

forty-nine, captains age forty-four and two-thirds, and commanders forty and two-thirds. The average age of our captains (fifty-seven and a half) is thirteen years beyond that of the Japanese captains, nine years beyond that of the English and German captains, and seven years beyond that of the Russian captains. The youngest English captain is aged thirty-three, is twenty years younger than our youngest, and Japan has deemed it wise to intrust her battleships to men of age thirty-six. The average English and German captain is scarcely older than our junior grade captain (commander), and our youngest commander when he reached his rank was older than the average Japanese captain. If our youngest captain were in the Japanese navy he would have been retired for age some time ago.

J. J. JONES of Oskaloosa, Iowa, who describes himself as "an old miner," writes for the Des Moines Register and Leader a brief history of mining. Mr. Jones says: "Mines have been in operation in England and Wales for one hundred years or over. Some of the mines are very deep, over 3,000 feet deep. Cornwall, England, has a tin mine that has been in operation nearly one hundred years. It is over 3,000 feet deep. This mine extends under the ocean a mile. It has been operated by many companies and they have been well paid in millions, but the miners are poorly paid for their labor. The mine is worked in three eight hour shifts. It is so hot down in the mine that the miners are required to work with shirts off. Dynamite is used for blasting the tin ore. Coal was mined in a very early day in the Wyoming valley. The first use of coal antedated the revolutionary war, 1770-1, Jesse Fell, who applied it to house heating; he learned of its valuable purpose at the blacksmith shop of Obediah and Daniel Gore, who used it in their shop at Wilkesbarre, Pa.; it was also burned in the old Fell tavern in a grate in 1808. Also the city of Philadelphia in 1803 bought one hundred tons of anthracite coal for pumping purposes but the engineers did not know how to use it. But in 1814 two barges of it were shipped to Schuylkill for \$21 a ton; nearly half a day was consumed in trying to burn it when the men gave up in disgust and went to dinner, but on their return they had a roaring fire in the furnace, and from that day dates the successful use of anthracite coal in the United States."

IN 1807, according to Mr. Jones, Obediah Smith of Plymouth, Pa., dug coal from the mountain side and shipped two cargoes of 150 tons to Columbia. Mr. Jones adds: "This coal was taken from the same mountain as where the famous Washington mine is today at Plymouth, Pa. Coal in those days was mined with pick and shovel, as blasting was unknown to the miners in those days; also mining machinery—no breakers, no shafts, no steam or electric appliances—as all mining was done in a crude way all by hand, no drills or powder used. It was a man by the name of John Flanagan, who was sent from Hartford, Conn., to instruct miners how to use powder to extract the coal in the mines of that day. When Flanagan put off his first blast the miners and laborers fled in terror, saying it would blow the whole mountain up. The coal was hauled from the mines by mules and dumped into flat boats on the Susquehanna river and floated down the river to its destination. But today the Wyoming valley is one network of coal mines and other industries, giving employment to thousands of men. It is estimated that there are about 200,000 miners in Pennsylvania, today, and with its other industries employs over a million of men. Take the coal and mineral industries out of the United States and its progress would be shortened fifty years, but today she is the peer of the whole world in her civilization and progress. Yes, we have eight times more area of coal than the whole world."

THE treasury department has announced that manufacturers of flour made from imported wheat mixed with domestic wheat will be allowed drawback, under the opinion of the attorney general dated Jan. 24, 1905, on the following conditions: "A complete and detailed record must be kept, showing the quantity of wheat imported, the date of manufacture and the amounts of imported and domestic wheat used in the manufacture of each grade and brand of flour, and the amount of flour of each grade and brand produced, and the quantity of the several by-products, including screenings and waste, the value of each and every kind of wheat so used and the value at the mill of each grade or brand of flour and of each and every by-product, including screenings and waste. The packages containing the flour so manufactured

shall be so marked as to render identification easy and certain, to the end that the treasury officials at the port of exportation may determine by examination the essential facts above stated. The manufacturing records shall be at all times open to the treasury department, and shall be so kept that the sworn abstract may be readily verified. A sworn abstract from all the records of the mill shall be filed with the collector of customs at New York each week, and therefrom the collector will furnish extracts as needed for exportation. The preliminary entries shall show the marks and numbers of the several packages and the net and gross weight thereof, separately and in the aggregate. The drawback entry shall show the quantity of each brand or grade of flour or by-product exported, the quantities of imported and domestic wheat used in the manufacture thereof, the waste incurred in the manufacture, the total duty on the imported wheat, the market value of each grade or brand of flour and of each by-product at the place of manufacture, and that the same was manufactured in accordance with the manufacturer's abstract. In making the liquidation, the duty paid on the imported wheat used in the manufacture of the article exported, less 1 per cent, shall be divided between the several grades or brands of flour and the several by-products, including screenings, pro rata, in proportion to the value of each at the time and place of manufacture, and a drawback will be allowed in accordance therewith on each article actually exported, in accordance with the principle laid down by the United States circuit court of appeals in United States vs. Dean Linseed Oil company (87 Fed. Rep., 453), approved by the United States supreme court (172 U. S., 647).

DR. E. S. BANKS, the field director of the University of Chicago expedition to Babylonia, has, according to the New York World, reported the discovery of a statue which he regards as the oldest in the world. It was found eight feet beneath the ruins of the ancient city of Udnunka (or Adab), near the present village of Bismya, and has been identified by an inscription as that of King Daddu, of Udnunka. The statue is of pure white marble, weighing two hundred pounds, and is almost perfect. Udnunka, under the name of Adab, was in existence many centuries before Babylon was founded. It is mentioned in the code of Hammurabi, but little is known of it. King Daddu is not mentioned in the earliest records.

A PARIS publication reports that the automobile trade in France has, during the past few years had an enormous growth. For instance, in 1898 French makers delivered 1,850 automobiles; in 1904 they delivered 22,000. The total value has grown from 80,000,000 francs (\$16,000,000) in 1898 to 176,000,000 francs (\$35,200,000) in 1904. The value of exportations in 1898 was 1,750,000 francs (\$350,000); in 1904 it was 74,000,000 francs (\$14,800,000). Salaries now paid amount to 80,000,000 francs (\$16,000,000). The industry employs 55,000 workmen, 25,000 miscellaneous employes and 26,000 chauffeurs and machinists.

LIGHT is thrown on the statehood bill in a dispatch from Walter Wellman to the Chicago Record Herald in which dispatch Mr. Wellman says: "Great surprise prevailed throughout the senate this afternoon when it was discovered that Mr. Kearns' amendment transferring the Arizona strip to Utah is a part of the bill as passed by the senate. Mr. Beveridge, who had charge of the bill, frankly admits that he had no idea the amendment had been retained in the bill, but the records of the senate show it was offered and adopted as a part of the measure which passed. It was the general impression that the amendment was added to section 19, which subsequently was stricken out, but it is shown by the records that the amendment was added to section 18. Utah lying north of Grand River, should any statehood legislation be had at this session of congress. Being in the bill as passed, it can only be taken out by a vote of the senate. Nothing in the bill relates to Arizona or Utah. All reference to Arizona was stricken out by the Bacon amendment, which the senate adopted."

MR. WELLMAN adds: "To recall and reconsider the bill a majority vote is necessary. With all senators present the senate is at present a tie on the statehood question. The return of absentees will strengthen the forces of the friends of the original bill, and, should the senate reopen the question, they will try to wipe out all the legislation of yesterday and pass the bill as reported by the committee. Rather than risk the forcible ad-

mission of Arizona the friends of the territory will likely choose the lesser of two evils and permit the bill with the Kearns amendment to go to the house. Arizona, therefore, will be forced to give up 7,000 square miles of its territory to Utah and the Mormons for the small privilege of being permitted to remain a territory. Efforts will be made in the house to have the senate amendments accepted without a conference so as to prevent the bill coming again before the senate. A conference with the senate is almost certain to result in the senate conferees being instructed to recede and accept the two state bills—the measure providing for the admission of Oklahoma and Indian Territory as one state and Arizona and New Mexico as another. The statehood battle now is transferred to the house and the outcome there is doubtful. Speaker Cannon is inclined to rally the republican hosts and adhere strictly to the original party program, joint statehood for New Mexico and Arizona or none for either of them. But this is easier said than done."

IT is reported by the Washington correspondent for the New York Tribune that free lumber—in a word, free raw and partially manufactured materials of every sort and description—are now at the disposal of American manufacturers engaged in the export trade, as a result of the far-reaching drawback decision of Attorney General Moody.

IT is claimed that, according to the principle enunciated by the attorney general, there will be no necessity for any change in the Dingley tariff law. The Tribune correspondent explains: "Whether the proposed extensive granting of drawbacks will have the effect of curtailing the revenues to an extent which will render tariff readjustment imperative it is impossible to determine at this time. The legal proposition set forth by the Attorney General is that the section of the Dingley act which provides for drawbacks and declares that the imported material "shall so appear in the completed articles that the quantity or measure thereof may be ascertained" may be so construed that the term "appear" shall mean "that knowledge which comes to the mind as a result of evidence as well as knowledge derived from the exercise of the senses." The attorney general further says: "In my opinion, where it is proposed to export a product manufactured in the United States from a combination of domestic material and foreign material which has paid duty, and customs officials can identify the foreign material and can ascertain to their satisfaction by the evidence of books of accounts or otherwise the quantity or measure of foreign material actually present in the completed article, the exporter is entitled to receive a drawback of 99 per cent of the duties paid upon the imported material thus ascertained to be present in the completed article."

WE are further told by the Tribune correspondent that this is a victory for Secretary Shaw who has all along contended that it was the intention of William McKinley and other great tariff experts that the American exporter, forced to compete with the foreigner on his own ground should be able to avail himself of the foreign materials absolutely free of duty.

THE champion banana eater, if reports are true, lives at Brooklyn, N. Y. Three boys, Frank Smith, Edward Briggs and George Phillips, entered the contest and the Associated Press tells the balance in this way: "There were no restrictions, the only requirements of the match being to devour as many bananas as possible. A silver dollar is the prize. At the start the fruit disappeared as if by magic. At the end of the first dozen the contestants straightened up and a sigh of relief escaped from the onlookers. Phillips was the first to start in on the second dozen. From that moment it was seen he was to be the winner, he had such a clean way of disposing of the fruit. Two movements of the hand removed the outer covering as the jaws disposed of the fruit. While Phillips was masticating his twenty-second banana Briggs was nibbling in a half-hearted way at his twenty-first. He cast a sidelong glance at Phillips, and, noting how easy he was going, saw he could not overtake him. 'Enough,' came in smothered tones, and it was all over. Smith, the only real Brooklyn representative, had fallen by the way at No. 15. Phillips resented any insinuations that he would have stopped at twenty-three, and to show the absurdity of them ate an extra half dozen. While recounting his gastronomical feats it may be stated that Phillips holds the ice cream record also. He ate a quart of cream in fifty seconds flat."