harrows!

Acres Near Kimberley Are Plowed and Harrowed for Precious Stones

(Copyright, 1908, Frank G. Carpenter, IMBERLEY - (Special Correspondence of The Bee.)-Eleven thousand acres of diamonds! Hundreds of fields of blue clay sprinkled with jewels! A mighty farm where the brimanis lie out under the sun and the diamondiferous earth is worked with steam

These are some of the things you may see any day here at Kimberley. Last year the crop from this vast dismond farm amounted to \$32,000,000. It was equal to more than \$100,000 for every working day the whole year through. It was more than \$70 for every minute, or more than \$1 for evey tick of the watch though all the minutes of all the hours of all the days of that year.

Mining the Blue.

All the soll of this mighty farm has been taken out of the diamond pipes, which I have described in a previous letter. There are five such pipes at Kimberley, and each contains a pudding of this blue clay, sprinkled with white currants of diamonds. The pipes range from \$00 feet to several times that in diameter. Two of them, the Kimberley and the De Beers, have already been excavated to a depth of more than 2,000 feet, and the three others, the Wesselton, the Bulfontein and Dutoitspan, are now being mined at 500 or more feet from the surface. In every pipe the blue rock has been found continuous, and everywhere it is peppered with diamonds. How far down monds in sight.

twienty years, believes that they were and cleaned and sorted, after which they bers of the syndicate. shot up by mud volcanoes. There is no are ready to be valued for the market. doubt but that the pipes were formed by some convulsion of nature and that it was at about the same time that the jewels appeared.

the blue clay containing the diamonds.

On the Diamond Floors.

I am told that the priceless stones are seldom discovered, except when they come out in the washing.

can just scratch it with my knife. It is of diamonds from the various mines. The so hard that you could drive a nall with a sorters can tell by its shape and color mer to break it. The ground is carried from the mines to the floors and spread mine. I had in my hand a little bundle out there to a depth of one foot, all over which contained about a pint of small the surface. It lies out for about a year, stones, the value of which approximated being plowed and harrowed from time to \$500,000, and I was shown other bundles time. If the weather is dry it is sprin- containing brilliants as big as the end of kled, and as a result it so melts or softens my finger. Some of these rough stones

Every one of these great mines has its for setting and some were broken and seriously cut the demand for diamonds, own fields for such rock-weathering, chipped from other stones. Many of the There are at least 5,000 acres in all. Of diamonds contained flaws, but there were monds. There are about 10,000,000 carloads blue tint and others pure white. lying but under the sun, and I am told that there is something like \$35,000,000 worth of diamonds in them.

Guarding the Fields.

the earth within easy reach of any town of 20,000 in the United States, and you have the situation at Kimberley, You would imagine that the fields would be raided and the stuff carried off. It is not. The fields are guarded day and night by men who march around them with guns in their hands. They have electric lights which keep them bright from sunset to sunrise, and they are surrounded by high fences of barbed wire, the strands being so close together that a man can not crawl through, and so high that he cannot easily climb over them. There are two of these fences around every field. They are about twenty or thirty feet apart. and the guards march between them. If a thief could crawl over the first fence he would be sure to be shot before he got to the second, and so the diamonds are comparatively safe.

Washing Out Diamonds.

This blue ground a brought o the fields in sect cars. There are 130 miles of railroad tracks, which run from the mines to the floors, and from them to the crushing and washing machines, which handle the carth, after its melting. Over every and track is a steel cable, and the thousanus of cars are moved by the steam en-

gines of the five central plants. I saw the process of washing out dismonds at the De Beers mine. The rock was carried there a distance of eight miles by the cable. In reducing it, it was divided into two clases, one soft and one hard. The hard rock was that watch had not been affected by the weather; and it had to be cushed to a powder before the diamonds could be taken out. This was done in mighty steel crushers which are so made that they will grind up the rock, and at the same time not injure the still harder clamonds within. After crushing, the coarser pieces are crushed again, and at the end it is all reduced to about the consistency of soft ground, made so by the

Both the soft and the crushed ground are then washed to get rid of the waste. and, as a result, out of every hundred leads of the mixture comes one load of

gravel, containing the diamonds,

Diamonds Saved by Grease. It used to be that all the gravel obtained in this way was sorted over by men. Both natives and whites were employed, but the chantes for stealing were great, and it was found that many small stones were indeed some of the gravel which was sorted over in that way years ago is now being sorted again and at a great

Today the diamonds are saved by tables covered with a grease just like axle grease. The gravel is run through what is known as a pulsator, consisting of a series of iron tables corrugated like a washboard. These tables he at a slight angle, and the machinery shelies thom, so that they are always moving as the gravel passes over them. They are covered with this grease, and by shaking almost every stone at one time or another comes in contact with this

Now it is a curious thing that diamonds will stick in this grease, and that all the other stones will flow off without catching Every few hours the tables are stopped and the grange scraped off. It is found to contain all the diamonds and also small bits



HARROWING THE BLUE GROUND FOR DIAMONDS.

Sorting Diamonds.

I spent some time watching the diamond The mining, as I have described, consists the grease was poured off. Each man had provide that he who buys diamonds must constitute the native quarters of each mine, of blasting out and raising to the surface on a table before him a handful of dis- first take out a license and that all dis- and the company sees that they keep this I have spent a part of this week in go- which cost, I venture, less than 5 cents, every man who takes a diamond out of into the works, and they march down under ing with the diamond ore to the field or As I watched one of these men he lifted up South Africa must have a certificate show- guards to where they dig and blast out floors where it is left to weather, and in a little white stone, saying: "This is ing where he got that diamond and that the blue clay far below the surface. Those following it to the washing machines worth \$500," and then showed me another, he has a right to it, where the jewels are finally won. As the not much larger, worth double that sum. During my stay I have bought a rough to mix with the men who work underrock comes to the surface it bears no The manager afterward poured out a pint, stone of a few carats at a cost of about ground; and every effort is made to presign of them. I have looked over several of diamonds on the table, showing me \$75 per carat. I have been able to get it vent them stealing the diamonds and smugthousands cars of it, but have not seen a some that were worth \$60 a carat and others through a special introduction to the offi- gling them to their fellows. single brilliant imbedded in the blue, and cheaper. He took up a little scoop shovel cers of the diamond syndicate, and it was Take, for instance, the Dutoitspan comand with it threw the diamonds back into sold me at about the same price that the pound, which I visited recently. It conthe cup, handling them as though they diamond would have cost at wholesale in tains about seven acres and looks for all were peas.

from just which pipe each diamond comes, and I was shown specimens from every pebbles in shape. Others appeared ready

Buying Diamonds.

the deposits go no one knows. In the Kim- of iron pirites, garnets and pieces of metal price, and more if the demand justifies it, although most of them wear trousers and beriev they have been probed to a depth from the miners' boots and the copper fuses. The syndicate cannot take less than it have shoes to protect their feet from the of more than a half mile, so that it is no used in the blasting. It is now put up in a agrees, but it may buy more at the same rocks. Each gang has a white overseer, exaggeration to say that there are hun- steel bucket which is perforated with holes, price if the demand increases. One provi- but the laws prevent any mistreatment of dreds of millions of dollars' worth of dia- and this is sunk in boiling water. As the sion is that the De Beers company shall the blacks and they have a right to lay water touches the grease it melts and sell to no one else during the term of the their complaints before a "protector of As to the origin of the gems, they are goes to the top and may be poured off, contract. This syndicate is independent of labor" appointed by the government. The supposed to be volcanic, and Mr. Gardiner leaving only the scraps of metal and the De Beers company, although many natives are never hired for less than four Whilams, who managed the mines for diamonds. The diamonds are picked out men belonging to that company are mem- months, although the company is glad to

get it out of Cape Colony.

Ten Thousana Negro Miners,

about 10,000 of the native miners have been recently discharged, and also over 1,000 had a good chance to see the miners during my trips about Kimberley. They are Kaffirs coming from the various tribes of pany now go to the diamond syndicate, have its men from as many different lo- do their own cooking. There are store- fences to confederates outside.

London. I had to go to a half rozen dif- the world like a great racing park walled Later on I visited the company's offices ferent officials to secure the papers show- with stables. Right in the center of it is This blue ground is as hard as rock. I have paid the a platform which might be compared to customs duty necessary to enable, me to the grand stand, and all around the walls During the year 1907 the miners of the The grand stand is the public bath, where De Beers company here kept something the black boys come, when fresh from the like 20,000 negroes regularly employed get- mines, and wash themselves right out in ting out the blue and working the floors the open. They stand in the sunlight as and washing machines. They had there, naked as Adam before Eve gave him that that the diamonds can be washed out of had smooth edges and they were almost all told, more than 3,000 whites. On account apple, and the water sparkles like diaof the hard times in America, which has mends as it pours down in a shower over for the guards.

these, in the neighborhood of 1,000 acres many which were absolutely perfect. The whites. There are still 10,000 native belong to each pipe, and all are now diamonds were of different colors. Some miners at work, and this number will be incovered with this rock, containing dia- were as yellow as towards others. covered with this rock, containing dia- were as yellow as topazes, others a light creased as the market improves. I have them.

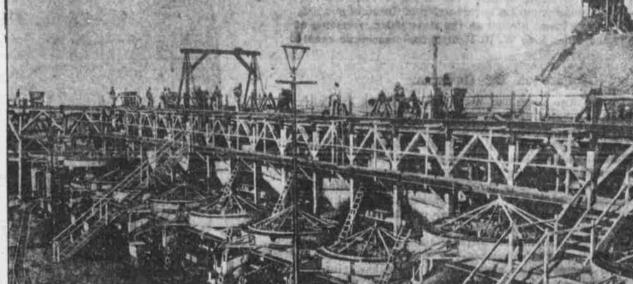
To Catch Diamond Thieves.

keep them as long as they will work.

On account of this arrangement it is not These 10,000 miners are practically fr an easy thing for a stranger to buy a dia- prison from the time they begin their job mond in Kimberley, and anyone who might until the end of it. They have to conpurchase a rough stone of a native would tract that they will stay inside the comsorters pick out the precious stones after be in danger of prison. The laws here pounds of great walled inclosures which monds of all shapes and sizes, and he was monds bought and sold must be shown part of their agreement. They do not picking them up one by one with a pair of to the government officials in order that go outside even when they enter the mines, tweezers and dropping them into a tin cup, they may be valued for customs. In fact, for every compound has a tunnel from it who work above ground are not allowed

> are rooms about twenty feet wide and thirty feet deep, which corresponds to the stalls in which the race horses are kept.

> I took a look at the rooms where the men live. They are walled with bunks and



MINERS DO THEIR OWN COOKING.

DIAMOND WASHING MACHINES.

pound, a hospital for the sick and rooms is stripped naked and put into a room so swallowed. About ten years ago one as

prevent them stealing the diamonds while all the time. Every bit of his person is week. In 1896 about \$4,000 worth of stones they are working. Their rooms in the com- then gone over by the diamond detectives were lost in a miner's stomach and aftertheir hands. One hundred feet beyond this teeth, gums and hair are examined, and prisonment in a naked state and the mediwall there is a tight fence of galvanized if he has any sores on his body they are cal and dietary treatment which all must side that are other guards, so that it is natives have mittens of sole leather upon part. As to other smuggling methods, All the diamonds of the De Beers com- South Africa, the company prefering to The men buy their own provisions and impossible to throw diamonds over the their hands. These are so stiff that they gems have been found in boot heels, in

This is a sort of a trust which contracts califles as possible in order to prevent houses inside the compound which furnish. The greatest care is taken by the De In looking over these fields one seldom to take the whole profits of the mines up strikes. The men work well and are more groceries, and butcher shops where meat Beers company to prevent diamond smugsees diamonds, but the brilliants are to a certain point for five years at a time, efficient than the ordinary African labor, is sold lower than anywhere else in South gling. No man is allowed to leave the there and they must be carefully guarded. It agrees to take so many million dollars. They are big fellows, strong and muscular. Africa, Connected with the buildings are mine until several days after the comple-Think of \$5,00,000 being scattered over worth of diamonds every year at a fixed In the mines they are bare to the waist, the offices of the managers of the com- tion of his contract. During this time he

the floor before them.

for being honest. Every man receives \$1.25 away the brilliants under the skin. They per carat for the diamonds he discovers put them in their hollow teeth, under their and hands over to the overseer. The other toes and in every conceivable place. The day a negro dug out a gem as big as a wal- guard grows more rigid from year to year, nut. It weighed more than 100 carats, and and the detectives have become so expert he received a premium of \$150 for it.

It used to be that many diamonds were to search. FRANK G. CARPENTER.

Strang Up Twice.

warm that he will not catch cold. He is big as a chestnut was thus disposed of, The natives are carefully watched to kept there for several days and watched and the negro kept it for more than a pound are built against a wall, around to see that he has no precious stones con- wards discovered, and the same practice which are marching guards, with guns in cealed anywhere in it. His toes, ears, would go on today were it not for the imiron about fourteen feet high, and out- probed. While the examining goes on the go through before they are allowed to decould not pick up a diamond if one lay on hollow canes, and in dinner palls with false bottoms. The miners frequently make At the same time the miners are paid gashes in their persons and try to carry that they know just exactly which places

Maids of Honor to the Queen of Ak-Sar-Ben



MISS PETERS.



MISS DAVIS.



MISS CONGDON.



MISS POWELL



MISS BARKALOW.



MISS BAUM.



MISS PATTERSON.



MISS MOOREHEAD.



MISS MORGAN.



MISS WHITE.



MISS BOURKE.

Quaint Features of Life

dent of Leavenworth, relates ance." the Leavenworth Times. He was a member of the townsite. company that came down the river from Weston, Mo., in 1854, and staked dent, having returned to Weston,

"It seems strange," said Mr. Moore, reminiscently, "that I survived those ragged days to enjoy the quietude of old age when my career came so near being nipped in youth so often.

"Why, twice in the year 1856 I was strung up by proslavery ruffians and once thrown into the Missouri river in the same year, I was cut down by friends who found me hanging by the neck unconscious. Those ruffians were terrified by my reappearance to life"-here he chuckled as in appreciation of a good joke-"when I walked about the streets the next day."

Tricks of Alabama "Wets,"

The sale and distribution of the whisky sandwich is the latest method of evading the liquor laws in the state of Alabama Loaves of breal, cut and arranged like oyster sandwiches, are sold over the counof the bread.

It is said that questionable lunch rooms these contraband goods constitute prac-

was made by the warden at the Birmingham jail, who took it into his head to examine an apparently innocent sandwich which was brought to the jail for one of the prisoners by a relative. Upon opening the loaf a bottle of whisky was disclosed. A rigid investigation was then put on foot, which resulted in the discovery that the whisky sandwich is already an important article of commerce in Alabama.

Stork Refuses to Wait.

A novel suit has been started in New office of the complaint in an action brought by Mrs. Oign Eisenberg against the Postal from a broken arm. Telegraph Cable company to recover \$18,000 damages for alleged negligence of the cumpany in not delivering a telegram sent by Clay. A few days ago he met Patrick her husband. Auron Eisenberg, to the Dougherty, a hotel proprietor, and the family doctor telling him to come at once, two classed hands in a hearty shake as it as the stork was expected.

Mrs. Elsenberg says that at 1:15 o'clock eral months. on the afternoon of May 10, 1966, her hus- A few days later Berger's arm began to band acting for her, sent a telegram from pain him. He went to the hespital to con-Hundred and Twenty-fifth street to her had been broken. doctor at 331 East Sixth street, telling him

"The defendant failed to deliver it in greeting.

can be safely said that H. "and about 9 p. m., said day, she gave Miles Moore is the oldest resi- birth to a child without medical attend-

Jumped In Canal from Moving Engine..

Fireman John Mulroy of 313 Academy out the site for Leavenworth. Only two street, Trenton, N. J., leaped from his movmembers of the company are living, and ing engine into the waters of the Delaware the other, A. T. Kyle, is no longer a resi- & Raritan canal as his passenger train was life of an eighteen-year-old Italian, who could not make people understand his

The lad had fallen into the canal, which runs along side the railroad track, and was drowning with no one in sight, when the train came alongside. Mulroy had been watching out ahead and when opposite where the boy sank he dropped from his engine into the water, rescuing the boy, His engineer did not miss him until he arrived in the station a half mile away. He then took the engine back looking for Mulroy and found him dripping wet walking to the terminal in company with the lad he had saved.

Chased By a Meteor.

Mr. and Mrs. William Gaddis of Columbus, Ind., were pursued by a meteor, or some other stray heavenly body while driving about five miles east of that town. ters in lunch rooms presumably operated They were traveling in the direction of for that very purpose, a bottle of whisky Columbus, and had remarked about the being cleverly arranged between the layers extreme darkness of the night, as they were scarcely able to see their horse, when a sudden bright light shone on them with have sprung up all over the state in which such brilliancy that they were blinded. Supposing that an amomobile was coming from the rear, they drove to one side The discovery of the whisky sandwich to await its passing, but as no machine came, they turned to look for it, and were startled to see a ball o fire which seemed to be about five feet in diameter coming to-

According to their story it was coming horizontally and about six feet from the ground. They watched it for about fifteen seconds, as they estimated, when it exploded like a Roman candle, and immed-

intely everything was as dark as before. Handshake Breaks Arm.

As the result of a vigorous handshake, York by the filing in the county clerk's Jeremian Berger of Wilmington, Del., aged 60, is at the Delaware hospital suffering

Rerger is a powder worker for the Du Pont Powder company, and lives at Henry was the first time they had mot for sev-

the defendant's office at 157 East One suit a physician and was then told a bone

Berger de lares he will be careful hereafter to whom he extends his hand in