

DIAMOND MINING AT KIMBERLEY

London Syndicate Contracts to Take the Entire Output— Cutting at Amsterdam.

London, June 10.—The story of the Kimberley diamond mines began two generations ago, when two bands of Boer immigrants fled out of Cape Colony to escape British rule.

One of them, says a writer in the World Today, settled on a patch of gold 40 miles in extent, which has since become the famous Rand, and yields a hundred million dollars every year in the precious metal.

On the other hand, Burgher Jacobs off-saddled on a hundred acres of diamonds, and his little claim today contains an absolute monopoly in these gems.

His children used to play in the sand with bright pebbles for marbles. Neighbor Schalk Van Nekirk saw one of the stones, took it from the little ones, and the remark that it might be valuable, and the following year it was on show at the Universal Exposition of Paris as a magnificent diamond of 21 karats.

Two years later old Van Nekirk himself picked out of the mud plaster of neighbor Du Toit's the famous Star of Africa, which sold for \$50,000. That was the beginning of the diamond mines which today employ 15,000 Kafirs and 4,000 Europeans.

The pits run in tubes or funnels many acres in extent, evidently forced up ages ago by volcanic action. At first a yellow ground was found, and men left the blue below this severely alone. But the era of open workings soon came to an end, although thousands of independent diggers made huge fortunes in a few months.

Today you will find depths of 5,000 feet in the diamond mines, and the bottom of the blue funnel has not yet been reached. Both blue and yellow earths, studded with diamonds like a geological pudding, are supposed to be volcanic mud.

Holes are drilled, and after the blasts are touched off, the crushed blue ground is conveyed to the mine shaft, 1,500 feet from the tunnels. Here the ore is sent into buckets on wheels and drawn up to see thousands of men, mostly negroes, earning \$1.25 a day, perched upon the blue ground rock in the tunnels, patiently drilling with hammer and chisel.

Great stretches of ground known as the floors are marked off like tennis courts to receive the precious ore; for air, rain and sun do the waste earth is not yet done with. This is specially treated, lest tallored anything of value. That the precious diamonds worth \$1,400,000 were recovered from these tailings last year.

A London syndicate contracts to take the entire output of the mines; and all cutting is done on the continent of Europe, chiefly in Amsterdam and Antwerp. The stones vary enormously in quality, and fetch in the rough from \$2 to \$200 a karat.

There is very little leakage, considering the stupendous scale on which the diamond mining is done. On year, however, a negro sorter was found to have swallowed \$5,000 worth of stones, but a colleague broke this record by swallowing 340 karats of diamonds, worth \$5,500.

The Kafirs are constantly devising new modes of smuggling. They will load their pipe bowl with small diamonds under a layer of tobacco, and vigorously puff smoke to divert suspicion.

Leaves of books have been cut out and one would think diamonds were on one of them. Other smugglers have gone so far as to infuse diamonds into themselves and cut valuable diamonds into these wounds.

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Massanoga. A lake, shaped something like a pair of spectacles—rather a pair of lakes joined by a passage some few feet wide—a lake immensely deep in parts, with sunny bathing beaches, perfectly safe, along its shores. Beautiful woods all around, far of a native life, unspoiled and largely untroubled; and, befitting over the water, just at the bridge of the spectacles, is the grand old rock, the crowning glory of Lake Massanoga.

"The Gibraltar of Canada" it has been called, and fitly enough. A mile and more long, hundreds of feet high, rising sheer out of the calm waters of the lake, impressively beautiful by day, positively awe-inspiring in the moonlight, is this great stone mountain. In its shadow nestles Bon Echo Inn, as nearly perfect a summer hotel as one could wish to find. Hotel seems scarcely the word for Bon Echo, so homelike is it—the hotel feeling lasts no longer than it takes our genial host to express his welcome. Canoeing, sailing, rowing, swimming, all may be enjoyed at Massanoga, and down in the depths lurk gamey salmon trout. Massanoga is a resort recently discovered, and known to comparatively few Canadians. But for people who want to get near to nature, and yet not out of touch with civilization, who want to enjoy glorious air, brilliant sunshine, cool waters and all the fascinations of a primitive region combined with the comforts of a modern summer resort, Massanoga is the place. The nearest railway station is Kalamath, 150 miles east of Toronto on the C. P. R. Illustrated folder and full particulars will be gladly mailed on request by C. B. Foster, district passenger agent, C. P. R., Toronto.

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SPURNS IDEA OF YANKEE BEYREUTH

Nordica's Plan for home for Opera on Hudson Riddled in German Cliches

Berlin, June 10.—Germany's great music masters ridicule the notion that Nordica's "American Beyreuth" on the banks of the Hudson will sooner or later obviate the necessity of Americans coming to Europe to study music. Two artists well known in the United States, Professor Xavier Scharwenka, director of the Kłodworth Scharwenka Conservatory of Berlin, and Leopold Godowsky, piano virtuoso, who formerly resided in Chicago, were interviewed today.

"The Beyreuth idea is admirable if Nordica is really qualified to carry it out on a scale of sufficient bigness," said Scharwenka. "Any attempt to produce a second-rate, mediocre imitation of Germany's historic Beyreuth would, however, make America ludicrous. It would be naturally impossible to found a second Beyreuth in the United States unless America could simultaneously produce a second Wagner. It is not so much the excellence of operatic productions, but historic atmosphere, etc., which gives the Bavarian village its uniqueness."

"The chief drawback is the fact that European teachers are not likely to be willing to settle permanently in America, hence the disadvantage of a continually changing faculty. Germany decidedly has nothing to fear from the idea of an American Beyreuth."

"Nordica's project, in my opinion," said Professor Godowsky, "is destined to failure. Great America needs for the furtherance of her musical culture not an opera, and certainly not more Wagner opera. New York already has enough opera."

"I would suggest instead of putting hundreds of thousands of dollars into elaborate, and perhaps sensational settings, it would be better to cultivate European standards, our chamber and instrumental music, wherein New York is sadly lacking. I must confess that the whole scheme impresses me as one-sided. Nordica views America's music needs exclusively through the eyes of the opera."

"I think the enterprise would inevitably overstretch New York with too much Wagner. Moreover, the site chosen in itself represents a mistaken conception of America's musical wants. Only New Yorkers can easily come to Europe."

"It is less moneyed classes of the west and middle west require opportunities for musical culture. It would be fairer to the 'plant' were established midway between the east and west. No American musical institution ever can acquire the prestige attaching to European institutions, even though of equal excellence. As soon as Nordica's intended staff of European teachers settled in America their glamor as masters would be lost."

BURGLARS DRANK WINE
Smoked Owner's Cigars, and Played Piano All Afternoon.

New York, June 10.—John Young, who is some pumpkins as a concert singer and a musician, would like to know who were the burglars who "lady and gentleman" who jimmied their way into his apartments at 267 West One Hundred and Thirtieth street, drank his champagne, smoked his cigars and played his piano, and tried his music over on his piano, and twined all of his most romantic and tuneful scores.

Mr. and Mrs. Young were away from home and when they got back they found the lock of the door leading into their rooms smashed and within other invited visitors during their absence. On a table in the room, an empty champagne bottle that belonged to Mr. Young's leechbox and two champagne glasses. Alongside lay the stubs of cigars and cigarettes that formerly reposed in Mr. Young's humidor, and still further on the door of the music cabinet was pinned a note addressed to them in a woman's handwriting, and—Aha! Marvelous!—entwined in the knob of the door was a long, glistening strand of golden hair. Mrs. Young seized upon the hair and Mr. Young the note. The note read as follows:

"We need this music much in our business. It's very stuff. To save you the trouble we'll tell you what we've taken."

"Before the Dawn," Chadwick; "When Love Is Gone," Hawley; "Phyllis Is My Only Joy" (here's where we drink), Weply; "She Is Mine," Mary Satter; "Come to the Garden Love" (here's where we leave you). You can get some new ones while about this summer. PAUL AND VIRGINIA.

"Well, of all the nerve!" exclaimed Mr. and Mrs. Young in chorus. They looked around, but although there were plenty of valuables in sight not a thing else was missing except a score of "Paggiacci" and of "Aida" and a volume of Cesar Franck's, not mentioned in the list. They made some inquiries of fellow-tenants, and Mrs. Nathan, on the floor below, said:

"Why, yes, I heard the piano going almost all afternoon, but I supposed you had company. A man and a woman were singing and they had perfectly beautiful voices. I could almost imagine it was Sembrich and Caruso. They were singing something about Phyllis that was as sweet as it could be."

Mr. Young looked at the note and remarked:

"Yes, I guess they sang that song more than one time."

Who Paul and Virginia can be Mr. and Mrs. Young have no idea. If they were friends perpetrating a practical joke the Youngs fail to see the point. They are saving the thread of golden hair in hopes of identifying Virginia some time.

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KAISER WARS FOR BIGGER NAVY

Opposition of People to Further
Expenditure Does Not
Affect Him.

Berlin, June 10.—In spite of the strong opposition of the majority of the German people against devoting more money to military and naval expenditures, the Kaiser continues to agitate for the building of even more battle-ships than his own plans called for two years ago.

Emperor William lets no opportunity slip by to impress upon the minds of those who come near him that owing to Germany's isolated position in the world she must have a powerful navy that she may hope to be left alone.

At the recent annual conference of the German Naval League at Cologne, it was plainly shown that it means little or nothing that Germany is represented at the peace conference at The Hague.

The Kaiser not only sent a message to the 300 delegates present at the conference, but he also sent a special representative, who at length told the conference what the Emperor actually thought, although he could not officially let his thoughts become known.

Addressing the conference, the imperial messenger, General von Hahnke said: "I am commanded to convey the Kaiser's greetings to the delegates present. His majesty desires me to thank all those who are carrying on the good work of the Navy League, which has filled the Kaiser with joy and pride."

The Kaiser hopes that the league will remain strong and united, showing the German nation an example of patriotism and spirit, which ought to prevail in public life.

To please their imperial master the conference then adopted a resolution calling for a quicker construction of new battleships than Germany had seen hitherto and the appropriation of enough money necessary to give the country a navy equal to that of France within the next decade.

As a proof of the Kaiser's love of England and everything English, he allowed his messenger to say that no sensible man thought that any power in Europe cared for the friendship of England for its own sake, but it was sought after only because Great Britain has a powerful navy which renders her a valuable friend and a formidable foe.

Germany at the present time resembles a lonely man with a thin cane facing a group of menacing rivals armed with thick, heavy cudgels. No representatives of English or American powers were allowed to be present at the conference, while correspondents of conservative papers also over the country were especially invited.

Before even this work could be commenced another telegram was received ordering the immediate return of the messenger.

Rostand's conduct is described as a succession of wild eccentricities. One of his favorite diversions is to read his verses aloud in the chapel of his house dressed in his uniform of an Academician, and no one is allowed to enter the chapel while this performance is going on.

The recruiting sergeant of today does not find his best recruits at the county fair but in the great towns, where the street urchin, after a little training, develops a devil-may-care bravery that has stood the country in good stead upon many critical occasions.

Some Crack-Brained Actions of the Great French Dramatist.

London, June 10.—Some very curious stories are being related in Paris as to the eccentricities—to put it mildly—of M. Edmond Rostand, the famous poet and dramatist. His utter indifference to the consequences of whether he works or not may be caused by the bad state of his health, but the rumors of a few years ago as to his mental condition are also being revived.

It is four years since he promised to finish his play, "Chantecler," for Constant Coquelin, and those who are most intimate with him go so far as to say that he will never finish this drama, or, indeed, any other.

A few days ago Rostand telegraphed to his publisher in Paris to send him to his chateau at Cambo-les-Bains. The publisher sent a return wire informing M. Rostand of the train he would take. Great was the publisher's surprise when on his arrival M. Rostand asked him to excuse his husband that night as he could not receive the visitor until the next morning. When the morning came the poet's wife informed the publisher that Rostand had decided not to leave his room that day, and requested the Parisian to be patient for another 24 hours.

The same comedy was gone through the following day, and on the fourth day, when the publisher, who had business in Paris, was obliged to leave

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