

# ODDS AND ENDS OF THE WEST FROM FAR AND NEAR

## LION ROCK, A CURIOSITY IN NATURAL STATUARY.



THE isles of Bermuda are formed of coral and about the coast and in some of its bays the action of the waves has fashioned curious shapes from the porous rock, frequently fantastic, distorted figures, but now and then one with some striking resemblance to familiar living things.

ANY ions of impure salt are made each year at different points on the coast of North China, extending from Tongku to Shanhai-kuan and Nieu-chwang. The methods employed are the same in each place, and the same have been in use certainly from the time of Marco Polo's famous journey through Eastern China.

THE salt is made by the evaporation of sea water. The water is pumped into the evaporating basins by wind power and evaporated by the heat of the sun. Extending many miles each way from Tongku the coast is nearly level and only a few inches or feet above high tide. On the coast are the salt works. The evaporating basins are made on the flats and have much the appearance of innumerable tennis courts of great size. They are separated from each other by small ridges of mud about eight inches high. The bottoms of the basins are made level and hard rolled with a stone roller. The basins are filled to a depth of three inches with sea water, which is evaporated by the heat of the sun in from one to three days, leaving a coating of salt on the bottom. This is carefully scraped into a pile, and after rolling the bottom more water is pumped in.

THE basins are located about two feet above tide level and in groups, so as to be served by a central pump. The flats are cut in all directions by small canals, giving each group water connection with the river. The salt, as fast as it is made is shoveled into small boats, which are pulled through the canals to the main yards, where it is thrown into great heaps and covered with mats, waiting to be sold and packed for the Hien-tsin market.

THE principles of the automobile have been applied with success to the sled. The newest form of bobbed comprises a very slender pair of runners of steel, with a body fitted to the front of the sleigh to protect the occupant from the force of the wind. The same principle is being applied in many racing automobiles, in which a metal wind shield curvilinear in shape is placed before the driver. The tapering form of the shield reduces the wind pressure and thereby accelerates the speed.

THE American slot machine has at last invaded Malta. A year ago only a few weighing machines were imported. These have proved so satisfactory that others have been ordered and are now in transit. One punching machine has been installed, and is meeting with good results financially. Machines delivering candy and chocolate would prove acceptable. These machines, of course, must be adapted for English money, chiefly pennies. Out metal labeling machines ought also to find favor here.

IN a London hospital a wave siren is used to test what sounds a deaf person hears. When once it is discovered that a certain note is not heard or only heard in a distinctly a tuning fork of this note is selected and an attempt is made to stimulate the muscle and to arouse the nerve. If the tuning fork is not sufficient the sound is increased by means of a resonator.

THE old pastime of "ducks and drakes" seems to have suggested the latest novelty in navigation, the gliding boat. The flat stone which is thrown into the water at suitable angle is seen to glide for a short space over the surface without immersion. And it appears that by giving a boat a suitable form and speed it can be made to glide in a similar way, thus avoiding a great deal of the friction involved in ploughing the water in the usual way. Attempts had been previously made along the same line without any conspicuous practical success. A Frenchman, however, claims to have solved the problem of making a gliding boat. His vessel is twenty feet long by ten feet wide, and consists of a special arrangement of planks. It is very light, the framework being of aluminum tubes. The motive power is furnished by an ordinary automobile motor of twelve horse power, and the boat carries two persons. When it starts the submerged planks plough the water. As it goes on, however, they quickly rise, and soon the boat is gliding on the surface, scarcely touching the water. It attains a speed of twenty-five miles an hour, steers perfectly, and can be stopped with the greatest ease.

WHEN, as an incident of their trip to India, the Prince and Princess of Wales went through the Khyber Pass on December 4 they were met on their return journey by the headmen of the border tribes, who undertake for a yearly subsidy to keep the roads inviolate.

## Goods Consigned to Tristan da Cunha Stolen.

THE serious case in which an explorer was charged with misappropriating goods consigned to Tristan da Cunha is still under consideration in the courts. Tristan da Cunha is a group of three desolate islands in the Southern ocean, no fewer than fifteen miles distant from St. Helena. When Napoleon was exiled to St. Helena these islands, which had been discovered in 1506 by the Portuguese, and were uninhabited, were taken possession of by the English, which placed there some troops as a further precaution for the guarding of all possible means of escape of the fallen Emperor. The precaution seemed absurd, and was expensive, and accordingly the troops were withdrawn. A Scotchman, his wife and two others craved permission to settle in Tristan, one of the three islands, with some natural resources. The permission was accorded, and the settlement was named New Edinburgh. From those settlers, to whom were added some sailors from sailing ships and some immigrants from Cape Colony, the present population, which numbers sixty people, living under a patriarchal form of government, has sprung. They have sheep, cows and good crops of potatoes. They know little of the outside world and care less about it. Each year a British ship of war visits Tristan da Cunha to mail parcels. This is the only fixed means of communication with the world outside of this small community, although visits from sailing vessels are of occasional occurrence. The inhabitants are said to be of a somewhat low order of intelligence—the result of the intermarriage of near relatives, and several proposals have been made to deport the children to the Cape for education and to bring in new inhabitants into the dwindling colony.

THE Mexican breed is the smallest member of the dog family.

THE chief product of Manitoba, beans, is still treated in a primitive manner by many of the manufacturers of bean products in the province. In Newchwang, which has been a treaty port for approximately half a century, the crushing of beans with heavy stone rollers drawn by hand and donkeys continues in some of the bean mills. In such primitive institutions the oil is pressed out of the pulp by hand, wedges driven by huge beetles being used.

## A NEW WIND SHIELD FOR BOB SLEDS.



THE swifter bird is either the vulture, which is said to be able to travel at the rate of 150 miles an hour, or the English falcon, which can probably equal, if not exceed, this speed.

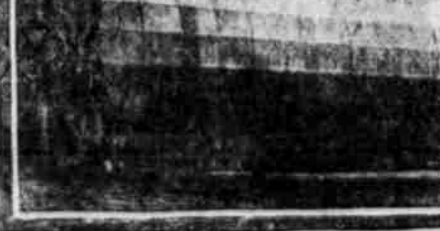
## Tomato Paste and Slot Machines.

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## AN AIRSHIP PREPARING FOR FLIGHT.



THE airship industry is an accepted institution, giving employment to thousands of persons. This great torpedo-shaped gas bag was made to sustain one of the latest motor frames.

## Smiles and Self-Help.

SHAKESPEARE, who studied human nature and knew a thing or two, has put it on record that a man may smile and be a villain. He might have added "healthy." The latest theory emanating from an English source is that if we want to keep well we must do our best to smile for a good many hours a day, especially after meals. There are, it is stated, psychological reasons why smiling is beneficial, which may easily be comprehended by the lay mind. In the first place it accelerates the circulation, and so aids indigestion. The same has been heard of whistling. But it will certainly be easier and pleasanter to smile than to whistle; and the conclusion of a satisfactory dinner, in the second place, it restores the brain by quickening the movement of the blood through the veins and vessels. Finally, even an artificial smile produces a considerable increase of vitality, because it heightens nervous stimulation. With all these rewards for smiling, it seems strange that the streets are not full of people roaring with laughter.

## An Auto Skate.

A NOVEL form of the automobile is shown in the accompanying illustration. The auto skate, which consists of a complete auto small enough to fit the foot, is believed to have a great future. This tiny motor can be built to attain a speed of almost any number of miles an hour and yet is light enough to enable the skater or automobilist to navigate in safety and with surprisingly little effort.

## Pressing Beans.

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## Wyant and the Art Student.

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## To Prevent Seasickness.

ACCORDING to German papers forwarded by Consul General Giebert, of Hamburg, Mr. Otto Schickel, of Hamburg, has invented an appliance which reduces the rolling of ships to a minimum. He calls it "schiffskreisel" (ship top). It is stated that if it fits expectations it will prove of great importance, not only that seasickness would be done away with, but the efficiency of war ships would be greatly enhanced, as the rolling ability would be vastly increased. Much interest appears to be manifested in this invention in shipbuilding circles. Recently large experiments, with this "top" took place at the works of the Hamburg-American line, in the harbor of Hamburg, before a company of interested parties. Into the old torpedo boat Seebier a ship top had been built amidships. This top was turning rapidly and, as constructed that it can make simultaneous rotary and pendulous motions. By the combined motion the rolling of the ship is to be averted. The apparatus was set in motion by steam power, making 250 revolutions per minute, and the result is said to have been such as to justify the belief that it would accomplish what is claimed for it.

## An Ant's Strength.

IT is of course, generally known that the Little Lehigh river, John Heiber, of Salisbury, Pa., saw two enormous raccoons seated on the ice in front of a big automobile. Heiber got his rifle and shot them.

## Wallows.

SKIPPERS who have been interviewed on the subject of the disaster which happened to the Campania recently at Trieste, are of the opinion that the liner has got into what is known in nautical language as a "wallow." This, it appears, caused by one big wave following another, so that the liner was unable to recover from the shock of the first. These "wallows" are said to be of sudden and unaccountable occurrence, but fortunately they are experienced by a vessel only when she is in a bad way. A vessel is recalled in which a vessel suffered so badly from this kind of visitation that she had to return to port in a badly battered condition, and the officers and crew were obliged to support a weight of about forty tons.

## REMARKABLE SNOW SCULPTURE.

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## Artificial Eyes.

AS early as one B. C. artificial eyes were made by the priests of Rome and Egypt, who practiced as physicians and surgeons. Their methods of eye-making are thus described: On a strip of thin tinted linen, two and a quarter by one and a quarter inches, the flat side of a piece of earthenware, modelled life size and painted to represent the human eye and eyelids was cemented. This linen, coated on the other side with some adhesive substance, was placed over the eye hole and pressed down. In brief the artificial eye was worn outside the socket, and though a clumsy substitute, was probably appreciated by the Roman and Egyptian in the ruins of Pompeii, destroyed in 79 B. C., an eye of this description was discovered. Not until the sixteenth century do we hear of eyes at all like those of today. That is worn inside the socket. A French surgeon, one Ambroise Pare invented three artificial eyes. One consisted of an oval plate covered with leather, on which an eye was painted. It was attached to the head by a strong steel band. It could have been neither slightly nor comfortably used. The second device and the first known in history to be worn inside the socket, consisted of a hollow globe of gold delicately enameled. The third eye devised by this ingenious gentleman was a shell pattern made of glass, and was used to-day, except that it was of gold and enamel.

## Our Trade in a Nutshell.

IN 1870 the United States sent values of all kinds to Europe worth \$20,000,000. These sent to North America were valued at \$20,000,000; South America, \$2,000,000; Asia, \$1,000,000; Oceania, \$1,000,000; and Africa, \$2,000,000. In 1894 the amounts were—Europe \$1,058,000,000; North America, \$235,000,000; South America, \$51,000,000; Asia, \$50,000,000; Oceania, \$23,000,000; Africa, \$21,000,000. In other words, Europe took 79 per cent of our exports in 1870 and 72 per cent in 1894. North America took 13 per cent in 1870 and 16 per cent in 1894. As a matter of fact, in the thirty-four years under consideration our trade with all parts of the world, except Europe and South America, increased in percentage.

## Value of Dead Leaves.

A GREAT part of the suburban population of Nantes is engaged in gardening, and especially in the cultivation of early vegetables. For many years use has been made of the dead leaves which fall from the trees in the autumn, and when such are obtained by the small farmers they are eagerly gathered and employed as fertilizers or to cover certain plants during the coldest winter months. Presently these leaves are first used as bedding for cattle and horses, and the compost thus obtained is considered much richer than that of ordinary straw.

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## A Famous Mug.

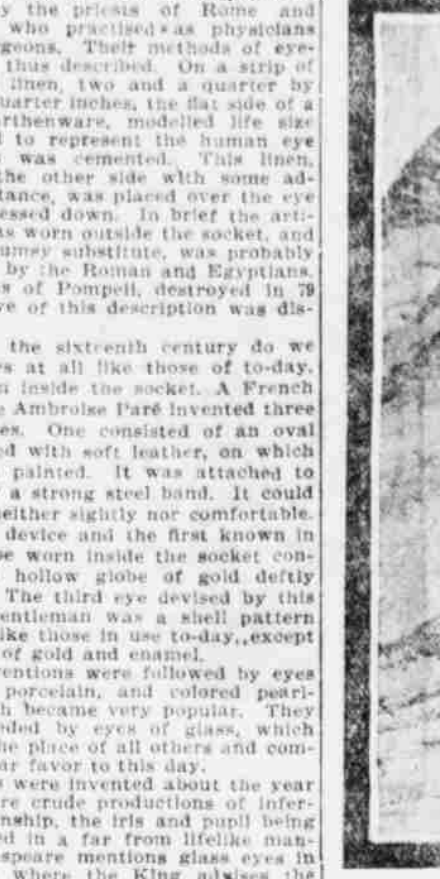
OLD English ale created a pottery and a factory for itself. It was an appeal to art that could not be denied and so there have come to us the mug and other mugs, perhaps more slightly but scarcely less characteristic. It seems strange that while the mellow-throated minstrel was singing of "brown October ale," no one less inclined to heavy beverages, sang the praises of amberine cider. Perhaps some one did, but you'll have to hunt for the verses.

## Greatest Copper State.

MONTANA has left all competitors far behind in the race of copper production. During 1902 the United States furnished 54.5 per cent of the world's supply of copper, and the calendar year of 1903 Montana produced 27,677,733 pounds, or more than 40 per cent of the total production of the United States. Butte is the chief copper producing section of the State. It is estimated that including 1905, Butte has produced the red metal to the extent of \$60,000,000. If the mines of Butte were to suspended operation for a single year there would be a famine of the metal in the markets of the world. Montana not only takes first place in production but also in the use of the most modern machinery and the most advanced methods of mining. Splendid surface plants for hoisting, stamping, smelting and refining the immense quantities of ore are in use. The great copper deposits are apparently inexhaustible and far more wonderful achievements are predicted for the future.

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## A Wrestling Match in the Snow.



THESE men met in a wrestling match on the snow before the hotel practically stripped. The match was carried on for some time under these extraordinary conditions. Despite the intensely cold weather and their absolute lack of protection neither man suffered from the exposure.

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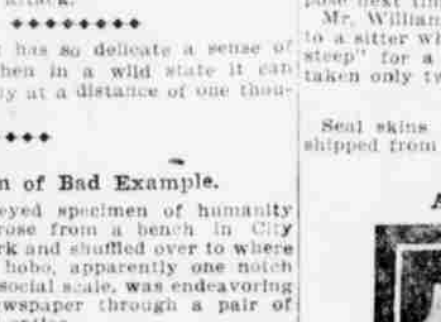
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## Greatest Copper State.

MONTANA has left all competitors far behind in the race of copper production. During 1902 the United States furnished 54.5 per cent of the world's supply of copper, and the calendar year of 1903 Montana produced 27,677,733 pounds, or more than 40 per cent of the total production of the United States. Butte is the chief copper producing section of the State. It is estimated that including 1905, Butte has produced the red metal to the extent of \$60,000,000. If the mines of Butte were to suspended operation for a single year there would be a famine of the metal in the markets of the world. Montana not only takes first place in production but also in the use of the most modern machinery and the most advanced methods of mining. Splendid surface plants for hoisting, stamping, smelting and refining the immense quantities of ore are in use. The great copper deposits are apparently inexhaustible and far more wonderful achievements are predicted for the future.

## Steps are being taken to utilize the 50,000-horse power of the Victoria Falls for industrial purposes, care being taken as is feeling them, or, not to mar the generality.</