

PERU HAS HIGH RAILWAY.

Crosses Mountain Range at Altitude Never Before Attained.

One of the most interesting trips afforded by the present transportation facilities of Peru is that over the Orrego railroad, which now runs from Callao to the gold fields of Cerro de Pasco. It is considered one of the wonders in the Peruvian world and the original contract was taken by Mr. Higgins at \$27,000,000 in bonds at 7 1/2%.

The line of the highest point in the world where a piston rod is moved by steam. The wonder is doubled on remembering that the elevation is reached in seventy-eight miles. One of the most remarkable things in connection with this road is that between the coast and summit there is not an inch of down grade. The difficulties encountered are characterized by a species of warlike breaking out all over the body and bleeding. About 8,000 workmen were engaged at one time, and between 7,000 and 8,000 persons died or were killed in the construction of the road.

BRITISH AMERICA.

Seventeenth Annual Meeting—Began in a Family Compact Day.

Prominent among the order of the Canadian financial corporations stands the British America Assurance Company, of this city, which commenced business in the days when the affairs of this Province were conducted by the old "family compact." It was organized in 1833, and had its Governor, Deputy Governor and Court of Directors, which offices were filled by men whose names are prominent in the history of those stirring times in the Canadian political world.

In his remarks in presenting the annual report the President, Hon. George A. Cox, stated that the amount of the losses of the "British America" by the recent conflagration at Baltimore had been ascertained to be somewhat under \$2,000,000 (the original figures published immediately after the fire, which amount he pointed out represented about ten per cent. of the annual fire premium income of the company. These losses are being promptly settled, and it will be gratifying to Canadians to know that in the case of this company, as well as in that of the "Western," these being the only two Toronto fire insurance companies having agencies in Baltimore, the losses resulting from this exceptional disaster, will be met without seriously affecting their financial standing.

VALUE OF OLD COINS.

The Things Which Make Collectors Pay Big Prices for Them.

"While the knowledge is fairly general that many old coins command high premiums," said a coin dealer the other day, "still there are very few who understand why certain coins are worth more than others." The great majority of people wrongly think that the value of a coin depends upon its age, the result being that every coin coming into their possession more than fifty years old is carefully laid away for some future time, when there may be a demand for it. The principal reason for a large premium on a coin is its scarcity. The date has nothing whatever to do with it. There are plenty of Roman coins thousands of years old, in good condition, which can be bought for 25 cents, while a New Jersey cent issued in the latter part of the Revolution, will bring \$700. It is due to the fact that there are only eight \$300 dollars in existence that those coins are worth from \$100 up to any figure one chooses to pay for them.

"The next thing in importance to the issue of a coin is its condition. And upon this rests the value of the coin. The average collector has very little use in his collection for a worn or mutilated coin, no matter how scarce it may be. Here, for instance, is a 70-cent dollar, badly worn, which will bring hardly anything, while one in good condition is worth fully \$300. There are, of course, other reasons for the increased value of a coin, and one of these is illustrated by the experience of a wealthy Massachusetts coin collector. This collector, impatient to finish his collection of territorial gold coins—that is, coins made by mining companies and private firms in the west during the years immediately following the gold discovery in California—advertised

for the coins he needed to complete his set. Of these gold coins there are nearly 230 pieces, ranging in face value from \$2.50 up to \$50. Of the number he had already obtained about 160, and needed about forty more to complete the series. "As soon as the dealers and those holding these coins learned that there was somebody anxious to get them, the prices went up with wonderful rapidity. Any one of the coins before the advertisement was published could have been bought under \$100. But the premium soon went over this figure, and increased until as much as \$250 was demanded for a single coin. The collector bought them as they were offered, however, notwithstanding the increased figure at which they were placed. Finally a coin dealer in the city secured one coin for \$75, and another for \$25, which was especially sought by the collector, and then advertised their sale at auction. The advertisement attracted the attention of the collector, who was promptly on hand on the day of the sale.

"When the coins were offered the bidding was spirited, and the coins were finally knocked down to a young fellow looking like a fortune hunter. He indicated limited means, for \$500 pieces. Promptly paying cash for his coins, the young man at once left the auction room. He soon returned, however, followed by the collector, and the supposition is that the collector finally secured the coins from the young man. The whole affair had much the appearance of the fictitious bidding that takes place at the auction sales around town, where, by collusion between the auctioneer and a paid bidder, the price of an article is bid up until it reaches a satisfactory figure. As \$500 was the last price paid for last price paid for these coins, that figure will now stand as the listed premium.

POLAR BEARS ON ICEBERG.

Six of the Monsters Were Adrift on the Banks of Newfoundland.

The polar bear story told by the officers of the steamship Hanover on her last trip to Baltimore is quite unusual, but not improbable. They say that when entering the eastern edge of the Grand Banks of Newfoundland they sighted a large iceberg and through the glass discovered that it was tenanted by two or three polar bears. Drawing nearer, they could see with the naked eye six bears cubling around on the ice. Unless appearances were deceptive it is evident that these involuntary wanderers were making an unusually long journey to the south and were bound for certain destruction. They had probably not suffered for food, as the Greenland and Labrador waters through which they had passed abound with seal, but they were finally in a region where bear food is scarce and icebergs rapidly disappear.

There is no doubt that some of these animals perish by being carried out to sea on ice floes. The bear that lived for twenty-three years in the zoological gardens of London, and whose death some years ago brought grief to many youthful admirers, was captured when young on a floating piece of ice in the south of Spitzbergen. From five to twenty bears on rare occasions have been seen on the drifting floe near this archipelago. The western drift, which heaps great masses of ice against the eastern shores of Greenland, sometimes brings bears with it, from far away Spitzbergen, and there is good evidence that these immigrants on one occasion drifted around Cape Farewell to the western coast of Greenland, where they were shot. The animal is now very scarce in Danish Greenland, and in the best of seasons only forty to fifty are seen, and most of them are pilgrims from the north brought down on the float-ice from Melville Bay or Smith Sound.

In spite of the reputation of these animals for timidity the travelers among them are likely to be impertinent. A bear some years ago invaded the entrance to a Eskimo winter hut but was unfortunately slain by the badly frightened inmates. On another occasion a bear thrust his head through the window glass in one of these huts, but retreated when the solitary inmate, a woman, pushed a wisp of blazing hay in his face. The woman might have fared badly if it had not been for a hunter, who shot the animal as he was trying to scratch a hole through the wall on the other side of the hut.

Arctic Nimrods regard the white bear as an indifferent sport, because it usually scampers away over the ice fields at the sight of an enemy or takes to the nearest water. Mr. Baldwin wrote from Franz Josef Land that in nine cases out of ten hunting the polar bear was about as much sport as shooting the family cow, but the mother bear will fight for her cubs, and if she gets striking distance of her foe she has little chance to escape. With modern guns there is often danger of overconfidence.

We may imagine that the conditions under which the animals sighted by the Hanover were found were beginning to be a little uncomfortable. There may have been an occasional touch of mildness in the air which they did not enjoy. We should look in vain for the white bear on the south coast of Iceland, where the warmer waters of the Atlantic impress him as unfavorable for comfort, but he is found in the north coast. Captain Sverdrup did not find the bear on any of the islands which he discovered north of the Pary archipelago or in the neighboring waters, doubtless for the reason that the favorite food of the bear is scarce in that region. Thus, while the habitat of the polar bear girdles the world in the arctic regions, it is narrowed even in that zone by the food supply. Nansen found the form of life north of the eightieth parallel. It is only the unfortunate animals which unwittingly set sail on drift ice that get south of the regions adapted for their home.

New York Sun.

Historical Rooms. (Argonaut.) "This is where the duke was assassinated." "Indeed? But last year you showed us another room for that story." "So we did; but that room is now being repaired."

It Is So Easy

To Cure You Now That We Have Learned How. Relief in 30 Minutes.

For years the author of Dr. Agnew's Heart Cure has believed that the health of the heart is almost entirely responsible for the health of the nerves and stomach and now it can be proven. Dr. Agnew's Heart Cure will relieve heart disease in 30 minutes and cure it. It beats the nerves through the heart by giving the heart the necessary power to pump rich blood to the nerve centers, when stomach disorders and nervousness disappear as by magic. One dose will convince.

Dr. Agnew's Liver Pills, 40 doses, 10c. 25

REAL LAVENDER PERFUME.

The delicate blue lavender may be grown by carefully protecting the plants during the winter, but it quite repays one for the trouble, says Country Life in America. No wedding chest is complete without the pale lavender silk bags filled with the gray blue sprigs, whose perfume adds the last touch of romance to a dainty trousseau of lace and linen.

La grippe, pneumonia, and influenza often leave a nasty cough when they're gone. It is a dangerous thing to neglect. Cure it with

Shiloh's Consumption Cure

The cure that is guaranteed by your druggist. S. C. WELLS & Co., 303 E. 5th St. N.Y., Toronto, Can.

The North-Western Line Russia-Japan Atlas.

Send ten cents in stamps for Russo-Japanese War Atlas issued by The Chicago and Northwest Ry's. Three fine colored maps, each 14x20; bound in convenient form for reference. The Eastern situation shown in detail, with tables showing relative military and naval strength and financial resources of Russia and Japan. B. H. Bennett, 2 East King St., Toronto, Ont.

Perhaps. (Toronto News.) There were more than a hundred fewer admissions to Ontario asylums last year than in 1902. Had the good times anything to do with the change?

Minard's Liniment Relieves Neuralgia.

Pressing It Home. "Are marriages made in heaven, mamma?" asked little Tessie. "Some of them are, dear."

Minard's Liniment Cures Burns, etc.

NOW THEY ARE MAD.

Kilmarnock Town Council has been the victim of a great hoax. It has gravely accepted a supposed offer from Mr. Carnegie to provide a marble temple to Burns, cost not more than \$500,000. Mr. Carnegie has made no such offer.

A letter purporting to be written by Mr. Hew Morrison, of Edinburgh, Mr. Carnegie's adviser in his literary schemes, reached the Provost of Kilmarnock. It described Mr. Carnegie's plans for the magnificent temple, and was duly read to the grateful town council a few hours later.

It was Mr. Carnegie's intention, the council heard with rapture, to make the memorial a most elaborate one, the building to be constructed of granite, white marble, or some other superior material, and to be of magnificent design. The interior would contain statues of Burns' contemporaries and the principal characters of his creation, and under the dome "a classic figure of the immortal genius would stand." Artistic panels would embellish the walls, illustrative of scenes depicted in his poems, and the words building would be lavishly treated.

Now the councilors are vexed and humiliated at being hoaxed. When the news of the supposed offer was received, Mr. Morrison for confirmation by a press representative the same night, Mr. Carnegie's adviser pronounced the letter "an impudent and cruel hoax."

It appears that the letter was typewritten on paper bearing the printed name of the Edinburgh Public Library, of which Mr. Morrison is the head. Mr. Morrison's signature was also typewritten, and intailed "per J. C. This fact did not arouse the suspicions of the Kilmarnock councilors, although they were surprised at the immensity of the sum offered.

Minard's Liniment Cures Dandruff.

A QUININE TRUST.

It is said that the Peruvian bark raisers of Java are forming a trust. As Java supplies about 75 per cent. of the total amount of the Peruvian bark used in the world, and only 80 planters are engaged in cultivating the trees, it is proposed to erect more factories in Java and to use at least one-half of the yearly crop for this purpose, as well as to interest the Peruvian bark growers in other countries in the trust, and so control the price of quinine in the market of the world, independent of the European industry.

Minard's Liniment for sale everywhere.

Royal Yacht to be Burned.

The late Queen Victoria's old yacht Victoria and Albert is to be broken up at Portsmouth. Relic hunters will be disappointed to know none of the wood is to be sold, but all to be burned.

A NECESSARY DEPARTMENT.

An advertising expert says that "a large and growing number of manufacturers have learned (what retail merchants have long known) that without an enterprising advertising department it is impossible to have an effective sales department."

The man who manipulates the bass drum is not the only one who beats his way through life.

BOTH SHOWED THEIR GRIT.

Russian Officers Were Well Matched in Point of Bravery.

It is doubtful if the soldiers of any nation are braver than those of the Czar of Russia. It is related that the Field Marshal Bagration took in the course of the siege of Warsaw, being somewhat discommoded by a hot fire from a certain battery, he ordered it to be shelled, but to no purpose. His troops did not seem able to locate the enemy and their shot had no effect. Finally the field marshal himself galloped forward and sternly commanded: "What imbecile is in command here?"

"I am," answered an officer who approached. "Well, captain, I shall degrade you, since you do not know your business. Your shells have no effect." "True, sir, but it is not my fault. The shells do not ignite." "I'll tell you to others. Don't come trying to fool me with such chaff. You will receive your punishment this evening."

The captain only took a shell from a pile nearby, lit the fuse, and holding it in the palms of his hands, presented it to the marshal, saying: "See for yourself, sir."

The marshal, folding his arms across his breast, stood looking at the smoking shell for a solemn moment. Both men stood motionless. Finally the fuse burned out, and the captain threw the shell to the ground. "That's true," remarked the marshal, turning away to consider other measures to silence the enemy's fire. In the evening, instead of punishment, the captain received the cross of the Order of St. Vladimir.

FOUR KINDS OF LIARS.

The late Sir Frederick Bramwell, of England, was famed both as a witness and arbitrator in engineering disputes. It is recalled that his brother, the late Lord Justice Bramwell, on giving advice to a young barrister, told him to be careful of four kinds of witnesses: "First, of a liar; second, of the liar who can only be adequately described by the aid of a powerful adjective; third, of the expert witness, and, finally, of my brother Fred."

The Pall of Rheumatic Pains.—When a sufferer finds permanent relief in such a meritorious medicine as South American Rheumatic Cure, how glad he is to tell it. C. W. Mayhew, of Thameside, Ont., couldn't walk or feed himself for months—four years ago three bottles of this great remedy cured him—not a pain since—Isn't that encouragement for rheumatic sufferers?—\$2.

How to Pronounce It. "Twas just a mere report; The Speaker's name was said to be Napoleon Belcourt. But now we hear from Ottawa, The thing is settled sure; The man who will be Speaker is Napoleon Belcourt."

Minard's Liniment Cures Burns, etc.

Use EDDY

FIBRE WARE Can be had in TUBS, PAILS, WASH BASINS, MILK PANS, STABLE PAILS, ETC. From any first-class dealer.

TOLSTOI ON DICKENS.

In reply to a request for a criticism made to Count Tolstoi by the secretary of the Bristol Dickens Society, the great Russian author has written: "I think that Charles Dickens is the greatest novel writer of the nineteenth century, and that his works impressed the true Christian spirit. They have for me continued to do, a great deal of good to mankind."

Oklahoma Girl's Composition.

Men are what women marry. They drink and smoke and swear and have over so many pockets, but they won't go to church. Perhaps if they wore bonnets they would. They are more logical than women and also more zoological. Both men and women have sprung from monkeys, but the women certainly sprang further than the men.

FAT CATTLE

are not the biggest eaters—but they get the most good out of what they eat. Too much food often does as much harm as too little. The farmer who keeps his cattle in prime condition all winter—who fattens them quickly—and who spends the minimum for feed—uses Myers' Royal Cattle Spice. It keeps the digestive organs in sound, healthy condition—makes cattle enjoy what they eat—helps them to get all the nourishment out of hay and grain—prevents stomach and bowel trouble—and sends them to market so plump and sound that they net a handsome profit.

Let us send our Illustrated Booklet on Horses and Cattle. Helpful and instructive. It's Free.

Myers' Royal Spice Co., Niagara Falls, Ont. & N.Y.

Fish Easy to Catch in Northern Lakes.

(Millwaukee Sentinel.) "Fishing has never been so good in the lakes about Madison as during the present winter," said Graham Rice, former Railroad Commissioner. "The lakes are frozen over solid, and the fish are so hungry that when you cut a hole in the ice they will just swarm to it and can be caught with a piece of red flannel for bait. The game wardens are active in preventing the catching of protected fish, but we are having perch served up for breakfast that are 10 inches long."

After Wars, Male Children.

Statistics of population seem to show that after long and severe wars, in which many men are killed and the male part of a country's population is greatly decreased, there is a birth of male children until the normal proportion between the sexes is restored. This seems to have been noted after the thirty years' war in Germany, after the Napoleonic war in France, and even in more recent times after the siege of Paris.

Work on the Proposed Road

Work on the proposed road from Seoul to Wiju has been suspended by the Japanese Government. Some of the reasons for this are the fact that the road is a long one, and that the Japanese Government is not prepared to undertake such a large project at present.



Sunlight Soap will not injure your blankets or harden them. It will make them soft, white and fleecy.

Hymenal Superstitions.

December 31 is a favorite wedding day in Scot and—possibly, perhaps, because the happy couple will not have a quarrel for the rest of that year. Blessed is the bride on whom the sun shines. May marriages be never happy ones. A bride should never wear pins in her wedding clothes. No bride should wear green. Pour hot water over the doorstep after the bride couple have departed, to keep it warm for another bride.

The mail who secures the bride's garter will be a bride within a year. The bride wears a coin in her slipper to avoid money troubles. We'll wait two rings, no parting will occur. The bride should wear "something old and something new, something yellow and something blue."

Heart Disease Relieved in 30 Minutes.

Dr. Agnew's Cure for the Heart gives perfect relief in all cases of Organic or Sympathetic Heart Disease in 30 minutes, and speedily effects a cure. It is a peerless remedy for Palpitation, Shortness of Breath, Smothering Spells, Pain in Left Side, and all symptoms of a Diseased Heart. One dose convinces.—\$3.

The Tallest Cathedral.

The most remarkable and striking feature of the new Liverpool Cathedral, Liverpool, England, will be the height of the vaulting of the nave and choir—measured in the barrel vaulting, 116 feet, and into the high transepts 140 feet—which cannot fail to produce a very magnificent effect. No cathedral in the country, save the London St. James Gazette, approaches its height. The nearest is Westminster, the nave of which has a height of 102 feet, while York measures 99 feet; that Salisbury 84 feet, and Lincoln, 82 feet. Chester rose, and will 78 feet. The whispering gallery of St. Paul's Cathedral is 100 feet from the floor.

HOW'S THIS?

We offer One Hundred Dollars' Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. F. J. CHENEY & Co., Toledo, O. We, the undersigned, have known F. J. Cheney for the last 15 years and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out any obligations made by him. W. WALTON, KINNAW & MARVIN, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Testimonials sent free. Price—75c per bottle. Sold by all druggists. Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

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Lord Donald's new army scheme will make most of us soldiers in war time. The hope is that the time will never come.

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ISSUE NO. 12 1904.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup should always be used for Children Teething. It softens the gums, cures wind colic and is the best remedy for Diarrhoea.

WANTED—A GENERAL SERVANT. Highest wages paid; comfortable home. Address or apply to Mrs. W. H. H. Hamilton, Ont.

BUSINESS GUIDE tells all about notes, receipts, mortgages, leases, deeds, wills, property exempt from seizure, landlord and tenant, ditches and watercourses, etc. One agent sold 47 copies in three days; another sold \$8 in a week; French edition now ready; outfit \$25; order outfit to-day; now ready; satisfactory money refunded. The J. L. Nichols Co., Limited, Toronto.

B & C LONG HIP A POPULAR CORSET FOR 1904 STYLE 253 NO BRASS EYELETS MANUFACTURED ONLY BY BRUSH & Co., TORONTO - ONT.

COSTLY FURS WORN BY GREEN-LANDERS.

Not infrequently a semi-savage girl has a wardrobe consisting of furs which would be worth from \$5,000 to \$10,000. Grundeman, the explorer, relates how one fair Greenlander wore a dress of sealskin with a hood of that costly fur, the silver fox. The garment was lined with fur of the young seal-eater, and there was a fringe of wolverine tails.

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RUSSIA

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London Cable says—

Some of our best of the

of the rumored escape

between the Japanese and

the Russian Vladivostok

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the stories are more or

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The Government at T

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A dispatch to a daily

states that the Japanese

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captured Feng-wang-shi

have driven the Russian

vicinity of that town.