

OUR NEW PRODUCTS.

SPONGES AND GUTTA PERCHA IN THE PHILIPPINES.

Very Profitable Articles Which May Be Produced in Our Pacific Possessions.

Manila letter: Those who have gone to extremes of pessimism in viewing the Philippine situation have overlooked the fact that as yet the resources of these islands have been but very vaguely estimated.

Two recently reported discoveries made by government representatives suggests fields for the profitable use of American capital because they are in reference to products of which there is but a falling supply obtained at present from elsewhere.

The two articles referred to are gutta percha and sponges.

Even with the possibilities of wireless telegraphy facing us there is likely to be a continual increase in the demand for rubber for the many uses to which it is being continually put.

The sponge market should prove a very profitable one, for with the spread of luxury there is an increasing demand for this article in the face of a diminishing supply.

In regard to the possibilities of raising rubber and gutta percha in the Philippines consular and special commission reports bear out the facts, well-known here, that certain parts of the islands are admirably adapted for the raising of these products. The project is in no way an experiment and planters can safely estimate on a return of \$150 to \$200 per acre from the rubber crop, after the trees have reached maturity, a period of six years from the planting of the seed. The gutta percha supply of the world is in the hands of Great Britain and Holland, which countries own all known gutta percha lands outside the Philippines, and these countries are taking all the steps possible to preserve this monopoly and have recently established many new plantations. So valuable is the gutta percha seed that in view of the decrease in the world's supply it is more profitable to raise trees for the seed than to extract gutta percha from them. The supply is at present monopolized by Holland, while the trade of the world in gutta percha is controlled by the Chinese of Singapore. They mix the cheaper grades with the finer and color them variously, making fortunes rapidly by these manipulations. The finest grade of gutta percha tree has not yet been found in the Philippines but a grade has been found which realizes \$40 to \$150 per principal at Singapore. The gutta percha regions are unfortunately those inhabited by Moros and the fierce inland tribes of Mindanao.

Just at a time when the world's supply of sponges was growing short sponges of good quality have been found on the reefs of the island of Cebu. In the deeper waters others of exceptionally fine grade have been found by Greek divers in the employ of a New York firm, who were sent out to examine the reefs. Sponge fishing concessions have been granted by the government and the industry is to be developed at once. The high price of sponges is due to the expert labor employed in reducing them to a state of usefulness and the 21 per cent. import duty imposed on them.

The best sponges have hitherto come from the Mediterranean, but the supply there has given out. From Florida we get about \$300,000 worth annually. A few come from the West Indies. Sponge belongs to the animal kingdom not to the vegetable, as many er-

PRINCE HENRY OF PRUSSIA.



The launching of the yacht now building at Shooter's Island for the emperor of Germany will be one of the notable events of the year. The yacht will be christened by Miss Alice Roosevelt; her father, the president, will be present, and Prince Henry will be there as representative of

ronsciously suppose. In its nature it is more suggestive of the appearance of the jelly fish or a mass of thin silmy skin, dark in color and generally perforated with small apertures, subsequently known as holes. The active part of the sponge, that concerned in nutrition and growth, is a soft, fleshy mass, partly meshed and lined the canal consists largely of cells, possessing different functions, some of which are used in the formation of the work, some in digestion and reproduction. In the performance of these processes the water is operated which carry the minute food products to the digestive cavities. The multiplication of sponges is brought about by the union of sexual products, certain of the fleshy pulp assuming the character of ova and others that of spermatozoa. The finest grades are found in the deepest water. It is believed that sponges can be propagated by planting small pieces on rocks suitable for their growth and development. The industry may become an important one here.

BOSTON AGAIN IN VAN.

Successful Pneumatic Tube System for Parcels at Hub. Boston letter: The enterprise of Boston displayed in being the first city in the United States to run an underground railway system has been demonstrated by the introduction and

successful operation of a pneumatic tube system for parcel delivery, which is proving one of the greatest conveniences ever originated at the Hub.

The American Pneumatic Service company was organized by a group of Boston capitalists in the latter part of the year 1900. By August of the following year a complete system of distribution for parcels under nine and a half inches in diameter was in operation.

The system has met with almost unanimous approval. To shoppers the tube offers a unique convenience. The main station is placed at the corner of Essex street and Harrison avenue, which is in the heart of the retail shopping district of Boston.

Bundles are collected continually throughout the day from the stores and other sources, the teams of the pneumatic company being in constant evidence on the streets. The main station is connected directly by tube with a sub-station in Back Bay, a mile and a half distant, and another at the South End, about a mile away. The line extends from the South End to Roxbury, another mile or more away, and from Roxbury to Dorchester, one and a quarter miles further yet.

At the main station the bundles which have been collected from the distributors are placed in carriers which traverse the tube at the rate of a mile in two minutes, the Back Bay station being reached in three minutes, being distant about a mile and a half from central. Upon arrival at the sub-stations parcels are promptly delivered to local addresses. The saving of time effected is remarkable.

The system by which the transmission is made is simplicity itself. Two lines of cast-iron pipe, 10 inches in diameter, parallel each other, one being used for incoming and the other for outgoing purposes.

The carriers used for transporting the packages are made under a new patent and are the most efficient yet evolved. The form of them is cylindrical, the length being 30 inches and diameter nine. A door occupies almost one of the entire sides and at either end of the vehicle is a cast steel head, to which are attached lugs for the wheels.

These carriers are dispatched by a very simple process, the transmitter being an ordinary adaption of the air lock. The valves are moved by air taken from the current in the line operated, acting on an ordinary piston. The simple operation of touching a lever starts the valves in motion, the whole cycle being completed without any further attention on the part of the attendant.

The receiving apparatus is fully as simple, the end of the tube being closed by a simple revolving valve, which is operated by a piston and compressed air abstracted from the tubes. In this operation the incoming air is thrown several feet back, so that as the carrier reaches its destination, the air compresses gradually in front of it and it slides forward gradually to a standstill.

At this juncture an auxiliary valve controlling the main air supply to the cylinder is operated upon by the air from the cushion, so that just as the carrier is about coming to a standstill the auxiliary valve allows the cylinder to open the revolving valve at the end of the pipe, upon which the carrier rolls out. A diaphragm immediately closes the receiver, all the movements of which have been automatic and performed within the small space of a few seconds.

The compressed air system by which the tubes are operated is especially adapted to the needs of such a service and admits of unusual economy.

BARCLAY FORBES.

MAN OF THE HOUR.

EARL ROSEBERY NOW SO DESIGNATED IN ENGLAND.

He is Firmly Opposed to Home Rule, But Anxious to See Federation of Empire.

London letter: Why is the name of Lord Rosebery on everyone's lips at the present moment? Because for many reasons he is regarded as the man best fitted to assume the helm at the present time and guide the British ship of state through troubled waters.

When the Chamberlain-Salisbury government vacates, as it may or may not either voluntarily or under compulsion from public opinion, Rosebery is the man whom it is expected King Edward will summon to Windsor Castle and entrust with the formation of a new cabinet.

With the enforced retirement of Lord Salisbury, caused by advancing age, Rosebery remains the only man at present in the public eye who is especially fitted to take the foreign portfolio.

In many respects Lord Rosebery is one of the most remarkable men in England.

His political convictions are peculiarly contradictory. In some respects an ultra-conservative, in others he has very liberal leanings.

Rosebery is a federalist and nothing would delight him so much as to see the unification of the British empire consummated. While opposed to home rule, he believes with Chamberlain in a system which will give, not only to Ireland, but to Scotland, India, Australia and Canada, individual parliaments which should elect a house to which peers of men of certain standing only would be eligible, while the people of these countries should also select a lower house to which anyone they might choose would be eligible—which two bodies should assemble in the parliament house as a federal council for the whole empire.

Rosebery holds the belief that the present structure of the British government is unsuitable to modern requirements.

His views on the peerage are very radical also. He does not believe in an hereditary nobility. He believes that the insignia of knighthood should be worn only for great or valiant deeds. He once proposed that the peers should be elected by the house of commons and has favored a life-peerage plan for eminent services.

Rosebery is better fitted to the title of statesman than any of his contemporaries, for he has an inborn capacity for moulding men and events to his purposes. During his public career he has often given evidence of the possession of Palmerstonian traits. He has a remarkably stubborn will on occasions and is even likely to become high-handed with parliament when he thinks himself provoked to the point.

His bluntness is proverbial and no one is kept long in doubt concerning his opinions on certain issues. To the British royal family he is most acceptable and there was at one time a talk of a marriage being arranged for him with the Princess Maud of Wales.

Rosebery is now in his 56th year, although he does not look it. It is only since his wife died that Lord Rosebery has given particular attention to politics. This lady, to whom he was most tenderly attached, was a Jewess, Miss Hannah Rothschild, only daughter of the Baron Mayer de Rothschild. By his marriage, Lord Rosebery added greatly to the wealth which had come to him with the family possessions. His wife was said to have had a fortune of five millions sterling.

It is not strange that with his radical opinions concerning the privileges of the peerage, and his willingness to curtail them immediately if it could be done, Rosebery possesses as strong a hold upon the masses as he does upon the classes. The latter he holds by his conservatism on foreign politics and his uncompromising attitude on any point that tends to shake the stability of the empire.

On this point he is the antithesis of his old chief Gladstone, with whom he once served six months as foreign secretary with the distinct understanding that he should have a free hand with his policy.

Rosebery is just the man, who, if occasion demanded it, would send an ultimatum to Russia, instead of lulling himself into a false repose concerning her attitude in Eastern affairs.

Although a Scotchman, Rosebery was born in London in 1847. His full name is Archibald Philip Primrose. He is fifth earl of Rosebery, son of the late Lord Archibald Dalmeny, a Scottish peer, and Lady Catherine Lucy Wilhelmina, who was a daughter of the Earl of Stanhope. He was educated at Eton and Christchurch, succeeding to the title on the death of his grandfather, the fourth Earl of Rosebery, in 1868.

During the time he was in charge of the foreign office he had to manage some very difficult questions with Russia arising out of the Servo-Bulgarian war and other important questions.

As a debator Lord Rosebery is both eloquent and humorous. His speeches commanded the admiration of Gladstone, who often alluded to his young colleague as one destined to play an important part in the history of the country. Up to the present time the earl has taken rather a back seat so far as holding office is concerned, but it is likely that he may justify Gladstone's prediction during the next decade.

Rosebery has been described as "bold, but not brilliant, although a master of tact and possessed of a thorough training in the school of diplomacy, upon which England, above all other

nations, relies for maintaining her supremacy."

Owing to his conservative traditions, Rosebery was much beloved by the late Queen Victoria, and has always held a warm place in the affections of her children.

Some years ago he was a great patron of the turf, but his colors have not of late been so conspicuous at the great meetings. In spite of his aristocratic surroundings, there is something markedly democratic in the character of the Earl, and he probably could unite more Englishmen on the policy he would pursue as premier, if called again to assume the responsibilities of public life, than could any of his contemporaries.

WILTON THORNLEY.

HER ROOMMATES.

Series Encountered by a Young Woman Earning Her Living.

New York Sun: New York is supposed to be a paradise for girls who paint or write. But it isn't always. "It's all right as far as the work goes," remarked one young woman who has been through the mill. "But, oh, the boarding-houses and the room-mates! They are an economy. That's why you have them, of course. But before I earned money enough to dispense with them I came to prefer my coffin alone, to a ten-acre room with a roommate."

"There was Clorinda, sweet soul. She was studying in a dramatic school. I thought she would be such good material, that I welcomed her with open arms. But dramatic study wasn't what I supposed it to be."

"She practiced by the hour trying to sing 'Annie Laurie.' She hadn't the first idea of pitch and I am rather musical myself. When I had suffered to the last gasp, I used to flee to the library to work."

"When I came back she was going through all the wriggles of a contortionist. It used to get on my nerves. She rose at 5 a. m., too, Clorinda did, and recited Juliet as the sun was rising. It was poetic, but exhausting."

"Clorinda left me. Her successor was religious. She never went to bed before 12. Then she read her Bible aloud for an hour. I suffered from sleep famine all the time she was with me."

"Number three was an artist student doing advertisements as a stop-gap till she became famous. When I came in dead tired she made me sit in an improvised toboggan made of the front board set up against a chair for a picture of an up-to-date Santa Claus. I posed as a tailor maid when she was doing an advertisement for a dress-maker, and as a Grecian beauty to advertise a health resort."

"I might have refused to pose. I did one week, and Ma-ree-ah had models. But she borrowed the money from me to pay them and forgot to return it, so I went back to slavery again."

"Number four played the piano. She had one in the room on condition that she would practice only when I was out. But after awhile I found it easier to have her play than not. Whenever I sat down to write, she began to talk or else write letters. One was as bad as the other."

"When she began to chew her pen over an epistle, I knew what to expect. 'Elizabeth,' she would say, 'do you spell 'carry' with one or two?'"

"Then just as I got well started in a story, again it would be: 'E-liz-a-beth, has "concern" an s or a c?'"

"By 'that time I began to beg her to play scales again. 'But I had forgotten the Southerner. She took the palm. She had never picked up anything in her life and she didn't begin with me. I made her bed when it was made and dug my way through piles of her clothes whenever I moved. She used to wheedle me into playing lady's maid."

"But one day I rebelled. She was going to have one of her swellest patrons to call—she taught French—and I just took her party gown, her street gown, the half-dozen waists, petticoats, laces, furs, feathers and everything else of hers lying around the room and piled them up in a heap on the floor."

"She took her visitor into the room, supposing that I had filled up, as usual. When she saw the heap she remarked, with superlative self-possession:

"My roommate has such a humorous way of disposing of her wardrobe! Pray, excuse it."

"She held the trump card, but relations were strained after that and she departed to more congenial quarters."

No Similarity.

"Senator," said the reporter, "you are in favor, if I mistake not, of a six-year term for the president of the United States, with a provision that he shall not be eligible for re-election?"

"Yes," replied Senator Lotsmun. "That meets my approval."

"How would you stand on the proposition to limit a senatorship to one term also?"

"Young man," said Senator Lotsmun, cautiously, "I don't care to be quoted on the proposition, but I will say to you confidentially that mighty few men would go to the trouble and—er—trouble to enter the senate for just one term."

The salt manufactured in Michigan during the year ending Nov. 30 exceeded that made during any previous year. The total was 5,580,101 barrels. The industry was started about 30 years ago and during this period the production was 96,992,584 barrels.

Chicago has lost a street. It was worth about \$1,000,000, and the city would like to find it again. Gradual encroachments were made on the street by a railroad company, until it was completely covered, and the city will institute eviction proceedings.

TAMMANY'S NEW CHIEF.



Both Democrats and Republicans, not only in New York, but throughout the country, are discussing the meaning of "Boss" Croker's surrender of power to Lewis Nixon and whether it is to be permanent.