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TRADE IN AUTOMOBILES

Hundreds of Second Hand Machines Sold Weekly.

QUEER EXCHANGES MADE

Farms Traded for Runabouts—Motoring Epidemic Spreading Over Country—Much in Demand by Physicians in Suburban Districts—Customers Generally Pleased.

More than fifty thousand dollars' worth of second hand automobiles are sent out of New York city every week, says the New York Herald. They go up into the New England States, out into the Middle West, down into the South and the Middle Atlantic States. They are purchased by the school teacher in the rural districts, by the farmer, by the country physician where communication by means of trolley cars has not yet been established.

From six big agencies that make a specialty of selling to out of town customers exclusively there were shipped in one week ninety automobiles of various makes and sizes, from the small electric runabout to the big high power touring machine. The majority of these sales are of small automobiles that are comparatively easy and inexpensive to keep in repair. Of the ninety, thirty-five were the small, two seated, single cylinder runabouts of two, three and four horse power that are easy to operate after the general principles of the machine are learned. These small automobiles will go over any road that a horse and wagon can travel, and on level ground can make a speed of from ten to twenty miles an hour. They carry five gallons of gasoline, which is good for a run of from forty to eighty and ninety miles, according to the highways. Some of these small machines were sold as cheaply as \$125, while others of later model went for \$350 to \$375, about half their original price.

In the sale of these second hand automobiles the almost universal demand is for gasoline vehicles, the request for electric being very small. Only seven of the electric or steam runabouts were sold, while of the larger runabout type there were twenty shipped. Tonneau touring cars that carry four and five persons, and the four cylinder machines of greater horse power, running up as high as sixty, were about evenly divided in demand, their total prices being \$32,445.

Constant shifting in the ownership of the smaller automobiles promises to follow the same line of evolution in the country that it does in the city. The average man of fairly comfortable circumstances who wishes to get a machine first feels that he will be satisfied with a small vehicle that will take himself and his wife and one or two of the little ones for short spins. He studies out the general principles of explosions, compression, cylinders and gears and learns to operate the machine by himself. He toils along through the city at a pleasant clip, dropping down contentedly to "low speed" when he wants to go up a hill or barely creeping up it by coaxing his engine to the limit.

In New York city there are perhaps half a dozen large firms that deal in second hand automobiles almost exclusively. Their systems are all about the same. They buy a machine that has been used or misused by its owner until it seems nothing more than a veritable pile of junk. The engines are gone over, the cylinders brazed, if cracked; the gears refitted and made almost as good as new, chains looked over and all the shifting rods and joints put in the proper condition. If necessary to give the machine a fresher appearance, new tires are put on.

Many automobiles have been sent to the second hand mart for no other reason than that the owner has not taken the time and care to study out what his troubles are. He has become dissatisfied and hands the machine over as one "that no one on earth could run." To the man who has lost all patience with it and who is anxious to sell it appears a wreck. To the experienced man who looks over the thing and sees at a glance that the engine are in almost perfect order and that all that is necessary is a general overhauling, a proper timing of explosions, perhaps a new carburettor and a little change in the shifting rods and gears, there appears in the pile of junk a profit of perhaps \$300 or \$400 and more. He, perhaps, adds a few dollars' worth of paint and bright brass moulding along the tonneau, and the machine goes on sale looking almost as fresh as if it had just come out of the shop.

Energy Spent in Electricity.
Statistics showing the enormous waste of energy involved in the production of artificial light are always interesting, for no other reason than that they must continually stimulate inventors in the search for better methods.

Sir James Dewar recently presented these figures before the royal institution of Great Britain: In an ordinary candle the total amount of energy transformed into light is only 2 per cent. Oil and gas lamps are not more economical.

The incandescent electric lamp utilizes 3 per cent. of the energy expended; the arc light 10 per cent. and the magnesium light 15 per cent. and mucks up with its 9 per cent. Then comes the glow-worm expended energy turned into light.

CALIFORNIA'S DISASTERS.

San Francisco Has Been Swept by Fires and Terrorized by Shocks.

The greatest disasters that have hitherto come to San Francisco have been frequent earth tremors. These have discouraged the construction of the kind of office buildings with which New York is familiar. Most of the important office buildings of the city are built of stone, says the New York Telegram.

High buildings were thought impossible in San Francisco until about fifteen years ago. In 1894 the Chronicle built the first ten story building in the city. That was followed by others a few stories higher, although in 1903 the wooden buildings were still very much in excess of the buildings of brick and stone. In 1907 there were only 3,881 brick and stone buildings as compared to 50,494 frame buildings.

According to Professor E. S. Holden's catalogue of California earthquakes, covering the years between 1769 and 1896, ten of the earthquakes of the nineteenth century were sufficiently serious to crack the walls of buildings and discourage the erection of high and fire-proof brick and stone buildings, thus always laying the city more liable to destruction in case of fire.

In the thirty-six years between 1850 and 1886 there were in San Francisco alone 254 separate light seismic disturbances, and in the same time in the entire State there were 514 tremors. A very severe shake-up was on October 8, 1865, when the tremor cracked the walls of many buildings and so frightened the people that a lot of pioneer families left the city and State. The world murmur and the starting of "loose objects on the earth that go with earth tremors have since become familiar things to San Franciscans.

A severe shock in 1852 destroyed one of the ancient and picturesque missions of the Franciscan Fathers in Southern California. It was felt in San Francisco, but it did little damage there.

On March 26 and 27, 1872, there was a series of violent shocks in the Inyo Valley, which destroyed several small towns and killed some thirty persons. The disturbance was felt in San Francisco, where the usual cracking of buildings was accompanied the quiver of great damage was done to the Lick House, a well known hotel.

A shock in 1898 did much damage in San Francisco though it did not cause any loss of life.

While the city was experiencing the first influx of good fortune here came the first big fire, in 1849. All the buildings on Kearny Street, between Washington and Clay, were swept away. The loss was \$1,000,000. Then the next year, on May 4, 1850, three whole blocks were eaten up by the flames. The loss this time was \$3,000,000. Six weeks later, on June 14, a fire swept away everything bounded by Clay, California and Kearny streets and the water front. Again the loss was \$3,000,000.

The next year, on the anniversary of the fire of May 4, flames swept over the entire business section of the city, burning what had escaped former fires and what had been built since they devastated San Francisco. The damage this time was \$7,000,000.

The last earthquake that occurred in San Francisco before April 1906, was about the middle of January, 1900.

The Blameless Cereals.

Now these be the virtues of the cereals. They are cheap, easily swallowed, and of moderate nutritive value. Moreover, they come from Scotland, with a consequent flavor of orthodoxy about them, says a writer in McClure's Magazine. There is an element in the average human mind, half Puritanic, half stinky, which is inclined to count as a virtue the ingestion of any kind of food which is not especially attractive, but believed to be nutritious. In fact, to eat that which is cheap and filling is one of the petty vices. I call it vice because it is in defiance of instinct. These are the qualities which give the cereals their fulcrum and short handle for their lever.

Now what forces have conspired to lengthen it to such enormous purchase? As usual, two springs promptly to aid which are already familiar faces in this field; one transcendental, the other pseudo-scientific. The transcendental, a mild form of the vegetarian propaganda, which seized upon the virtues of these blameless cereals as a means of saving the race from the horrors of chronic blood-thirstiness.

Everywhere the doctor goes among his patients he finds a sort of vague impression that cereals in some way are cooling, both to the blood and to the impulses; that they are as far as diabolical quality which a food can have—"richness"; that they "thin the blood," stimulate the liver, and that a fast upon some form of them for one meal a day will act as a kind of vicarious atonement for all the fleshly sins which may be committed in the other two. All of which delusions are pure delusions and easily traceable to ancient superstitions which have been discussed.

Of course Scripture has again been quoted in their behalf, and the use and water upon which Daniel I and his three companions outshone the other captively princes have been truthfully cited.

Silas Strong's Philosophy.

"Man that makes trouble is sure to have most of it."
"Man who loses his temper ain't got nothing left but a fool."

FUTURE SAN FRANCISCO.

Plans Elaborated by Burnham of Chicago to Go Into Effect.

San Francisco, laid desolate in forty-eight hours, will arise Phoenix-like, from her ashes and become "the most beautiful city in the world."

So declared William H. Crocker, one of the great capitalists of the stricken city.

"San Francisco within five years will be greater, finer, and more beautiful than ever," he declared when asked what is to be the future of the city by the Golden Gate. "This calamity will only give the opportunity to make a more splendid city than people have ever dreamed of."

"It is preposterous to even suggest the abandonment of the city. San Francisco by reason of its location and its harbor is the natural metropolis of the Pacific coast. God made it so. You will soon see a finer and better city than ever. D. O. Mills, the Spreckels family—everybody I know—is determined to rebuild at once; to rebuild San Francisco stronger, better, and finer than ever."

"Burnham of Chicago has been at work for the last two years on plans for the improvement of San Francisco, to broaden some streets, straighten others, and carry out a general harmonious scheme of fire-proof buildings of uniform height and style. The present calamity, frightful as it is, only clears the way for this plan to be carried out."

"The greatest obstacle in rebuilding the city will probably be in the way of capital. Naturally investors will be reluctant to put their money in building enterprises where the hazard is so great as it appears to be on the Pacific coast."

"But if builders manifest a disposition to put their money in the rebuilding of the city there would be no difficulty in getting contractors to undertake the task. One trouble will be the excessive cost of construction work. High prices are certain to prevail for a long time, and this applies both to material and labor."

Atoms, Electrons, Ions.

The phenomena of the Crookes tube, Roentgen rays, and latterly of radium, inexplicable by the chemical theories of a decade ago, have rendered necessary the coining of several new words, which have taken their place in the vocabulary of the modern physicist, says the Scientific American. We hear so much these days of electrons and ions and their relation to the old-time supposedly indivisible atom that the time seems ripe for a few simple definitions condensed from a recent paper by Prof. Soddy.

The first and oldest conception of the ultimate unit of matter is the atom, the smallest particle of an element capable of separate existence. The essential feature of Dalton's conception was that the atoms of the same element are all exactly alike in mass and every other property, but are recognizably different from the atoms of any other kind of element. The statement will be found in textbooks of chemistry written long before the recent discoveries were foreshadowed, that if it is ever found possible to transmute any one kind of atom, that is, any one kind of elementary matter, into any other kind, there is little doubt that the same means would be sufficient to transmute or decompose the other elements.

The modern conception of the ultimate unit is the electron, and this, although by origin an electrical conception, is in reality a material conception no less than the atom of matter. The electron could be defined as the smallest existence known capable of isolation and of free movement through space. It is a definite amount or "charge" of negative electricity; in a word, the smallest possible amount known to exist; for electricity, no less than matter, has been shown to consist of discrete particles or units, and not to occupy space continuously. Unlike the atoms of matter, only one kind of electron is known, consisting of the same amount of charge of negative electricity with identical properties in all its various manifestations.

It is certain that each atom of matter contains in the normal condition at least one electron, which it is capable of losing, and conversely that it may unite with at least one electron more than it normally possesses without deep-seated material change. An atom with one or more electrons less than it possesses in the normal state is positively charged and is often called a positive ion. Similarly, an atom with one or more electron in excess is a negative ion.

Why the Jury Paid the Fine.

A Texan tells how an obstinate jurymen was circumvented by his fellow judges of the facts. The offense charged was assault with intent to murder. After the jury had been out two hours it returned the following verdict: "We, the jury, find defendant guilty of aggravated assault, and assess his punishment at \$25 fine and herewith pay the fine."

On inquiry as to the meaning of the last clause of the verdict it came out that eleven of the jurors had agreed that the defendant was not guilty but the twelfth doggedly hung out for a conviction for aggravated assault and would not consent to a punishment less than a fine of \$25. Finding it a hopeless task to bring over the obstinate one to their way of thinking the eleven finally decided to agree with him and "chipped in" enough to pay the fine.

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