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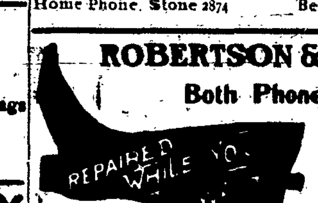
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Old Time Temperance.

Germany would seem to have given the lead in the matter of temperance societies. On Jan. 18, 1517, a man named Sigismund de Dietrichstein formed the Order of St. Christopher, and in 1600 the landgrave of Hesse formed the Order of Temperance, both societies aiming at the promotion of moderation. What moderation meant in bygone Germany may be gathered from the fact that members of the first order pledged themselves to abstain from toast drinking, while those of the second were pledged "not to drink more than seven glasses of liquor at a time and that not oftener than twice a day."

Nations that run recklessly into debt can resort to repudiation, and some of those now at war may conclude to do that very thing.

Like Our Own Moon.

Observations made at the Lowell observatory on the varying brightness of two satellites of Saturn, viz., Mimas and Enceladus, indicate that these bodies rotate on their axes in periods identical with those of their revolution around the primary, i. e., they behave like our own moon, and probably like satellites generally.

SENSITIVENESS.

To be unduly sensitive is to suffer needless pain. Sensitiveness is a form of fear greatly exaggerated by introspection. Like all negative emotions sensitiveness grows with indulgence and easily becomes a fixed habit of thought and feelings.—Nautilus.

Halcyon Days.

The expression "halcyon days" originated with the ancient Sicilians. They firmly believed in an old legend that during the seven days preceding and the seven following the winter solstice (Dec. 21) the halcyon, or kingfisher, brooded over her young in a nest afloat on the surface of the water and that during these fourteen days the seas would be calm and safe for the mariner; hence the name "halcyon days," when, according to Milton, "birds of calm sat brooding on the charmed wave."

A Strong Cup.

Guest (in cheap restaurant)—Look here, waiter, I thought I told you to bring me a strong cup of coffee?

Waiter—Well, what's the matter with that cup? You couldn't break it with an ax.

SCIENCE—INVENTION.

Great Prehistoric Lake.

Lake Agassiz was a body of fresh water that existed during a late stage of the glacial epoch in the valley of Red River and extended northward from the present head of that stream for nearly 700 miles. The area of the lake at the time of its greatest expansion was about 110,000 square miles, exceeding the present aggregate area of the five great lakes tributary to the St. Lawrence.

The shore of this ancient lake is marked by well defined beaches, and it is from these that the existence and the extent of the lake are known. The lake was named by the geologist Warren Upham in honor of Louis Agassiz, who was the first to make a systematic study of glaciers and glacial phenomena.—United States Geological Survey.

Oklahoma's Gas Field.

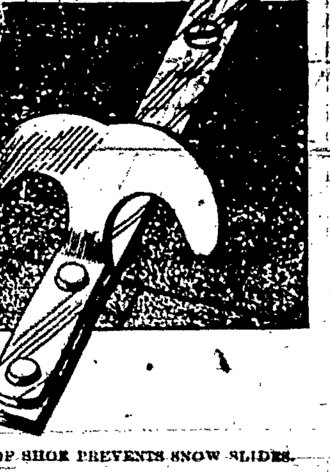
The United States geological survey has made public a report on the Loco gas field, Oklahoma, by Carroll H. Wegemann. The Loco field is on the line between Stephens and Jefferson counties, about three miles southwest of the village of Loco and ten miles northwest of the Healdton oil field. For many years asphalt deposits have been known to exist in this vicinity, but deep drilling for oil and gas was not begun until 1912. The first gas well was struck in the spring of 1913, about six months before the Healdton pool was discovered. Six other gas wells of capacities ranging from 6,000,000 to 20,000,000 cubic feet a day have been drilled, but no pipe line has yet been laid to the field, and the wells are capped.

Close Estimating.

A geologist of the United States geological survey once estimated 3,000 feet as the necessary depth to drill in a certain locality to find water, with the result of less than 1 per cent of error, a flow measuring half a million gallons a day having been struck at a depth of 2,987 feet. In another branch of the work of the survey, that of estimating at the close of the calendar year the production of the various minerals during that year, even this percentage of error is being reduced. The survey's estimate on Jan. 1, 1915, of the production of iron ore was 41,440,000 long tons. The actual figures received from all the companies are now seen to be 41,439,761 long tons, a difference of only 239 tons.

Protection For Roofs.

One of the greatest dangers from snow on roofs of large area is the sliding and bunching of the snow on a small area near the bottom, says Popular Mechanics, with the result that one part of the roof is not only overloaded, but is in danger of leaking



ROOF SHOE PREVENTS SNOW SLIDES.

when thawing occurs through the action of the water in working under the joints of the roof covering. A new device designed to take the place of the snow rails, or gutters, ordinarily used to prevent this, consists of an upstanding shoe attached to the roof by an iron strap, as many of these shoes being spaced over the roof as may be necessary to hold the snow where it falls. The shoe is made with various kinds of straps to suit the different kinds of roofs.

Vegetable Wool of Ecuador.

Kapok, known in Ecuador as "lana de ceiba" or "vegetable wool," is a product of the largest tree that grows in the forests of the littoral, a species of the genus Eriodendron (allied to the cotton plant). The ceiba bears most of its branches near the top, and the appearance of its bright yellow flowers marks the approaching end of the rainless season. After the flowers fade the pods that yield the kapok of commerce are formed. These are gathered and the fiber extracted by hand. Too early rains interfere with pollenation, resulting in many empty pods.—Commerce Reports.

When the Car Starts Hard.

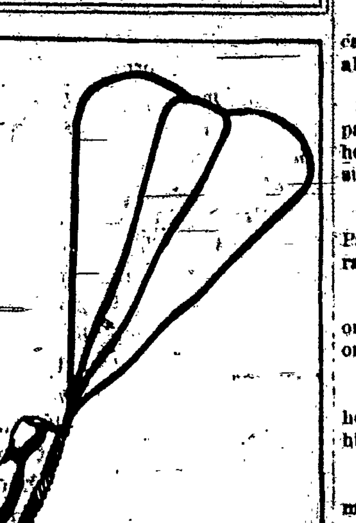
It is not often that a car starts hard when hot. When it does there may be too close an adjustment of the valve tappets when cold, so that when the motor is warm the valves do not shut tightly. Or the cause may lie in the spark plugs. If these are heavily covered with carbon the resistance offered by the deposits will increase with their temperature; furthermore, the plugs expand in the heat, which again tends to increase the resistance.

Uses of Iridium.

Iridium is used principally for the hard points on gold pens, for making platinum hard and springy and for making a black glaze on glass or porcelain.

HELPFUL HINTS FOR HOUSEWIVES

Wire Carpet Beater With Protective Handle.



The improved implement for beating carpets, herewith illustrated, appears to be a great improvement over the switch and the device made of cane. Being supplied with four wires to make up a wing, it covers a greater area when in action and accomplishes the job more quickly. Beating a carpet with a switch is hard on the hands, for it is necessary to operate close to the carpet to get the best results, and this is often disastrous to the knuckles. In the case of the new invention the handle is raised so that there is no danger to flesh in coming in contact with the harsh fabric of the carpet.

Chili of Beef.

Take two pounds of flank steak—the thick, rather stringy meat that lies inside the ribs and which is peeled before being used. Cut the steak in two or three pieces large enough to cover the bottom of your kettle. Rub the pieces with cut onion, pepper and salt and flour on both sides. Put one tablespoonful of olive oil in your kettle, rubbing it round with a piece of garlic. Lay one piece of steak on the bottom of the kettle. Make a mixture of three pimentos, one medium sized onion, both chopped, and one pint of red kidney beans previously well soaked and parboiled. Spread a little of this mixture between each layer of steak, leaving the meat on top. Flour and season this well and pour over it one cupful of strained tomato juice or ketchup. Cook in moderate oven three hours. Serve with boiled rice.—Country Gentleman.

Stain Removers.

Equal parts of turpentine and ammonia will remove paint from clothing, no matter how hard it is caked on. Borax will remove the leather stains made by shoes on white or light colored stockings.

Ammonia will remove grease stains from white goods.

Ether will remove stains without leaving a ring on the material.

Spirits of camphor will take off peach stains.

Ripe Tomato Relish.

One peck of tomatoes, peeled and chopped. Let drain overnight in a colander. In the morning add six chopped onions of ordinary size, two bunches of chopped celery, two tablespoonfuls of mustard seed, one tablespoonful of celery seed, four chopped red peppers, one-half cupful of salt, six cupfuls of brown sugar and six cupfuls of cider vinegar. Mix all together and seal in jars without heating.

Potato Doughnuts.

Two eggs, one cupful of sugar, one-half teaspoonful of salt, one-quarter teaspoonful of nutmeg, one-quarter teaspoonful of lemon extract, one cupful of sweet milk, one cupful mashed potatoes (mashed very soft and creamy), three teaspoonfuls of baking powder and about a quart of flour. Add a pinch of ginger to keep them from soaking fat. Fry in hot fat.

Chili Sauce.

Twelve large ripe tomatoes, four ripe or green peppers (remove seeds from peppers), two onions, two tablespoonfuls of salt, one tablespoonful of cinnamon, one cupful of sugar, three cupfuls of vinegar. Peel tomatoes and onions and chop fine. Boil one and a half hours, bottle and seal hot.

Sweet Potato Pudding.

Boil two pounds of sweet potatoes. Mash while hot, adding a cupful of butter. Beat until light, add a cupful of sugar to four well beaten eggs, stir in potatoes, season with cinnamon and nutmeg. Stir in two cupfuls of cream and grated peel of one lemon. Mix well, pour in buttered dish and bake quickly. Serve with sauce.

Baked Sweet Potatoes.

Cook sweet potatoes until nearly done; then peel and cut in slices. Butter a baking dish, put in a layer of potatoes, sprinkle well with sugar and cinnamon; repeat until dish is full. Have the top layer of sugar. Melt a tablespoonful of butter in a cupful of milk, pour over potatoes and bake a golden brown.

Cleaning the Piano.

Pianos may be cleaned by washing them with water. Have the water just slightly warmed, wash a small portion of the surface at a time and dry immediately by rubbing briskly with a soft cloth. Rub until the wood is hot to the touch.

SHORT AND SHARP.

Save first is as good a young man's motto as safety first.

The bet you intended to make but didn't is always the one safe bet.

The Balkan puzzle may be solved, but it is not the kind to stay solved.

Many a good idea goes to waste because there's no energy to push it along.

Incidental expenses for The Hague palace of peace have been unusually heavy in the cobwebbing line the past summer.

Some of these days maybe those Panama canal slides will run out of raw material.

Life's best joys are found in living on last month's salary instead of the one for the month just ahead.

Every time a man loses his temper he loses his head, and when he loses his head he loses several chances.

Occasional mention of The Hague is made, although its inefficiency as a complete war averter is admitted.

A Chicago doctor advises cutting out the appendix as a remedy for corns. Have those who lost their appendix also lost their bunions?

Some people are always in trouble because they cannot restrain themselves from speaking right out whatever comes into their heads.

The Lower Rents society in New York has made a public report showing that ninety-nine families own one-seventh of the real estate valued in Manhattan, but as yet rents have not been reduced.

The Royal Box.

Henry VIII. was the first English sovereign to be styled "his majesty."

The emperor of Germany is a member of the Evangelical Protestant church of Germany.

Prince Eugene of Sweden, who signs himself "E. Oscarson," is one of the most famous of modern Scandinavian painters.

King Ferdinand of Roumania is by birth a prince of Hohenzollern—that is to say, a member of the Prussian reigning house of which the kaiser is the chief, while King Ferdinand of Bulgaria is a scion of the German sovereign family of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha and was born and brought up in Austria.

Pen and Brush.

Walter Hale, the actor, illustrates the stories and books of his writer wife, Louise Closser Hale, the actress.

Mrs. Amelia Barr at the age of eighty-six is writing her sixty-fourth novel. Mrs. Barr has been the mother of fifteen children.

Hilaire Belloc, whose careful studies of the war have been so widely read, has just entered on his forty-fifth year. He is of French-English parentage.

R. L. Goldberg, the cartoonist, who has an income of $20,000 per year, studied mining engineering at the University of California. Eight years ago he started on a New York newspaper at $50 per week.

Submarines and Torpedoes.

For the expulsion of torpedoes, air at a pressure of fifty pounds is used.

For consumption beneath the waves air is stored in a submarine under the great pressure of 2,000 pounds.

A Whitehead torpedo runs 6,000 yards, traveling part of the distance at the rate of fifty miles per hour.

Even on the surface a submarine is a comparatively slow craft. Her best speed is seldom much over sixteen knots per hour.

When a torpedo is discharged water to exactly the same weight automatically flows into the submarine's tank, so that the poise of the vessel is preserved.

Short Stories.

Wealthy Russians are buried in glass coffins.

Iodine stains the skin brown and stains starch blue.

Documents containing details of the vessel's cargo and the ports for which she is bound are called the ship's manifest.

Considerable geysers are found in only three places—Yellowstone park, Iceland and New Zealand. Those in our own wonderland are the finest in the world.

It happens not infrequently that divers into Lake Superior never come to the surface. The circumstance is attributed to the water's extreme coldness.

Pert Personals.

William Waldorf Astor will pay a British war tax of $1,250,000. That ought to entitle William Waldorf to a baronetcy.—Rochester Herald.

If Kajetan Merey von Kapos-Mere, who is reported to be the new ambassador from Austria, brings his full name with him he will hardly be able to arrive in one ship.—Philadelphia Press.

It is stated that the Indian government has refused Dr. Cook permission to climb Mount Everest. And a lot of sarcastic people will wonder why that was necessary.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.