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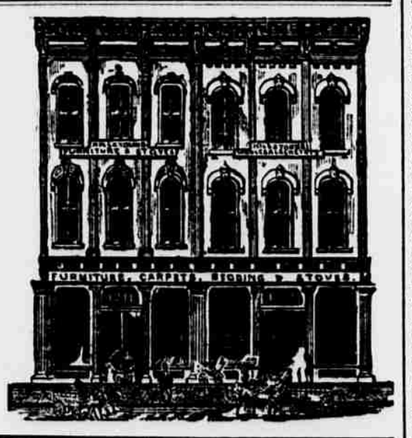

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## USE IN THE REDUCTION OF ORE.

## Frightening the King of Beasts—Railroad Signals—An Electric Shampoo—Electrical Brevities.

### Fuel and Food by Electricity.

American Architect: Dr. Werner Siemens, one of the most distinguished men of science now living, stirred up a few days ago, a rather lively controversy in the science world by a suggestion that it might be possible after the world's supply of coal and wood had been exhausted to warm the chilled bodies of the unfortunate men of that period by means of some application of electricity as yet undiscovered, with which he coupled also, the idea that it was at least conceivable that similar means might be employed for nourishing the human race after all vestiges of plant life had disappeared from the earth.

"Science believes," said Dr. Siemens, in the interesting address which we find quoted in the Schweizerische Bauzeitung, "that all substances have connected with them a certain portion of energy, which, like the elements with which it is associated is indestructible; modifying often its form and relations, but always traceable and constant throughout its changes. When a substance combines chemically with another, it often happens that the compound substance formed by the combination, by some quality of its constitution which we know nothing of, associates itself with a smaller relative proportion of energy than that proper to the substance of which it is composed, and in the act of combination this surplus of energy, which no longer finds a place in the new substance, and manifests itself as heat or light. The burning of coal is a familiar example of this. The carbon of a given quantity of coal, and the oxygen with which that quantity of coal will unite, possesses more energy than the carbonic acid formed by the union of the two elementary substances; and in that union the excess of energy is disengaged as heat. The same thing takes place when wood or any other substance is burned. Now it is remarkable that, although we can obtain this manifestation of surplus energy to warm our hands with, by the combination of many of the substances now existing around us, the separation of the compound, so that we can combine their elements again when we want more heat, is a very different matter; and when all the coal and wood are gone we shall find it very hard to get them back again out of the carbonic acid into which we have resolved them. In fact, there are only two common agencies by which the bond between chemical compounds can be directly dissolved. One of these is light, the decomposing effect of which is as yet not well understood, and the other is electricity, which is now constantly used to effect chemical decomposition in the arts." It is certainly not unreasonable to suppose that we shall some time use it more effectively for this purpose than we now do, and, although the decomposition of carbonic acid, or of water, which is perfectly practicable, would yield rather unmanageable gases, it is, as Dr. Siemens says, quite within the bounds of possibility that the mechanical force derived from wind, or falling water, or waves converted into electricity by revolving magnets or otherwise, may hereafter be used for producing, by decomposition, potassium, or magnesium, or some other solid, portable, and tolerably effective fuel.

While we could reconcile ourselves, if necessary, to the idea of sitting around a potassium fire winter evenings, there would be still a considerable step to be taken before reaching the production of food by electricity, and here Dr. Siemens only ventures to indicate rather vaguely the way which he thinks it possible that science might follow. So far as we know, the most essential element of food is nitrogen, which we consume in combination with a great variety of other substances. Now these combinations of nitrogen with other substances are effected in nature mainly by the obscure processes of vegetable life, nitrogen in its natural state having no disposition to combine with other elements, even when aided by heat. By indirect chemical action it is possible to force nitrogen into combination with other elements, even when aided by heat. By indirect chemical action it is possible to force nitrogen into combination with oxygen, to form nitric acid, and with hydrogen, to form ammonia; but neither of these substance is edible, and after all vegetable life had disappeared from the world we should certainly starve if we had nothing better than such things to depend upon. Here, however, electricity comes to our aid in a new way. Although one form of electric current, that of low tension, forms the most powerful decomposing agent we know, a current of high tension may be made, either directly or by induction, to exert a powerful combining force. By passing the sparks of an induced current of high tension through air, the condition of atmospheric oxygen is changed. It becomes ozone, and in that form seizes upon the nitrogen with which it was before only mixed and combines with it, forming a vapor of nitric acid, which shows itself to our senses by the "sulphuric smell" which follows the sparks of a fractional electrical machine, or a Ruhmkoff coil, or a flash of lightning. Whether nitrogen may by similar means be made to unite with carbon, hydrogen and the other elements of organic substances it is for the electrical chemistry of the future to decide; but it cannot be said that it is scientifically impossible.

### Writing by Electricity.

Pall Mall Gazette. One of the most beautiful of modern inventions—if remains to be seen whether it is as useful as it is beautiful—the instrument devised by Mr. John Robertson for the transmission of writing by electricity, may now be seen at the American exhibition. Out of the top of a box, which is about the size of an ordinary dispatch box, protrudes what has the appearance of a stylographic pen. This, however, is not a pen but the handle of the "transmitter," and its lower end is fixed to a light brass perpendicular bar. Any motion given by the hand—you hold it just like a pen—to the handle of the transmitter is communicated by this bar to two series of carbon disks contained within the box, and, after various adventures among magnets, etc., is carried again to the top of the box, where it is reproduced exactly by a small ink-holding pen, whose point rests on a white paper tape. A clockwork apparatus pulls this tape along at a gentle pace; and after a little practice you find that it is quite easy to move the handle of the transmitter so that the pen shall write legibly on the moving tape. Now, whatever is written on the tape before you is written simultaneously a mile off, or it may be fifty miles off, on a similar tape, by a similar instrument at the other end of the wire. The instrument is very compact, and apparently efficient, and, as it is quite silent, there seems no reason why a reporter sitting in the house of commons should not straightway write off his report of a debate to be instantaneously read off in Printing House square or Northumberland street. A name will be wanted for his machine. Perhaps the "wire writer" will do.

### Uses of Stored Electricity.

San Francisco Chronicle: So far, the using of stored electricity as a motive power only has been discussed. Its usefulness does not end there by any means. It can be called upon to furnish light, and in this capacity it will recommend itself most strongly to men and women of every day life. Supposing in a factory or building where machinery is employed a belt be attached to a dynamo, and if it in turn connected with one of these batteries, a sufficient amount of electricity will be so erated and can be stored during the working hours to light the whole structure all night if required when the machinery is still. In the country, also, where wind and water is available, a dynamo fixed as above would churn away independent of any one and manufacture latent light, which could be stored and used when needed and which would last for days.

Another and somewhat novel use in which this stored power can be employed is for the purpose of illumination. All that would be necessary would be to send for a battery of the required strength and have the hall illuminated by electricity. Thus at a ball recently given by one of the leading ladies of society in London, the house was lighted in this way by twenty-four incandescent lamps of twenty-candle power. The battery, containing twenty-four one-horse power cells, was brought from Millwall on the afternoon of the entertainment and returned the next morning, the lights burning for six and one-half hours.

Under the present circumstances a person using electricity is at the mercy of the company supplying it. He is put on a circuit, on and off which the light is turned at certain fixed times. If he wishes to have it for a little longer one day or a little less another he is unable to. With a storage battery he has nobody to consult but himself. He still pays his money for the light, but instead of having the current turned on at night he has it all during the day and night too. The battery receives the charge and stores it automatically, cutting it off when full. It is then, like gas in a gasometer, ready for use, and only needing the turning of a button to give its light. Electric light companies will in this way be benefited, as well as the rest of the world, by being able to run their machinery during the day instead of only at night, as is now the case.

### Nobili's Rings.

Herr Elsass (in the Am. Phys. et Chem.) expresses the opinion in opposition to Voigt, that Nobili's rings are mainly due to currents which traverse the electrolyzed liquid nearly parallel to the metal plate. The colors are obtained are not in all cases colors of thin plates; but the rings are sometimes deposits of different chemical and physical constitution. In fact, electro-chemical decomposition takes place not only at the surfaces of the electrodes, but at every point throughout the liquid traversed by the current. This is proved as follows: Plaster of Paris moistened with copper sulphate solution is poured on a metal plate, and a copper wire plunged into the still soft mass with its end very close to the plate. The plaster is allowed to set firmly, and a current is passed from wire to plate. On removing the cake, four or five colored rings are seen on its surface, corresponding rings being found on the plate. The plaster also adheres to the metal more or less firmly in different zones, and is also distorted.

### Railway Signals and Electricity.

Electrical World: We have recently had occasion to draw attention to what appeared to be well-authenticated facts in regard to the curious effects of lightning storms upon electric light circuits. Our attention is called to the fact that the same agent is found to be a disturbing cause in the operation of railway signals. The latter, as a rule, are operated on the closed circuit system, and any break in the line would cause the signal to be set at danger. It can be readily understood, however, that in certain situations a ground might still preserve the continuity of the circuit, and prevent the setting of the signal at danger. This is especially liable to occur where underground circuits are employed, in which lightning is liable to perforate the insulation, admitting moisture. Detection of such faults may be delayed until an accident caused thereby emphasizes their presence. In other cases lightning passing over a wire is liable to set a signal not intended, and thus cause delay and annoyance, to say the least. Hence, it is suggested that electric railway signals should be so arranged that the effects of lightning can be eliminated.

### Electricity by Windmills.

Experiments are being made at Cap de la Heve, near the mouth of the Seine, on the production of electricity for lighthouse purposes, by means of the force obtained by windmills. The suggestion to do so was made by the Duc de Feltre, and it is a system proposed by him that is to be tested. The wind works a dynamo electric machine employed in charging accumulators of suitable capacity. The electricity so produced and stored is to be used at will to make a focus of light. The system, if successful, will have the advantage of costing only the putting up of the machinery. The whole question to be ascertained is whether a sufficient quantity of electricity can be stored to provide for the requirements of any particular station when there is no wind to move the sails of the mill. M. de l'Angle-Beaumanoir, a civil engineer at Paris, has been authorized by the Minister of Public works to make, at the expense of that department, the trial of this system of electric lighting at the La Heve lighthouse.

### Reducing Ore by Electricity.

Electrical World: Dr. J. H. Rae has applied electricity to the treatment of ores at the Douglass mill, Dayton, Nev. The method was at first tried on tailings with a view of recovering the mercury which had been lost. But it has been found even more efficient in working ores by preventing loss of mercury and amalgam. A dynamo is run in the ordinary way by the mill engine, and the wires are led to the wooden pan in which the ore is worked. One electrical circuit is applied through the ring anodes, and the other is applied at the bottom. The solution thus completes the circuit of the electric current. The ring at the bottom is a perforated gas pipe, through which passes a sufficient current of water to clean and wash off the lighter particles. Any quicksilver or silver which may float over is caught in the channel or trough encircling the pan as it overflows. In drawing off the settlers, only clean material has to be dealt with.

### Lions Frightened by Electric Shocks.

Paris Letter: A sensation in which ladies delight is furnished by a lion tamer drawing a hypnotized girl into a den of lions. The lions (but the spectators don't know this) are more afraid of the young lady than she would be of them if awake. They associate her with electric shocks which, when under training for spectacles of this sort, they had had in the mouth. The damsel was separated from the terrible felines with fine wires connected with electric batteries. When they advanced toward her they came to grief, but through what agency they could not see, and retreated howling. A lion which has had a few shocks will for the rest of his life keep at a civil distance from no matter what young lady. Could not something of this sort be arranged to guard the young ladies of London who complain of "prowlers?"

### The Advance of Electricity.

Correspondence St. Louis Republican: Electricity as a servant of man is practically the newest of the trained forces. It is nearly fifty years since Morse rendered telegraphy possible, but the telephone only came before the public the other day, as it seems, in the Centennial exposition in 1876. The electric light practically had its birth at the same time, but was not an established illuminator until 1879 or 1880. What strides the study of this mysterious force has taken one sees at the exhibition in the shape of a myriad arc lights and incandescent lights, motors for light work in driving sewing machines, working fans, pumping and all the rest, and for such work as driving railroad cars on the ground or by the telpher system, in pulling cars on cables or bands overherd; in the shape of electric steering-gear, electric clocks, door-openers, insulated pliers for handling charged wires, turn tables for store windows, surgical and dental lamps, annunciators of a dozen sorts and an almost endless list of machines, dynamos, tools, batteries, engines, alarms, and I don't know what all.

So great is the popular reliance on the more important of these divices that we are told there are 150,000 arc lights in use in this country and about a million of those milder, softer illuminators, the incandescents. The capital enlisted in electric lighting alone, including the value of patents, real estate, machines and all else that is connected with the business, is to-day, by careful expert estimate, $150,750,000. In spite of the competition between rival companies, which is quite intense in the centers of population, the profits are handsome. The arc-lighting companies are paying almost 10 per cent on the capital enlisted. Sixty million dollars are invested in telephone companies, and every share of telephone stock is above par to-day.

Has anyone grown rich in these few years? Who? How rich? Edison's name occurs to everyone first of all. In the public mind he is regarded as most wonderful, not merely because he has taken out 350 patents on his own inventions, or because he first made the incandescent light as a practical illuminator, but because he is believen to be the most notable of all modern inventors who have proven exceptions to the old-time rule that an inventor must always remain poor while others enrich themselves on the products of his skill and patience. Mr. Edison's case is not the most remarkable, for James Graham Bell has grown richer than he as an inventor.

### An Electric Shampoo.

[Philadelphia North American.]—"Will you have an electric shampoo, sir?" said an uptown barber to a customer whose hair he had just trimmed.

"What kind of a shampoo is that?" asked the man.

"Well, it's one of the latest inventions of the tonsorial artists of Paris, and I am the only man in town that has it. All right, sir, it will be ready in a minute."

The shampoo consisted of first wetting the head with bay rum, and then gently rubbing a peculiarly shaped cake of soap over it. The sensation was delightful. At first the prickings were rather sharp, but as the scalp was slowly covered with lather a delicious drowsiness stole over the patient. All the pleasure of an opium smoke without the after effecss were expirienced. The customer awoke as the barber briskly dried his hair.

"Well, how do you like it?"

"Like it? Why, it's the best thing out. Who did you say invented it?"

"You see," said the barber, "inside this cake of soap there are are a number of fine wires, which I charge with electricity. Then, the hair being wet, it generally shocks the nerves and puts anybody to sleep. When you awake it's as if you had inhaled oxygen gas."

"Yes, it's a boss shing. Good day, sir."

### Link Belting For Driving Dynamos.

Electrical World: While link belting has been used for the driving of machinery to a considerable extent abroad, its use in this country has, until recently, been quite limited on account of the flanged pulley required. This was necessary on account of the fact that the link as formerly made had its links all strung on a single rod passing through them. The result was that when crowning pulleys were used but a small portion of the belt came in contact with the pulley, and slipping occurred. Hence where this form of link belting was desired, a straight pulley with flanged edges was necessary. But the friction of the belt against the flange introduced an objectionable factor, and that has militated against the introduction of the belt in America. In order to obviate these difficulties and objections, there has recently been introduced by Mr. Ch. L. Ireson, of Boston, a form of link belt which seems especially applicable to driving fast-moving machinery with small pulleys. The device by which the result is accomplished is exceedingly simple, and consists in making the belting in two or more longitudinal sections which are hinged together by their edges. If made in two sections, the hinge rides over the crown of an ordinary cone crowned pulley. If, however, a round-faced pulley be used, or the belt is of great width, it is usually better to make the belting in more than two sections and give it more than one set of longitudinal hinges. By thus furnishing the belting with a series of longitudinal hinges, the belt adapts itself to the crown of the pulley just exactly as an ordinary belt does.

### Electrical Brevities.

A resident of Hartford, Conn., is the inventor of a novel apparatus for timing horses. A clock with three hands—minute, second and quarter second—is started by the official timer. When the winning horse touches the wire the clock is stopped by electricity. At the same instant the current opens a camera which photographs the horse and the clock face.

An electrical organ is building for the Burg theater at Vienna, Austria. The organ will be supplied with a cable upwards of 100 yards in length, running all around the stage and orchestra. It has several operators' stations at each of which the organ can be worked. The chief station is located in the orchestra, the others in different parts of the stage. The same theatre is already supplied with electric light to avoid the danger of fire.

The electric railroad in Lykens Valley, Pa., collieries was built for the purpose of hauling the coal mined in the upper part of the workings out of the mine. It is the first and only electric mine railroad built in America, and exceeds Europe.

A new material that has recently found its way into electrical work and appliances is indurated fibre. This substance is a wood pulp prepared in about the same way as for paper making. Its absolute non-absorbent quality is one of its chief points of excellence in some of the countless articles into which it is made.

John Buckley, of Meriden, Conn., caught a snapping turtle and took it to the central telephone office, where he proposed killing it with electricity. He let the turtle snap at one end of a wire, put another wire beneath its shell, and turned on the full strength of the current. He avers that he "heard the current go through it, making a noise like a small planing mackine," and he left the turtle for dead. The next morning he found the turtle walking around and snapping at wires, as though he wanted another taste of the current.

The Electrical car company, of London, England, which is about to introduce its system of autatic populsion on one of the metropolitan tram lines, is also to build a large electrical locamotive for drawing trains on the underground railway. Under this system the vehicle contains the batteries, which are charged at night and worked in the day. The cars can carry five tons at over twenty miles an hour.

The Russian minister of ways of communion has appointed a special commission to select the best system of electric lighting for railway carriages. This is the result of a decision recently arrived at to render the adoption of the electric light compulsory upon the principal railway companies for all passenger trains.

A mile of Patterson cables has been put down in West Madison street in Chicago, made up of 150 wire cable and cables of from 25 to 125 conductors, containing in all about 200 miles of wire. Number 18 American gauge was used and the insulation and capacity tests are very satisfactory.

While the manager of an electric lighting station was showing some visitors about the station a new man passed on the other side of a dynamo with a dust pan full of sweepings. Suddenly, with a dexterous turn of the wrist, he threw the contents over the party, and as the honest German laborer threw up his hands in astonishment, the magnetic attraction completed its work, drawing the dust pan completely out of his hands, and it became transfixed to the field magnets.

Mr. G. A. Rowell of Orford, England, has just published a pamplet on atmospheric electricity and the causes of the changes in the inclination of the magnetic needle. The author attempts to demonstrate that the magnetic poles of Europe and America coincide with the centres of the greatest cold upon the two continents. He attributes the shifting of the magnetic poles to the same series of astronomical and geological phenomena that produces the secular changes in climate. This theory, he adds, leads us to the not very aggreeable conclusion that our winters will be prolonged and will increase in severity, since the magnetic inclination keeps on diminishing.

## SINGULARITIES.

A girl in Wisconsin has horns on her forehead, which she covers with her hair.

A Georgia turkey hatched seven turkeys, four chickens, and twenty-four guinea chicks.

A Chesterfield, Mich., man has a hog twenty-five months old that is the mother of fifty-nine pigs.

A strange animal, with the head of a dog and with an alligator's tail, is reported to have been captured in Vermont.

At Moor's Hill, Ind., a quarrelsome Jersey cow and a Poland-China hog had a fight, in which the hog struck the cow in the abdomen with his tusks and killed her.

A large salmon in attemping to clim the cataract falls at Biddeford, Me., killed himself. H. M. Kelly, of Saco, witnessed the accident, and captured the fish. It weighed sixteen pounds.

A lady in Staunton, Va., has given birth to a child that weighs only one pound, but is well formed and healthy. The parents are large, well proportioned people, and their other children were of normal size at birth.

A duchess pear scion was grafted on an apple tree belonging to Thomas Webb, of Millville, Cal., two years ago. Now pears and apples grow on the same twig, but in the main body of the tree apples are borne after its kind.

Shrill cries of "Oh, mamma! Oh, mamma!" brought New Lisbon, Pa., people to a creek to find, instead of a drowning child, Miss Henrietta Arter's pet crow complacently practicing his favorite phrase picked up from the neighboring children.

Three cats of Cape Ann clubbed their kittens together, and placed them in one nest in George H. Shepherd's stable. There were thirteen of them. Some days two cats would remain at home with the family while another went for food, and at other times but one remained.

An Italian correspondent, writing from Rome to the Frankfurter Zeitnug, states that at Castro Giovanni, in the province of Caltanisetta, in Sicily, a lake has become red in color, and quantities of dead fish have come to the surface. The inhabitants attribute this to the influence of lightning that struck the lake.

George Goodwin, while riding along in the mountains, near Wetmore, Col., herding stock and playing on a French horn, saw coming toward him a coyote. He quickly dismounted, still playing the horn, and procured a club. The wolf seemed unconscious of danger, and allowed him to come so close that he killed it with the club.

The fish in the sea of Galilee have lately been classified, and prove to belong to the species peculiar to the African lakes, not to the Mediterrranean kinds, as hitherto believed. It is therefore suggested that the Jordan valley in long past ages must have been filled by a lake joining the Red Sea, which was then a fresh water lake, and which in its turn may have directly communicated with the great lake system of Central Africa.

Rev. I W. Waddell, of Georgia, owned a hen that in the course of events hatched a brood of interesting chicks. Soon after accomplishing this laudable undertaking she died, and the chicks were left forlorn. They seemed likely to die for want of proper care when a big rooster who had hitherto led a life of lordly laziness went to their rescue, gathered them under his wings, led them in search of food, defended them against enemies, and is even now all that a mother could be to them, and more.

Nathaniel M. Jackman recently discovered that a colony of bees had settled in the side of his house in Salem, Mass. They seemed to have been there sor several years, and occupied a space a foot in width and several feet deep. Carpenters trying to repair the roof were driven off several times, and finally an offer was made of all the honey to any one who would drive away the bees. Charles Ropes took the contract and succeeded in getting a wash-tub nearly twice filled with honey from the inside of the wall. The bees, however, refused to go, and all attempts to drive them away by sulphur smoke and other smudges failed.


Coughs and colds come uninvited, but you can quickly get rid of these with a few doses of Dr. J. H. McLean's Tar Wine Lung Balm.


Miss Estella Webb, of Wawassett, Pa., has waited twenty years for John Martin to marry her. Her patience has at last given out and she sues him for breach of promise, placing damages at $20,000.


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