

ANTS BUILD GOOD ROADS.

They Are as Smooth as If Cemented from End to End—Greatest Constructors on Earth.

The greatest road builders in the world are a species of red ants found in South America. In building a road they carry minute particles of clay, with which they line all the roads as well as the galleries and passages of their nests...

That this vast army is under the best discipline can be proved by watching them only a few moments. The drivers are constantly running up and down giving their orders to the workers...

When a selection of a level piece of ground has been made a perpendicular shaft some eight inches in diameter and six or seven feet deep is formed. This is for drainage and ventilation...

NO FOOD FOR ELEVEN DAYS

Blind Indian Falls Into Mine Shaft and Subsists Until Friends Rescue Him.

Macey Ball, a blind Modoc Indian, living three miles northwest of Seneca, fell into an abandoned mining shaft about 60 feet deep, over which brush had been heaped. Eleven days later Ball was rescued...

The Morning After.

Guest (to bell boy)—Is this a foundry? Bell Boy—No, sir; this is a hotel. That thumping you hear is on the inside of your head. — Detroit Free Press.

HOW JAPAN WAS COLONIZED

Traditional Account of Origin of Far Eastern Empire Proves Interesting.

One of the traditional accounts of the origin of the Japanese empire is interesting. The legend, which attributes the rise of these sprightly easterners to a Chinese source, runs as follows:

Sinosikwo ascended the throne of China in the year 246 B. C. and at once entered on a career of cruelty and tyranny. He was, nevertheless, most anxious to enjoy the privileges of his position for as long a period as possible.

For the purpose of obtaining some specific agent by which the duration of human life could be prolonged, he dispatched trusted messengers and explorers into all the countries with which he held any communication...

Taking advantage of the circumstances, one of his medical attendants, who was living in hourly dread of a sudden sentence of death, told the emperor that he had learned that such an agent existed in the juice of a plant which grew only in the islands which now form the Japanese empire.

It was suggested that 300 young men and the same number of girls—all of spotless physical health and morality—should be selected to proceed to Japan for the purpose of securing a sufficient supply of the precious plant.

The expedition embarked as speedily as possible for the Japanese islands, but not one of its members was ever seen within the bounds of the Chinese empire again.

The medical chief of the expedition, of course, created himself king of the country, and soon had a magnificent palace erected for his residence, which he called Kanioku, i. e., grand house.

Artificial Gold. A new metal "harder than steel, as brilliant as gold, from which it cannot be distinguished, and as good a conductor as copper," has been invented by an Italian, says L'Echo des Mines et de la Metallurgie.

Hard Times. First Tramp—"Not much doin', pard."

Second Ditto—"Nothin' doin' at all. Things is orful. I ain't had a job fer six months."

"That's rocky. What's yer lay?"

"Me? I peddles Christmas trees. What's yourn?"

"I sells sow-veners at presidential inaugurations." — Washington Life.

Considerable Cats. Marshal Van Worley has gone into a new business, viz., the shipping of cats out of Titusville.

Italy's Working Women. While Germany has 6,500,000 women who earn their own living, Italy has only one-half the population, but 5,250,000.

MANY ENGLISH IN MEXICO.

Increasing Use of Language in Southern Republic Makes Conversation Easier.

The increasing use and knowledge of the English language in Mexico must not be considered by foreigners who propose to do business in Mexico as relieving them from a necessity of knowing Spanish.

For those who come in direct contact with the masses in any way the native language is still very essential, and will always be. The amount of English that can be heard by the visitor in the main street of this capital city is apt to be misleading.

It is not necessary to journey to the interior of the country to reach a section where English is neither heard nor understood. By walking a few squares either to the right or left, away from the beaten track of the tourist...

Many people who are not intimately acquainted with conditions in the Spanish islands that have recently come under the control of the United States imagine that they will be readily Americanized.

It is now commanded by Emperor William II. that the German soldier, in addition to his many other duties, shall, while marching, lift up his voice and sing. With surprise and sorrow his majesty has found in going over the old time-honored marches that these had, for the most part, "not suitable texts."

HIS SOLDIERS MUST SING.

Edict from Kaiser Commands That Defender Must Lift Up Voice in Tuneful Notes.

By the way, has not the foreigner sometimes been puzzled as to why a German marching regiment will on occasion suddenly and with one accord start stamping? The "stamp" of all the rank and file follows on a sharply given order to "salute" some passing officer, and the "salute" when on the march is given with the feet!

Controlling the Elements. According to the Peking (China) Times, the viceroy of Kwangtung province "has taken in hand the control of the elements."

Time to Speak Up. When a girl tells a young man that the best is none too good for her it is up to him to offer himself. — Chicago Sun.

LAND OF BLACK DIAMONDS

Precious Stones Found in Abundance in Bed of Brazilian River of Great Value.

The black diamond is an important article of commerce, not because it is destined to embellish the hand of feminine grace, but because of the fact that it has been widely applied in industry, where it is almost as valuable as the white fellow.

The constantly increasing perfection of boring instruments brought out the value of the black diamond, the use of diamond point drills now having become so general that the price of the mineral has in consequence rapidly increased. To-day the diamond has become of prime necessity in working tempered metals, sawing of marbles, piercing of tunnels and galleries and in mines.

From the report of an engineer who explored the region in 1888 it is learned that one day the diamond diggers discovered a black stone in the Sao Jose. They took their stone to one of their huts and attempted to discover its nature by attempting to crack it.

The exploitation of the Brazilian diamond mines by the Garimpos, it is unnecessary to say, was not scientific. The crevices of the rocks are explored with the hand, the gravel being taken away in little barrels, which are carried on the head.

The question naturally arises: Why have the diamonds been found in the Sao Jose? The answer to this is not difficult and is given when it is said that the original rock—which formerly occupied the high plateau—has been gradually disintegrated.

Laws for Theaters.

The laws of Italy in connection with theaters and circuses are strict. Every act or performance announced on the programme must be given. Any great exaggeration, as in posters, intended to mislead the public, is punished.

QUEER WAYS OF AN ESKIMO

Northerner Lacks Imagination, But His Powers of Observation Are Exceedingly Acute.

Prof. Mylius Eriksen, writing of the heathen Eskimo in northern Greenland, says: "He lacks imagination, but his powers of observation are very acute. In spite of the fact that his life is an unintermitted struggle for existence, the Greenlander is always in a good humor, and his boisterous laugh can be heard sounding far over ice and snow fields."

Ideas of beauty are peculiarly developed in the heathen Eskimo. He regards beauty solely from the standpoint of utility. For instance, a rock projecting out of water only appears beautiful to him when it is visited in summer by water birds which breed there.

Only the spirit conjurers (angakoks) occupy an exalted position, being regarded as priests and doctors. Their task is to establish a connection between the visible world and the hidden spirits, and in this way they obtain a certain influence over their neighbors.

HUMAN POWER VITAL.

Physique Is a Matter of Great Importance in the Russo-Japanese Conflict.

The physical endurance of the Japanese soldier in the present wonderful campaign in Manchuria impresses "American Medicine" as the one great revelation that has come out of the orient. There have been no authentic reports upon which we can base estimates as to his immunity from disease or the protection from infection, so that it is entirely too soon to form any opinion as to the organization and work of the medical department of the army.

The Russians could not estimate where the Japanese would be, and were, therefore, constantly surprised by tremendous forces at places 20 to 50 miles beyond the point where good strategy should have placed them. When Napoleon began to defend the well tried generals of Europe they complained that he was always far in advance of where he should have been by the rules, but it was all due to his better knowledge of how to get work from his soldiers.

Very Clever.

O'Grady—Ye can't tell me the time when the O'Grady's was no gentlemen. O'Flynn—Sure, me bhoy, O'kit that; some o' thim was ladies'—Tir Bitts.

REARING CHILD CORRECTLY

Solution of the Problem by Thoughtful Brooklyn Mother Told in Her Own Words.

The young mother of a certain very lively three-year-old Brooklyn boy recently said:

"I think it sometimes pays to let children yell and stamp and say ugly things to their hearts' content. There seems to be about so much wickedness in them, and if you let them blow it off all at once—preferably in the morning—they sort of get it out of their systems and are all the better for it. A few mornings ago my small boy awoke in the ugliest mood I have seen him in for many a day. I could do nothing with him, he was so touchy and so belligerent."

"When I undertook to correct him for some flagrant misdemeanor he would set his feet defiantly and call me a 'dirty old thing'—a phrase which he had picked up from some playmate, I presume, and which I had tried hard to make him quit using. On this particular morning I had so many things to do that I could not stop to fight it out with him, so I shut him in a closet, telling him I would not let him out until he promised to be good."

"For at least ten minutes he stood in there, stamping viciously on the floor, pounding the door with all his might and yelling 'dirty old thing' at the top of his voice and as fast as he could make his tongue go. He must have repeated that phrase 500 times. Then suddenly he stopped, and in the next instant called out in a cheery tone:

"There, mother, I feel better now. I feel just like being good." "I let him out and he ran to me, all smiles, and, putting his little arms round my neck, said: 'I wanted to be naughty then and I could help it, but now I want to be good.'"

"I don't believe that it was the punishment that worked this change in him. I think it was simply that he felt overcharged with wickedness and worked it off all at once in yelling and pounding, just as men sometimes work off their ill nature by means of violent swearing. At any rate, my boy was as sweet tempered and cheerfully obedient all that day as any little fellow could possibly be. I believe that if I had made him stop yelling and pounding, as I had always done before under similar conditions, he would have been incorrigible most of the day, as that morning I confidently expected him to be."

SEAWEED REALLY VALUABLE

Thanks to Writer Who Experimented a Use Is Found for Hitherto Useless Article.

At last we seem to have found an excellent use for seaweed, thanks to an experienced and enterprising writer in Outing. She owned a summer cottage by the sea, which, like the Biblical mansion, was built upon sand. Before long the doors began to sag and the whole structure to lose its balance, on account of the shifting of its foundation. It was then that necessity, the mother of invention, came to the rescue, and the seaweed that was continually drifting in with the tide was pressed into service. The mass was scattered around the loose loads of soil sprinkled over and in a few years what before was nothing but barren sand became a carpet of vivid green. Also vegetables, flowers and hedges made their appearance. The same position was taken by this innovation as a green.

Compliment Worse Than Political Candidate

whom he is anxious to say, my friend, I've never had a more wonderful improvement in me during the past few months. Editor—Indeed! I'm glad to know you're back from a month's stay. I'm glad to know you're back from a month's stay. I'm glad to know you're back from a month's stay.

Easy to Shut

Miss Bleeker—Are you to the baseball game? Mr. Fann? Fann—Well—er—thought of going. "Alone, Mr. Fann?" "Oh, no, I shall take you." —N. Y. Times.