

Items of Interest.



There are 8,000 tons of gold coined or in bars. The British brew 35,500,000 barrels of beer a year.

A German infantry soldier's outfit weighs over sixty pounds.

The great Scottish universities are said to be in need of money.

Eighty-three per cent of the pure Hawaiians can read and write.

The manufacture of silk was introduced into Spain by the Moors.

A white disc a foot across can be seen 17,000 feet in bright sunlight.

Germany is experimenting with acetylene gas as an illuminant for lighthouses.

The United States produces three-fourths of all the cotton grown in the world.

The first comic opera was written in 1240 A. D. The author was Adam de la Hale.

Patti says the best way to preserve the voice is to take daily walks in the open air.

Carbon making for electric lamps is one of the main industries in the Virginia gas belt.

Farm hands are scarce in England. The glories of war have tempted the laborers away.

The biggest sailing ship in the world is being built in Boston. It will carry six masts.

Electric windlasses are now being used to load and discharge cargoes by great steamship lines.

The Illinois bird league has 30,000 members. The object of the league is to protect the birds.

The record height for a kangaroo jump is eleven feet. The deer record is nine feet six inches.

A New York florist declares that 6,000,000 palms decorated American churches last Easter Sunday.

Lee Tricket of Glennwood, Wis., claims to be the heaviest man in the world. He weighs 500 pounds.

The German postal authorities are considering the idea of forcing the use of envelopes of certain sizes.

The voluntary contributions offered in the Church of England last year amounted to nearly \$40,000,000.

Prospectors claim to have found a mountain of almost pure copper within forty miles of Deadwood, S. D.

The new Theatre de Francais, Paris, is the largest in the world. It covers three acres of ground space.

Central America and the West Indies sell about \$8,000,000 worth of bananas to the United States each year.

A lamp chimney is a small thing, but 11,000 people are employed in making lamp chimneys in the United States.

Some man with nothing else to do has figured out that 1,000,000 dollar bills will weigh 2,176 pounds avoirdupois.

Peterboro, N. H., established the first free library in the United States, the library having been founded in 1833.

Africa has an area of 11,500,000 square miles—three times larger than the United States and her "colonial possessions."

An Omaha newspaper man says the highest ambition of his life is to have two good pairs of suspenders at one time.

France has taken the lead in sub-marine boat-building, having fifteen in commission and eight in course of construction.

In Prussia last year 641 couples celebrated golden and diamond weddings. The government gave each couple a gold medal.

The battleship Maine will be launched on Memorial day.

The highest known tides are in the Bay of Fundy. The lowest are at Panama, where the rise and fall is less than two feet.

The number of libraries in the United States has more than doubled during the last twenty years. There are now about 5,000.

The Amazon river is the largest in the world. The longest waterway in the world is made up of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers.

Two dozen of the leading bankers, business and professional men of Richmond, Mo., celebrated May Day by parading in shirt waists.

Four hundred years ago Manhattan island was bought for \$24. The other day a garden patch on Manhattan island sold for \$1,000,000.

The largest single iron deposit in the United States is Iron Mountain, Mo. It is considerable of a mountain and is 80 per cent pure iron.

A Georgia jury called to try the case of a man charged with assault returned the following verdict: "We find the prisoner almost guilty."

A statue 6,000 years old has been discovered in an Egyptian village. It is the representation of a chief of the domain in which it was erected.

Miss Anna Lyle has been teaching school in Philadelphia for fifty years. For forty-one years she has been the principal of a primary school.

Great Britain has one small comfort in the Boer war. Enlistments in the army and navy have reduced the number of tramps about 75 per cent.

The ancients had the art of tempering copper, but the art has long been lost. The man who can rediscover it will be able to ride in his private yacht.

Italy and Spain have the fewest number of houses in proportion to population. The Argentine Republic has most, with Uruguay a close second.

The government's new mint at Philadelphia will be the largest, costliest and finest money-making establishment in the world. It will cost \$2,000,000 exclusive of the furnishings.

The second son of Rajah Brooke of Sarawak was a member of the Cambridge, England, boat crew last year. His name is B. W. D. Brooke, but his classmates call him "the rajah." He is very popular.

Men who smoke "Egyptian cigarettes" think they are smoking tobacco raised in Egypt. Tobacco-raising has been prohibited in that country for upwards of forty years. The only thing Egyptian about the "Egyptian cigarette" is the name.

An English newspaper says that the largest block of stone ever quarried weighs 1,400 tons and was used in the construction of the lighthouse on Bleachly Head. The statement is not true. Blocks of stone much larger and heavier are in plain sight in the pyramids of Egypt.

A Blair, Neb., boy recently tried to enlist in the navy at the Omaha recruiting station. He stood the physical examination, but when asked to pick certain colored cards from a basket he failed lamentably. To him the colors gray, orange, yellow, light green and dark blue appeared to be brown.

In Sweden the state cares for and owns over 18,000,000 acres of forest lands. Schools of forestry are maintained, and as a result of wise foresight the proceeds from the sale of the lumber product pay all the cost of the schools and the caretakers, and the net profits are four times greater than the expenditures.

The Burt mansion at Abbeville, S. C., has been offered for sale. It was in this mansion that the final session of the confederate cabinet was held. At the close of the meeting the great seal of the confederacy was hidden away so well that it has never been found. It was reported that it had been thrown in an old well on the place, but if it

was it did not stop at the bottom, for every well on the place has been closely searched.

Great Salt Lake's level is rapidly lowering, owing to the drain made upon it by irrigation canals that tap its feeders. It is proposed that a canal be cut from Snake river to the lake for the sole purpose of keeping the lake from going dry.

For the first time in history, a suit has been brought which involves an alleged trespass on the part of a dead man. Mrs. Mary Clyborn, mother-in-law of Allen Gregory, now dead, has commenced proceedings in the Chicago courts to obtain a decree for the removal of Gregory's body from its grave in Mrs. Clyborn's lot.

The civil service commission will make an effort to indict Representative Charles R. Dick, of Ohio, in the courts at Washington for alleged violation of the law prohibiting the solicitation of assessments for political purposes from employes of the government. This step is rendered necessary because a federal grand jury at Cincinnati refused to bring in a true bill. Representative Dick, while in charge of a recent gubernatorial campaign in Ohio, sent letters to all the employes in the executive departments here who hold legal residence in Ohio, intimating that they were personally interested in republican success and should contribute toward that end. Under the interpretation of the civil service law made by Attorney General Olney the letter was not a violation of the statute. The commission has never been satisfied with Mr. Olney's construction, and is anxious to have a test case made to decide the question. Having failed in Ohio, an effort will be made to bring the matter into court here.

A dispatch from New Orleans to the St. Louis Globe-Democrat says: General Pearson, the Boer agent, who, with E. Van Ness, the New York attorney, brought the suit for injunction to restrain further shipments of mules by the British from this port for army use in the Transvaal, which suit was yesterday dismissed, last night gave out a most significant interview, in which he practically said that privateers would be fitted out in the interest of the Boers to accomplish what the law had denied. He was much disappointed over the action of the court, and when asked for a statement as to his ideas over the outcome of the suit, he said: "I am not as much surprised as disappointed. You can say this for me—British commerce will, in the near future, receive a great surprise." Gen. Pearson went on to talk of the situation at length, and there was but one inference to be drawn from what he said—that the Boers had friends who were willing to pay for fitting out privateers for the purpose of capturing all vessels containing further shipments of mules, and injuring British commerce in general as much as possible.

An important discovery made during the past week is that the placer mining district in the Big Salmon country are on American territory, and not on the Canadian side as has been supposed for the past two years. In a report, Assistant Surgeon Fraser, commanding the Dalton Trail Detachment of the Northwest mounted police, says: "A good deal of country which has hitherto been recognized as part of Alaska, U. S., became Canadian territory by the establishment of the provisional boundary. The line commences at a peak west of Porcupine Creek and runs in a northeasterly direction towards another peak to the Klehini River, thence following its right bank to the junction with the Chilcat River, about a mile and a half above Kluckwan, an Indian village. The boundary thence runs to the summit of peak east of Chilcat River. This places Porcupine, McKinley, Calhoone and other creeks within the United States territory; but Glacier, Boulder, Slate, and a few others which were staked under United States laws, are now in British Columbia, part of what is known as the Porcupine district being in United States and another part, holding the same name, in British Columbia."