

**Shoveling Gold in a Siberian Mine.**



The above picture was made at the Troitzk mines, which are the most important and richest of the whole district. Women are largely employed in the mills and on the surface works. "It was curious to watch them hard at work shoveling up the rich ore as it came from the shaft as though it were so much coal or rubble," writes a correspondent. "Wages are ridiculously low as compared with what is paid in other mining camps. I have visited—2 shillings a day for miners and general laborers, while women and boys get even less. Yet there is always an abundance of labor to be got at these rates. The Troitzk district is nothing more nor less than a huge gold-producing industrial center and presents a startling contrast to the dreary vista of endless forest or steppes one has to traverse to reach it. "The ore is crushed by what is known as Chilean mills." No convicts are employed in these mines.

**FARM LAWS ATTRACTIVE.**

INVESTORS PARTIAL TO AGRICULTURAL PROPERTY.

Life Insurance Companies and Banks Favorable to This Class of Securities—Few Mortgages Foreclosed.

Chicago. — The attractiveness of farm loans in the middle west is having a decided effect on Chicago capital, according to bankers and brokers. Considerable activity is manifesting itself in this direction, and many of the leading life insurance companies are acquiring first mortgages on farms in Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Colorado, Minnesota, the Dakotas and the country adjacent.

The present holdings of the insurance companies considerably exceed \$200,000,000 in these securities. Farm mortgages in the country mentioned set five, five and one-half and six per cent. They are limited, as a rule, to

productive farms, and are made on a basis of 40 per cent. of the land value, closely appraised, and not including the value of improvements. Bankers point to the remarkably few foreclosures of farm mortgages in this section. The number scarcely exceeds one-tenth of one per cent.

As compared with other investments based on lands in cities, the bankers of the middle west favor the well-placed farm loans, which, they declare, contain every element of attractiveness. A farm loan is regarded as a quick asset, whereas the contrary was true not much more than a decade ago.

Many trust companies now include a separate department for the purchase and sale of farm loans. Chicago has a number of firms dealing in them, and it is estimated that close to \$15,000,000 in such securities is held by Chicago investors. A large increase in this class of investment is predicted.

Statistics show that the value of Missouri real estate, for example, is

\$2,600,000,000, while Kansas has real property worth \$1,000,000,000. Oklahoma real estate is estimated at \$358,000,000.

Missouri has \$204,000,000 invested in live stock, \$32,000,000 in farm implements, \$92,000,000 in manufacturing machinery and \$310,000,000 in railroads.

Oklahoma is a land of homes. Out of 87,000 families in 1900, more than 60,000 owned their homes. The people are engaged chiefly in agriculture. The cash value of the farms is estimated at \$233,000,000. The 1906 corn crop amounted to 125,000,000 bushels, representing \$37,500,000. The cotton crop has a value of \$15,000,000. More than 27,000,000 bushels of wheat was harvested in 1906, and 23,000 tons of broom corn cut. Fruit of all kinds is raised in abundance.

Farm lands in Oklahoma range from \$18 to \$65 an acre, or an average of about \$50.

**PREACHES BRAND NEW RELIGION**

New Yorker Plans to Establish Comrade Kingdom on Earth.

New York.—John Augustus Wall has promulgated the newest of new religions. Mr. Wall formerly lived in Valley Stream, L. I. His new religion was launched at the Berkeley lyceum amid the applause of 100 enthusiasts.

To prove that his religion is really brand new Mr. Wall sent forth a circular calling the meeting in which the names of Jesus and Moses, Mohammed and Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln, Roosevelt and Emerson, Edwin Markham and Elbert Hubbard, Ella Wheeler Wilcox and Darwin, Huxley and Paine, Ingersoll and Bryan, Hughes, Hearst and Brisbane are coupled. The circular reads in part:

"Do you believe in Moses, Jesus, Mohammed, et al. (as above stated)? Are you an atheist, infidel, moralist, spiritualist, Jew, Christian, or ethical cultist?"

"Are you living in a secluded furnished room, a palace, a tenement, or a brown stone residence?"

"Are you married, single, young or old, rich or poor?"

"Do you believe in the new thought, Christian Science, or just the old way that mother and father taught?"

Mr. Wall explained to his audience that the church is to be known as the National church, and that through it he hopes to establish a comrade kingdom.

A branch of the church will be established in every assembly district. Among things the new prophet hopes to accomplish is the establishment of department stores, hotels, bowling alleys, laundries, insurance companies, and skating rinks in connection with each branch.

**GHOST HAUNTS ROAD**

MERRYMAKERS DISTURBED BY INCONSIDERATE SPIRIT.

Apparition Wandering on Highway Between Butte and Rocker, Mont., Believed to Be That of Recently Executed Murderer.

Miles Fuller's ghost haunts the road between Butte and Rocker and its first appearance was made as a party of merry-makers was on its way from Crystal Springs to Butte, says the Anaconda Standard. The night was a dreary one and clouds cut off the little starlight that would otherwise have been in evidence. The time was just midnight, that popular hour when graves are supposed to yawn. The "tally-ho" had just topped the little raise below the Sunrise saloon, when the horses stopped, snorted in terror, for their eyes had caught the gleam of something white. An instant later it came out of the darkness, and the sight was so appalling that the passengers actually fell out of the carry-all and fled shrieking toward Crystal Springs. The horses were petrified with terror for a moment and then fled panic-stricken through the darkness, the driver in his fright being unable to control them. The tally-ho was almost completely wrecked and the driver and horses escaped serious injury only by a miracle.

As soon as the passengers arrived at the springs they told of the frightful vision they had seen and the danger in which the driver had been placed. Immediately a party was formed to hunt up the driver and lay the ghost. The driver was found before going far, for he had swung the horses towards the springs and he still had control of them, although the wagon was wrecked. The poor brutes were actually wringing wet with sweat of terror and were trembling so their teeth rattled. "I have the horses all safe," said the driver. "Go up there and see what has frightened them," and the rescuers hurried on only to see a shadowy, phosphorescent object disappear over a hill towards Rocker.

One of the men who saw the ghost is positive it is that of old Miles Fuller, who was hanged in Butte a few months ago. Fuller used to be a resident of that section of the country and the people there say there is no doubt that his spirit is now haunting the road. "The sight was a terrible one," said one of the passengers. "When the driver stopped his horses



I looked out, and coming directly toward us were two people on horseback. One was a woman shrouded in white and riding a white horse. She was leading a horse so black that he only made a faint shadow against the darkness, and upon his back was a figure bound in straps and with a black cap tied over his head. We only took one look and then we fled, but we searched our souls for screams to tell how frightened we really were, and we were not content until we got into the shelter of the hotel at the springs.

Many of the residents of Rocker corroborate the truth of the ghost story. It may be that some one is playing a practical joke, but that is not believed by the superstitious, and a number of schemes are being planned whereby the ghost will be laid to rest again. Why Fuller's spirit should be accompanied by a woman is a mystery which his best friends cannot solve, as he was classed as a woman hater during all of the years he lived in Montana.

**Rails Are Evener.**

The fact that within the past 20 years two-thirds of the unevenness in railroad tracks has been done away with on certain lines was discussed at a recent meeting of the American Academy of Sciences.

The improvement has been brought about principally through new designs and methods of manufacture of rails. A "track indicator" car, traveling 20 or 30 miles an hour, sums up the inequalities, the "ups and downs" in the rails for each mile traversed. Formerly the "total inequality" per mile amounted to six or seven feet, even for the best roads; now it has been reduced to only 18 or 20 inches, and this remnant is said to be due to dents in the rails.

It has been pointed out that the improvement, which may be carried farther, brings with it heavier locomotives and cars, longer trains and higher speed.

**ON THE WESTERN RAILROADS.**

Big Locomotives Smoothly Overcome Some Remarkable Grades.

That the cost of operation of one of the big western limited trains is an enormous item may be conjectured from the fact that in the 2,309-mile run from Lake Michigan to the Pacific coast these heavy trains must surmount an altitude of nearly 7,200 feet, from a height of 586 feet above sea level to Chicago, the initial point. This climb may be realized when it is learned that the Pennsylvania railroad in crossing the Alleghenies has to ascend not more than 2,000 feet from an altitude of 700 feet at Pittsburgh, and almost every one knows what the grade is on the famous Horseshoe curve. When the transcontinental train reaches Los Angeles it has descended to a bare 266 feet above the level of the Pacific. Small wonder it is then that the eye of the connoisseur in mechanics gazes in admiration upon the monster locomotives of the latest Pacific type turned out by the Baldwin shops for the draught of these heavy trains across the Rockies and the Sierras; and even the amateur in railroading can see from the observation car as the train speeds along that the roadbed is perfect, the grades and curves as easy as they could possibly be made, the ballasting all that could possibly be desired and the locomotion as even as though the train were propelled along a glassy surface smooth as a tranquil pond.

Yet the 2,309 miles from Chicago to Los Angeles are covered with an average of about 35 miles to the hour. Of course this comparison suffers with the 50 miles per hour maintained by the 18-hour trains of the Pennsylvania and Lake Shore railroads between New York and Chicago, but it must be remembered that these roads have reached the utmost perfection in railroad equipment. Their right of way for a long distance is occupied by four tracks and none of it by less than two; that the distance on which the speed is maintained is approximately but 900 miles, against the 2,300 miles of transcontinental roadway under discussion, and of the 2,300 miles by this route only 488 of it is double tracked.

But they are learning fast how to railroad in the west.

**EAGLE CHATTERS HIS TEETH.**

U. S. Consul Says Pan-American Railway is Only a Dream.

Our former consul to Para grows almost hysterical when any one says "Pan-American." He coruscates puns. He even provides the American eagle with teeth.

The great "Pan-American railway" is a beautifully taking conception, he sarcastically exclaims in Colliers. The American eagle shivers in every pin feather and his teeth chatter with delight at the mere suggestion.

But however glorious this may be for the great American eagle, when the average American citizen proposes to send his own private "ten-dollar eagles" a-railroading, especially a-pan-railroading, he wants to know how it is going to pan out and where the "pan" is going to dump after the "scoop" is made and where the eagle is going to light when he comes down.

Except on extensive plans the rule of railroad building is to follow the water courses, where nature has already done all the necessary grading.

The Pan-American railway dreamer proposes to shove a railway more than 5,000 miles lengthwise through mountains from Panama to Patagonia, cutting at right angles every valley and hill for thousands of miles, through a nearly uninhabited region the greater part of the distance. It is perfectly safe to predict that no railroad will be built along that route very soon.

A continuous line of railway may some time in the far distant future be in operation from New York to Buenos Ayres, but it will never be used for carrying through freight between those points. As long as half an ounce of coal can be made to move a ton of cargo a mile on the open ocean no born Yankee is going to send his freight by rail to the Amazon valley or to Rio or to Buenos Ayres.

**"Doggone Little Timber."**

Ora Miller, of Des Moines, chief dispatcher of the Rock Island, told the following story recently: "While making a trip over the Northern Pacific we stopped at a station in the attractive valley of the Yellowstone river. Several of the passengers sought the right of way for a breath of fresh air and a limbering jaunt alongside the train. The mountains could be seen in the distance; a rugged setting to the almost treeless landscape. Presently a member of the party addressing a passing citizen in the garb of a cowboy said: "What is the name of this town, my friend?" "Well, pard, I 'low it's Big Timber, Montana."

"Big Timber?" repeated the inquiring gentleman with some surprise. "I'd-a-thought they'd a-called it Little Timber—and doggone little of it!"

Landslip on Siberian Railway. As the result of continued rain storms, the Trans-Baikal railway has been washed away and damaged at several points, while the railway running around the southern end of Lake Baikal has suffered very much from great landslips between the stations of Baikal and Silyuyanka.

Two trains have been overwhelmed by these landslips; two soldiers were killed, several of them were injured, and many of the cars were wrecked. Scientific American.

**DISH LIKED BY ALL**

MANY WAYS OF SERVING THE POPULAR POTATO.

Easy to Avoid Common Mistakes in Preparation—Three Recipes That Are Used in Public School Classes.

"More than half the ills that attend the middle and latter part of life are due more to erroneous habits of diet than to the use of alcohol, great as I know the latter evil to be."—Sir Henry Thompson.

After the first potato lesson, says Mrs. Mary Williams, instructor in domestic science, the girls have learned what mistakes are commonly made in the cooking of this vegetable and how to avoid such mistakes. They will not serve potatoes that are soggy and waxy instead of mealy. They know that potatoes should be left uncovered to allow the steam to escape, instead of recondensing and soaking into the starch.

The practical work in the second lesson on potatoes has to do with various ways of serving this vegetable. Potatoes appear on the table so often that this variety in serving is most important. The girls learn that with little trouble and expense they can prepare creamed potatoes, equal to those served in the finest hotels. The use of starch in thickening liquids for sauces and gravies is explained when making white sauce for the creamed potatoes. The important point in this is to keep the starch from lumping when it is used as a thickening material. There are three ways by which the lumping may be avoided. First, by mixing the starch with a little cold water before adding it to the hot mixture; second, by rubbing the starch with the butter or other fat before adding the liquid; third, by mixing starch and sugar together.

Before leaving the subject of potatoes it will probably be of value to housekeepers (who dearly love recipes) to give some potato recipes which are used in public school classes.

Creamed Potatoes.—Cut freshly boiled or cold boiled potatoes into one-half-inch cubes, put them into a saucepan, nearly cover them with milk, and cook gently until nearly all the milk is absorbed. Add white sauce, stir for one minute, sprinkle with finely-cut parsley and serve.

White Sauce (for Vegetables).—Butter, two tablespoonfuls; salt, one-half teaspoonful; flour, two tablespoonfuls; pepper, one-eighth teaspoonful; milk, one cupful. Rub the butter and flour together with a spoon in a small saucepan. Add the milk and stir steadily over a moderate heat until the sauce boils. Add salt and pepper. For richer white sauce use part cream. Cream sauce is white sauce made with all cream instead of milk. Use one and one-half teaspoonfuls of flour to one cupful of cream.

Mashed Potatoes.—Mash potatoes in the saucepan in which they were cooked, using a fork or a wire potato masher. When free from lumps add one-third cupful of scalded milk in which has been heated one tablespoonful of butter, one-half teaspoonful of salt, and one-eighth teaspoonful of white pepper. Beat all together until light and creamy. Heap in a dish without smoothing the top, or it may be put into a baking dish, the top brushed with milk and browned in a hot oven.

Riced Potato.—Press boiled potatoes through a strainer or vegetable press into a hot dish. Serve potatoes uncovered.

**Spinach on Toast.**

Is an excellent luncheon dish. A half peck of the vegetable is boiled in salted water until tender. Drain and chop fine. To this add thickened milk. Into a saucepan put a tablespoonful of butter, to which, when melted, add an even tablespoonful of flour. Rub smooth. Stir in slowly a cupful of milk and let boil and thicken before mixing with the spinach. Serve hot on squares of toast. Brussels sprouts may be served in the same way, and if thoroughly cooked are both palatable and digestible.

**Nut Wafers.**

Butter the inside of a granite saucepan, then put into it a cupful of light brown sugar, a cupful of granulated sugar and two-thirds of a cupful of sweet cream. Cook until the mixture forms a soft ball when tested in cold water, add a cupful of chopped nut meats of any kind, flavor with vanilla and stir until of a creamy consistency and commencing to harden. Reheat over hot water until melted, stirring constantly, then drop in small parts on buttered paper.

**Good Way to Broil Chicken.**

Anyone who has broiled chicken knows how hard it is to cook it through without burning outside, so wish they would try this way: Spit and wash chicken and put in a shallow pan with a little water in it and place in hot oven for about half an hour; then put on broiler and brown well on both sides; take the water in pan and make a butter gravy and pour over chicken; serve hot.

**Steamed Eggs.**

Have a cup containing one-half spoonful of butter, setting in a dish of boiling water. Into the cup break one egg, beat slightly with a fork, add two tablespoonfuls of milk, mix, then cover the dish tightly so that the steam will not escape. The egg will puff up to the top of the cup as it cooks and is soon thoroughly done. A delicate appetizing dish served with toast.

**ODD GIFT TO BRIDE**

FATHER GIVES WEIGHT IN SOAP AS DOWRY.

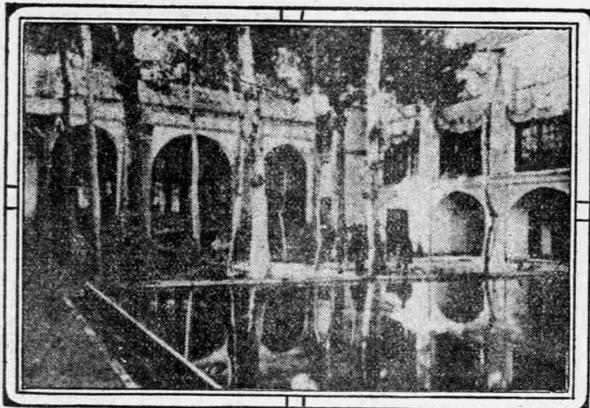
London.—A valuable wife in the present state of the soap trade must be the woman M. Le Blanc, a Parisian has just married. The bride, who was the daughter of a hairdresser in a large way of business, not only received from her father a handsome dot in money, but her own weight in the best toilet soap. As she weighed close to 140 pounds, the couple will possess sufficient soap to last them for some years to come.

When asked by his prospective father-in-law, a flourishing West end tobacconist, to name the gift he would like to receive on his wedding day, the young man suggested a few boxes of cigars as being of more use than the usual presents presented on such occasions. "Very well; you shall have my daughter's weight in cigars," said the other. He was as good as his words. The bride weighed 128 pounds. Mile. Marie Brie, the niece of a Marseilles confectioner, received from her uncle on her marriage three years ago an eccentric gift in the form of her own weight in chocolate. Perhaps the worthy patissier had in mind when making the present the custom which prevails in Peru. There, on the marriage morn, the bride is actually weighed, and after the ceremony the bridegroom is presented by his wife's relatives with her weight in sugar.

A Yorkshire coal merchant's present to his daughter on her marriage was to be regulated by her weight, for every pound of which she is to be the recipient of a ton of the best coal. His intention, which he communicated to her on the day she became engaged, stirred her, as she was a young woman of frugal mind, to emulate the fat women of the fairs, so that during the six months her engagement lasted her value went up ten tons. Doubtless she would have made further inroads into her father's store had not that worthy merchant hurriedly married her off at a loss of only 172 tons.

The father of a girl living in the town of Koniggratz offered to present anyone who should become her husband with her weight in silver currency. As she was well favored and of a build which, although not exceptionally stout, promised an amount ample to make a good start in business, more than one claimant appeared. The most eligible was at length selected and the wedding duly solemnized. Then came the most important function, the weighing of the bride, who, to her husband's delight, was found to weigh 155 pounds, or 13,500 kronen, an equivalent to \$2,812.

**Harem of the Shah at Teheran.**



**Infant Death Rate Reduced.**

Novel Scheme of an Englishman Lessens Mortality.

London. — Alderman Benjamin Broadbent, M. D., the retiring mayor of Huddersfield, England, has just announced the result of the two years' test of his novel scheme for the prevention of infant mortality in his native part of the borough—Longwood. On taking office as chief magistrate, two years ago, Alderman Broadbent offered five dollars to the parents of each child born during the period of his mayoralty that reached the age of 12 months.

Instructions to mothers—some of which were suggested by the princess of Wales—were sent out, and the mothers were visited by voluntary women visitors, who reported progress.

The Huddersfield rate of infantile mortality had averaged 139 for ten years, and in Longwood itself the average for ten years was 122.

In Mayor Broadbent's two years 112 babies received the promissory note card for five dollars. Of that number 107 had actually received the gift he had offered. Out of the five left four had died and one had been removed from the district and he did not know whether the child still lived or not.

If he counted only the four deaths the figures were 35 per 1,000, and if he counted the missing baby as dead the figures were 44. These figures compared very strikingly with the previous figures of 122 per 1,000 for Longwood and the average of 139 in the whole town of Huddersfield.

The experiment has reduced the death rate to much less than half. His own estimate of the result was that it was astounding. For exactly

12 months—from October 9, 1905, to October 9, 1906—not one of the babies on his list died under the age of one year. The babies belonged to all classes and there was no selection, some living in places hardly better than slums.

Very great general interest has been taken in Alderman Broadbent's experiment and inquiries, including one from President Roosevelt, have been received from municipalities all over the world.

**Blind Man Becomes an Inventor.**

Iowa Falls, Ia.—Charles Abbott, the blind piano tuner of this city, has turned inventor, and is exhibiting the working model of a heat regulator for a chicken incubator on which he has applied for patent. The regulator gives the alarm when the heat in the incubator becomes too high or too low. The regulator is set for 103 degrees and when the heat varies a few degrees above or below this mark the regulator rises or falls, and, breaking a circuit, rings an electric bell until the owner regulates the heat to the proper temperature. Mr. Abbott has been blind all his life.

**Eat Sand for Dyspepsia.**

West Chester, Pa.—A number of people in this place who are suffering with stomach trouble have taken to "the sand cure," and are taking it every day. The sand comes from Mississippi and is packed in bags containing a couple of quarts. It is taken in doses of a spoonful, and as often as the patient has an attack of the trouble. "When any animal has an attack of stomach trouble," argues a patient, "it goes at once to the ground for some clay or sand for a cure, and why should not a man?"