

Items of Interest.



Platinum expands the least by heat of any metal.

The essence of lemon is extracted from the lemon peel.

The tusks of an elephant frequently weigh from 150 to 300 pounds.

There are 10,000 miles of overhead telegraph wires in use in the city of London.

An ostrich egg weighs about three pounds, equalling two dozen hen eggs.

The Wesleyan Female College near Macon, Ga., is the oldest college for women in the world.

The Dartmouth Gazette, started in 1800, was the first college paper published in the United States.

The albatross is the largest of all sea birds, frequently measuring seventeen feet from tip to tip of wings.

In proportion to area the state of Florida has the greatest amount of land under water and the state of Wyoming has the least.

In some of the countries of South America the natives churn by putting the cream in a skin bag and dragging it behind a galloping horse.

The great German gunmaker, Krupp, has an annual income of \$4,000,000, a payroll of 80,000 persons and a fortune estimated at \$50,000,000.

The big floating steel dry dock in Havana harbor has been purchased from the Spanish government by the naval department for \$185,000.

Representative "Cy" Sulloway of New Hampshire is a powerfully built man, 6 feet 5 inches in height, and is the tallest man in the house of representatives.

Lord Roberts, the British commander, has issued an order that dismounted infantry officers shall carry carbines instead of swords, both on active service and in maneuvers.

A writer in the Public Library Bulletin is authority for the statement that the first free public library in the United States was established in 1799 at Petersboro, New Hampshire.

The traveler's tree, found in the island of Madagascar, has from twenty to twenty-four leaves, each being from six to eight feet in length, and containing, even in the driest of weather, a quart or more of pure fresh water.

According to the census we had 17,665 less Chinamen in the United States in 1900 than in 1890, the number now here being 89,600. During the past ten years the Japanese increased from 2,039 to 24,300.

The Prince Lucien Bonaparte library of 15,000 volumes, said to be one of the best philological libraries in the world, has been secured by the Newberry library of Chicago. The heirs of the prince valued the library at \$200,000.

The new government printing office, when completed, will be the largest in the world. No typesetting machines have yet been used in the old government printing office, which fact is largely due to the successful efforts of the labor unions.

July 13 the shareholders of the First National bank at No. 2 Wall street, New York, voted to increase its capital stock from \$500,000 to \$10,000,000, and this, together with its surplus fund of nearly \$10,000,000, makes it the largest banking institution on the American continent.

Mr. J. A. Fillmore has resigned as manager of the Pacific system of the Southern Pacific railway, having spent nearly a lifetime in the service of that company. He is to receive \$1,000 per month until the end of the year and \$500 per month thereafter as long as he lives.

While excavating for sewers recently at Decatur, Ala., the workmen found what is presumed to be a relic of the revolutionary war. Eight feet

under ground a sabre was found still in the grasp of a skeleton hand. Other human bones were found near by, and it is believed that the skeleton is that of a revolutionary general, as some of the older citizens state that they have heard their forefathers tell of a revolutionary officer having been killed and buried near that spot.

About five-sevenths of the earth's surface is covered with water. It is computed that there are 321,800,000 cubic miles of water in the whole ocean, and that if the land and the bed of the ocean were reduced to one common level the whole earth would be covered by an universal ocean two miles deep.

According to an estimate of the United States fish commission 2,000,000 frogs are annually caught for the market in this country and the sum paid out to the hunters each year is about \$100,000. The United States consumes five times as many frog legs as France, and the industry is becoming of such importance that the fish commission has long been considering various plans for the artificial breeding of frogs for the market.

In the year 1889 only seventy-one tons of aluminum were manufactured. In 1900, 7,500 tons were produced, one-half of this amount being made in the United States. On account of its light weight it can be stretched a much greater distance between poles than wire made from other metals, and for this reason it is now being extensively used in the construction of telegraph and telephone lines.

From a bulletin issued by the census office in July, it appears that 28,411,698 people, or 37.3 per cent of our entire population, live in cities of more than 4,000 population. There are now in this country 1,158 places of more than 4,000 population, as compared with 609 in 1890, and 580 in 1880. The percentage of the population living in cities of more than 4,000 in 1880 was 25.8 per cent, in 1890 32.3 per cent and in 1900 as above stated 37.3 per cent.

A statement prepared at the internal revenue bureau shows that the total receipts from the war revenue act only from July 13, 1898, the date the act went into effect, to May 31, 1901, amounted to \$310,053,363, as follows: Schedule A (documentary stamps), \$108,722,674; schedule B (proprietary stamps), \$13,922,138; beer, \$97,717,971; special taxes, \$14,095,636; tobacco, \$47,274,780; snuff, \$2,697,818; cigars, \$9,180,027; cigarettes, \$3,818,991; legacies, \$8,966,420; excise tax, \$2,652,982; mixed flour, \$21,536; additional taxes on beer and tobacco, \$982,385.

Those who have read of the great oil gushers in the new Beaumont district may not be aware that the oil industry is yet comparatively new. The commercial importance of petroleum dates from the year 1859. The first artesian oil well in the United States was bored on Oil creek in Venango county, Pennsylvania, and on August 28, 1859, oil was struck at a depth of 71 feet. The flow amounted to 400 gallons per day and sold at 55 cents per gallon. Prior to 1859 practically the only oil produced in this country was manufactured from coal and shale, but since the year 1860 the manufacture of oil has been no longer followed.

An interesting report has been received at the state department from Consul General Bellows at Yokohama, which covers the commerce of Japan for 1900, and aside from statistics gives a comprehensive insight into conditions in Japan other than those of trade. The year 1900, says Mr. Bellows, was an unfavorable one to commerce and manufacture in Japan, but nevertheless statistics show an increase in the total trade of the empire over 1899 and 1898. Japan's total exports in 1900 aggregated in value \$101,806,137 and 21.9 per cent of this amount came to the United States, or \$26,178,065 worth. The imports from the United States amounted to \$31,625,075, making the entire volume of trade between the two countries nearly \$57,500,000. The United States takes each year

three-fourths of Japan's tea, nearly all her floor mattings and more than half her raw silk and leads as a purchaser in many other lines. On the other hand Japan gets nearly one-half of her raw cotton from the United States and most of her locomotives and other machinery, leather, kerosene and other oils and flours.

According to William E. Curtis the royal families of various countries receive as civil money or as salaries the following amounts:

Russia	\$18,751,000
Germany	3,929,825
Austria	3,625,000
England	3,230,000
Italy	3,210,000
Spain	1,850,000
Belgium	1,375,000
Saxony	940,000
Bavaria	700,000
Sweden	560,000
Portugal	400,000
Holland	330,000
Denmark	330,000
France	2,130,000

A few weeks ago the Commoner published among other items of interest a report printed in the Chicago Chronicle in regard to drunkenness at Fort Sheridan. A reader of The Commoner desiring that the other side of the question shall be heard sends a letter from Mr. Page Milburn of Washington, D. C., to the Christian Advocate, from which the following is an extract: "The truth is that the stories of outrageous disorder about which the newspapers have told us center around a very few of the more than 100 army posts in the United States. Fort Sheridan, near Chicago, Fort Myer and the arsenal near Washington, D. C., are the three places where the greatest degree of increase or drunkenness and insubordination is reported. I am prepared to state the truth concerning Fort Myer and the arsenal. The following astounding statement recently appeared, over the signature of a prominent newspaper man, in the Chicago Record-Herald: 'Before the canteen was established there were large groups of saloons and disreputable houses outside the reservations at the entrances to the arsenal and Fort Myer. When the canteen was opened and the soldiers had an attractive place of resort, where they could obtain pure beer at cost price, with games, newspapers, magazines, and other diversions to occupy their minds when they were off duty, the low dives entirely disappeared. The keepers were compelled to close and go elsewhere, because of lack of patronage. Within a few days after the canteens were closed they were all reopened, with an increase of numbers, and appear to be doing an active and profitable business in the sale of vile whisky and other liquors. As attractions they have billiard and card tables, and numerous dissolute women who lie in wait for the soldiers as they come from the reservations, and entice them into the drinking places. The night after the last pay day these places were a bedlam beyond the control of the police. Such disorder has not been seen for several years. The military authorities have appealed to the commissioners of the District and the keepers of the saloons near the arsenal have been warned that their licenses will be forfeited unless better order is kept, but at Fort Myer, being in the state of Virginia, the authorities are powerless.' There is not a word of truth in this entire paragraph. Pains have been taken to find out the truth, and the District commissioners and the chief of police declare the statements above made are not true. Not a new saloon has been started, no disorder has been reported, no appeal has been made to the city authorities—indeed, the situation is now just what it has been for many years. Not one new saloon or disorderly place has been started since the abolition of the canteen. No saloons or low dives closed either near Fort Myer or the arsenal when the canteen opened within. No new saloons have opened in the District of Columbia since the adoption of the anti-canteen law. The District police resent the statement that these places have been 'a bedlam beyond their control' at any time. The lieutenant in charge declares that, instead of unusual disorder in any of the precincts, there has been rather more quiet and order in saloons near the arsenal since beer left the canteen than before. The District attorney, who does not claim to be an extreme temperance man, declares that there has been no more disorder in the saloons than has been usual during the last five years. The District commissioners declare that they have received no appeal from the military authorities, nor have they warned the saloon-keepers in any way."