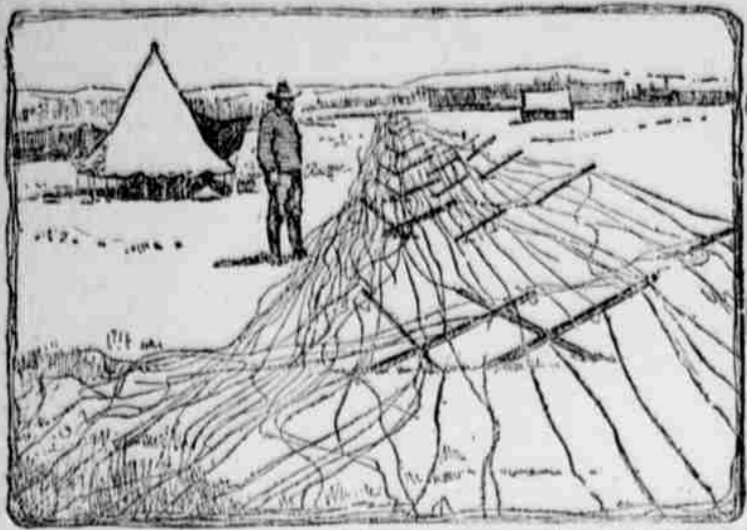


BARBED WIRE IN WARFARE.



SPIKED WIRE ENTANGLEMENTS PLACED AROUND CHIEVELEY STATION IN SOUTH AFRICA AS PART OF THE BRITISH DEFENSES.

The Blossburg "Gusher"

Greatest Oil Strike on Record.

PENNSYLVANIA'S NEW KLONDIKE.

A RIVER of oil has created a second Klondike in Pennsylvania. It has made a city of a mountainside hitherto sacred to rattlesnakes.

It has added millions to the real estate values and made heiresses of poor farmers' daughters for many a mile around.

Most important of all, it has proved that the geologists were wrong when they decided, years ago, that oil would never be tapped east of the Alleghany watershed, and it suggests the possibility of the world's oil market being flooded to such a degree as to bring prices down to next to nothing—that is, if Mr. Rockefeller were not here to keep them up and put the difference in his pocket.

Such, in brief, are the facts concerning the Blossburg Oil Company's well, the source of a river which is jealously guarded and imprisoned as it gushes from the earth, because every gallon of it is worth money.

It is pouring out wealth at the rate of \$65,000 a year—a thousand dollars a day—and it represents only the beginning of what may be expected of a region where land is ten thousand times more valuable to-day than it was before the oil discoveries.

This last is a literal fact. If the



DELANAN AYLESWORTH. JOHN AYLESWORTH. (The brothers who have struck oil.)

mountainside had been offered at auction before a drill had been sunk it would not have fetched ten cents an acre. Now there is not an acre that would not sell for \$1000, with a mob of bidders fighting for precedence.

Pine Creek, the most famous trout stream in Pennsylvania, is the centre of this oil rush, which rivals the gold rush of Cape Nome. The big well—there are many smaller ones around it—more are being sunk every day in three-quarters of a mile south-east of Gaines, Tioga County. It penetrates the rock for 654 feet near the edge of a bluff that rises 120 feet from the bed of Pine Creek.

There was a time when the hills for miles in every direction were covered with the finest pines in Pennsylvania. But the creek has floated out billions of feet of timber, and now the region is a desolate one of stumps and branches, repellent alike to the agriculturist and the artist.



UNABLE TO CONTROL THE FLOW OF OIL.

The story of the "Great Gusher," as it is known in the parlance of oil men, is one of the romances of fortune, deserving a place beside the bonanza tales of California and Nevada. Those for whom the well is pouring forth its \$1000 a day are country merchants and professional men, formerly of moderate means, none of whom knew anything about the oil business. They are former Senator Walter Merrick, John Aylesworth, Del. Aylesworth, William Aylesworth, Dr. D. O. Merrick, George Clark, J. D. Connors, W. S. Scott, Mark Davis, W. H. McCarty, A. E. Botchford, H. R. Whittiker, F. R. Stratton, W. C. Babcock, F. L. Jones and W. A. Roberts.

repaid the partners their entire expenses on the lease—the investment had cost them only \$5200. At the close of the fifth day they were \$14,000 richer for the mere trouble of catching the oil. Then the Great Gusher sobered down to the cheerful song of \$1000 a day, and this it continues to sing,

week days and Sundays, with no sign of weariness.

It is the greatest well known to the northern oil fields since 1882, when the Cherry Grove field, in Warren County, Penn., made the world ring with tales of sudden fortune.

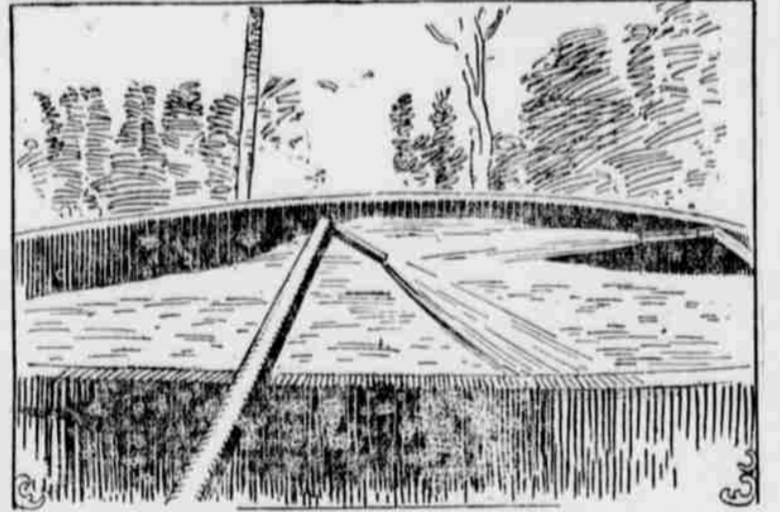
Cherry Grove knocked the bottom out of oil prices and rained thousands of men engaged in the oil business elsewhere. Blossburg may do the same thing if it proves to be over a big lake of oil and not merely a small pool, as was the case with Cherry Grove, which exhausted itself in a year.

This important question can be settled only when test wells have been sunk for miles around, and from the way speculators are rushing into the Pine Creek region doubts must soon be dispelled.

The Blossburg property is being honey-combed with drills. A well near the Great Gusher is yielding 640 barrels a day, and another is productive in a smaller degree.

Just what kind of sand the oil comes from no one knows. As soon as the tools pierced the shell the well flowed and no sand was bailed out. Whether there is ten feet of it or fifty, whether it is brown, white or gray, no one knows as yet. The company has been kept too busy caring for the oil to worry about the color or thickness of the sand in which it has been stored up.

The little town of Gaines has acquired some of the character of a Western mining camp. The hotel has been overflowing for three weeks and the proprietor has secured every vacant



OIL FLOWING INTO TANK FROM THE BLOSSBURG "GUSHER."

With the slenderest shadow of a hope—merely, in gambling parlance, to "have a run for their money"—the partners decided in favor of the well. In selecting the bluff near the upper end of the property they disregarded the advice of experienced oil prospectors. To drill there was pronounced an act of folly.

To emphasize the hopelessness of the case work was begun on Good Friday, April 13. Any gambler would have laid big odds against such an unhappy combination.

For ten days the drill burrowed its way through varying strata. On Monday, April 23, it gnawed slowly for an hour through a hard formation more than an eighth of a mile below the surface.

"She's struck sand!" shouted the driller.

It was only that the drill had dropped into a softer formation—and the sand was likely to be as barren as Coney Island's—but force of habit impelled this cautious man to connect the well with the storage tank provided to save the first rush of oil.

He was just in time. Before the tools could be withdrawn from the hole a yellow torrent gushed forth and filled the tank with a roaring and a splashing that sang of millions.

"She's struck oil!" was the shout; and it echoed down the valley and beyond, till at every farmer's door and on into the cities were echoed the magic words, "Struck oil!"

Every telegraph wire in the land flashed the story of the Blossburg Oil Company's Great Gusher, and capitalists began to speculate on the strange developments that might follow the discovery of a subterranean petroleum lake east of the Alleghenies.

As for the Great Gusher, it spouted forth 2200 barrels the first day and 2500 the second day.

Before noon on the third day it had

room in town for his guests. The telegraph and telephone have become metropolitan in their activity. Keen men with large bank accounts roam everywhere, snapping up speculative chances. Their talk is all of barrels and dollars, leases and wells, drills and pipe lines.

The Standard Oil Company, alive to the great possibilities of the new field, is laying a four-inch pipe line across the mountain to connect with their main pipe line twenty miles away.

On the lighter side of human nature at the Pine Creek rush are ranged the clairvoyants and hazel twig magicians who infest new oil fields. One of these "oil smellers" will sell out his own gifts as a prospector for from \$10 to \$150, according to the means and credulity of his client.

Some of the individual cases of sudden fortunes are full of interest.

Joseph Bernauer was a poor man two years ago. His little farm on the bank of Pine Creek yielded him a living and that was all. He peddled milk every morning and evening to the housewives of Gaines.

His farm proved to be right on the oil belt and his income from royalties is now over \$500 a month.

This discovery has made a group of country storekeepers and small farmers rich in a trice. Men whose total worldly possessions were worth perhaps \$500 have been offered \$125,000 for their rights in this gusher.

How to Live a Century.

Dr. D. K. Pearson, of Hinsdale, Ill., a millionaire who is making it his business to give away his money to enterprising colleges in the West, recently made some very interesting statements in explanation of his condition of hearty and hopeful health at the age of eighty years. He says he expects to live until he is a hundred, and his rules of life are worth considering. "Most men dig their graves with their teeth," he said. "My stomach is my friend and I'm happier than any other man on earth." He says the man who wants to live to a ripe old age should keep cool, not overload the stomach, breathe pure air and lots of it, eat a vegetable diet, not eat late suppers, go to bed early, not fret, not go where he'll get excited, and not forget to take a nap after dinner. Though he is a doctor himself, he threw all his medicine away years ago, and he says he does not know what an ache or pain is. He takes regular delight in his gifts to colleges, but will not allow anyone to make a hero of him, as he hates excitement. He says a man must "keep cool" if he wants to live a hundred years. "It's the worst thing in the world," he maintains, "to get angry or cross." He gets up at 6, eats a light breakfast, works till noon, eats a vegetable and fruit dinner, without tea or coffee, takes it easy the rest of the day and goes to bed at 8. He says he does not want to die till he has given away all his money.

Even the rich girl may have a poor complexion.



THE EDICTS OF FASHION.

NEW YORK CITY (Special).—The new Harper's Bazar kimono, may be treated effectively in foulards, wash silks, India weaves, or lawns. The fullness



A KIMONO WITH RUFFLES.

of the skirt may be pleated or gathered into the yoke. The design provides for two box-pleats on each side of the front, and three similar pleats in the back. It consists of one-half of yoke, full sleeve to be pleated or gathered into armhole, hand for sleeve, and wide collar-band passing about the neck. Where ruffled trimming is preferred, these bands may be omitted. If the garment is to be served as an invalid's wrap it may be lined throughout with veiling or thin flannel of contrasting shade. Where lawn, cotton crepe (a very serviceable medium), or Persian figured foulard is to be employed and the garment is to be used as a cozy lounging-robe for summer wear, it will not need to be lined. An endless variety of pretty effects may be secured in kimonos by introducing yoke and bands of plain color with skirt and sleeves of Oriental silks or lawns. White wash silk, lawn, or batiste may be embellished with pale pink, mauve, or blue silk bands and

now have helped to bring about this change, and the desired result may be obtained by running a piece of the material down over the top of the sleeve, or a three-cornered cap, or epaulettes, is used either loose or applied onto the top of the sleeve. Every device is employed to give the proper long shoulder effect and added breadth, too. Many of the lace-trimmed gowns have inserting carried over the sleeve top, ending in a point.

Hats and Capes to Match.

A late mode that deserves mention, just because it is so very new and novel, but too conspicuous to find favor, is the fashion of having hats of light tints and short chiffon capes to match, that are only suitable for mid-summer wear. While this idea will undoubtedly be short-lived and scant-favored, yet it is among the novelties of the season. Combinations of pink and blue are most commonly exhibited, but one absurd creation was of pale green in toque shape, trimmed with bunches of green and purple grapes with a green chiffon cape tied with purple ribbons.

Summer Street Gowns Shorter.

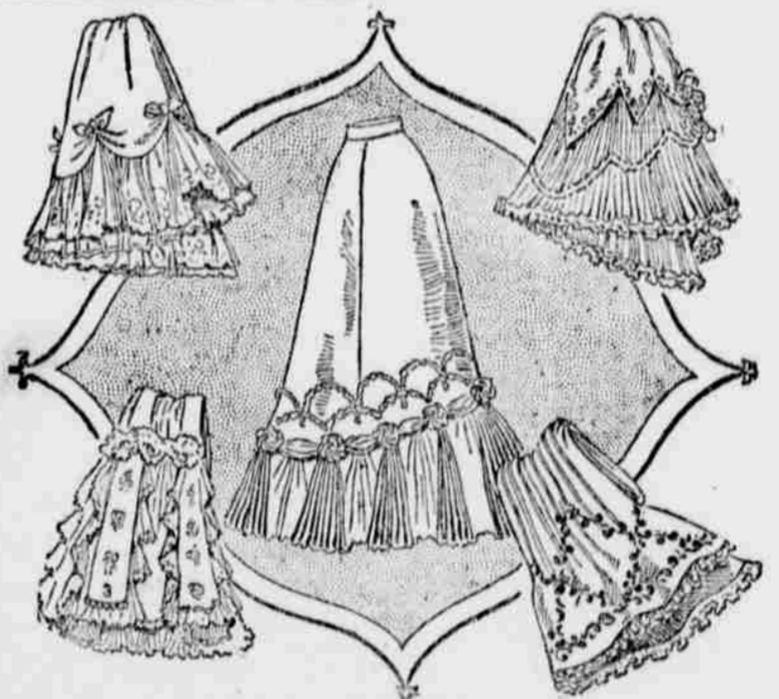
Summer gowns for morning and street wear are being made decidedly shorter, some even quite to clear the ground, or at least to so stand out all around that there is no apparent train effect. The demi train is still en vogue for afternoon dressy gowns and indoor wear. Very few underskirts are worn this season under the dress skirts, and these are fitted exactly to the outside one with as little fullness as possible, to preserve the correct slender effect.

The Sunshade Year.

The rose-petaled effect is one of the handsomest of the season's parasols. While lace inserts in silks, tucks horizontal or vertical, cordings and plisses of every variety of stuff are so artistically treated that the sunshades of 1900 seem to put all the other years in the shade.

Neckwear Galore.

In neckwear long lace scarfs, knotted ends, Empire ties, berthas,



PERFECTION IN PETTICOATS.

yoke. If ruffles are used the material for same should be cut on the straight of the goods and of uniform width—viz., five inches deep. Nine yards of material 27-30 inches wide will be required to make this kimono for a person of medium size.

Petticoats From Paris.

The group of gorgeousness in petticoats shown in the large engraving, straight from gay Paris, illustrates to what extent they carry the elaboration of trimming, of which they are so fond. Knife pleatings, appliques, frills, ruffles, lace, ribbon and the silk itself, all find a place on these 'chef d'oeuvre' of lingerie. Silk is the textile invariably used by the women of Paris for their underskirts for ordinary wear, and for state occasions and for high toilets very rich broadcades.

In shape they follow the trend of the fashionable outside skirt, having very narrow gores and a not exaggerated flare from the knees down. The latest ones close up the side. A broad flounce is the most usual trimming for their bottoms, sometimes graduating from the back and sometimes straight around. Knife plaiting is most used for these flounces, and in some cases this is done at intervals, leaving space for an embroidered or lace inserting or applique.

Incrustations of velvet or silk, as shown in one of this group, are also very fashionable. They begin on the flounce and extend half-way up the skirt.

Long Shoulder Effects.

Women who have been bewailing the too terrible trying effect of the perfectly plain sleeve, will rejoice to hear that word comes from an authentic source that there is to be a little fullness in the tops of the sleeves, or a little trimming to modify the very close-fitting effect. Of course, this will not be generally adopted, as yet many gowns are being still made with the perfectly smooth sleeve top. The long shoulder seems de rigueur

froths for bolero jackets, four-in-hand silk ring scarfs, and the familiar stock collar in a thousand forms comprise the assortment.

A Pretty V-Shaped Neck.

A V-shaped neck, filled in with transparent lace, is a pretty accompaniment for the lace undersleeve.

A Decided Novelty.



Coats finished off about the neck without a collar are decided novelties this season. The one shown here is for a general utility outing costume, a light-weight, dark-colored Oxford mixture, the facings of revers and cuffs being melton in a buckskin shade. The hat, a soft brown felt, is recommended for its becoming smartness.

KEYSTONE STATE NEWS CONDENSED

PENSIONS GRANTED.

Electric Plants in Westmoreland County Sold.
Boy's Narrow Escape in an Ice Cooler.
Coke Plant Shut Down.

Shilo S. P. Walthour, Kittanning, \$8; Robert Johnston, Port Royal, \$12; Martin Thompson, Tarentum, \$10; George S. Mason, Franklin, \$8; George C. Campbell, Braddock, \$6; Laura S. Pontions, Dayton, \$8; Josephus Perkins, Elizabeth, \$8; George Calvin Thompson, New Castle, \$6; Robert Newton, New Brighton, \$10; Benjamin F. Douglas, Mount Union, \$8; Henry Shaffer, Mount Union, \$10; Elizabeth S. Champion, Woodlawn, \$12; Mary E. Sanderson, Saxton, \$8; Martin V. Cramer, Kittanning, \$8; David Groves, West Alexander, \$10; James T. Corb, Hickory, \$6; Sylvester F. Hildebrand, Apollo, \$8; William H. Halbert, Sheridanville, \$12; Joseph Leungman, Hillsdale, \$10; Samue Alec, Walker, \$8; Alexander Mahone, Elizabeth, \$8; Frederick Ramer, East Finley, \$12; Charles D. Andrus, Beaver Valley, \$8; James Inch, Mt. Pleasant Mills, \$10; Mary A. Bridge, mother, Blairsville, \$12; Mary Lemon, Tarentum, \$12; Mary E. Hillard, Butler, \$8.

Joseph Billups and William Kline, two boys aged 9 and 7 years, of Jeannette, had a narrow escape from being entombed alive. They were playing with companions and crawled into an ice cooler in the rear of the Hotel Marion. An employe of the hotel closed the door, securely fastening it on the outside. The boys made vain attempts to escape, yelling with all the power of their lungs. Almost unconscious, the younger of the lads lay down on the damp floor and happily placed his hand upon a hatchet. With that instrument the elder boy succeeded after four hours of suffering to cut himself out.

The Irwin Electric Light and Power Co., the Jeannette Electric Light Co. and the Manor Electric Co., owned by local capitalists, have closed a deal whereby the plants were sold to a party of men at Greensburg headed by Hon. E. E. Robbins and M. L. Painter. The consideration was \$75,000. The plants light the boroughs of Irwin, Jeannette and Manor, furnish electric power for the Greensburg-Jeannette trolley line and also furnish power to run mining machines at Manor for the Westmoreland Coal Co.

The Larimer Coke plant, at Irwin, owned and operated by the Carnegie Company, suspended operations for an indefinite period, owing to inability to secure coal to keep the ovens going. The coal has been furnished by local companies, but, of late, they were unable to furnish the supply, and for some time past the coal has been brought from the Connellsville region. The shut down throws about 100 men out of employment.

Five bids are in the hands of the Johnstown Passenger Railway Company for the construction of the electric line from Johnstown to Windler. The contract will likely be let the first of next week. The road will be 12 miles long and will be a modern one in every particular. The contract calls for the completion of the line by November 15, and it is thought cars will be running on it by Thanksgiving day.

Nearly \$40,000 has been paid out this week to Indiana county farmers for their coal rights. The purchasers are the Rochester and Pittsburg Coal Company. Lucius W. Robinson, the president, was there Monday. Attorneys are making abstracts of titles for lands along Crooked Creek. Engineers are testing the lands in an unbroken field from the northern to the southern boundaries of the county.

Some days ago a well was drilled south of the Klondike coke field, Fayette county, for the purpose of getting a supply of gas. When a depth of 1,400 feet was reached oil was struck in quantities amounting to 20 barrels a day. The territory is being quietly leased. The field is not far from the Greene county field, and some oil has been struck there before.

George Collins, a prominent and influential farmer residing near Newville, in the upper end of Cumberland county, was shot through the heart by his brother-in-law, Martin Frey, and died instantly. Collins charged Frey with interfering in his family affairs and in doing so he attacked Frey with an ax. Frey claims he killed Collins in self defense.

M. E. Dunham, of Bradford, has sold his interest in the Dundee lease in the Grand Valley Field to the Stanton Oil Company, of Titusville and Grand Valley. There are 20 producing wells on the lease and considerable undeveloped territory. Mr. Dunham's holdings comprised a fifth interest and brought approximately \$70,000.

The Democrats of Armstrong county have nominated Sheriff J. S. Gallagher for the Senate and endorsed Gen. Crawford, anti-Quay Republican, for assembly. Hereafter the Democrats will have only one candidate in the field for commissioner and jury constable, and will nominate by committee another candidate for assembly.

Pure Food Inspector Cuthall, of Meadville, acting with the Grocers' Association of Erie, has determined to inaugurate a vigorous crusade against the illegal oleomargarine. It is expected that there will be many prosecutions as the bogus butter has been freely sold by grocers who had no licenses.

At Washington the jury in the murder case of Frank Maree, for the killing of George W. McCammon at West Alexander, rendered a verdict of "guilty of murder in the second degree." The jury was out about six hours.

Lorenzo Decker and his affianced bride, Fannie Sager, were killed late Monday night by a passenger train on the Pennsylvania railroad at Ridgway. The woman was instantly killed and Decker died early next morning. The young people were to be married on June 1.

Joseph McLunn, of Sharon, was seriously injured by a cow. The animal turned on him when he attempted to get on her back, and knocked him down. One of her horns entered his mouth and a gaping wound was torn in his face. She gored him several times.