

COAL FIRMS' HEADS RULE SPITZBERGEN

Officials Take Place of Police in Desolate Isles.

Longyear City, Spitzbergen.—Europe has many dictators whose names are household words all the world over, but Spitzbergen has a few less known rulers who understand the art of running a community virtually single-handed to perfection. They are Chief Engineer Sigurd Westby at Advent Bay, Director H. Dresselhuys at Green Harbor and Director Knudsen at Kings Bay.

Each of these men, who are in charge of the local interests of different coal companies, wields virtually autocratic power, and wields it wisely and justly, judging by results.

Not Yet in Possession.
By the treaty of Versailles Spitzbergen became Norwegian territory, but King Haakon has not yet taken official possession of the islands, and pending the enforcement of the Svalbard law, now before the Norwegian parliament, there is no Norwegian government, law court, policeman, customs officer or tax collector in all Spitzbergen.

It is the coal companies' writ that runs throughout the archipelago or as much of it as is inhabited.

Rules and regulations have to be pretty strict in mining camps with floating populations like those in Spitzbergen. Unauthorized drink traffic is put down with a stern hand. The companies' understandings with ship captains is that any clandestine liquor trading by their subordinates is not to be tolerated.

Of course, smuggling occurs once in awhile, but detection entails very severe penalties on guilty parties, who have their credit on the companies' books docked by \$25 for a first offense.

Subsequent infringements may entail social ostracism and deportation from the island, but the extreme penalty is seldom enforced.

Rats Warn Miners of Impending Roof Cave-in

Wilkesbarre, Pa.—Rats in the anthracite coal mines on many occasions have demonstrated they are friends of the miners in giving them warning of approaching danger. A recent instance occurred in the Empire colliery.

Anthony Kopinski and his son, while eating lunch, were attracted by the peculiar actions of two rats which continually annoyed them. Five times they drove the rats away by throwing pieces of coal at them, but each time the rodents returned. Thus aroused the suspicions of the elder Kopinski, who, directing his son to follow him, went out of the pit.

They had proceeded only about 20 feet when the roof crashed in, bringing down such a mass of coal and rock that would require three weeks to remove it.

The ability of the rats to warn the miners of approaching danger has resulted in many of the men making pets of them. The average miner hesitates to kill a rat, especially if he is working in a chamber where cave-ins are likely to occur where there is bad air or gas.

Plan Memorial to Tom Watson

Atlanta, Ga.—"The Tom Watson Memorial association" has been launched. The object of the association is to erect a memorial or statue of the distinguished Georgian to be erected either in the state capitol or on the capitol grounds.

Blue Laws for All California Co-Eds

Berkeley, Cal.—Women freshmen who enroll in the University of California will learn that the women's executive committee has been active during the summer vacation.

Filipinos Continue to Believe in Talismans

A young Filipino descended from a "gatmuyan" or ancient feudal prince known as Malki is seeking the enchanted kerchief which gave his illustrious ancestor supernatural powers, such as that of charming birds so that they would alight upon his extended finger, or philandering with other men's wives without arousing jealousy on the part of the offended husbands. The kerchief is known in the family traditions as "the kerchief from the angel in moon." With other talismans and amulets, it is supposed to have been secretly buried by the chieftain before he died. Each succeeding eldest son has searched for the spot in vain. American schools endeavor to disabuse the native mind of its belief in talismans, but the belief is still widespread; a mysticism almost abysmal in depth affects the psychology of the people.

It was only recently necessary for the police in a town adjoining Manila to take into custody an adolescent boy to whom thousands of the afflicted were going because it was said his possession of an enchantment bestowed upon him healing powers.

Not far from this town a gang of counterfeiters were recently raided by a constabulary squad. To conceal evidence the men threw their dies into a stream back of their shanty. Washerwomen later found one of the dies, and when they cleaned it they discovered the image of Maria Cristina, queen regent of Spain prior to King Alfonso's coming of age. The old woman conceived this image to be that of the Virgin, and soon a story was abroad that the die (of the true nature of which no one had the least conception, not even the local officials) had been miraculously hidden in the stream bed and that a great blessing would ensue from its discovery. From surrounding towns people by thousands began making pilgrimages to the fortunate village, to adore the image and receive its blessing.

I am obliged to a man named Cunningham for sending me a copy of a weekly newspaper printed in a town in the Southwest. It says the bachelors of the town had long been in the habit of attending social affairs given by the young married people, and caused a good deal of trouble. Several young couples separated as a result of "romance." Whereupon the young married men made a new ruling, and now the bachelors, when they long for society, find it among the unmarried.

A married man, if disposed to flirt, finds a restraining influence in his wife, but a bachelor has no such handicap. I should say an old bachelor should be permitted no lady company save that of widows, who, of all women, are most capable in handling old bachelors.—E. W. Howe's Monthly.

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In outlying a campaign to promote intellectual pursuits rather than frivolities, the committee let it be known that it will not tolerate:

Coming home from dances after one o'clock.
Entertaining masculine friends after 10:30 p. m.
Hose rolled below the knee.
Too generous use of rouge and lipstick.
All extremes in dress and conduct.
Indulgence in cigarettes.
Petting parties.
Drinking intoxicants.
Notice will be served on all women students that violations of the code will mean trial before the women's committee.

Few streets in Italy are broad enough to permit street cars.

Sports Help Samoans Keep Physically Fit

The Samoans are the finest set-up men physically on this footstool and they keep fit with the open-air life on the sea. In one group of the islands the Samoans are baseballers. In another group they became so devoted to cricket that they knocked off work to play the game, matches between villages lasting weeks at a time playing six out of the seven days—for the Samoans are deeply religious, Christian at that. So obsessed were they with cricket that ordinances had to be passed to limit the time of playing it. They do not box, but they wrestle some—catch-as-catch-can.

The dwellings of the natives are thatch whares or huts; of the whites, lumber. There are neither minerals nor oil in Samoa. Wild pigs are abundant.

The Samoans are of clean habits, mentally and physically, and idolatry has gone out. They have superstitions, of course, and they have native dances.

The principal crops for export are cocoa, copra—the dried kernel of the coconut—and a little rubber.—Mr. Mills, in Adventure Magazine.

Daughter's High Ideas Spoil Daddy's Meals

"Eating at restaurants must have put my manners on the bum," said a man whose family has recently moved to the city.

"How's that?" asked his friend.
"It is either that or my daughter has been getting too much etiquette. She answered one of those advertisements offering a book on the gentle art of how to behave, for \$1 down and \$1 a week. I get the benefit of it all."

"Either my fork is upside down when I eat or I do not put the tools where they belong when I am through eating. I feel as though I were a little boy again. I am waiting hourly to get spanked."

"Why not call your daughter down once in a while for something?" was suggested.
"I do not get a chance," was the sad reply.

Cubit Measurement

The length of the cubit is derived from the length of the forearm. From a number of Egyptian measuring sticks found in the tombs of Egypt, the cubit is ascertained to be equal to 20.64 English inches. The Roman cubit was one and one-half Roman feet, or 17.4 English inches. These are the only two cubits whose lengths are undisputed. Two cubits are mentioned in the Bible. The shorter of these was probably that which is called the cubit of man and the longer is called the cubit after the first measure. Julian of Ascalon speaks of two cubits in the ratio of 28 to 25. We have no accurate knowledge, however, of the Hebrew cubits, since the cubit of the temple is estimated variously by high authorities as from 19 to 26 inches.

Pythagoras was the first person to be credited with the discovery of the principle of the modern piano. The instrument, described as a monochord, consisted of a single string stretched over bridges across an oblong box. This instrument is said to have dated from 500 B. C.

Stringed instruments of the santrif class were the prototypes of pianoforte. First known as the dulcimer, probably from reference to it in the Bible, more than 1,500 years passed before an instrument was made that bore the name so common now—piano forte, so called by its inventor Bartolomeo Cristofori. By trade he was a maker of harpsichords and lived in Padua.

He who buys ice cream by the bulk instead of by weight pays dearly for the air holes in the confection, according to facts revealed at the recent conference on weights and measures at the Department of Commerce. A billion quarts of ice cream are made by dealers in the United States annually, it was found, but a fifth of the total amount sold is air space that is packed into the containers in which the ice cream is sold. Selling the ice cream by bulk instead of by weight, says Popular Science Monthly, means that somebody pays \$66,000,000 for the air holes.

"The last meteoric shower of any importance occurred in 1910," said Doctor Davis, "but that did not compare with the brilliant display of 1833."

The medical virtues attributed only to the rattlesnake in America are held in Japan to extend to most of the ophidian tribe.

The demand for snakes for medicinal purposes is so large that Zen San, the most famous snake catcher in Tokyo, declares the annual consumption to be between 4,000,000 and 5,000,000 for the country as a whole and between 5,000 and 6,000 in the city of Tokyo alone.

Eighty per cent of the unfortunate reptiles are charred and powdered, or else dried and made into capsules and pills. Only 20 per cent appear undigested upon the table, baked or roasted.

In the vicinity of Mount Jonki and Ehigagen the most snake-haunted regions of Japan, some 200 men make a specialty of serpent catching.

WORLD WAR HISTORY IN HOOVER'S LIBRARY

Collection Endowed by Secretary of Commerce.

Stanford University.—The Hoover war library, endowed by Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover at Stanford University, has received 44,500 books and pamphlets, in nearly all languages. Every one bears in some way on the World war.

The largest number, 12,000, are printed in Russian; 10,000 in French, 9,000 in English. The rest are divided among Hungarian, Italian and other languages.

Many of the items, printed or out of print, are irreplaceable. It offers students facilities duplicated nowhere and paralleled only by the Musée de la Guerre at Paris.

Documents of All Nations.
The program of the institution calls for procuring all important official documents of every nation throughout the war and during the reconstruction period. Three-fourths of this material already has reached the library.

The manuscript collection includes 65,000 reports and communications bearing on conditions in Europe during and after the war. This file is supplemented by copies of private papers of men who were active in world affairs of the time.

Files of Newspapers Gathered.
The library has collected from each country involved a file of newspapers in sympathy with the government, together with those of two opposition papers, representing the left and the right.

Mr. Hoover graduated from Stanford in 1895. He is a member of the board of trustees.

Big Difference in Wages Paid "Movie" Directors

Hollywood, Cal.—An explanation of the wide variance in amounts of the weekly salaries of motion-picture directors was given here recently at a meeting of film executives.

The average salary received by the "top-notch" director approximates \$2,000 weekly. Other directors—many of them new in the industry—are paid lesser amounts, ranging as low as \$15 a week.

One producer, in speaking on the question, "How much is a director worth?" said: "A director who does not know every detail of the motion-picture game is expensive at any price. One who does know is worth \$2,000 a week because he will save his salary a dozen times in the cost of a production."

"Through the inexperience of a director, studios sometimes are compelled to retake the work of many weeks. This means that the cost of keeping the company and the mechanical staff on the sets for the extended length of time was greater than the difference between what the producer paid his small-salaried director and what he would have to pay a top-notch."

Kansas City Observers See Shower of Meteors

Kansas City, Mo.—A meteoric shower of unusual brilliance was observed by many persons here. Dr. E. C. Davis, president of the Kansas City Astronomical society, said he counted 12 bright flashes in the hour between 9 and 10 p. m. The meteorites took a southwest course from the northeast skies and were many-headed. Some were strikingly white and some of a bluish hue.

Dr. Davis declared the meteorites are from the meteor belt known as Perseides and their presence had been predicted for this time by astronomers. He declared it is possible the spectacle may continue for several nights.

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Japs Consume 5,000,000 Snakes for Food, Medicine

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West African Coast "White Man's Grave"

In the entire globe there is no region of worse reputation than the west coast of Africa. G. Ward Price, special correspondent, writes from Nigeria. With Devil's Island and Botany bay it shares proverbial infamy, and by the majority of Englishmen has always been regarded as their national Siberia.

Even now, when growing trade returns are revealing to British eyes the economic value of this notorious coast, the mental picture of west Africa to which most men still cling is that of pestilent mangrove swamps and fever-stricken forests.

The graves of young Englishmen scattered everywhere about west Africa remind one that but a few years have passed since filth, fever and drink were the living conditions of Europeans out here, and death within two years their almost inevitable end.

The harm, too, which this malevolent climate does to white men is not necessarily immediately or even ultimately fatal. Its principal effect is the slow and stealthy sapping of a man's vitality; a process of wastage and decay directed not only against the body, but the brain.

The consequences of this debilitation may not manifest themselves even until a west African official's career is over, and then a commonplace chill caught at home in England, a touch of influenza, some mild internal disorder such as a European who has never left the temperate zone throws off unheeding, claims at last for the enfeebled body another life for the unrelenting coast.

Obstinacy in Babies Merely Human Nature

If your baby girl at eighteen months yells when you want her to comply with some adult wish, or your three-year-old pushes you away and says, "No, I won't," do not be alarmed at this show of obstinacy. Periodic spells of resistance to even pleasant suggestions are part of the normal development of the normal child, according to Dr. D. M. Levy, Chicago psychiatrist, who has made an extended investigation of resistance in children.

Babies of less than six months tend to be calm, even when just awakened or interrupted at meal time, says Doctor Levy, but from six months on, perverseness increases until the third year, often with a minor high point of resistance in the eighteenth month, which is particularly apt to appear in the case of girls. After the third year resistance gradually decreases until the child at five years readily cooperates with an adult who knows how to make himself agreeable. Girls, on the whole, show more resistance than boys.

Does Active Work at 88

R. R. Woodring of Nampa, Idaho, cannot play golf like the agnier Rockefeller, but upon the occasion of the old magnate's recent birthday when he played a round of golf and got much publicity, Mr. Woodring pointed out to the newspaper reporters that he himself of similar age, was quite active. He mowed the lawn while the reporters stood by recording the proof. Mr. Woodring mows grass for eight to ten hours daily as a regular vocation.—Chicago Post.

Dirty Feet Retard Eggs

When yards and houses are wet and ooze with moisture most of the time, it means cold and dirty feet for the hens. A hen that "gets cold feet" seldom lays the right quota of eggs, and dirty feet make dirty nests and dirty eggs. In cases where a suitable dry location is hard to get, along with other desirable factors, place a three-inch tile even with the bottom of the foundation on the outside, and provide proper outlet for excess moisture.

Job More to His Liking

The box-office man of a popular theater quit his job and before long was seen working for a commission house. It seemed such a complete shift that one of his friends was moved to ask the wherefore.

"When I was selling theater seats," was the prompt reply, "after I sold the first 200 I was in trouble. Nobody liked the seats I had to offer. There was always an argument. Today I sold 2,000 bushels of potatoes and I still have good potatoes. Want any?"

Historical Gala Coach

The management of the zoological garden in Berlin has recently bought the gala coach of little Napoleon II, the great Napoleon's only son, from the Castans museum of wax works. The vehicle is still emblazoned with the Imperial French crown surmounting the date, A. D. 1813. The coach takes its place in the "Little Caravan" at the zoo, a procession of youngsters on the donkeys and camels and in coaches drawn by goats and ponies, making hourly rounds of the zoological garden.

Drillers Hold Contest

Drilling and mining contests will feature the international congress of drilling technologists at Bucharest, this year.

Geologist Says Wyoming Was First Glacial Spot

Rock Springs, Wyo.—In the opinion of C. J. Hares of Denver, a noted geologist, Wyoming was the first section of the country to be covered by the great ice sheet which ages ago surged down from the North.

He considers that the glaciation of Wyoming occurred in the mid-Tertiary period, whereas the ice sheets filled the rest of the country in the Pleistocene age. The glaciation of Wyoming was millions of years before the present great rivers of the Rocky mountain region began to flow.

"Two centuries of tertiary glaciation in Wyoming are known," Mr. Hares reported to western scientific bodies. "The ice must have been approximately 3,000 feet thick and it probably moved forward at the rate of three feet a year, taking more than 200,000 years to spread over the central and southern parts of the state, where it left its more apparent traces."

"The tertiary glaciation undoubtedly occupied a very long time in geologic history. It marks a profound change in the climatic conditions of that period."

Palmyra Island, Listed as British, Is American

Washington.—Discovery that publishers of recent maps and atlases have erroneously designated the small island of Palmyra in the Pacific ocean as British instead of United States territory has just been made by the Department of the Interior.

Palmyra island, 900 nautical miles southwest of Honolulu, consists of a cluster of islets about ten miles in circumference, with a lagoon in the center. A few coconut trees grow upon it.

The error is due to Palmyra's history. It was originally known as Samaraung and was discovered by Captain Sawley of the American vessel Palmyra in November, 1802.

An expedition conducted by Captain Zenas Bent took possession of it in the name of the Hawaiian kingdom in May, 1850. As a possession of the Hawaiian islands for 27 years previous it became a part of the territory of the United States.

In the neighborhood are four islands, Christmas, Jarvis, Howland and Baker, which National Geographic society maps designate as "undetermined, United States or British."

Babies Bereft by Sea Tragedy Drift Ashore

Petersburg, Alaska.—Two girls, five and three, respectively, told authorities here that a motor boat on which they were passengers was the scene of a spectacular murder and suicide, which left them at sea adrift and alone in the craft.

The principals in the tragedy were Tom Hise and his wife. After Hise beat the woman, he threw her overboard and then jumped over the side himself.

As if guided by a providential hand, the vessel beached itself and the two little girls crawled off when the tide went out and walked to a cannery three miles up the beach, near here.

The five-year-old child, an adopted daughter, said her foster parents had been drinking before the fatal fight took place.

China Has a Venice

There is quite a considerable "floating population" of several of the largest river cities of China, but the real Venice of that country is said to be Soo Chow, which is described as truly beautiful with its many canals running through the city, many of them taking the place of streets and dotted with all kinds of small craft carrying passengers and freight here and there. Boats are made use of to great extent by peddlers and tradesmen, who move slowly along over the water in all kinds of odd boats loaded with their wares. Some are calling their wares and others attract public attention by hammering wooden gongs. Everywhere along the shores are to be seen cobblers and weavers working at their looms or benches.

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CITIES OF FUTURE TO BE BIG TRADE CENTERS

People Will Live in Widely Scattered Suburbs.

Chicago.—Cities of the future will be made up of a central area, devoted to business and night life, and widely scattered suburbs in which all the married people will live.

That is the conclusion of D. R. McKenzie, exchange professor of sociology from the University of Washington to the University of Chicago.

In outlining his study of ecology, or the forces that distribute population, Professor McKenzie asserted it's all a question of transportation. "The first type of city," he added, "demanded that its inhabitants walk to the center for business, and the pursuit of pleasure. That type tended to be circular and family life was distributed in all parts. Then, with the rudimentary street car lines, came the star-shaped city.

"As industry developed and cross transportation lines came into being, there also developed clusters of city life, with a new center at each crossing. Gradually subways and elevated lines brought a network of urban life scattered all over the city."

"With autos," he said, "the population may live anywhere within fifty or seventy-five miles from the downtown, highly specialized shopping area."

Professor McKenzie added that it was possible to predict, with fair accuracy, how long a slum will remain a slum and to what extent the gold coasts of today will remain fashionable.

Los Angeles, Cal.—Gone is the chivalry of the old West; gone is the hospitality to every wayfarer. Instead there is suspicion and mistrust.

The cause is the "desert coyote," skulking humans that prey upon the homestead property unprotected for a few months while the owner is on government leave of absence.

On the Mojave desert the settlers are in arms and more than 100 complaints have been filed within the last few months with Brainerd B. Smith, register of the United States land office in Los Angeles. Thousands of dollars' worth of property has been stolen from homesteads by systematic marauders. "What a contrast to the days of '49," Register Smith said. "It was the honored custom then to leave the doors unlocked and a traveler had perfect freedom with the food and utensils."

"This code of honor was part of the 'winning of the West,' and a visitor always carefully cleaned and replaced every article used in cooking or sleeping at the premises."

Register Smith has asked the Department of Justice to start an investigation of conditions on the Mojave and evolve means of protection for the struggling homesteader.

Ancient Fundamentalism
Is there any one so senseless as to believe that there are men whose footsteps are higher than their heads? Or that the things which with us are in a recumbent position with them hang in an inverted direction? that the crops and trees grow downwards? that the rains and snow, and hail fall upwards to the earth? And does anyone wonder the hanging gardens are mentioned among the seven wonders of the world, when philosophers make hanging fields, and seas, and cities, and mountains? I am at a loss what to say respecting those who, when they have once erred, consistently persevere in their folly, and defend one vain thing by another.—Lactantius (Fourth Century).

Nicotine in Tobacco
Nicotine is a colorless, intensely poisonous liquid. If exposed to the air, it absorbs oxygen and becomes brown and ultimately solid. The quantity of nicotine contained in tobacco varies from two to eight per cent, the coarser kinds containing the larger quantity, while the best Havana cigars seldom contain more than two per cent, and often less. Nicotine does not appear in tobacco smoke. It is split into pyridine and eoholine. Of these, the latter is said to be the less active and to preponderate in cigar smoke, while the smoke from pipes contains a larger amount of pyridine.

Reminded
"The storm burst upon us so suddenly and violently that we had no warning of its approach," said the tornado victim, relating his experience to a friend. "In an instant the house was demolished and scattered to the four winds. How I escaped being torn to pieces, I do not know! We—"

"G—good gracious!" said Mr. Meeks, jumping to his feet. "That reminds me! I—I almost forgot to post a letter for my wife!"