

# FREELAND TRIBUNE.

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The King of Italy is said to be dominated by his mother. A good many worse things might be said of him.

Experience teaches that great success may be made up of trifles, but the man who trifles can never achieve great success.

An automobile has ascended Pike's Peak, 11,000 feet high, and descended in safety, which establishes its practicability as a hill climber.

The New York family that moved sixty-one times in a year is qualified to write for the magazines on the question, "Is it cheaper to move than pay rent?"

After we have had about one more summer like the past one has been most of us will be able to understand why people keep on trying to find the north pole.

It seems as if soon the only way a man could go deer shooting in safety from the bullets of embryo hunters would be to strap antlers to his head and crawl on all fours in the underbrush.

The ladies who watched the vivisection of a frog in Paris were overcome with horror at the sight. They should have prepared themselves for the ordeal by going fishing with live bait or by eating a live-broiled lobster.

A St. Louis couple who posed as principals in a "mock marriage" ceremony are greatly disturbed by the declaration of the Circuit Court Judges that the wedding was a legal one. They are not the first persons to learn that marriage is no joke.

Predictions have been made from many sources that the winter will be severe. The Sioux Indians see signs of a hard season in the fact that the buffalo grass produced a heavy crop of seeds the past summer—a sure sign, the redskins say, of a severe winter and deep snow.

Dr. F. Larroque reports to the French Academy of Sciences that his studies of the action of sounds upon the human ears prove that the auditory apparatus of each ear operates independently of the other. This appears to have a bearing upon the question whether loss of hearing by one ear exercises an injurious effect upon its mate.

Two opinions regarding bicycling and lebricity come from London and Louisville, Ky. An authority at the English capital maintains that a drunken man cannot ride a bicycle at all, while a Kentucky authority says that a drunken man can ride a bicycle better than any one else. It is probable that the two authorities use entirely different brands of goods.

The awards of the jury of final appeal at the Paris Exposition give the bulk of the prizes to French exhibitors, as a matter of course; but outside of the home awards the United States exhibits have fared very well. In every classification Americans carry off the larger number of first honors allotted to foreigners, save only in grand prizes. In view of the searching and unsparing competition of the best the world affords, American primacy at the Paris World's Fair may be fairly regarded as a conspicuous feather in Uncle Sam's hat.

Germany is not free from leprosy. The malady is actually increasing. In Prussia, in the district of Memel, close to the Russian border, 22 cases have been discovered so far. At Hamburg 10 cases have been found; in Mecklenburg-Schwerin one.

In the United States there are 134 cities which have a population exceeding 30,000. They have a total population of 18,872,462. The average population is 140,830.

## How Pennsylvania Coal Miners Work and Live.

**M**OST people going for the first time into the region of the great anthracite mines would at once put the mine workers and their families in a class apart from the ordinary human beings, writes Paul Latzke, in the Detroit Free Press. The newspaper accounts have paved the way for this, and the appearance of the men and boys in their working outfit clinches the impression. No other body of laborers in the world carry such strong external evidences of their vocation. From the top of their heads, where their mining lamps flare from the peaks of their queer shaped caps, to their feet, shod with great, grimy, thick-soled, clamping boots, the mine workers bear the obtrusive stamp of their trade. They look uncanny, fierce. Take the most mild mannered and inoffensive little man that lives, clothe him in the miners' regalia, let him hammer for eight or ten hours underground, and he will come up a fearsome object. The most congenious woman from the outside world would run from such a man at the least demonstration. Should she unexpectedly meet him at dark on a lonely road, having never seen a miner before, she would probably have an attack of hysteria.

The faces of the men are hard and seamed and sallow, and thick with coal dust, they are almost less than human to the unaccustomed gaze. Their eyes are outlined with crows' feet, no matter how young they may be, and they have a peculiar squinting look, due to their constant working in the half gloom of the coal tunnels. It is recorded of some of the mules that pull coal cars in the mines, that, having worked for years underground without once coming up, they have gone instantly blind, on being exposed to the daylight. In a measure it is so with the men and boys who spend their working hours day after day underground. The daylight gives them an uncomfortable sensation, and they acquire the habit of screwing up their eyes that finally affects all the muscles of the face.

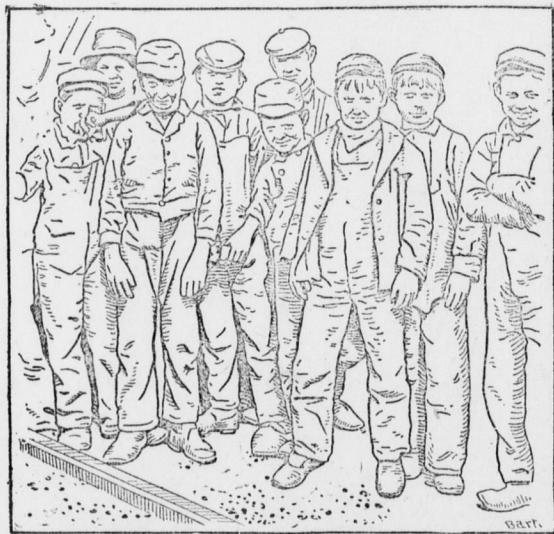
It is owing to these strongly marked peculiarities that the mine workers are put down at first by newspaper correspondents and writers in the district as something apart. Even the trained observer requires some time to accustom himself to their striking appearance and to realize that after all these men are like other men, and that their women, though they have absorbed many of the characteristics of the men, are like other women. It is not until he has spent a little time among the miners that he comes to regard them as ordinary workmen. On a Sunday or holiday with the grime washed off their faces, their mining lamps hung away, their working clothes removed, the men look an entirely different lot of human beings. Then it is only by their crows' feet



A TYPICAL BREAKER IN THE COAL MINING REGIONS.

There was a hazy story that an unknown operator had once paid the family of an unknown driver boy, who was killed, \$75. But this case could not be traced within the time at the ordinary man's disposal. Most of the operators make some sort of reparation by furnishing special employment about the works to the men crippled in their employ, and where the father is killed a place is generally found for the boys if there are any in the family. But such a thing as a cash settlement is never dreamed of.

The little chance that the miners had in this direction was skillfully taken from them by a piece of legislation that was passed, "in the interest of miners" and that was hailed with joy by the men at that time. This was the creation of county examining boards, to insure miners' licenses. Without such license no man can mine coal. The men foolishly thought that this would protect them from unskilled competition, and especially from the competition of the foreigners that were pouring into the region. They soon found, however, that the protection didn't protect. The county boards are paid a fee for each



A GROUP OF BREAKER BOYS AT THE MOUTH OF A COLLIERY INCLINE.

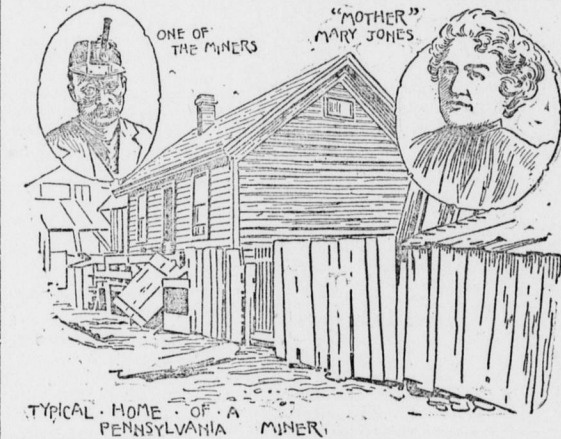
turn out at Cooper Union mass meetings. If the miners and mine laborers were engaged in work of an ordinary character, no one would think of putting

license fee issue. Naturally county politicians are not going to work against their own politics by refusing licenses to men prepared to pay for the luxury. So the "license" has de-

generated into a farce, in so far as it serves as a protection against competition, and danger from the presence of poor workmen. But for the operating companies the measure has proved a great thing. By employing only "licensed" miners they are released locally from all responsibility for accidents. If a miner is buried under tons of coal and rock when he is at work, the fault is his own. If the laborer working at his side is also killed, the laborer's relatives may look to the family of the "licensed" miner for damages, but not to the operator. If there is an explosion of gas, the miner in whose chamber it occurs is the responsible party.

The operator hired him on the strength of his license, the possession of which presupposes that the man knows all about gas, and how to get away from the chambers where it lies before it accumulates in dangerous quantities.

The "fire boss" who inspects the mine every morning for gas on behalf of



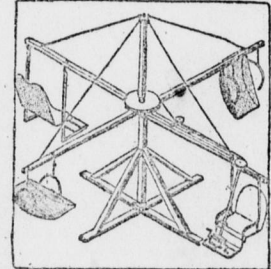
TYPICAL HOME OF A PENNSYLVANIA MINER.

the operator warns the miners as they go in when gas may be expected and it is up to the miners to avoid explosions. This is what the "license" has done for the men.

"Mother" Mary Jones, "queen of the mines" and the idol of the miners, occupies a unique place in the world of labor. This kind-hearted, philanthropic woman is so loved by the rough delvers of the coal mines in the anthracite regions that with them her word is tantamount to law. Mrs. Jones is fifty-six years old, silver-haired and beautiful. Her voice has been sweetly eloquent in behalf of the workers whose cause she has adopted, and her appeals have won unstinted sympathy for her simple, hard-laboring friends. She lives at Wilkesbarre.

### New Nursery Carousel.

If the invention shown in this illustration does not serve to give the children many hours of thorough enjoyment then we miss our guess. Almost every child is ready to ride on a merry-go-round as often as invited, and with this machine set up in the nursery the invitation can be given many times a day without squandering a nickel. The inventor's intention is to have one of the older children provide the carousel by means of pedals located as shown. The seats are adjustable, in order that children of different ages may be accommodated,



"DOMESTIC" MERRY-GO-ROUND.

and the baskets were for the babies. The vertical post is pivoted in standards secured to the ceiling and floor, and the horizontal arms are rigidly attached to this central post. The pedal shaft is connected to a shaft parallel to the supporting arm by a chain or cord running over the pulleys, and power is thus transmitted from the pedals to the inner end of the shaft, where a gear wheel meshes with a toothed disk attached to the standard, the revolution of the shaft driving the machine around.

### High Lights.

Weak coffee often nerves a man sufficiently not to tip the waiter.

Other people's blunders either educate us or make us more conceited.

Good luck is simply having the ability to get on a car that is going your way.

The cheerful life is like all other entertainments; we have to seek it out and pay to get in.

We like the people who don't put on too much style and the people who don't put on too little.

When we try to blame other people for our mistakes we usually get hold of the wrong person.

Polite people are those who listen to us while we talk about something they have no earthly interest in.

It is well occasionally to put yourself in the other man's place, even if you feel yourself too big to be a good fit.—Chicago Record.

In the private schools of China a teacher is paid about one-halfpenny a day for each pupil.

### SILK FROM THE SPIDER.

A Beautiful Golden Thread Taken From Madagascar Insects.

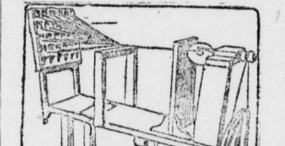
A French writer, who recently paid a visit to Tannanarive, on the island of Madagascar where the web of the spider is utilized to produce silk, secured some very interesting photographs of the operation, cuts from which are shown herewith. The insects are brought from the country in light baskets by Malagash women on the day upon which the silk is to be reeled, and placed in a frame in groups of one or two dozen. It is important not to mutilate or wound them during the operation, since they are capable of being submitted to four or five successive reelings in a month, representing about four thousand yards of thread. At the School of Tannanarive the idea has occurred to place the spiders in what are called "gullottes," the crescents of which hold them between the abdomen and corselet. Their legs are turned back upon the corselet and their abdomen emerges from the side on which the unwinding and twisting of the thread is done.



SILK SPIDER IN THE GULLOTTE.

The Malagash girls, in performing this delicate operation, touch the end of the abdomen of the prisoners with the finger and then gently withdraw the latter, thus carrying along, in a single bundle, the twelve or twenty-four threads to a hook that unites them into a single one, whence they

afterward start for the bobbin upon which they are to be wound.

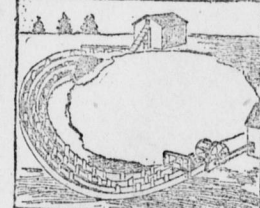


REELING THE SPIDER THREAD.

The spiders thus undergo a complete reeling without resistance, and when they are "empty" they are replaced by others. Those which have been operated upon are placed for convalescence in a "park" constructed for the purpose and consisting of bamboo planted in the ground and connected by stringsoas to form trellises. After a few days' rest in these they are taken out in order to be submitted to another reeling. The silk is of a wonderful golden color.

### Thick Ice Frozen Rapidly.

In the illustration is shown an apparatus which will aid materially in the formation of ice on a small lake. It is well known that when a body of water starts to freeze on the surface the latent heat of congelation is liberated into the water underneath, thus retarding the freezing process and often preventing the formation of ice beyond a certain depth. In localities where the temperature seldom falls much below the freezing point it is difficult to obtain a good crop of ice by natural methods, in which case this machine will be found useful. The apparatus is so arranged that it will withdraw the water from beneath the thin sheet of ice, cool it, and return it at the opposite side of the pond. The sluice through which the water passes is provided at intervals with planks set obliquely, to stir the water and extract the latent heat. The water re-enters the pond in a very thin sheet directly under the ice formation, and being now of a low temperature freezes rapidly, the inventor claiming that a crop of ten or twelve-



FACILITATING THE FORMATION OF ICE.

inch ice can be harvested several times a year with the aid of the apparatus. In the cut an endless chain elevator is shown in the act of feeding the waste ice into the returning stream of water at the rear of the dam, thus further aiding in the cooling process.

### Drummond Castle.

Drummond Castle is one of the finest and most picturesque country seats in Great Britain. The house, the oldest part of which dates from 1491, was rebuilt during the last century in excellent taste, and it contains a fine collection of family and historical portraits. The terrace and gardens, described by Mr. Charles Grenville as "fabulous," were originally laid out by John, Earl of Perth, who died in 1662, and they extend over ten acres, and comprise the best features of the French, Dutch and Italian styles. The castle is approached by a magnificent avenue of beeches and limes.—London Truth.

### FAMOUS BY ACCIDENT.

LUCKY CHANCE WHICH CAME TO NEIL BURGESS.

Leading Lady of Farce Company Was Hit and Mr. Burgess Took Her Part, Impersonating a Woman, and Made a Hit by His Oddity.

Few people who night after night at the Park theater laugh at Neil Burgess' Abigail Prue know that but for an accident he never would have essayed the character, and there never would have been a "County Fair" or a "Widow Bedott."

The accident happened in Providence, when a lady who did leading business in farces was taken ill and, to please the manager, Neil Burgess played her part. Notwithstanding that he had a perfect horror of impersonating a woman, he made a hit and from that time on was fated, so he says, to play female characters.

Mr. Burgess is on the shady side of 50 and it was about 20 years ago that the public first discovered in him a comedian. The role which he attempted in Providence was that of the conventional old maid. Taking his orders from the stage manager, who was obliged to find a substitute for the lady here referred to at a moment's notice, Neil Burgess donned female attire, rushed on the stage and, tripping all over himself, attempted as best he could to conceal the fact that the dress was far too short. Not until he was before the footlights did it occur to him that he had forgotten every line of the text. In the spasmodic eudgeling of his brain to recall something of the part, he pressed his cheek with the tips of his fingers, simpered a little and thus unconsciously struck a pose and an expression that, in its suggestiveness of the elderly spinster's demonstrative timidity, tickled his audience.

That pose and expression was the key to Burgess' fortune. The cue it gave him made the best of by attitudinizing and dipping into the dialogue as much as he could, continuing the simpering and the gurgling until the house resounded with laughter and a hit had been made. Two or three nights later the actress recovered her health and took up her task, but the manager of the theater summarily discharged her, claiming that she was a failure.

The incident, meanwhile, had determined Burgess' future work. For a time he played female roles in farces. Then somebody wrote for him a play, and later he constructed his own "Vim," but in neither had he made money. Then it was that still another chance proved lucky for him. Among the audience who saw him play "Vim" at a Toledo theater one night was a jolly-faced man, who laughed with almost conspicuous vigor, and who, losing no time, secured an introduction to the actor.

David R. Locke was that man. The brilliant and versatile Petroleum V. Nasby had some time before that made a comedy out of Mrs. Whicher's "Widow Bedott's Papers," and Burgess came to him as a revelation. Out of their consultations came "The Widow Bedott," christened just about 20 years ago in Providence. Nasby was a partner in the venture, and traveled with the company one season. That was a remarkable tour, too. Nasby was great on visiting newspaper offices. Rarely, and then only by accident, did one of the craft escape him. Burgess, who was indiscreet enough to accompany him on some of these visits, relates that the great politico-satirist invariably drew about him a crowd of listeners while he told stories and cracked jokes, and incidentally boomed the show. On each opening night he was duly called before the curtain, and he always made a funny speech of thanks. In fact, the tour was nearly a Nasby ovation, as expensive as it was flattering.

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