of representatives from the Fifth representative district of Sussex county, be, and he is hereby, ordered to have himself united in the bonds of matrimony within the next thirty days ensuing. Or else he shall be fined an oyster supper for the members of the house of representatives of the present general assembly. The lady of his choice must be under six feet three and must not weigh over 300 pounds." The resolution was passed without a dissenting voice. It begins to look as if the members would enjoy the oyster supper. In fact, it is whispered that Dr. O'Day has already been instructed to look out for some of the finest oysters that he can secure. Mr. King has received a number of letters from forlorn maidens in neighboring states who want to link their fortunes with his. He keeps these letters locked in his desk, but says that some day he will show them. A Baltimore young woman wrote recently, inclosing a box of blue ribbon. Several widows are also reported to have implored the legislator to surrender to Cupid. Some inclose photographs. Matrimonial journals have also been sent to Mr. King, and requests for his photograph have been received. One New York woman wants to be married in the hall of the legislature, and says that if Mr. King consents she will throw in an oyster supper "to boot." Some choice literature, such as the "Ways of Cupid" and the "Marble Heart," have also been forwarded to him, but if any of the women have succeeded in making an impression upon the legislator, his fellow members cannot find it out.

IN COLD WATER.

Annual Christmas Handicap of London Serpentine Swimmers.

Long before most of us were out of bed on Saturday morning, December 24th, a shivering band of Serpentine swimmers stood ruefully surveying the ice-coated course, over which they usually hold their annual Christmas handicap. Ice, as a rule, is a trivial matter to those indomitable spirits, but it is a more serious impediment where racing is concerned. So, for the first time in thirty-four years—the whole lifetime of the club, in fact—the course was reversed, the race being started from the east instead of



BODIAM CASTLE WITH ITS ANCIENT MOAT.

so is that I don't like them. Of course I cannot escape unpleasantnesses, but I take them as lightly as possible. It wasn't very enlightening to have to nurse an old third cousin who called on me one day and was taken down with the grip. But I waited on her day and night because I wanted her to get well and go home. You would have done the same thing, even for a stranger, but not for any selfish, material motive—simply because you would halt it as a duty. When I stand for two hours to have a gown fitted I do it of my own free will. In order to have the gown I would willingly stand two hours more. No such vain courage buoys you up. You dress because your means and position and family demand it. I tell you there is a great difference in how you take things, my dear. The point of view is everything, and the right one, does one's complexion so much good."

MUST MARRY.

Or Feast a Whole Legislature on Succulent Oysters.

The way of the bachelor in Delaware political circles is a thorny one. In the present legislature there is one member of the house, Hon. William F. King by name, from Sussex county, who is a bachelor and a prosperous merchant. Mr. King is about 35 years old. He wears a beard, neatly trimmed in the latest style, and there is probably no better dressed man in the house. He attends strictly to his own business and that of his district. Even the pretty young women of Dover, who have also learned of Mr. King's single state, have been unable to make an impression upon him. In order that all the members of the house should enjoy wedded bliss, Representative Donahoe of Wilmington, the Democratic leader of the house, arose to a point of personal privilege a few days ago. He said that he regretted to learn that one of the members of the house was traveling through the world alone, and he desired to have

the west, thus insuring a stretch of water free from obstruction. Previously the winner had always finished at a flag post in the water; this time he had to reach the shore, where the winning flag was held. At 7 o'clock in the morning at this time of year is not a popular hour to turn out for open-air entertainment, and there was not a big crowd present; the fact that the race was held a day earlier than usual, too, probably took a certain number of would-be onlookers by surprise. The race itself resulted in a somewhat easy win for E. Harrison, a Cambridge university freshman, who was given a start of 29 seconds.

A Pass from Sarah Bernhardt.

A London bookseller tells this story: "One time Sarah Bernhardt visited my shop. I showed her every attention, and she seemed pleased. As she was going out she took hold of my pencil and asked me something in French which I did not understand. Seeing that she looked about on the counters, then, quick as a flash, she took up a volume of one of the very best sets of Scott, bound in tree calf, opened it at the very center, wrote something quickly, calmly tore out the leaf, handed it to me, smiled and went out." The astounded bookseller looked at the leaf and discovered that Sarah had written a pass for two to her performances that evening.

Russia's Large Standing Army.

Russia possesses the largest standing army on earth. Every year some 250,000 conscripts join the Russian forces, which in time of peace number 1,000,000 men. On a war footing this rises to 2,500,000, and calling out the present reserves would increase it to 3,647,000 well-trained soldiers. Should necessity arise the militia would be called out, bringing the czar's forces up to 9,000,000 men.

Don't think the woman who poses as a man-hater can't be induced to change her name.

KEYSTONE STATE NEWS CONDENSED

BURNED TO A CRISP.

Can of Turpentine Explodes and Fatally Injures A Child—Two Others May Die From Their Burns.

At Karthaus, near DuBois, George Lautenslager placed a can of turpentine on a shelf near a stove the other day, when the fluid exploded and the burning contents were scattered over Mrs. Lautenslager, her child and over Jessie Brownlee, a sister of Mrs. Lautenslager. The child was burned to a crisp, and Mrs. Lautenslager and Miss Brownlee were terribly burned. The father himself sustained serious body and facial burns while attempting to smother the flames.

The following pensions were issued last week: Jacob Lonerbauch, dead, Harmanville, Allegheny, \$5; Stephen Mellott, Lashby, Fulton, \$12 to \$13; Richard K. Hill, Salisbury, Indiana, \$8 to \$12; Jacob Crawford, Emerson, Bedford, \$14 to \$17; Amasa Clark, Jr., Little Marsha, Tioga, \$12 to \$17; George J. Burd, Towanda, \$14 to \$17; Henry Brant, Latrobe, \$8 to \$12; Emanuel Noel, Haver Springs, \$14 to \$17; Thomas Galbraith, Beaver Falls, \$10 to \$11; John H. Casner, Point Royal, Juniata, \$14 to \$17; Thomas Cowan, Taylorburg, Clarion, \$16 to \$17; Liberty Estes, Arbuckle, Erie, \$19 to \$14; John Melder, New Castle, \$6 to \$10; Sarah R. Shivers, Vandergrift, \$8; Rachel C. Harves, Indiana, \$5; Catharine Alt, Erie, \$5; Jessie B. Sargent, Meadville, \$12; Rachel E. Heer, Three Springs, Huntingdon, \$8; Hiram Rice, Waterford, Erie, \$6; John M. Weston, Smicksburg, Lewis, \$8; Joseph G. Whyte, McKean, \$6; George G. Cutman, Austinburg, Tioga, \$6 to \$12; Levi Wells, Springtree, Bradford, \$10 to \$20; Wm. H. Cornell, Altoona, \$6; Martin Knittel, Pittsburg, \$12; J. Wilson Brizzo, Monroeton, \$24; Richard Benjamin, Liberty, \$24; Washington Campbell, Cross Fork, \$17; John Montgomery, Punksutawney, \$8; Jacob Smith, Elderton, \$14; Nimrod B. Hoffer, Pittsburg, \$8; John W. Lytle, Coalport, \$17; Rolon J. Saxton, Granville Center, \$10; George M. Marks, Port Matilda, \$10; Eli M. Parsons, Towanda, \$14; William Underwood, Armagh, Indiana, \$10 to \$12; John M. Leasure, West Middlesex, \$12 to \$17; William H. Moore, McAllisterville, Juniata, \$10 to \$12; Elisha Bennett, Johnstown, \$6 to \$8; Henry Armstrong, Bedford, \$12 to \$17; George Johnson, Strattonville, Clarion, \$16 to \$17; Joel T. Painter, McKeesport, \$6 to \$8; Charles A. Wunderlich, Altoona, \$6 to \$8; Adam Shaffer, Mishler, Somerset, \$8 to \$17; James L. Blethen, Erie, \$6 to \$8; minor of Augustus Raymond, Huntingdon, \$10; Mary A. Jacques, Camp, Tioga, \$12.

Abraham Riggle, aged over 70 years, a wealthy and prominent farmer of West Bethlehem township, Washington county, committed suicide Monday by hanging in a cow stable. He was with a rope halter. His wife discovered him hanging to a beam. He was then alive and apparently in great agony. Mrs. Riggle had her 2-months-old babe in her arms and ran at once to the nearest neighbor, nearly a quarter of a mile away. She fell exhausted before reaching the place, but was discovered by one of the neighbors, to whom she told of the suicide.

Rescued from a vat containing caustic soda into which he had fallen, Stephen A. Hickman, bookkeeper at the Aberfoyle Mills at Chester, was saved by being plunged into a second vat full of acid which neutralized the effects of the caustic soda. Before this could be done, however, Mr. Hickman's clothing had to be cut out from his body. The accident happened in the mercantile department.

As the result of an explosion of gasoline at the home of Rev. William Taylor, Taylor, Mrs. Jackson Mack, James Patterson and John Miller, were seriously burned. The first three had their eyes so badly injured that they cannot see. The force of the explosion blew the door of the kitchen off its hinges and shattered the north wall of the house.

Judge Clayton, of Media, last week sent Abram B. Harris, colored, to jail on a ten years sentence, after his conviction on the charge of aggravated assault and battery, with intent to kill. With a monkey wrench, Harris, last January, struck a fellow-workman named Roby on the head, at Johnson's quarries, Wayne. The blow was dealt from behind and Roby's skull was fractured.

Last Friday the way passenger train, westward, ran into the rear end of a freight train at Alleghrippus, six miles west of Altoona and just west of the Horseshoe bend. John Tarr, aged 40, engineer of the first engine hauling the passenger train, and George Keim, aged 48, fireman, were killed.

General orders were issued the other day from the headquarters of the National Guard of Pennsylvania announcing that Captain John Frederick Austin, of Company A, Sixteenth regiment, and First Lieutenant James Turner, Jr., of the same company, have been placed on the roll of retired officers.

Harry Shanafelt, of Flatwoods, arrested on a charge of raising a \$1 note to \$10, and trying to pass it at an Emerson saloon, was allowed to go to the fire in the jail corridor to dry his clothing. He deliberately set the floor on fire beside the stove and then made his escape through the burning floor.

Harry Kintzer, a prosperous farmer, aged 35 years, living near Womelsdorf, is said to have eloped with Miss Beider, daughter of a neighbor, and their whereabouts is unknown. When Mrs. Kintzer learned the news she took a dose of paris green and died within a few minutes.

Aloysius Hellenbrand, a foreman on the Cambria rolls at Johnstown, was drawn through a pair of rolls, caused by his clothing catching. His wounds are frightful. Both knees are dislocated, many of his ribs were fractured and his head was scalped in a horrible manner.

Mrs. Jacob Walters died at Claysburg a few days ago, aged 104 years. Three children average 70 years of age. Mrs. Walters was never more than 20 miles away from where she died. Six great-great-grandchildren acted as pall-bearers.

Relatives of Mary Myers, who died at New Castle about two weeks ago, discovered over \$3,500 in money concealed about the premises, \$2,800 in currency and the balance in gold and silver coins.

Josephine Wyner, of Canonburg, has been informed of the death of her grandfather in Austria, and that she is heir to one-third of his estate, which amounts to \$55,000.

Lewis Correll, warden of the almshouse at Shamokin, died from a stab wound inflicted three years ago by John Kennedy, who is serving time for the act.

Forney C. Wilhelm, aged 27 years, died at Easton the other day from heart disease. He refused to take medicine and put his faith in Christian science.

Conductor Daniel Beamer, of the Cambria locomotive department, at Johnstown, was killed in an accident in the works.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

House.

After a lengthy debate the house Tuesday morning passed third reading the Toggel bill, making a minimum school term of seven months.

Making constables of townships and boroughs ex-officio fire, game and fish wardens and prescribing their punishment for failure to perform their duty.

The bill requiring owners of theaters to advertise prices of admission was amended to make the penalty for violation of the proposed act not more than 1,000 instead of not less, and laid aside for printing.

Some sensational evidence was developed at the bribery investigation held Tuesday evening. Two members of the House, Representatives John Engler, of Lycoming, and Peter J. White, of Milton, testified that they had been offered money to vote for the McCarrill bill and again to make the motion to reconsider the vote by which it was postponed to March 21.

Later Mr. Cristie admitted that the White bill tempter was ex-Representative Thomas Moyley, a Wilkesbarre book agent.

The house Wednesday morning took up the second reading calendar. W. T. Marshall's bill regulating the manner in which appropriations shall be paid to penal, reformatory, charitable or benevolent institutions, which was a special order, passed finally in the house.

A bill was introduced by Mr. Bare of Huntingdon appropriating \$40,000 for the support of the national guard for the next two years.

The vote by which the bill extending the duration of the lien of the debts of a decedent on third reading was reconsidered and the bill passed finally.

The bribery investigation Wednesday developed interesting testimony, though no such large figures as were mentioned at the first meeting came to light. Representative I. N. Johnston, who is a doctor, was offered either \$50 or \$100, he could not remember which, for a prescription and the signing of a paper. Representative B. F. Miller testified that he and Representative Johnston (both Democrats) were offered \$20 each by Representative Spatz (Dem.) to sign a paper agreeing to vote for Jenks and nobody else for senator. Miller said this offer was afterward raised to \$100 in his own case. Miller testified that he was asked to name his price for voting for the McCarrill bill.

Hosack's judgment retirement bill was up in the house Thursday and consideration was postponed until March 16. It provides for retirement after 20 years on two-thirds salary, if the judge is 65 years old. This provision would make the application of the bill rare.

The anti-trust bill was probably the most important measure which passed second reading in the house Thursday.

A bill was introduced in the house by Mr. Woodruff of Philadelphia to amend the Bulletin act by prohibiting the collection of political contributions from or by officers or employes in cities of the first class, and providing a penalty of \$1,000 or one year's imprisonment for violation of the proposed act.

When the bill shall be a violation of the act, with the knowledge of any city officer or employe, it shall be their duty to arrest or endeavor to procure the arrest of the offender and to make a full report to the civil service board. A failure to perform this duty shall be a sufficient cause for dismissal from the service.

The House Friday granted an extension of time to the special committee which is investigating the charges of bribery and connections in the repeal of the McCarrill jury bill. The committee had been ordered to report on March 13.

Chairman Fow asked the extension in the house. He said: "Your committee to investigate alleged charges of bribery in reference to legislation before this body do respectfully report that owing to the nature and character of the evidence presented and to be presented, that it will be impossible for them to conclude their report by March 13, the time fixed by resolution of your honorable body. They therefore ask that the time of their filing a final report be extended to March 27, 1909."

The tax bill drafted by the commissioners appointed for the purpose, known as the Greeny bill, and expected to yield \$2,600,000 a year, was reported to the house Friday with amendments and will be pushed through the legislature, as Gov. Stone has declared that the additional revenue it provides for is badly needed. The bill levies a 1-mill tax on manufacturing corporations, increases the foreign insurance company tax from 2 to 4 per cent, and places a 5-mill tax on the now authorized capital stock of artificial gas companies. It also increases bond tax from 1 mill to 2 mills; places a 2 per cent tax on business done by foreign building and loan associations in the state; taxes trust companies 6 mills, and provides for the return to counties of all mercantile license and personal property taxes.

Senat e. Following is the result of Tuesday's joint ballot for Senator: Quay, 101; Jenks, 77; Daizell, 17; Stewart, 8; Irwin, 5; Huff, 5; Stone, 4; Tubbs, 3; Tubbs, 1; Widener, 3; Ritter, 2; Grow, 1; Prankle, 1; Total, 231.

Mesdieu pro tem. Snyder presided in the senate Tuesday morning. The following bills were introduced: Increasing the salary of the secretary of the state board of health from \$2,600 to \$3,500 a year. Jenks 8, Tubbs 1.

Governor Stone nominated William R. Tucker for master warden of the penitentiary at Philadelphia, the senate promptly confirming it.

Wednesday's ballot for United States Senator resulted as follows: Quay, 105; Jenks, 80; Daizell, 17; Stewart, 8; Stone, 4; Widener, 3; Smith, 1; Ritter, Irwin, 5; Huff, 5; Rice, 2; Grow, 1; total, 241; necessary to a choice, 122.

Senator Brown, of Westmoreland, Wednesday morning introduced a local option repealer which aims to repeal the old act of 1866 prohibiting the issuance of any but retail licenses in Westmoreland county.

By Senator Stiles a bill was introduced providing for the better management of state quarries, and for the appointment of an inspector at \$2,500 a year.

The vote Thursday on joint ballot for United States senator resulted as follows: Quay, 85; Jenks, 75; Daizell, 19; Stewart, 7; Stone, 4; Widener, 3; Smith, 1; Ritter, 2; Irwin, 5; Tubbs, 1; Huff, 7; Rice, 2; Grow, 1; total, 223; necessary to a choice, 122.

In the senate Thursday Mr. Cumings introduced a bill regulating banking and trust companies hereafter to be formed. A special feature was that "No director, officer or employe of any corporation to be formed under this act shall be a borrower of its funds under application for such loan shall be approved by a majority of the directors, and then only upon the applicant furnishing approved collateral of sufficient market value or an indorser of such financial standing as to make the loan good, and failure of directors to meet these requirements shall make each member of the board individually liable for the whole amount of any loan in violation of its provisions."

MINES AND MINERS.

Bill Introduced in the New Jersey Legislature to Prevent the Formation of the Oligastic Coal Trust.

Assemblyman Abbott has introduced in the house of the New Jersey Assembly, a resolution against the proposed combination of the coal-carrying companies of the country, asking the attorney-general if there is no existing law in this state under which such a combination could be prevented; to draft a bill covering the subject, with penalties. The resolution was tabled before its character was explained.

Simpson & Watkins of Scranton, Pa., have effected a consolidation of the eight different coal companies in which they are interested and disposed of them to a syndicate, incorporated under the title of the Temple Coal Company and having a capital stock of \$1,500,000. They retain an interest and Mr. Watkins becomes president and general manager.

The Sauntry iron mine, on the Mesaba range, has just been sold to the American Steel and Wire Company. The price expressed in the deed of transfer is \$3,000,000 and other valuable considerations, but it is said the actual figure is \$500,000. The mine covers five "forties," and lies one-half mile north of the Virginia. The one is of a mixed character, about the same as the Oliver mine. The bulk of it is non-hesemer, but there are spots that contain good besemer ore.

The deposits of Cannel coal near Hill Dale, Ky., will be investigated during the coming spring. There is said to be good coal in the vicinity, but the seams are thin and the largest is owned by many small farmers who probably have an exaggerated idea of its value.

Dr. Eugene Smith, State geologist, has estimated the mineral production of Alabama for the past year as follows: Coal, 6,509,223 short tons; coke, 1,390,254 short tons; iron ore, 2,292,158 long tons; pig iron, 1,026,459 long tons; stone for flux, 499,539 long tons; beach-ite, 13,818 long tons; lime, 127,588 barrels.

For the past ten days A. Howard Fleming of Fairmount, W. Va., representing a number of Pittsburg and Western Pennsylvania capitalists, has been leasing coal rights on lands on the west side of the Monongahela river directly opposite Morgantown and extending back to the mines. The thousand acres have been leased or secured by ten-day options, and Mr. Fleming says that it will not be many weeks until one of the biggest coal and coke plants in this section will be built. The coal is of the best quality and the vein sixteen feet thick in many places.

The steamship Venus arrived in Delaware Bay recently burning sugar as fuel. All woodwork which could be spared had already been consumed and to reach port it was necessary to burn a portion of the cargo, worth \$60 a ton. On the same day another vessel stopped at Lewes for coal. She was en route from Mauritius to Boston and only 25 tons left in her bunkers.

Senator Cunningham's anti-trust bill, which passed the Alabama Senate opens the way for the solution of the convict problem. Its most important provisions are those which require that from January 1, 1900, not more than one-half the convicts be sentenced to hard labor for the State shall be hired or leased to mine operators and that no county convicts shall work in the mines.

A Pennsylvania paper says in regard to sending Anthracite abroad: "If the operators owned their own coal, freighters we think they could afford to carry their own coal at \$1.00 less than the present rates and land our coal in the market at a cost of 50 cents less than the English product. This is the important question for them to determine and their interests demand that they investigate it at once." There will be little heard of this scheme after the leases are renewed.

Naturally Washington operators do not want any change made in the tariff on coal and the new Senator from Northwest, Mr. Simon, has been written to upon the subject of C. J. Smith, general manager of the Oregon Improvement Co. and the Pacific Coast Co., which controls the principal mines on the coast. The duty on coal is a many sided question. The Ohio operators would like nothing better than reciprocal free trade, but at the extreme East and West protection is necessary if the industry is to thrive on this side of the line. New England politicians are not anxious that the coal trade should thrive as their people are consumers, not producers. If Senator Simon pays any attention to the letter asking for his assistance he will find that he has entered upon a perplexing subject.

The exportation of Pennsylvania Bituminous coal from Philadelphia to the West Indies, South America and Mexico has steadily increased since the close of the Spanish war. Over 41,841 tons, representing thirty cargoes, ranging from 256 to 1,000 tons each have been shipped by local dealers since January 1.

PROMINENT PEOPLE.

Physicians report that the Pope has fully recovered from the surgical operation.

Senator Clark, of Montana, was working in a mine in Central City, Col., thirty-six years ago.

General Sir Arthur Cotton is one of England's oldest soldiers, being in his ninety-sixth year.

Ex-Governor William R. Merriam, of Minnesota, has been appointed to be Director of the Census.

Baron de Courcel, lately French Ambassador in London, has been elected a member of the French Academy of Moral and Political Sciences.

General Guy V. Henry, Military Governor of Porto Rico, is the grandson of Daniel D. Tompkins, twice Governor of New York and once Vice-President of the United States.

According to an announcement issued from the imperial office for regulating the affairs of the chase, the Kaiser bagged last year 377 head of game, while attending the different court shooting parties.

President W. H. Connell, of the College for Negroes at Normal, Ala., is the only colored President of a college born in slavery and self-educated. He was seventeen years old before he knew the alphabet.

Ex-Commissioner-General Esqan, who was suspended by President McKinley for 2 years on full pay for his attack on General Miles, has gone to Honolulu, where his son is largely interested in coffee plantations.

The President of the French Republic receives a salary of \$125,000 outright, and his allowances of one kind or another are so much more, making altogether the sum of \$250,000 for keeping up the French presidential establishment.

Chief Naval Constructor Hitchburn is now a Rear Admiral by virtue of the provisions of the Naval Personnel bill relating to bureau officers in the Navy Department. Admiral Hitchburn has been in the naval service for forty-five years, having entered as an apprentice boy.

General James Adams Beaver, who was a member of the War Investigating Commission, was born in 1837, served in the Civil War, and lost a leg in the campaign against Lee in 1865. In 1886 he was elected Governor of Pennsylvania and served until 1891. After that he practiced law, and is now a Judge of the Appellate Court of Pennsylvania.