## NEBRASKA INDUSTRY.

STATE YIELDS A MAMMOTH CROPOF "CORKSCREWS."

Each One Weighs Many Tons - They food is all alike and so highly seasoned of in the Scheme of American Development.

(Omaha Letter.)



OME gigantic fossils brought from Nebraska recently by Prof. E. H. Barbour of Washington, D. C., have excited much interest in the east. There are lots of them in Nebraska, where they are popularly known as

"corkscrews." In fact, they are thickly scattered through deposits which extend over at least 500 square miles. chiefly in Sloux county, and over all that region they may be seen projecting from the sides of cliffs and in other places where the rocky formations have been worn away by water and

These freaks are commonly known as "fossil twisters." They are of enormous size, sometimes as much as forty feet long; but the most remarkable thing about them is the symmetry of their structure, which is absolutely mathematical. As weathered out from the cliffs, they are always perpendicular, and often they seem to be supporting roofs of superposed strata, as if relics of a bygone style of architecture. The spirals are wonders of perfection and elegance; sometimes they are wound about an axis, while in other cases the axis is imaginary, as it were, the spirals being free. It is difficult to realize that these objects are in reality works of nature and not of art, especially because no animal or plant



QUARRYING CORKSCREWS. capable of producing anything like

them exists in the present day. The corkscrews occur in astonishing

numbers in the region referred to. One frequently sees hillsides more than 100 feet high studded from bottom to top with the great spirals, but more particularly with the so-called roots which project out from them. Some of the roots are as big round as hogsheads, and they were formerly imagined to be fossil logs, until their relation to the screws were established by digging the things out bodily and entire. The corkscrews look strikingty like the instruments employed for opening bottles, turned with quite as mathematical precision, though on a scale so enormously magnified. Corkscrews, however, always turn in one direction, while the fossil twister is right-handed or left-handed indiscriminately.

Professor Barbour has established the fact pretty satisfactorily that they are fossil plants, and that they grew in water. There was a time, a couple of millions of years ago, when Nebraska and all the great basins east of the Rocky mountains were covered by an immense lake—an inland sea of fresh water. In this lake the strange plants, wholly different from any now surviving, grew and flourished. There were sub-aqueous forests of them-thickly crowded forests of vast extent. Each screw, with its accompanying root, did not represent a single plant, but probably a colony composed of many plants. The plants were related very likely to modern seaweeds. It may be imagined that they grew at a depth of several hundred feet while among their weird looking stems swam fishes of types now long extinct.

The waters of the mighty lake received great quantities of sediment. brought to it by streams, and this was deposited on the bottom at a very rapid rate-so rapid, indeed, that it is difficult to see how plants of any sort could have subsisted under such conditions. The steady deposit of sediment gradually raised the level of the bottom, burying the giant lake weeds. In the course of time the waters dried up. and the accumulated sediment containing the corkscrew-shaped plants became hardened into sandstone of a very fine and even-grained quality. Meanwhile the plants themselves decay id and disappeared, the place of each vegetable particle being take by a particle of silica deposited from water. Thus the forms of the big weeds were perfectly reversed, even to the cell structure, and in this way it comes about that the corckscrews have been kept

over to excite the wonder of a new age. An Expensive Product.

The most expensive product in the world is the charcoal filament which is used for incandescent lamps. It is mostly made in Paris by an artist whose name is kept secret in order better to guard the process of manufacture. The filament for lamps of twenty candle power are sold for \$8,000 a pound. Those for lamps of thirty candles are worth \$12,000.

WHAT MEXICANS EAT.

One Need Not Leave President Diag Table Hungry.

Different lands have different diets. The usual complaint made by Americans when they go to Mexico is that the Were Made Before Man Was Thought that if it were different no one could tell it, says an exchange. No one who has ever eaten at the table of President Diaz can make this complaint, for while the cuisine is distinctly Mexican the dinner is so well selected that the most discriminating taste can find nothing to which to object. Soup comes on, not clear, but with a thickening of roasted pea flour and accompanied by larded-toasted bread in place of crackers. This is followed by the ever-present eggs and their accompaniment of fried bananas. One of the 'ishes served if the dinner is typically Mexican is bound to be the far famed mole de guajelote, which has come all the way down from the days of the Montezumas. It is roast turkey overspread with a heavy dressing of peppery chile and rich seeds. The tortilla, a small thin pancake, is popular among the rich and poor alike, and it will appear probably rolled deftly and containing finely hashed meat strongly flavored with garlic and chile. There are accompaniments of freshly sliced tomatoes, spiced lettuce, radishes and other relishes, and from time to time appear more substantial viands, such as the ever-present frijole beans, delicately browned in lard, prepared as only a Mexican can prepare them; stuffed artichokes, and mutton chops, small whitefish and scalloped oysters, the latter two being served as a mid-dinner course. For desert they have ices, prepared almonds, preserved fruits, marmalades, nuts, raisins and a great variety of rich, fancily frosted and jellied cakes called pasteles. Homeprepared extract of coffee is poured into the cup of each person to finish the meal and two or three spoonfuls of this thick, sirupy and lye-strong concoction are drowned with hot milk, really making a cup of coffee of delicate aro-

A BATRACHIAN FREAK.

ma and delicious taste.

It Has Five Legs and Gives Interesting Performances.

The famous Calaveras frog has found legitimate successor. This one also lives in California, making his home near Colma. His claim to fame lies in the fact that he has five legs, and is credited with the ability to understand the English language. This is, more correctly speaking, his principal claim to fame; he is also remarkable for his toes. He has nineteen of these, three on each hind foot, four on each of two other feet, and five on the foot belonging to the extra leg. This leg joins his body somewhere forward of the normal front leg, and is supplied with regular bones and joints. The connection with the body is apparently perfect. In other respects the frog is like any other frog.

His style of traveling, however, is peculiar. With three legs on the left side and but two on the other, his course continually veers to the ri so that after making a certain number of jumps, he arrives again at his staft ing point. It is this curious method of locomotion that led to his discovery. James O'Connor, his owner, had occasion to pass the Holy Cross cemetery at Colma, when his attention was attracted by the little reptile's effort to move about, which resulted merely in his describing a series of circles. After dragging himself about in this fashion for a few minutes, at an extraordinary rate of speed for a frog he began to move in an odd way toward a pond close by, walking solely on his two front feet. Mr. O'Connor, following things versatile; no role, however difhad been injured in some way, then perceived the extra leg, and realizing that a genuine curiosity was within his reach, promptly captured the creature. A series of experiments soon demonstrated his ability to perform the strangest antics of which any frog was ever guilty. In fact, so intelligent did he seem, it was very promptly decided that he must be the very batrachiar



FROG WITH FIVE LEGS.

immortalized in the familiar college song.

McGinty, as he has been named, has been taught many things which it is not supposed that the frog had sufficient intelligence to learn. For instance, his owner states positively that when asked which is the biggest town aske i: "Say, Mr. A-, how can six in California, or ought to be, the frog of us fellows look at Mr. Irving with will jump about when Colma is mentioned, but preserves absolute quiet Sir Henry dropped his cane and stared, when any other town is designated. Again, suppose several men to be seated about the table on which he gives his exhibitions. Mr. O'Connor asks, 'Whom do you like best here?" and the frog promptly moves toward the questioner.

Black Animals.

"Beware of black animals" is considered sound advice by a magazine writer who devotes six pages and numerous illustrations to warnings gun. The play was to be "The Lady against and awful examples of black of Lyons," and the manager, who was and undertakers' horses.

OF STAGE FOLK.

Maurice Grau the Victim of a Suggestion from the New York Post Doing Double Parts-Evils of Cockney Dislect Some Salary Statistics.



HE New York Evening Post makes the happy suggestion that if Maurice Grau should ever lose the great singers who now make opera possible in New York,he might create a sensation by producing a very

old Italian opera, "Berenice," and putting it on the stage, as it was done at Padua in 1760. There were three choruses, one of knights on horseback, another of 100 soldiers on foot, and a third of 100 girls. The triumphal procession was led by forty horn-players and sixty trumpet players, who were followed by standard-bearers, pages, hunters, Turks, Moors, two lions, and wo elephants. Berenice's triumphal charlot was drawn by six white horses and was followed by twelve other charlots. One of the scenes showed a forest in which boars, deer, and bears were being hunted; another, the royal stables, with 100 horses. In the final tableau a large golden globe descended from above, and while it hovered in the air there came out of it six smaller blue globes packed with girls representing the various virtues and singing a celestial chorus.

Victory Bateman. Victory Bateman made her debut in comic opera roles and then essayed the interpretation of various characters in a repertoire presented by Creston Clarke. Miss Bateman is above all

THEATRICAL LETTER. actor play the servant, the landlord, the first officer and the notary, as they figured separately in each act. He CURRENT SAYINGS AND DOINGS | therefore approached Dodson and said to him very courteously: "My dear boy. I'm going to give you an opportunity to display your versatility. The part I want you to play in 'The Lady of Lyons' is a many-sided and complex one. In the first act you are a servant in the employ of Mme. Deschappelles. You manage to save some money and purchase an inn, so that in the second act we see you established as a landlord. Business being bad and war having been declared, you decide to enlist, and when the curtain rises on the third act you have been promoted to the post of first officer. Peace being concluded, you tire of military life, and the last act finds you safely esconced as the village notary. Now, my boy, you have a chance to show your mettle. It is the chance of a lifetime."

Some Salary Statistics.

Hillary Bell vouches for the accuracy of these salary statistics. Grand opera stars receive ten times the salary earned by actors. The best of our players is glad to earn \$300, or, at the most, \$500 a week. Mme. Calve receives \$1,500 a night, and Jean De Reszke generally takes \$2,500 as his share of a single performance. The other evening Melba sang only ten minutes, so she earned \$150 for each minute of actual work. The president of the United States works a year for \$50,000, during which period he directs the political affairs of 70,000,000 people. But Melba's income for seven months last year amounted to \$380,000. Yet she began her musical career singing at penny readings in Australia for a compensation of sixty-two cents, or two and six pence a night. Colonel Mapleson says that he used to employ Jean De Reszke for \$50 a week. At present the tenor's income is \$8,000 a week, or at the rate of over \$400,000 a vear.

Lillian Lewis. An actress of rather indifferent meth



him up under the impression that he ficult, has daunted her, though it has pleasing provincial audiences is Lillian not followed that she has achieved success in all her undertakings. Miss Bateman is a woman of great energy and ambition. Perhaps her cleverest performances were those she gave while in Louis James' company. Miss Bateman is not a genius, but she is a trustworthy and intelligent interpreter of many familiar stage characters. She has a penchant for Shakespearian roles, which seldom seem fitted to her style or her stage methods. The fact that she is sincere covers, however, a multiude of histrionic sins.

Evils of Cockney Dislect.

There was a stage director with Henry Irving last season whose cockney dialect out-Chevallered Chevaller. It will be remembered that in "Louis XI." there are a number of huskylooking men who take the part of Burgundians. Supers are engaged for these parts, and it was the place of the above-mentioned stage director to drill them. In the second act these Burgundians, six in number, exit from Louis' presence, casting upon him glances of rage, etc. At rehearsal one day the supers were being drilled in their parts by the stage director and when it came to the exit he explained: 'As you go out you must look at 'im The Burgundians with eyes of 'ate." started and then stopped. One of their number, with a puzzled look, eyes o' eight?" Miss Terry shricked, and the rest of the company laughed for fully five minutes.

Doing Double Parts

Actors are frequently called upon to double parts, but few are ever requested to quadruple them. Such an experience befell J. E. Dodson in the early days of his career, but the demand was so diplomatically couched that the comedian never discovered the deception until after the rehearsals had beit would be a good plan to have one

ods, but one who has succeeded in Lewis. Her best work was in the play, "As in a Looking Glass." She belongs to the class known, in the parlance of the Rialto, as a "road star." Miss Lewis is a "drawing card" in the west and south, and is a woman of attract-



ive appearance and a good stage pres-

Origin of "Lorenzaccio."

"Lorenzaccio," by Alfred de Musset, which is now at the Theater de la Renaissance, with Sarah Bernhardt in the leading part, has an interesting history. M. de Musset was 24 years old when he wrote "Lorenzaccio." It was while he was in Italy. He arrived in Florence in August; 1834, and there, while in search of themes for stories that would revivify an almost forgotten past, he came upon a manuscript written by Varchi, the chronicler of the sixteenth century. It contained the history, with all details, of the tragic end of Alexandro di Medici, the tyrant, assassinated by his cousin Lorenzo. From this chronicle De Musset drew "Lorenzaccio." Alexander Dumas employed the same tragic story in animals, leopards, cats, ravens, beetles of an economical turn of mind, thought his "Lorenzino," produced without success in Paris in 1842.

PRISDAN OF SIAM TURNS HIS BACK ON THE WORLD.

Could Not Please the Reigning Monarch and Concluded to Abandon Statecraft for Missionary Labors May Invade Christendom

(Rangkok Letter.)



HURSDAY, Nov. 8, 1896, was a great day in the history of Ceylon Buddhism. It was the day when in the village of Waskaddua, in the district of Kalutura, in Ceylon, at an hour when the sun was sinking sea-

ward, His Royal Highness Prince Phra Ong Chou Chulla Cham Klan Prisdan Choomasi, of the reigning dynasty of Slam, made the great renunciation of royalty and all worldly ties and glory, and betook himself to the Three-fold Refuge of Gautama Buddha. exchanging his priestly robes of grandeur and gold for the yellow of monkhood and mendicancy.

After receiving an elementary English education in Siam, the Prince went to England in 1873 to complete his education. He joined King's college, London, and was a pupil of the famous Rev. (since Bishop) Alfred Barry, D. D. It is said that his favorite subjects were applied science and mechanics. In 1878, after he returned from a short visit to Siam, he went through a course of civil engineering, in which branch of learning he so distinguished himself that he obtained from the London Society of Arts a silver medal for proficiency in engineering and architecture, and was made an associate member of the Institute of Civil Engineering. He had by then graduated from King's college with



IN ROBES OF A MONK.

honors. Among the literary and other honors he received in Europe it may be mentioned that he was made an associate of King's college, London; member of the Oriental Society of monks another man so learned in France, and member of the Archaeo- English and in French as the royal logical Society of Portugal. One can- mendicant and trained to western ways not help regretting in recording these facts that the crowning event of Prince Prisdan's life in this world, the event that stands as a landmark on the borderland of the prince's world and his no-world, should have been the begin- him to understand the Buddhist Scripning of monachism and not of a career for which his education and training of nearly a quarter of a century well fit him. But the regret arises only when it is forgotten that, as great and many were his distinctions in the world, so great and sincere was the sacrifice involved in his renunciation of them.

On the completion of his collegiate career, Prince Prisdan was appointed interpreter to the Siamese Special Envoy to the Courts of England and Germany. In 1880 he was appointed interpreter to the Slamese Envoy charged with the honor of investing Her Majesty the Queen of England. their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, and Monsieur Grevy, the President of the French Republic, with the Grand Cordon of the most exalted Order of the White Elephant. He was next Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the courts of Berlin and Vienna. The talent and tact he displayed in his high duties won for him the esteem of all the European courts he had anything to do with. He was instrumental in making various treaties between Siam and the countries of the west, including the United States of America, notably a treaty for the regulation of the liquor traffic with Siam. Honors were lavished on him and his name was well known in all European countries.

In 1883, when Prince Prisdan returned to Siam finally from Europe, a royal proclamation was issued setting forth all his various services to his king and his country. The highest of Slamese honors were conferred on him, and he was granted vast estates to enable him to live in state. Further, he was raised to the highest rank in the Siamese peerage by being made a Phra Ong Chou. It is not possible in Siam to attain to any rank higher than the Phra Ong Chou, which is probably

second only to the honor of kingship. Prince Prisdan's career in Siam was brief and unhappy, though it commenced brightly and augured much happiness. For a time he was Cabinet Minister and held also the position of Minister of War, but he could not please the king in all things, nor could the king him. Unwilling to abide much much longer in a country where he was not in favor and unable to serve building was destroyed by the Taepings a king who was dissatisfied with his services, the Prince took the first step toward his self-immolation, by leaving more of these structures, all alike in de-Siam, giving up forever all his wealth sign but differing in dimensions, and in and position and all the high associa- the richness of the material and ornations of royalty. He went over to ments.

Perak, transferred his allegiance to the British government, and, as plain Mr. P. Choomasi, was during the last few years employed as first assistant magistrate and settlement officer of Perak. Even now the Prince is in the pay or the British government, his leave of eight months not yet having expired, at the end of which period he will formally tender his resignation.

It was about 5 p. m. on Thursday November 5, 1896, when, in the small upper room of the octagonal pansala at Waskaduwa, Prince Prisdan was admitted to the monkhood. Appearing in his state dress, wear-

ing his full complement of decorations, the Prince scattered among the vast crowds assembled round the pansala numbers of silver coins, in token that so he renounced all his wealth and worldly greatness. Then he addressed the people in English, his words being translated into Singhalese, setting forth the nature of the duties he was entering upon, and with an effort he broke in two his sword in token of surrender to his conqueror. All this was before the vast concourse of the assembled multitude, amid shouts of applause and ringing cheers of jubilation. But all the loud beating of drums, the shouts of Sadhu, and the many and varied cries of men, women and children had given place to a remarkably imposing stillness and calm, when the Prince clean shaved and clad in spotless white, presented himself at the door of the octagonal upper room of the pansala. On an elevation, which resembled a Catholic altar, was an image of Buddha, with seven candles burning before it in a row. All the Prince's costly apparel and personal belongings-three uniforms, wrought with ornaments of fine gold, two swords, helmets, a naval cap, etc.were placed on a salver in front of the image as an offering to the pausala. On the floor, spread with gorgeous carpets, on circular cushions of soft cotton, sat a dozen priests. The Prince was questioned as to his intentions to be admitted to monkhood, and then it was touching to see Prince Prisdan, prostrating himself before the image, repeat in a solemn, half-heard, halfhushed voice, after the still more solemn intoning of the officiating monk:

Buddham, Saranam Gacchami, Dharman Saranam Gacchami, Sangham Saranam Gacchami, the expression of embracing the Threefold Refuge of Buddhism, meaning, "I go for refuge to the Buddha. I go for refuge to the Law. I go for refuge to the Order." It is remarkable that this is the only prayer of true Buddhism. The novice was then robed in yellow and shown to the people. Thus it came to pass that Prince Prisdan of the royal

family of Siam was made a Buddhist

monk, at Waskaduwa, in Ceylon. After instruction in the Ten Precepts of the Desa-Sila, and a complete ordination, known as upasampada, the novice would be a full monk. At present the Prince is at Waskaduwa, and he has not yet decided whether he is to work in Ceylon or go abroad. As there is not in the ranks of the Buddhist and western culture as he, it is probable that the princely monk will be sent next year to England on a missionary tour. In the meantime he will be taught Pall and Singhalese to enable ture in the original.

The Prince is an affable, courteous and kind-hearted man, and what is most characteristic of him, more even than his devotion as a Buddhist, is his great humility.

CHINESE PAGODA.

One of the Most Striking Buildings in the "Flowery Kingdom."

The most striking buildings in China are the tapering towers known as pagodas. These are of brick, covered with marble, or most generally with glazed tiles; and are built in stories, one over the other from three, four, or five, to ca many as nine in number.



Each story is reduced in which, and has a gallery round it. The saids are hollow or sagging and project a great feal, the corners being turned up sharply. On these light bells are suspended which make a constant ringing when the wind blows. The roofs are covered with glazed tiles of various colors, and the summit ornamented with a species of spire and finial. The most celebrated of these buildings was that known as the porcelain tower of Nanking. It had nine stories, and was about two hundred feet high, exclusive of the iron spire. At each angle was a bell, making seventy-two in all; and there were eight chains hanging from the top of the finial to the angles of the spire, and carrying nine bells each, or seventy-two more. This celebrated when in rebellion in 1853. Almost every town in China possesses one or