

By D. M. AMBERRY,

BROKEN BOW, - - NEBRASKA.

The Idle Sinners.

Every once in awhile the action of some young man who is enjoying a princely income brings to mind the thought that money ill-spent inevitably brings disaster to the spender. The idle rich, whose sole idea is to amuse themselves, are curses in a community. They bring themselves to premature graves, but long before their deaths they are old in sin, and are so satiated with illicit pleasure that they find no enjoyment in anything, and, like Sir Charles Coldstream in the play of "Used Up," there is nothing for them to see with astonishment. Their constant cry is, "There is nothing in it," and they try to stimulate their jaded appetites with excesses that are suggestive of the declining Pagan days of Greece and Rome. Go to any of our fashionable watering places in the height of the season and you will find many indolent rich men whose faces express sensuality and a vague longing for a new sensation. Their fathers probably toiled hard for the money they are throwing away in trying to enjoy themselves with base amusements. It would have been a mercy if a few years earlier they had been deprived of their princely incomes. They might then have been of some use in the world. Now they are simply incumbrances. There is no breeder of vice like laziness, and this applies to all classes of young men, the poor as well as the rich, for all the vicious youth are not to be found among the rich, says the Boston Budget. Some of them come from the homes of poverty, and they rely upon poor relations for support when they do not become common thieves. Both the classes mentioned are demoralizing in the examples they set, and if they could be packed off together to some island in the sea, where they would have to work or starve, they might develop into something human and less brutal.

Robbing of a Beggar.

The street beggar with pockets lined with money is a fairly familiar figure of city life, but one of the free dispensaries reports an instance of an attempt to get free medicine, on the plea of poverty, that deserves a place in the catalogue of good stories of "graft," says the New York Post. A middle-aged woman appeared the other day and got a prescription, after which she took her place in the line of persons waiting to have their medicine made up by the apothecary. This particular woman, it should be said, had given satisfactory answers to all the questions put to her, designed to show whether she was a proper subject for charity. Suddenly there was a cry: "I'm robbed! I'm robbed!" The victim was this woman, who so far forgot her previous professions as to assert that her pocket had been picked and that the thief had got away with \$90. Then she lost the opportunity to get free medicine, thus adding, in her view, insult to injury.

American Goods in Mexico.

"American merchants could do 50 per cent. more business in Mexico were they to study the character and condition of trade in our country," said Walter E. Grevel, of Mexico City. "The main trouble with the slow sale of American merchandise in Mexico is the fact that the merchants and manufacturers demand that payment for their goods be sent upon the receipt of the bill for the same, and this bill arrives a month in advance of the goods. Of course, our merchants do not favor the idea of paying for goods before receiving them. On the other hand, European merchants are liberal in giving time limits as high as six months, and, as a consequence, enjoy a good portion of our trade."

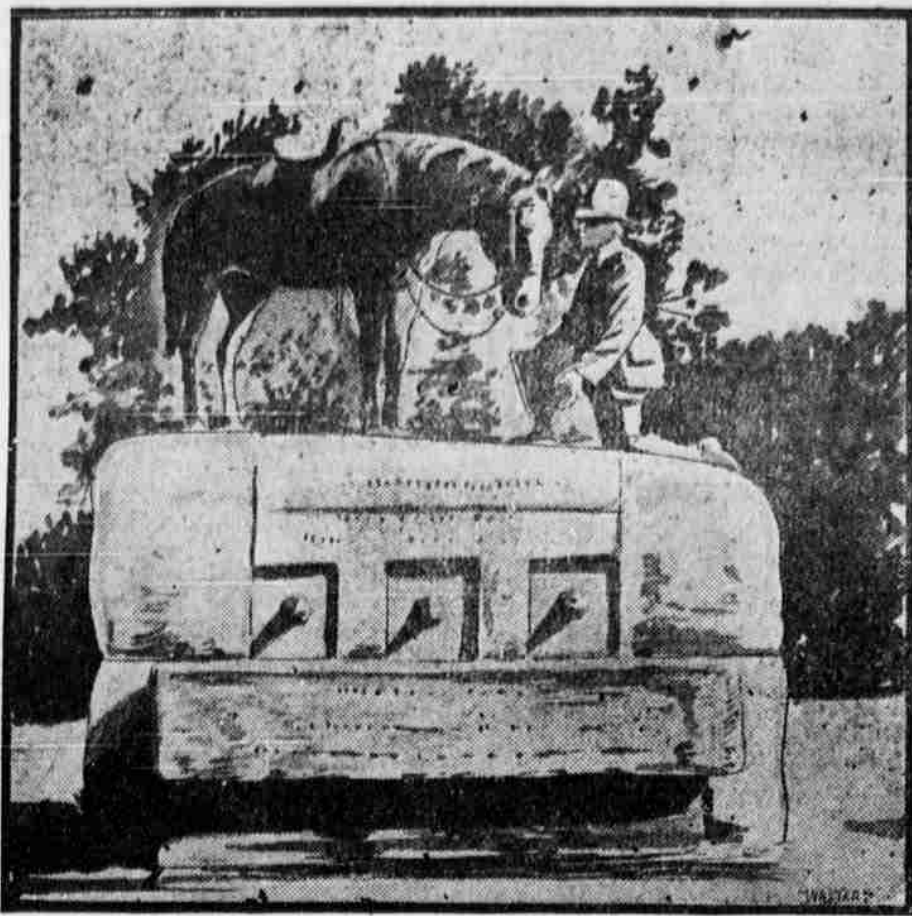
Aliases of the Great.

Some investigator of curious subjects has discovered that the inventor of traveling incognito was Peter the Great of Russia. The next after the famous Russian sovereign to adopt the practice was Joseph II. of Austria, who in 1777 made a little stay in Paris under the title of Count von Falkenstein. During the revolutionary period Louis XVIII. buried his temporary useless royal dignity under the privacy of Comte de Lille, while Charles X. passed as Comte de Marles. Ex-Empress Eugenie in her splendor frequently took little trips as Comtesse de Pierrefonds. King Leopold does so still as Comte de Ravenstein.

Castro has taken down the presidential dignity, which he slipped off and hung up in the closet some time ago, and finds that it fits as well as ever. There is a rumor to the effect that he did not come back at the call of the asphalt trust, which may yet have a few fits in consequence of his return.

Edison says he will soon place automobiles within the reach of all. Some of us have had to be pretty spry to get out of reach of them.

A Monument to War Horses Killed in South Africa.



This monument has been erected at Port Elizabeth "in recognition of the services of the gallant animals which perished in the Anglo-Boer war 1899-1902."

MINERALS IN ILLINOIS.

Coal Easily Heads List—Clay Products and Limestone Next in Importance According to Figures of Geologist.

Chicago.—The annual production of the mineral wealth of Illinois has been compiled by the state and government geological surveys. It has been found that in 1905 the state produced a total of \$57,989,000 in minerals. Of this \$39,754,000 was coal.

Clay products and limestone come next to coal in importance. Other useful decorations from home minerals are sandstone, Portland cement, natural rock cement, fluorspar, mineral spring water, spelter, lead ore, glass sand and molding sand.

One startling thing discovered in all this research, according to E. B. Van Horn, in the Mining World, is the decrease in the amount of spring water sold. At one time there was water to the amount of \$3,038,000 sold from springs in Illinois. In 1905 this dropped to \$44,000. The explanation is that resorts have been founded at the different springs and the water is used for bathing purposes and not sold in the market.

The production of Portland cement, which is becoming one of the most important factors in building, is increasing. On this question Mr. Van Horn says:

"The output of Portland cement for 1905 was 1,545,500 barrels, valued at \$1,741,150. In 1904 1,326,704 barrels, with a value of \$1,449,114, were produced. The natural rock cement was valued at \$166,555 in 1905, as compared with \$113,000 in 1904. There are four concerns manufacturing Portland cement only, three manufacturing natural rock cement and one

making both Portland and slag cement. The output of slag cement is included with the figures for the natural rock cement. A new Portland cement plant is building at Dixon, Ill."

Lead mines in the state are not important, but the fact that this metal is produced is interesting. The forthcoming report will say on this point:

"A small amount of lead ore is mined in northwestern Illinois, and a little of it is reduced in a local furnace near Galena. The bulk of the lead smelted in the state, however, comes from Alton, where the Federal Lead company has a large modern plant. It is run mainly on ores from Missouri, particularly the southeastern part of the state. Since there is only one producer it is impracticable to give the output for Illinois separately."

The increase in Illinois coal production from 1833 to the present year is graphically illustrated in a bulletin of the state survey, which says: "In the last 25 years the production of the state has increased 519 per cent. If the same rate of increase continues for another quarter of a century the annual production then will be approximately 135,000,000 short tons. The production for the last ten years has increased at even a more rapid rate, amounting to 113 per cent."

"At this rate a production of 80,000,000 tons will be reached in ten years, or approximately 280,000,000 tons in 25 years. This is about the amount of bituminous coal now mined and sold in the whole of the United States. It is impossible to say what the future rate of increase will in fact be, but these figures are at least serious possibilities and the production undoubtedly will increase rapidly for many years to come."

To Cook Without Fire.

Merits of Invention Will Be Tested in Field Operations and Commissary Department Expects Good Results.

Washington.—Brig. Gen. Sharpe, commissary general, has sent enough of the new army fireless cookers to feed four companies to the joint camp at Mount Gretna, Pa. He has also ordered enough of the cookers to supply eight companies sent to Fort Riley, Kan., where one of the largest of the joint encampments began recently.

It is the intention of the commissary department to test the merits of this device in practical field operations. The cooker in its present form has been constructed by the army artisans themselves; there are no patent rights connected with it, and it is so simple that any boy handy with tools could

make one in the course of a day according to the army standard. The commissary department is highly gratified over the success in the experiments made in the west, and the officers are devoting their attention to developing minor improvements, such as the application of devices for hermetically sealing the cooking vessels and lightening the weight of the outfit.

The large six-compartment cookers first made weighed 450 pounds each, but they have been lightened, and one development is a single compartment cooker weighing a little over 100 pounds which has found much favor because it can be packed readily on a mule, assuring a hot supper for a detachment at the end of a day's scout. Another improvement about to be introduced is the adoption of aluminum vessels, made after the department's plans, which are expected to be indestructible.

MINER GETS MEDAL.

Carnegie Reward of \$1,200 Will Pay Mortgage on His Home.

Wilkesbarre, Pa.—William Watkins, a young mine worker of Edwardsville, near here, is the first anthracite miner to receive a Carnegie medal for heroism and \$1,200 from the hero fund. This is in recognition of his act of heroism on September 3, 1904, when he saved the lives of three men at the imminent risk of death. He was greatly surprised by the news that the medal was to be given him.

There had been an explosion in the No. 4 colliery of the Kingston Coal company. As the workers rushed out of the mine Watkins realized that three men who were at the bottom of the slope where the explosion occurred might be alive. He turned back and calling to his comrades to stand by to help, he rushed down the slope.

"The explosion had knocked out the props," he said, "and the roof was falling. The black damp was gathering, and I knew I had to work quick. Brinley Davis was burned bad, so was Joe Wincent, while Reese Williams was caught under a car which had been blown on top of him. I could not pull him out. The only way was to lift the car. I tried three times before I could get it up a bit and he managed to wriggle out. Davis and Wincent were wild crazy. They all recovered and are working in the mines now."

C. T. Mathews, of 93 Water street, New York city, a wealthy Welshman who takes a great interest in his countrymen, heard of Watkins' heroism through friends, and was so impressed that he gave Watkins a handsome gold medal himself, and later brought the case to the notice of the Carnegie hero fund commission.

The \$1,200 which Watkins will get will just pay off the mortgage on his house.

PLAN COLONY IN TEXAS.

Big Tract to Be Settled by Farmers from Europe.

Chicago.—A tract of land comprising 25,000 acres has been purchased near Raymondville, Tex., on the Gulf Coast railroad, for the colonization of farmers from France, Belgium, Switzerland and Holland. The land was purchased by A. M. Davidson, of Chicago, and the colonists are being found by his eminence, Mgr. J. R. Villatte, right reverend archbishop and primate of the Old Roman Catholic Church in the United States.

The plan of the archbishop, who makes his headquarters in Chicago, is to colonize the tract with people of his own religious faith. Ninety acres have been set aside in the center of the tract, and upon this will be erected a monastery and a cloister for the education of priests and for the preparation of young men for the ministry. The archbishop will be at the head of the monastery.

It is the purpose of those who are carrying on the project to allot the land to the immigrants in 40-acre tracts, which is the largest farm one man can handle in that section of the country. From France grape growers are to be taken to secure experienced agriculturists or horticulturists. The archbishop will superintend the selection of the colonists and see to it that no undesirable immigrants are brought in.

TAKE MILLIONS FROM AMERICA.

Records Show That Immigrants Send Earnings to Home Banks.

Washington.—Millions of dollars in American gold is being hoarded annually in the banks of Italy by temporary Italian residents of the United States. This is the news that has just reached the government, along with a statement from the general commissioner of immigration at Rome that the total immigration to the states from Italy in the year 1905-6 approached the 500,000 mark.

The idea of most Italian emigrants, says the immigration commissioner, is to accumulate something like a fortune in the states and return with it to Italy. The intimacy of the home connection is shown by the exhibit of the Bank of Naples, which, having advertised that sort of business as its specialty, has more than 183,000 accounts opened by Italian emigrants in the United States and placed to their credit during the fiscal year just closed more than \$500,000.

During the same period Italians in Argentina sent to this single bank \$288,000 and \$425,000 came from Brazil.

The total receipts from such sources at the Naples bank were \$200,000 above those of the year before. And that is only one bank among dozens in Italy.

NO BAN ON SMALL SOLDIERS.

Government Lowers the Standard to Admit Porto Ricans.

Washington.—Concession to the slight stature of the Porto Ricans is made in a general order just issued by the general staff of the army providing that five feet two inches shall be the minimum height of men admitted to the Porto Rican provisional regiment. Heretofore the minimum height for the insular regiment has been five feet five inches, which is the height required for admission to the regular army in the United States. The new order does not extend to officers of the Porto Rican regiments, who will still be required to come up to American standards.

Other minimum measurements are also reduced by the general order in proportion to the height. Recruits five feet two inches tall are required to have a chest measurement of 32 inches at expiration and mobility of the chest amounting to two inches. One hundred and twenty-four pounds is fixed as the minimum weight for this height.

BRICKS MADE BY LIGHTNING.

Elements Are Kind to Man Living Near Columbus, Ind.

Columbus, Ind.—Nathan H. Newsom, a farmer of Sandcreek township, has brought to this city some samples of bricks made by lightning. During a thunder, rain and hail storm on his farm recently lightning struck a shock of wheat and burned it.

Several hours later Mr. Newsom was walking through the field and found the ground so hot near the burned shock that he could not stand on it. The next day the ground was still hot, and he took a shovel and dug down to see for his own curiosity how much of the ground had been affected.

Ten inches down he found that the ground was thoroughly baked, and pieces of earth which readily hold together were taken out. The earth, which was fine black soil, is cooked to a brick red, and every bit of vegetable matter has been roasted out.

Goode All Displayed.

It was in a railway carriage, and the company consisted of several commercial travelers and a staid and pompous old gentleman. Various efforts were unsuccessfully made by the knights of the road to draw their companion into conversation. At length one of them said:

"Come, sir, I know you are one of us. Tell us what you are traveling in."

"Sir," answered the old gentleman, facing his interlocutor calmly, "I am traveling in very objectionable and inquisitive company, and the carriage is full of my samples."—Stray Stories.

AN OLD PAINTER'S IDEAS.

The autumn season is coming more and more to be recognized as a most suitable time for housepainting. There is no frost deep in the wood to make trouble for even the best job of painting, and the general seasoning of the summer has put the wood into good condition in every way. The weather, moreover, is more likely to be settled for the necessary length of time to allow all the coats to thoroughly dry, a very important precaution. An old and successful painter said to the writer the other day: "House owners would get more for their money if they would allow their painters to take more time, especially between coats. Instead of allowing barely time for the surface to get dry enough not to be 'tacky,' several days (weeks would not be too much) should be allowed so that the coat might set through and through. It is inconvenient, of course, but, if one would suffer this slight inconvenience, it would add two or three years to the life of the paint." All this is assuming, of course, that the paint used is the very best to be had. The purest of white lead and the purest of linseed oil unadmixed with any cheaper of the cheap mixtures, often known as "White Lead," and which has been doctored with fish oil, benzine, corn oil or other of the adulterants known to the trade are used, all the precautions of the skilled painter are useless to prevent the cracking and peeling which make houses unsightly in a year or so and, therefore, make painting bills too frequent and costly. House owner should have his painter bring the ingredients to the premises separately, white lead of some well known reliable brand and linseed oil of equal quality and mix the paint just before applying it. Painting need not be expensive and unsatisfactory if the old painter's suggestions are followed.

NEAR DEATH THROUGH SNAKE

Sleeper Awoke to Find Monster Coiled Around His Neck.

F. E. Feve, an employe of the Northern Electric, had a thrilling experience with a snake Tuesday morning. Feve with two companions occupies a tent made out of gunny sacks in the western portion of Oroville. He was awakened by a feeling of strangulation. He attempted to cry out, but so tightly was his throat bound that he could make no sound. As he became fully awake he realized that something must be done or he would choke. He grabbed frantically for his throat and his hand slipped over the scales of a huge snake which had coiled itself around his neck. He frantically pulled the coils loose, the reptile resisting him and biting him in the cheek.

His two companions, awakened by the noise, came to Feve's rescue. The two pulled the snake away and threw it to the floor, where it glided away while the men attended to Mr. Feve's wound. The reptile was a gopher snake.—Redding Correspondence San Francisco Call.

Chamois Skin of Commerce.

Charles C. Druedling, of Philadelphia, has written an article for the American Journal of Pharmacy on the subject of chamois skins. What is known in the market as chamois skins, he says, is really an oil-tanned sheep or lamb skin lining. The supply of skins from the chamois animal is very limited—enough could not be obtained in a year to supply the United States for more than a single day. He made special inquiry on a recent visit to Switzerland about the annual crop of the chamois skin and ascertained that from 5,000 to 6,000 skins would be a fair average yearly crop. This skin is heavier than the skin of the sheep or lamb, also much coarser. For strength and durability the chamois skin is preferable, but for ordinary use and appearance the oil-tanned sheep skin lining would, in most instances, be preferred.

AN OLD TIMER.

Has Had Experiences.

A woman who has used Postum Food Coffee since it came upon the market 8 years ago knows from experience the necessity of using Postum in place of coffee if one values health and a steady brain. She says: "At the time Postum was first put on the market I was suffering from nervous dyspepsia and my physician had repeatedly told me not to use tea or coffee. Finally I decided to take his advice and try Postum, and got a sample and had it carefully prepared, finding it delicious to the taste. So I continued its use and very soon its beneficial effects convinced me of its value, for I got well of my nervousness and dyspepsia."

"My husband had been drinking coffee all his life until it had affected his nerves terribly. I persuaded him to shift to Postum and it was easy to get him to make the change for the Postum is delicious. It certainly worked wonders for him. "We soon learned that Postum does not exhilarate or depress and does not stimulate, but steadily and honestly strengthens the nerves and the stomach. To make a long story short our entire family have now used Postum for eight years with completely satisfying results, as shown in our fine condition of health and we have noticed a rather unexpected improvement in brain and nerve power." Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich.

Increased brain and nerve power always follow the use of Postum in place of coffee, sometimes in a very marked manner. Look in pkgs. for "The Road to Wellville."

GHOSTS IN DEEP MINES

Among all the superstitions that haunt the souls of men there are none more firmly established than those which develop among the men who toil in the dampness of the mine, declares the Butte (Mont.) correspondent of the Philadelphia Record. And of all superstitions there are none more weird than those of the "graveyard" shift. The "graveyard" shift is the dead of night—usually between 11 p. m. and 3 a. m.—and it is then that the "tommy-knockers" are most often heard. Nearly all of the big mines of the west are in operation constantly during the 24 hours of every day and the seven days of every week. A great mining plant does not shut down on the Fourth of July or even Christmas. The men are driving the drills, the "shots" are being fired, the broken ore shoveled into cars and carried out through the shaft or tunnel, and the big mills are grinding, pounding and roaring for 365 days in the year. The miner who works steadily has no variation in his life. He is as far away from the world as the sailor at sea, and the conditions are far more propitious for the birth and growth of superstitions.

Suddenly, in the never-ceasing drip, drip of the water, he hears some sound—the regular ring of a hammer not far from him. He is puzzled, for he knows that he is alone in that part of the mine. Never doubting the accuracy of his understanding, he takes his candle from the rock and tramps through the tunnel toward the sound of the drilling. He stops to listen. It seems above and he climbs up into a "raise," where ore has been taken down from above the tunnel. The drilling ceases. The miner stops in surprise. He is alone, 500 feet below ground, except for this unknown companion. There is a moment of silence, intensified, it seems, by the drip, drip, drip of the water and the utter darkness.

Not far ahead the miner suddenly hears a new sound. Some one is walking rapidly through the tunnel with a regular tread, splashing in the mud and water. The miner, his candle at his side, quickly follows. He almost runs in his haste to find his companion. But the tramp and splash of the unknown feet are always just ahead of him. He stops and shouts: "Hey! Who are you, there?"

No answer comes, and he calls again and again. Still he hears in the darkness the tread and splash of the phantom feet. All at once a strong man is filled with fear. He begins to tremble and grow cold and then, in a panic of dread, he turns and flees, stumbling and plunging through the tunnel to the shaft.

And the mine has mysterious voices, too. A veteran miner tells of a strange warning which came to him once and a narrow escape from death. He was working in a mine in Montana in charge of the pumps, which were kept constantly going to keep the mine from filling with water. When each crew or "shift" of men finished work he would regularly make an inspection of the five pumps which were in operation.

The ore was lifted from this mine on an inclined shaft. The cars, which run on wheels up such a shaft, are called "skips," and it was the breaking of a "skip" which came near being fatal that night. The pump inspector had visited four of the pumps and was about to start down the shaft to the fifth, which was 500 feet below ground, when, as he tells me, he felt a peculiar feeling of fear and a voice directly over his shoulder said to him: "Don't you go down that shaft tonight!"

The miner stopped. He seemed almost to feel the breath of the voice against his cheek. Then he told himself he was foolish to heed any imaginings, and he went down to the pump. When he reached the 500-foot level he began at once his inspection of the machinery. Back in the tunnel, which extended away in the darkness, the water stood nearly filling the passage, over a man's head in depth. A hundred feet above an ore car filled with tons of rock was emptied into a "skip," which was started up the inclined shaft toward the surface. A moment later the man working at the pump heard a crashing, a terrific rattling sound. He realized at once that the "skip" had broken, and that the tons of rock were tumbling toward him down the shaft. Instinctively he flattened himself against the wall, and the rock came like an avalanche. Most of it he escaped, but heavy pieces struck his shoulders, causing painful bruises. But that was not the worst.

Soon the air was filled with hissing steam. The load of ore in its fall had broken a steam pipe above, and the inspector knew that in a few minutes more he would be smothered. The steam was blinding. It was hot and stifling in his nostrils and his lungs. But he had little time to think. Only one course was open. He plunged into the icy water of the tunnel and swam off into the darkness.

Then the break in the steam pipe was discovered by those above. An engineer turned a valve and stopped the hot vapor's flow. The inspector, seeing that the cloud of steam had diminished, swam back to the shaft and rang a signal bell. A car was lowered and he rode to the surface, weak with his bruises. And now he does not doubt the voice that spoke to him over his shoulder had said: "Don't go down the shaft tonight!"