

pure oil, which is practically shut out of the market. As a consequence, the manufacturers of the emulsions and other products into which cod-liver oil enters have been compelled to advance their wholesale prices on an average of 33 1-3 per cent. The unprecedented advance in the price of the oil is due to natural causes, and to the fact that New York speculators have cornered the extremely limited supply. In comparison with 16,000 barrels of oil produced in Norway in 1902, this year the total output will not exceed 1,600 barrels. Of this amount not over 60 per cent is shipped to this country. Intense suffering and many deaths will be the probable result of the shortage of the oil, as in many pulmonary troubles physicians say there is no substitute for it."

THE FIRST ROAD IN THE WORLD constructed especially for automobile freight traffic is nearing completion in the heart of Africa, according to a writer in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. This writer tells the story in these words: "It will run over mountain and plain for 310 miles, from Longolodo, on the Congo railroad, to Popokabada, on the Kuango. The British government is building the road, and the work is being done by hundreds of natives, under the direction of seven army officers. The road is intended as a feeder to the railroad. Automobiles are to do the hauling, and a special lot of these have been ordered by the government. Each autocar is expected to carry a load of two tons, and to make about the same rate that wagon trains would make. Where the road runs over plains it is being constructed 27 feet wide, but in the mountains it will be put 15 feet wide, or only just enough for two vehicles to pass."

RECENTLY WILLIAM N. AMORY SOLD his residence property in New York city and this sale revived a curious bit of history in connection with the wall paper which decorates one of the rooms of this residence. The paper is made up of the bonds of a coal and iron company in Kentucky and were originally intended to sell for several millions of dollars. Although Mr. Amory was at one time offered \$200,000 cash as a bribe in a suit in which these bonds played a prominent part, they were practically worthless and as a unique souvenir were converted by their owner into wall paper.

THE MEXICAN VOLCANO POPOCATEPETL is for sale, its owner offering to sell it for \$5,000,000. The value of this volcano lies in the immense deposits of sulphur it contains and the mountain was originally given by the government as a gift to General Gaspar Sanchez Ochoa in recognition of certain services rendered by him. Referring to the value of this volcano as a sulphur mine, Page's Magazine says: "Two parties are declared to be bidding for it, one backed by John D. Rockefeller and the other by John P. and Samuel Green, of Pittsburg. There are two schemes by which it is proposed to work the sulphur mine. One is to tunnel into the volcano at about 600 yards below the crater, and to remove the sulphur by a cable conveyor carrying buckets 100 feet apart. These will dip into the red hot molten sulphur and bring it out, the buckets traveling 200 feet per minute. The estimated cost of this equipment is about \$500,000. The other scheme proposes to send a cogwheeled railway over the lip of the crater down into the sulphur lake, but it is questionable if sufficient foundation is available to sustain the heavy support that would be necessary. For many generations this sulphur has been mined in a crude fashion, and it is believed to be inexhaustible. Its market price at present is \$40 per ton. Volcanic sulphur from Sicily has in the past furnished the principal supply."

A LARGE INCOME IN ROSES IS ATTAINED by the octogenarian dean of Rochester in England, who spends his spare moments in the cultivation of this beautiful flower. A London dispatch to the Philadelphia Public Ledger says, in referring to the venerable dean: "Combining deep learning with a large fund of bright wit and broad humor, he can spare time from his heavy ecclesiastical duties to add \$5,000 a year to his income by growing roses in the musty oil town so well known to the lovers of Dickens. For sixty years the dean has been studying the national flower, and during that time as many as 300 varieties have passed through his hands. He is his own gardener, even at his present advanced age, and it is only the more laborious part of the work that he intrusts to other hands. As early as 7 o'clock in the morning the dean may be seen in his garden looking after his pets. His method of dis-

posing of his roses is through a London wholesale florist, who cuts them at Rochester under the critical eye of the dean and removes them to Covent Garden market, where they are sold at prodigious rates to west end clubs and restaurants. Many of the varieties are so rare that it is no uncommon thing for a single rose to fetch as much as \$2."

AN INTERESTING COMPARISON OF THE salaries of the various rulers of Europe is made by a German statistician as follows: "Assuming that they work six hours a day, the emperor of Russia receives \$80 a minute, the emperor of Austria \$35, the king of Italy \$21, the emperor of Germany \$17, the king of England \$15, the king of Spain \$15, the king of Belgium and the king of Denmark between \$3 and \$4 and the king of Servia between \$1 and \$2. President Loubet of France receives about 5 cents a minute more than the king of Servia."

INVESTIGATIONS HAVE RECENTLY BEEN made in this country as to which of the many large cities may be classed as most typical of America and, according to Harper's Weekly, this honor falls to the city of Philadelphia. Harper's Weekly says: "In 1790, when the first census was taken, and for at least two decades afterward Philadelphia contained more inhabitants than any other American town. As early as 1810 the population of Philadelphia was 111,210. According to the census of 1900 Philadelphia contained 1,293,697, of whom 998,357 were native and 295,340 foreign born. In not a single ward of the city are there more foreigners than natives. Of those inhabitants both of whose parents were born in the same foreign country, 221,596 claim Ireland as the birthplace of their parents; 159,238, Germany; 53,029, England; 44,320, Russia, and 27,660, Italy. Of the native born population of Philadelphia (998,357), 844,548 were born in Pennsylvania, 30,978 in New Jersey, 23,184 in Maryland, 21,893 in New York, 20,688 in Virginia and 16,555 in Delaware. Comparatively few residents of Philadelphia were born in New England or the western states. That is to say, Philadelphia does not exercise upon those sections of our country the magnetic attraction exerted by New York. Of foreign born residents in Philadelphia only 65,384 are naturalized. It follows that the political influence of the so-called 'foreign vote' is insignificant."

THE RECENT NEGOTIATIONS AS TO THE Panama canal has brought into light much interesting information as to canals and not the least interesting is the story of how England acquired her great interests in the Suez canal. The story is told in Pearson's Weekly in this wise: "The only man who, single-handed and without any official standing or even legislative position, has persuaded the British government to the taking of a great step of European importance, is Mr. Frederick Greenwood, the great journalist. This was the purchase of the Suez canal shares. In 1875 Mr. Greenwood was editor of the Pall Mall Gazette, a post he held from the first issue in 1867 of the paper till 1880, and in that capacity learned that the khedive of Egypt was allowing his shares in the Suez canal to be sold to a French syndicate. Instead of publishing the important news, he patriotically took it to the secretary of state for foreign affairs, the Earl of Derby, and advised him to purchase the shares on behalf of the government. Lord Derby doubted the news, as the British consul at Cairo knew nothing of it. Mr. Greenwood insisted it was true, none the less. Eventually a telegram was sent to the British consul; the prime minister, then Mr. Disraeli, was seen, and soon negotiations were opened and the purchase completed. Roughly, Britain paid something over four millions sterling for the shares which now bring in upwards of £800,000 a year, besides giving her enormous power politically."

THERE SEEMS TO EXIST IN SOME PARTS of Russia a firm belief that a great deal of treasure is hidden in the river Volga, near the village of Kotoff, and this belief has inspired a wealthy Don Cossack named Zimniakoff to fit out a large expedition to recover this treasure, which is valued at no less than \$15,000,000. A cablegram to the Chicago Record-Herald, under date of Moscow, August 22, says: "Zimniakoff discovered in an ancient cupboard some documents dating from the seventeenth century in which it is recorded that the Cossack leader and bandit Stenkol Nazynim gathered all the wealth of the country together and sank it in the Volga when he and his horde were hard pressed by the Russian, Colonel

Michelson. Stenkol was joined by five Cossack Atamans in burying this treasure, which consists not only of enormous quantities of gold and silver coin, but of huge cases full of valuable church vessels of silver and gold studded with jewels. Zimniakoff firmly believes the treasure exists and has already begun operations to discover it."

IT IS NOT OFTEN THAT A PRISONER WISHES to remain in prison after his term is over and he is at liberty, but the London Daily News tells of one such case and says: "The Prussian prison authorities are perplexed what to do with a man named Michael Keller, whose sentence to death, passed upon him in 1853, was commuted to penal servitude for life. The prisoner is now an old man of 80, and, although he has been offered his liberty on more than one occasion, refuses to leave the prison. He declares that, after being in jail all these years for a crime of which he is innocent, he does not wish to be released in his old age to be miserable. The man's relatives have been traced, and are willing to look after him, but he will have nothing to do with them."

AN EXPERIMENT IS TO BE TRIED IN Cleveland, O., during the coming fall election that will be watched with interest throughout the state as well as by many others outside who are interested in the device. The Ohio legislature several years ago gave Ohio municipalities authority to buy voting machines, and this authority was taken advantage of by the city of Cleveland recently, when 205 voting machines were purchased at a cost of \$66,625. These machines are to be used, one at each polling place in the city on the Tuesday following the first Monday of next November. The friends of the voting machine system claim that by the use of the machine absolute secrecy is secured and the work of the judges of election will be greatly simplified.

ONE OF THE HINTS OF THE ADVANTAGES of municipal or government ownership may be obtained in the fact that the Australian commonwealth's telegraph service, which is operated entirely by the government as part of the postal system, is the cheapest in the world. A writer in the Review of Reviews in discussing this subject says: "For city messages, which include a suburban area of a radius of ten miles beyond the city limits, the rate is 12 cents for messages of ten words and the address; for messages of the same length to any point within the same state—and the states are generally very much larger than any American state—the charge is 18 cents, while for similar messages to any station within the commonwealth—and from Rockhampton, in Queensland, to Perth, in West Australia, the distance by wire is more than 4,500 miles—the uniform charge is 24 cents. It is calculated, on the basis of past experience, that these rates will return a revenue sufficient to pay operating expenses of every kind, including the cost of maintenance, and in addition pay interest on the original expense of construction, amounting to fully \$18,000,000. Australians send more than twice as many messages over the lines at the lower rates as Americans do at the present charges."

A STRANGE SEARCH IS BEING MADE BY the leading astronomers of England and France for a missing sixteenth of a second. The New York World says: "A sixteenth of a second is missing, and despite the work of scores of learned scientists no one can tell where it has gone. A search for this minute fraction of time that is costing hundreds of thousands of dollars is under way, and it will be continued till the lost is found, for its recovery is of world-wide importance. If one grain of sand on the shore of the ocean were lost and scientists were to spend years in trying to find it, their search would seem to be little more hopeless and unimportant than this task, upon which the leading astronomers of England and France are now working. The sixteenth of a second is missing between the sun's time as recorded at Greenwich and as understood in Paris. The failure to discover the discrepancy in observations may change the nationality of thousands of people. Longitude is calculated on the basis of Greenwich time. The boundaries of countries are determined by the calculations at this famous observatory. If the Paris calculations and not the Greenwich observations are found correct, boundaries may be moved miles. No expense is being spared to trace the missing fraction. A special building has been erected at Paris, costly instruments installed, a corps of skilled mathematicians engaged and a process that may take years to complete has been commenced."