

TEMPERATURE VARIATIONS.

Carbonic Acid Gas May Affect Heat of Sun, Says the Scientists.

One of the Government scientists at Washington has recently completed a series of investigation with reference to the causes of secular variations in the temperature at the earth's surface.

He thinks that they are more probably due to changes in the amount of carbonic acid in the atmosphere than to variations in the heat of the sun. If the amount of carbonic acid that the air now contains were diminished a little more than one-half, the mean temperature all over the earth would drop about 4 degrees, which would be sufficient to bring on another glacial period.

Use for a Powerful Voice.

At the close of a grand ball a celebrated actor of the Court Theater in Berlin stands in the passage waiting for friends.

A beautiful and fashionably dressed lady approaches him and says: "Beg pardon, have I the honor to see before me our famous Herr Donnerstimm, whose powerful and sonorous voice I had the pleasure of admiring last night in 'Macbeth'?"

"I am at your service, madam." "Then will you be good enough to call out in the street in your loudest tones for the carriage of Baroness Swartz?"

Composition of Golf Balls.

Golf balls are now being stuffed with gelatin. In the early days of the game the golf ball was stuffed with feathers. This was also the ball used in playing "shinty," which is defined by an eighteenth century commentator as an inferior species of golf, generally played by young people, and called in London hockey.

Acts as a Barometer.

There exists a stone which, it is said, unfailingly foretells changes in the weather. This stone was found in Finland many years ago by an explorer and has since been watched by scientists with great interest. It presents a white, mottled appearance in sunshine, gradually turning from gray to black as a rainstorm approaches.

Making Trolley Car Wheels.

It has now been settled without question, says the Brass World, that the best trolley wheels are those which contain no lead. The constant arching of the wheel and wire burns out the lead and causes the wheel to wear rapidly.

A Problem in Boring.

Borings 1,000 feet deep in New Orleans have encountered nothing more solid than mud, sand and a little thin clay, hence the problem of making safe foundations for the piers of a giant railroad bridge, which is to be built across the Mississippi near the city is a hard one for engineering science.

Smokeless Berlin.

The smokeless condition in Berlin is ascribed to the preponderant use of smokeless fuel in the form of coke and briquets, the skillful, scientific construction of boiler furnaces and chimneys and finally to the high standard of skill taught and enforced among firemen who stoke furnaces with coal for steam and other purposes.

Demand for Foreign Butter.

Norwegian butter is rapidly growing in popular favor, especially in England. In 1905 the amount exported from Stavanger was 600,000 pounds, an increase of nearly 200,000 pounds over 1904, and 325,000 pound over 1903.

Brain Workers Long Lived.

Brain workers are proved, by statistics, to be long-lived. Five hundred and thirty eminent men and women were taken as a basis, and their duration of life gives an average of about 68 1/2 years.

Changing His Name.

Among the Arabs of Syria a man changes his name after the birth of his first son. He calls himself by his son's name with the prefix of "Ab" or "Father."

SERBIA'S UNHAPPY KING

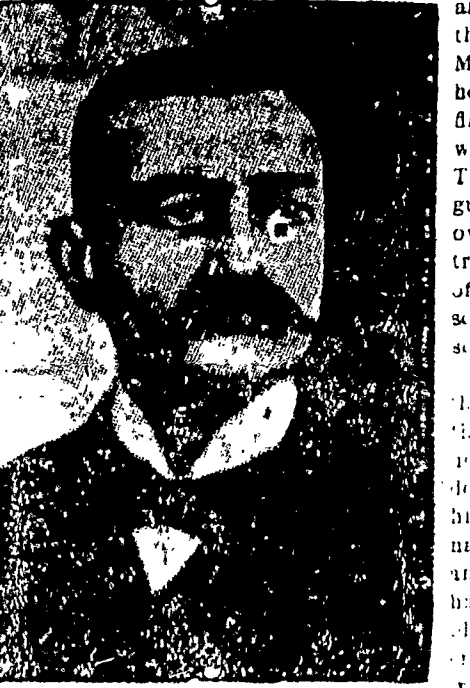
He Lives in Constant Fear of Assassination.

HIS PEOPLE'S ANGER

King Peter's Failure to Punish the Regicides of King Alexander and Queen Draga—Exports to England Shrink From \$500,000 to \$8,000 Per Annum.

King Peter waded to his throne through blood. The fear that he will save it by an equally gory route makes Serbia's ruler the most unhappy monarch of Europe to-day. For three years in succession he has suffered all the agonies of a man condemned to death in the days immediately preceding each June 11. This is the anniversary of the assassination of King Alexander and Queen Draga. The superstitious and fatalistic temperament of the Serbs would make an anniversary seem to them the most appropriate time to end a dynasty.

King Peter has successfully passed June 11 three times, but there is no comfort in this fact to the society pressed Karageorgievich, for now the



King Peter.

people are becoming impatient, and every day has become a virtual June 11th and the dread of assassination is a peril that never leaves the mind of the King.

That his fears are most real is well illustrated by the fact that a comparatively unimportant matter, a lone bill involving only a small sum, was sufficient to stir Belgrade to revolt. Peter, placed between two fires, dare neither approve nor veto the bill, and while it lay on his desk the citizens gathered in the courtyard of the palace crying, "Long live Alexander! Long live the Republic! Down with Peter!"

King Peter might have succeeded in the position to which he was called but for his unfortunate alliance with the regicides who had made his accession to the throne possible. If Peter had been innocent of any complicity in the taking off of the unhappy king and queen, he could have made an auspicious start by vigorously visiting justice on the guilty.

But unfortunately for the new monarch, it is established beyond a chance of doubt that he knew in advance of the contemplated descent on the palace, and promised full immunity should he become king, to all who were concerned in the deed of blood.

It is said that the military commander who led the assault, forced him to sign a paper to this effect. Thus at the very start of his reign he was compelled to permit leaders of the regicides to hold prominent and ostentatious place at his court.

Peter's close association with this regicide quickly alienated from him all the throng of Europe. "Punish the murderers," said the powers in effect. "And we will uphold you." Unable to do this, Peter saw himself alone. During the year before the murder of Alexander and Draga, the Serbian exports to England were valued at \$200,000, and amount which fell in the year of the tragedy to some \$50,000, while in the year following the diplomatic rupture and the evidence that King Peter was unable to deal out justice, the exports finally fell down to a pittance \$500.

"MONARCH OF THE EAST."

A Peculiar Plant Which Flowers With out Earth or Water.

The Sanmoratum Guttatum, or "Monarch of the East," is a bulb, which has the extraordinary power of being able to sit on a table or mantelpiece in mid-winter and, without water, produce a huge flower 18 inches high. Its only necessity is something to sit on. It belongs to the same family as the white arm lily, and the flower is like a tall, narrow edition of its white cousin, but is of a splendid yellow, richly spotted with velvety crimson.

The bulb is not unlike a huge lily-penny bun, and must be placed, without earth or water, on a mantelpiece. In an incredibly short time the flower will appear, when it has faded the bulb should be planted in the garden, where in the spring it will throw up a stout stem two feet high, covered with dark purple spots, and bearing at the summit a huge umbrella-shaped leaf. Dig up the bulb in the autumn, wash it and make it tidy and put it on the mantelpiece, and it will bloom just as before. In fact, the fascinating variety may be repeated year after year.

Ferocious Only in Books.

"A bloodhound is a terrible thing to read about," says a man from North Carolina, "but in reality he isn't much more dangerous than an Irish setter, and you can't rely on him any more than you can on a woman's watch. My uncle was sheriff once while down home and I remember that one of the first criminals he had to hunt down was a negro man who robbed a house. There was no doubt as to the man's guilt. He was recognized by the owner of the house and it was no trouble at all to get some old copy of his to familiarize the bloodhound, and somebody loaned my uncle with his set."

I've took the ferocious animal to be some of the crime and put him on the seat. The set, bloodhound, was used about a bit and then gave up. He was set down the side. Uncle said that he had his fear about his pet. The animal had had much of a start of him and one felt that he was as good as handled already. On went to the fire in the following. When coming out the midnight crowd, he tracked the fugitive and caught up with him.

"What did he do then? Did he tree the man? Did he tear him limb from limb? No, he took such a fancy to that negro man on sight that when uncle overtook them the negro simply asked the dog on him and uncle had the time of his life protecting himself. He had to shoot the dog, and, of course, he had to reimburse the man who loaned him for the loss of his valuable services. The criminal got away. Bloodhound! Why, a yellow-crown dog is worth a pack of them."

Old Gunpowder and Bullets.

In the roof of Durham Castle, England, there has been discovered a bucket containing bullets and gunpowder. It is believed to have been walled up about the year 1641, when the castle was being prepared to withstand a Scottish raid. The bullets are molded spheres of two sizes and consist of a little over 99 per cent of lead, with iron and silver, and traces of bismuth, arsenic and antimony. The gunpowder is not granulated like that of the present day and was evidently prepared by simply mixing the ingredients. It contains about one per cent of moisture and the proportion of the constituents calculated on the dry powder is practically identical with that of the black gunpowder of today; that is, niter, 75 per cent; carbon, 15 per cent, and sulphur, 10 per cent.

Trolley-Wires and a Fire.

The head of the fire department of Rouen, France, has suggested to the Mayor a novel project in the fire extinguishing service. Inasmuch as the city is traversed everywhere by the electric street car wires it is suggested that these should be provided pumps, driven by dynamos, to take current by means of trolley hooks attached to the street car wires at the nearest point to the fire. The advantages are seen at a glance. The power is unlimited; the motor strength on a 500-volt circuit could do anything with a stream of water. No engines would have to be kept going, and the machinery would be smaller than the great mass of metal that has to be dragged to the scene of a fire.

Weird Wedding Dress.

Members of the M'jiji tribe, who live on the Limpopo river, in Africa, wear an extraordinary marriage dress. This weird and uncomfortable looking costume is made entirely of split reeds, fastened together with grass, and the unhappy bachelor who contemplates matrimony is compelled to wear it for three solid months before the happy event takes place, meanwhile leading a life of strict seclusion.

Don't Want Lemons.

It seems to be a solemn fact that a certain popular expression is hurting the lemon trade. Whereas there was formerly no more hesitation about asking for a lemon than for any other kind of fruit people acquainted with the vernacular now pass on and buy some other variety. At least so say some of the dealers.

A REAL GLOBE TROTTER.

A Much-Travelled "Fireman" on the Lake St. Paul.

The American Lake St. Paul, on a recent trip from Southampton to New York brought a real globe traveler in the person of Hugh R. Hall, who had worked his way across as a fireman only to be sent to Ellis Island as a stowaway. Hall went to work with the fireroom force soon after the vessel left port on the other side. He wore a guernsey, on which was stamped "Fireman," and he was not questioned.

When the vessel got to Chief Officer Osborne was at the crew's gangway when Hall started to go ashore. He recognized the man as a fellow who had crossed once before and wanted to know where he was going. "Getting ashore, Sir," said the man. Osborne did not recognize the man as a member of the crew in spite of the word "Fireman" prominently displayed. He questioned him and became assured that the man was the same fellow who had crossed once before and gone ashore on the plea that he was an American citizen. The man was detained, and a search of the ship's papers failed to reveal a Hugh Hall as fireman.

A search brought to light his papers issued by the British Board of Trade, and showing that he was an Englishman, and born in Lynn, Norfolk County, England.

The crew of the American Line steamer sign articles in New York for the round trip, Hall desiring to make the trip across, had simply depended on his guernsey and his knowledge of the sea tonix with the regular crew and take a chance of getting off undetected on this side of the Atlantic.

Hall is said to be a constant traveler although without money. He shipped from London and made a trip to Australia, where he stayed some months. From there he returned to England only to make the same trip later. Once he shipped on a Calcutta steamer, and at that time he even put on the other side of the world before returning to his native heath. He has been in several continents.

His wide knowledge of the country served to impose upon the immigration officials, and he is now in the street where that great took place and evidenced such a knowledge of American affairs and locations that he was passed through as a native-born American.

"I have seen almost every country in the world," he said. "I think my next tour will be to Tibet. I am interested in that country."

A Real Bridal Coach.

A bridal coach designed to boom matrimony in Elliston, Pa., and to do away with the custom of decorating the ordinary hacks with white ribbons for weddings has just been completed in that city. This novel equipage is in the shape of a huge heart and costs \$1,800.

It is maroon and black with gold trimmings. There are two hearts on the vehicle, including eight heart-shaped windows, two large hearts joining to form the dashboard and two more cropping out of the rear springs. The lamps, which have electric lights inside, are each surmounted by a Cupid with his bow and arrow. The wood carving is especially beautiful.

The coach is upholstered in cream colored velours finished with old gold buttons with two sets of watered silk curtains, and overhead is a cluster of calla lilies in the heart of which are concealed red, white and blue electric lights.

Oysters in May.

Rear Admiral Bahler, luncheon at an Atlantic City hotel, said, as the waiter brought him a little oyster, that he was sorry the oyster season was over.

"I prefer oysters to clams, but of course," he said, "I obey the rule of R strictly, and from the beginning of May till the end of August I never touch an oyster."

"No wise person will eat an oyster after the first of May."

"One afternoon at about 6 his time in the month of May, a man entered a restaurant, and the waiter recommended the oysters to him.

The man started in surprise. "Oysters!" he said. "But oysters are not considered good in this month."

"I know, sir," answered the waiter, "but these are left over from last month."

Lions Becoming Interested.

Lions of East Africa are becoming greatly interested in railway operations. The Uganda railroad has 39 small stations in the 530 miles between the Indian ocean and Victoria Nyanza, and in the last year the animals have frequently visited these lonely places, especially Siba, which has only a station building, with a water tank and a si detrack. One lion passed several successive nights at the Siba station, walking about, scratching at the office door and sleeping on the platform.

Converting Hebrews.

Conversions of Hebrews to Christianity have increased lately in Germany, and, says an exchange, "the indications are that the number of converts will grow." A statistician has discovered that the loss thus sustained by the Hebrews is counterbalanced to some extent by Christians going over to Judaism. In the year 1904 53 such cases were recorded, of which 18 were in Berlin.

MISTAKES IN MEMORIALS.

The Black Prince is Called the "Prince of Whales."

Some remarkable mistakes in memorials have totally escaped notice until it was too late to rectify them. The spurs on the boots of Cromwell's statue at Westminster Abbey, London, are the most interesting feature of the monument, although they generally get no attention at all from sightseers. They are worn upside down. In a pained window on the staircase which leads from the floor of Westminster palace to the committee rooms an inscription on a sword wielded by the "Black Prince" has the words "Prince of Whales." Again, in the fresco depicting the embarkation of the Pilgrim Fathers in the corridor leading from the outer lobby at St. Stephen's to the House of Lords the Mayflower is shown to be hoisting the union jack—a flag which did not come into existence until over 250 years after the days of the Mayflower.

The Hexagonal Cells of Honeycomb. Honeybees are generally credited, with instinctive skill in making the cells of the comb hexagonal in shape, but it is probable that this construction is merely the ordinary result of mechanical laws. Solitary bees always make circular cells, and the bees in a hive no doubt make them circular also, but mechanical pressure forces them into a hexagonal form. A well known naturalist, in speaking of the matter says that all cylinders made of soft, pliable substances become hexagonal under such circumstances.

The Bore of Guns.

To the word "bore," when used to tell the gauge of a shotgun, there attaches an interesting bit of history. In the days when rifle balls were spherical and long cylindrical, conical headed bullets and rifle barrels were undreamed of, the gunsmith adopted a curious but convenient method of designating the gauge or diameter of the bore. He expressed it by stating how many bullets of the size that would fit a particular musket would so to make a pound. Thus a bore musket would be one of such a size that 16 of its bullets would go to make a pound, weight a bore-bore would be one whose bullets would run 16 to a pound, and so on. Hence, the anomaly that the larger denominated musket has the smaller bore.

Printing Works in Tibet.

Great printing works are established at Nartang, in Tibet. A traveler says: "There are thousands and thousands of blocks at Nartang, comprising matter in type equivalent to numerous different volumes. Each wooden block is about 24 inches long by 12 inches wide, one face having carved upon it a complete page of lettering. The method of printing is primitive in the extreme and consists of laying the paper on a flat surface and levering the block upon it with a long handle, much as the village blacksmith works his bellows."

Carl Schurz Memorial.

A "Carl Schurz memorial professorship" is to be established at the University of Wisconsin as a result of the movement recently started in Milwaukee by a number of prominent German-Americans. The plan is to raise an endowment of \$50,000, the income of which will be used for the establishment of an annual course of lectures to be given by prominent professors of German universities.

Evolution of the Bath.

In a guide to etiquette published early in the last century the writer says that "soap does not irritate the complexion; some of the finest complexion we have known have been regularly washed with soap every day." The same authority remarks that "the daily bath is now the rule rather than the exception, and common sense has triumphed over the decision that washing was injurious."

Fastidious Bridegrooms.

The natives of the Sandwich Islands estimate women by their weight. The Chinese require them to have deformed feet and black teeth. A girl must be tattooed sky-blue and wear a nose ring to satisfy a South Sea Islander. Certain African princes require their brides to have their teeth filed into the semblance of a saw.

Pianos Will Be Pink.

A newly imported wood, for use in high-class cabinet and piano work, is the Tasmanian myrtle, described by the Timber Trades Journal of London. It is of a rich pink color, moderately hard and very close grained, taking a good finish and working well and smoothly.

Trousers Won.

General Von Pitreich, who will take the place of Count Beck at the head of the general staff of Austria, is the second war minister on whom this honor has been conferred. The first was General von John, who is remembered in Austrian military circles because of the remark which he made at a meeting of the Equipment Board. He said: "I cannot be successful with one pair of trousers." The question under discussion was whether the enlisted men should be supplied with one or two pairs, and he won for the greater number by his short speech.

HIGH WAGES IN CHILE.

Unskilled Labor Much in Demand in That Country.

The scarcity of skilled artisans in Chile exceeds that in the United States and the wages that are being paid far eclipse those in practically all craftsman lines in England. It is asserted that ordinary "crow-bar and shovel laborers," or unskilled laborers as they would be known in this country, receive four and five dollars per day. Carpenters and masons earn an average of seven dollars per day, while gas-fitters and plumbers receive seven to ten dollars per day. Even with these extreme prices the labor supply is not adequate and Chilean newspapers are indorsing the action of congress in appropriating \$500,000 for the promotion of immigration. The usual wage in Chile was formerly \$1.50 to \$1.80 per day.

Kissing the Pope's Toe.

The custom of kissing the feet of persons whom it was desired to honor originated with the ancients. The people of Oriental nations used to kiss the hands and feet or hems of the clothes of the persons they wished to show respect for.

The ancient Egyptians got this custom from the Assyrians, and later the Greeks adopted the habit from the Egyptians. The Romans followed the Greeks, and then Pontifex Maximus had his great toe kissed by celebrities.

The toe of the Sultan of Turkey is kissed by subjects of high rank. Those of more lowly position are merely allowed to touch the fringe of his garment to their lips, and the poorest classes must be content to make a low obeisance in his presence.

Discovery of Gunpowder.

The Chinese have long been credited with the invention of gunpowder, but Professor E. O. Von Lippmann, of Halle, has collected evidence to indicate that this is a mistake and that the Arabians did not so commonly state, introduce gunpowder into Europe during the eighth and ninth centuries. Professor Von Lippmann believes that the manufacture of the first gunpowder was based upon the "Fire book of Marcus Graecus, which appeared in Constantinople about the middle of the thirteenth century. This was the source from which Roger Bacon, Albertus Magnus and Thomas Aquinas derived their knowledge of gunpowder. The first use of gunpowder to drive projectiles is ascribed to a monk, Berthold Schwarz, whose discovery was made accidentally while preparing the mixture for medicinal purposes.

Cracks in Building Stone.

Almost everybody knows the rule of the masons that stone used in building should be so placed that it will lie as it lay in its natural bed when quarried. But Francis W. Hoyt, in the Engineering News, says that this familiar rule is not always to be depended upon and needs in many cases to be supplemented with other precautions. There are three planes of fracture known to quarrymen. The "rift" is the direction in which the stone splits most easily, the "grain" that which is next easiest, the "head" that which offers the greatest resistance. In a paving block the two sides represent the rift fracture, the top and bottom the grain and the ends the head. But in a quarry we are natural bed is sometimes considered inclined to the plane of the rift; hence the imperfection of the ordinary rule for placing the stone in building.

Early Worship in Australia.

The first place of worship in Western Australia was unique in two respects—the materials of which it was built and also the several purposes to which it was devoted. This remarkable building was made at Perth by soldiers shortly after their first arrival in 1829 and was composed almost entirely of bullrushes. In addition to its use on Sundays for divine worship it occasionally served as an amateur theatre in the week and during the whole time as a barracks.

London's Unclean Food.

At the annual meeting of the Incorporated Society of Medical Officers of Health in London, Dr. Newman, a borough medical officer, said there was evidence that the existence of much unclean and unwholesome preparation of food was by no means confined to America. Even in London he had come across tuberculosis germs being put into sausages, diseased horseflesh into potted meat and decomposing animal matter into potted salmon and shrimp.

"Absence Habit" in the Army.

The "absence habit" is a menace to the United States Army. This is the statement made by Brigadier General Bubb, commanding the Department of Dakota, in his annual report. He calls attention to the great number of officers now absent from their regiments and says that the number is steadily increasing from year to year.

Soap a Century Old.

Soap has been in use for 3,000 years and is twice mentioned in the Bible. A few years ago, a soap boiler's shop was discovered in Pompeii, having been buried beneath the terrible rain of ashes that fell upon that city in the year 79 A. D. The soap found in the shop had not lost its efficacy, although it had been buried 1,600 years.