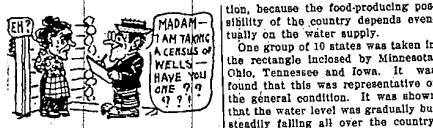


WASHINGTON GOSSIP

Taking a Census of the Water Wells



WASHINGTON.—Prof. W. J. McGee of the department of agriculture has been working on a census of the water wells of the country for some months. This census is not the counting of wells, but of the water upon which wells are nourished. He has secured data concerning the wells of the country and they are bearing on the national water supply and incidentally upon the ultimate food resources of the nation. This well enumeration has already reached 25,000, and covers states and practically every country of the United States. Records are being kept, so far as possible, showing the depth of the well and the depth of the water and the variation of water level from year to year. The significant part of the showing is that the water level in the wells of the country is decreasing at the rate of a foot a half for each decade. Some of the records go back for 20 years and some to the first settlement of the country. The average reduction in level of the "ground water" is shown to have been 14 feet since its first settlement. This is regarded as a serious condition, because the food-producing possibility of the country depends eventually on the water supply.

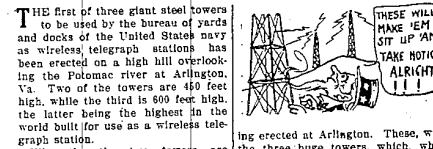
One group of 10 states was taken in the rectangle enclosed by Minnesota, Ohio, Tennessee and Iowa. It was found that this was representative of the general condition. It was shown that the water level was gradually but steadily falling all over the country, so that the ultimate outlook, not next year, but in a few centuries, will be a vanishing drinking supply not only on the farms, but in urban communities where the water supply is drawn from lakes and rivers.

Prof. McGee says the supply would be increased by digging the wells deeper, but that this would be merely a palliative measure. The real remedy is in changing the system of farm cultivation so as to conserve the water, and to supply it.

He explains that when the country is in a state of nature all the rainfall and the melting snowfall sinks into the ground and the water is available to the farmer and cultivation of the ground is broken up so that it is washed into the streams and the rivers run muddy. In the spring, and there are intervals of disastrous floods and droughts.

He says further that as land becomes more valuable the farmer is unconsciously applying the remedy by more intensive cultivation and manure on the land so that it is not allowed to erode and wash away.

First Giant Wireless Towers Erected



THE first of three giant steel towers to be used by the bureau of yards and docks of the United States navy for wireless telegraph stations has been erected on a high hill overlooking the Potomac river at Arlington, Va. Two of the towers are 450 feet high, the third is 500 feet high, the latter being the highest in the world built for use as a wireless telegraph station.

When the other two towers are erected, the three will be capable of sending a wireless message a distance of 3,000 miles over the sea and almost that distance over land. Had they been completed and in working order a week ago direct communication could have been established between Arlington, Va., and any of the vessels within hundreds of miles of the ill-fated Titanic.

The 500-foot tower, when erected, will contain an elevator, and the steel work on the two smaller towers has been so arranged that elevators can be placed in them at any time. However, for a while at least, persons will ascend from the bottom to the top of the smaller towers by means of a stairway. The 500-foot tower rests on a base 150 feet square, while the two 450-foot towers rest on a base 120 feet square.

A power and engine house, transmitter and receiving buildings are being erected at Arlington. Those, with the three huge towers, which, when erected, will be visible from any point within many miles of the nation's capital, will constitute the most powerful wireless station in the world.

When completed the station will be able to communicate with the ships with the Azores in the Atlantic, all West Indian ports and South American coast towns as far south as the mouth of the Amazon river. Aerial disturbances which are greater over land than over sea, will, it is expected, make transmission over land more difficult, but it is said that after all, the wireless station will be a most important factor in the defense of the nation.

The steel work on the towers has been completed for some time. The towers were shipped to Arlington from the shops here in sections and erected as fast as the different sections were completed.

Historic Ship Is Abandoned by Navy



THE historic old ship *Santee*, which recently sank at her dock at the Annapolis Naval Academy, has been abandoned by the naval authorities and will be sold to the highest bidder with the understanding that he remove her at his own expense. In spite of the vessel's age, she is a waterlogged and beyond repair for naval purposes. She rests on the muddy bottom of the Severn with the water about twelve feet above her water line and probably never will float again.

Naval officers have an affection for the old *Santee*, based on recollections of their student days at the academy. For many years she was used as a practice ship by the midshipmen, and when no longer able to navigate, was transformed into a prison ship for the academy cadets.

The *Santee* is a wooden ship of the square-rigged type. She was built just before the civil war, but because of a mistake in her design she never was used for any important service. Tradition has it that the error was pointed out to the designer by his young son soon after the vessel was launched, and that the designer was killed by shooting himself on the spot. The mistake was that the port-holes were built directly opposite each other, thus affording an open line of fire to an opposing warship. The *Santee* was taken to Annapolis in 1865, when the Naval Academy was transferred there from Newport. Soon after that she was dismantled and stored at the academy.

For many years she was used as a practice ship by the midshipmen, and when no longer able to navigate, was transformed into a prison ship for the academy cadets.

Aeroplane Gun Fires from Both Ends

TESTS of another invention designed to make "war in the clouds" possible are being prepared by the United States. It consists of an aeroplane gun that discharges a projectile from each end. One of the projectiles is designed for destructive work and the other as a dummy, to neutralize the recoil. Commander Cleveland Davis, U. S. N., is the inventor.

The practicability of the weapon has been recently demonstrated in tests at Fort Wright. Two light canvas balloons, corresponding to those of an aeroplane were rigged up close to the gun. Delicate springs and the gun was placed under the balloons to record the vibration and concussion and recoil. The results indicated that its use on an aeroplane hundreds of feet above earth is practicable.

As the two projectiles weigh about fifty pounds it is acknowledged that the sudden loss of weight might affect an aeroplane greatly. Now the inventor and Captain Washington I. Chambers, U. S. N., in charge of aviation in the navy, are studying this phase of the problem.

Final tests of the gun will be held soon at Indian Head under the supervision of the bureau of ordnance. It will be fired from a real aircraft to represent an aeroplane and a dynamometer will register the effect of the discharge.

With the World's Workers

REVIEW OF PROGRESS THAT IS BEING MADE ALONG ALL LINES OF ENDEAVOR

EYES MAY BE BAD

Sometimes Poor Work Really Is Not Due to a Lack of Efficiency.

SIGHT AFFECTS THE MIND

Not Always Easy to Recognize the Fact of a Strain; But Nature Generally Gives Some Indication That the Sight is Being Overworked.

How are your eyes? Do they itch and burn and pain you until you are unable to concentrate your mind upon the work you have in hand? If they do, if only for a time each day, they are impairing your efficiency, and you should seek a remedy at once.

Many persons, especially clerks, have the mistaken idea that as long as they can see the figures in front of them their vision is all right. The fact of the matter is that the majority of those who suffer most from eye strain are persons with excellent vision. Strain exists where the eyes are naturally out of focus, but can be and are held in adjustment by the overuse of the ciliary muscles.

Take a person who is far sighted, for instance. If the degree of far sightedness is not great, the brain keeps sending enough nerve force to the muscles to keep it constantly contracted. The same thing happens in a low degree of astigmatism. The vision can see well enough and refuses to recognize eye strain as the cause of the burnings and itches and headaches from which he suffers.

A continual strain upon the eyes causes not only headaches, but, according to Dr. Woods Hutchinson, a majority of the cases of stomach trouble are due to eye strain. This may seem a surprising statement, but it is the eyes require unusual concentration of nerve force it is reasonable to suppose that the stomach, as well as

other organs of the body, must suffer in consequence. I have come in contact with a number of cases in which a continual strain upon the eyes has affected the mind. In some of these cases the strain was simply an inability to concentrate the brain upon any one subject. In others there was a loss of memory, and in two, a mild form of insanity. Many clerks of my acquaintance have lost good positions simply because they failed to recognize the obvious fact that they were straining their eyes.

It is easy enough to tell whether a strain exists. Normally, the eyes should never make their presence felt by pain or discomfort of any kind, even when subjected to unusually long service. If they pain you, something is wrong, even if you do feel that your vision is as good as ever. The remedy, of course, is simple. Glasses properly fitted relieve the strain, and are a good investment, even if you find it necessary to wear them only a part of the time. They are not a cure for living can afford to experiment with his eyes, and an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. You cannot serve your employer efficiently while suffering from the many ills due to strain upon the eyes. You owe it to him as well as to yourself to remedy the fault if any exists.—Chicago Tribune.

GOOD IDEA FIRMLY ROOTED

Workers' Insurance Against Illness Has Been Placed on a Substantial Basis in Germany.

The number of cases of sickness with inability to work which received aid from the various classes of invalid insurance in Germany during 1910 was 1,157,099, as against 5,046,793 in 1909. The average number of members increased from 12,517,785 in 1909 to 13,069,375 in 1910. The total number of days of absence for which compensation was paid, or hospital treatment was given was 104,705,164, an average of 8.01 per member, compared with 103,368,412 in 1909, an average of 8.26 per member. The total number of funds was 12,185 in 1910, divided among parish invalid insurance, district invalid insurance, trade funds, builders' funds, corporation funds, and registered funds.

The joint capital of the various funds amounted to \$70,548,200 in 1910 and the receipts, minus those for invalid insurance, came to \$90,269,710. The regular expenses, minus the cost of management for invalid insurance, amounted to \$83,429,762. The costs of illness included in the last total average \$76,164,957. The average of illness expenses was \$6.83 per member. The cost of management averaged only 27 cents per member. The costs of management, minus those of the invalid insurance, totaled \$4,663,383. The cost of the trade funds and the builders' funds are sustained almost entirely by the employees and those of the parish invalid insurance wholly by the parish.

Present and Future

Take a Little Time to Enjoy the Days That Are Yours at This Moment.

Things Worth Laying Up

Money is by No Means All That Should Be Accumulated, Important as It Is—Spend It Wisely.

Too many of us give our entire effort to planning work for some future time, some far off, distant event, when we are going to enjoy the result of all our labor and saving and wearing of ourselves out. We forget that the future is not something far away.

It is with us every minute. The future is in the day, today, the passing moment; it is even the past! The future is what you are making with each act and thought of your existence. It consists, not of so much money in the bank, but of all your powers, intellectual and physical, of your appreciations of the life about you—things that cannot exist unless you use them.

Work for the future, of course. But remember that you have to live that future every day of your life. You can't put it off to some indefinite time, when you are ready. That would be like refusing to look at the rainbow until you reached the spot where it touched the ground. While you are trying to get there, the rainbow has faded. The delight you might have had in gazing on its tremendous beauty is lost.

The future, it be worth anything, must be a dream of things you've done, things you've enjoyed. Don't imagine that laying up money alone will insure a happy future. You should lay up your health, your energy, your friends, the deep and real things of life, fun and study, too. Money comes and goes, as we all know. Good deeds and good character that get into the soul are the things that last.

We must attend to the getting of it a part of each day, and it is foolish to throw it away recklessly. It is a part of our future. But it is only a part. We have other things to fill, and we must sometimes take from the money bank to help fill this other. Do this wisely and both banks will grow.

When a certain friend of mine comes away from a play or an opera or returns from some trip, he always says: "That's mine now forever." So with all fine experiences and lessons learned, they are ours forever. They are our future, and unless we realize this and save as many of them as we can, we shall be bankrupt at the

Write For This Free Book—Shows 20 Beautiful Modern Rooms—



Alabastine

The Beautiful Wall Tint comes in 16 exquisite tints. More artistic than wall paper, it is a fraction of the cost. Kalamine colors are harsh and common beside the soft-hued water color tints of Alabastine. It is the easiest and quickest to use, goes furthest and will not chip, peel, or rub off.

Don't send an expert to cover your walls. Day directions in every tin. One tin covers 100 sq. ft. of wall. See regular tin, 15c.



Alabastine Company 25 Grand St., New York City, N. Y. DON'T FAIL TO WRITE FOR THE FREE BOOK

Freedom is won through hard obedience to the truth.—William James.

Garfield Ten helps clear a muddy complexion, disposes food breaks and sweetens the temper.

Irrelevant Reasons. "Why is Jones making his girl take music lessons? She'll never learn. He says she knows she has no talent, and he can't afford the expense, but that he hates the people so on the next floor."

The Position for Her. After speaking at great length on the emancipation of women, a young woman asked a statesman: "Supposing women were admitted to govern the affairs of the commonwealth, what post would you assign to me?"

"The management of an institution for the deaf and dumb."

Why that? "Because these unfortunate would learn to talk or you would learn to keep quiet."

His Veracity. Jim Slocum of Montgomery county, avers the Kansas City Journal, was called as a witness to impeach the testimony of a man in that county. Jim was asked if he was acquainted with the reputation of the witness for truth and veracity. Jim said that he guessed maybe he was.

Is it good or bad? "Well," said Jim, "I don't want to do the man an injustice, but I will say that if his neighbors were to see him looking as if he was dead they would want some corroborative evidence before they would be willing to bury him."

Looking to the Inevitable. Seventy-nine years old, but with no thought of dying for years, a South Brooklyn retired windmill dealer sent his recent birthday in Cleveland, O., looking for a bargain in coffin. He said he never had cared much for show and thought he would care less when dead, so he wanted something that would be durable, not fancy. "The undertakers wanted more than \$100 for good coffin," he told a friend, "none of which looked to be worth more than \$50. For \$25 I found I could get one that looked as if it might have cost \$25.00 to make. You don't suppose I could get a good second-hand one anywhere, do you?" The man did not invest, but decided he would wait and see if the high cost of dying might not be reduced.

When the Appetite Lags

A bowl of Post Toasties with cream hits the right spot.

"Toasties" are thin bits of corn, fully cooked, then toasted to a crisp, golden-brown.

This food makes a fine change for spring appetites.

Sold by Grocers, and ready to serve from package instantly with cream and sugar.

"The Memory Lingers"

Made by Postum Cereal Company, Ltd. Pure Food Factories Battle Creek, Mich.