

WORLD'S FAIR MISCELLANY

A Few of the Rare Sights of the Great Exhibition.

THE TREASURES OF GERMANY ON VIEW

Costly Furs and Old Court Costumes From Russia—Sitting Bull's Cabin—The Gun Driving of the British Artillery—A Magnificent Spectacle.

A camera carved with the faces of the royal family of Great Britain, and other forty faces, all likenesses, is valued at \$10,000, and an ebony table inlaid with ivory is worth \$8000.

The most imposing feature of the New South Wales display is the mineral building, a grand shaft, purporting to be of solid silver, which towers above the exhibits of tin and copper ores piled in pyramidal form at its base.

Behind the beautiful gates of wrought iron in the Pavilion of the German Empire, in the Manufactures building you catch glimpses of rich color in the decorations and of doorways that invite you to enter the most beautiful rooms in the world. Here are apartments reproduced from the palaces of Bavaria and Prussia with the actual furniture brought over to fill them, and all the proportions and decorations of the apartments are literal copies of the originals.

The door, decorated with the arms of the Emperor Frederick, to Von Moltke, the young Emperor, and the Duke of Bavaria and Baden, who have emptied their treasure houses and museum into the lap of Chicago.

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pets, the colonel makes a quick, sharp command, and both batteries break into a hard gallop. It is then a curious sight to watch the horses. The battery is supposed to be called into quick action to defend some point; the trooper in advance waves his lance and shouts, then men on the rear horses leap their steeds and shout. The horses break into a clear run; nearing the sharp turn the rear wheel horse braces himself back and sits on his haunches, holding for dear life to the pole of the caisson; the swing team crosses the outer circle and the leaders jump to get out of the way.

The caisson bounds and swerves with the action of the horses, while the gun carriage comes around with a swish and a side motion which threatens to upset it. On goes the battery; half way down the long stretch are the two posts. With a whoop and a yell and a howl and a cracking of whips and the blare of the band the horses plunge through them. The caisson bounds and bumps, the gun sways and swerves, and the troopers undertake. They know that owing to their native friends will on no account dine with them, and they know that caste has with some unphilosophical minds been summarily described as a "ridiculous superstition." The commissioner, however, gives as much about another matter than occupation, and what he tells of the castes of the Indian people is well worth attention.

One knows something about caste, but very few Europeans have more than hazy and indistinct ideas about it. They understand that owing to their caste a servant may decline to do some description of work which he is otherwise quite able to undertake. They know that owing to their caste a Brahmin will not eat with a Sudra or a low caste people; that a soldier looks up to a Brahmin as a superior being, and that Brahmin and soldier both look down upon a low caste man as little above a beast.

How these various castes arose, and how instead of a racial and another says it is functional. Translating these scientific terms into plain English, one says caste distinction represents descent, the other says they mean different occupations. We may say that the caste system is an extreme of the system we may attribute a racial origin, but that in the centre, or the intermediate divisions, occupation has been on the whole the determining factor.

What ever historical theory we may hold, it is certain that, as the census commissioner puts it, caste is the strongest force in India, social and religious, and it is therefore well worth study.

AMERICAN BANKS.

Relief Comes From an Unlooked for Quarter.

New York, Aug. 2.—A new and unexpected element of relief has been introduced into the financial situation. United States bonds have reached such a low figure that the national banks see their way clear to make a profit by issuing circulation against them. Arrangements have therefore been made by several of the banks to deposit them in the Federal Reserve Bank to increase the circulation from minimum limits at which it now stands to such amount as will materially relieve the present tension.

It is estimated that eight million dollars or ten million dollars will be so added to the New York supply of currency within a very short time. Orders have already been placed with the controller of the currency for a part of the new bills, and some banks have bought bonds preparatory to depositing them in the Federal Reserve Bank.

Shipments of gold from England to New York by to-day's steamer reached \$930,000. Arrangements are also reported to have been made at Chicago for importing \$1,250,000 of gold from the mines of Montana and Idaho.

Washington, Aug. 2.—With reference to the New York dispatch about banks taking advantage of low price of government bonds to increase their circulation, the Comptroller of the Currency, Eckels, said this evening that in July the circulation of the national banks had increased over \$5,000,000. In the quarter which ended July 31, the net increase was over eight million dollars, and in the quarter which ended August 31, it will be increased at least that much more.

Harvey Fish Sons, who made a specialty of government bonds, today sent a circular to national bank officers urging the importance of enlarging their circulation. They said: "There is room for over \$40,000,000 provided the bonds can be secured for deposit. The banks can perform that service by increasing their circulation, and receive a reward in the shape of large profits. Bank currency is the best which the country can have, because it expands when needed and contracts when needed, instead of, in the latter case, remaining in circulation to induce foolish speculation, which hastens and intensifies panics, such as we are now passing through."

CASTE IN INDIA.

Some Observations Offered by the Census Commissioners.

(From our own Correspondent.) In a recent issue we commented upon the observations of the census commissioner upon the occupations of the people. This subject was seen to be full of varied and curious interest, and some of these "occupations" may never before have been known to some of our readers as actually existing, or never at least as being candidly viewed. The commissioner, however, gives as much about another matter than occupation, and what he tells of the castes of the Indian people is well worth attention.

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In India, as elsewhere, to have been above the law. The Rajah of Travancore, by origin probably a Nair, by courtesy a Kshatriya, becomes a Brahmin for reasons of state by being re-born from a cow, the animals of the cow being afterwards distributed as largesse to the Brahmins who perform this peculiar rite.

The new castes that are constantly arising are said to be due to sectarian or functional causes. In the constitution of the caste is, says the commissioner, the main feature is the recognition of the mediation of the Brahmins; then the restriction of marriage to within the caste, but without certain degrees of relationship; thirdly, what is probably an outgrowth of the sacrificial theory of worship, the avoidance of certain kinds of food, and the participation of meals with members of the caste only. By this last, I mean not mere taking of casual food or water, but the formal and ceremonial gathering, or sitting, together. So far as communities indigenous to India are in question, observance of the above rules is all that is required of the Brahminic orthodox. Violation of the two last rules, and of any of the innumerable by-laws engrained on to the system by the caste itself, is a matter for the caste guild, expiable by fine, penance, and the prohibition by food of a certain number of Brahmins proportionate to the offence.

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THE WOOD BUFFALO.

Many Specimens Yet in the North—They Should be Protected.

Edmonton Bulletin: Would it not be interesting, and profitable as well, for the government to take some steps to preserve the presence of the wood buffalo from extinction? The fact that these animals, identical with the prairie buffalo which roamed the plains in countless millions a few years ago, can live and thrive in the region west of the Great Slave river and about latitude 60, is sufficient evidence as to peculiar adaptation to the natural conditions existing throughout the greater part of the Northwest, while the fact that their skins sell at from \$25 to \$50 a piece, and the head, when mounted for two or three times as much is ample proof of their value. The fact that the countless herds of the plains have been wiped out of existence as completely as if they never had existed is evidence that the extermination of the small bands of wood buffalo still existing is only a matter of a year or two at most.

The most stringent laws against killing these animals are of no earthly use, for the first place there is no means whatever of giving the law effect, and in the next place the nature of the country and the exigencies of the people inhabiting it are such that even if means were provided they could not be of practical use. The only way in which the wood buffalo can be preserved from extinction at a very early date is by rearing them in captivity. That this is possible has been amply proved, and there are few who will not agree that to save this wonderful and useful species from extinction would be well worth any possible expenditure to that end.

Unfortunately owing to the necessity of the region inhabited by the buffalo the project would be altogether beyond any ordinary private means, and besides the direct financial return would be uncertain to justify the investment of private capital. It does not seem that this would be an altogether legitimate case for government interference. The government has established experimental farms in every province for the purpose of testing and improving plants and animals from foreign countries with a view to their adaptation to this country.

If the government were to take that in the wilds of Central Asia an animal of the bovine species existed, of good size, whose beef was excellent, whose hide was valuable, and which could find its living unaided in any part of our country growing grass from the 40th to the 60th parallel, would they not be very slack in looking after the interests of this country if they did not use every endeavor to secure the introduction of such a valuable animal. When such an animal exists in our own country, and when its extermination is a matter of a very short time, is it not very much the duty of the government to take such means as may be necessary to prevent that extermination and to turn such a valuable animal to account? What can be done now for comparatively few dollars cannot be done perhaps next year for all the money in Canada.

Winnipeg Free Press: Mr. James Mundie, a representative of the firm of Cascarden & Peck, who has just returned to the city from a business trip in the west, brings an interesting bit of intelligence concerning the wood buffalo of the north. Three years ago when Mr. Mundie was at Edmonton, on a trip similar to the one just completed, he purchased the head of a wood buffalo, and it was thought at the time that it was the last one that would ever be seen, as the species were supposed to have become practically extinct. Imagine, then, Mr. Mundie's surprise a week ago on again visiting Edmonton. He found that the Indians were unable to turn them over, and had to split the carcasses in two in order to obtain the robes. This is a point worthy of note, as it has always been stated by those supposed to know the matter that the wood buffalo are smaller than the plain buffalo. Mr. Secord, the trader, who brought in the robes from the north, had also in his pack 200 musk ox robes from the barren lands east of the Mackenzie river. Another trader brought in 100 ox robes. Mr. Secord is the authority for the statement that 200 wood buffalo robes will reach Edmonton this summer from Slave lake and Peace river.

The question, where did these wood buffalo so suddenly come from? Now naturally suggests itself. The Indians and traders have long ago given up hope of ever seeing any again. The theory, and a plausible one it is, which is advanced by the traders is that the remnant of the large herds that once roamed through the prairies and forests of the far northwest found a feeding ground secluded from the customhouse hands and the hunters, and safe from the Winchester's of the hunters, and rapidly repopulated the decimated numbers. Last winter the weather was unusually severe, and in addition to the terrible cold, heavy snows were prevalent, and thus the animals were driven southward in search of food, and wandered into the track of the Indians, who only too eagerly rushed among them and slaughtered them right and left. The heavy catch of musk ox robes has been driven south from their feeding grounds in the barren lands by hunger. Raw musk ox robes are selling this year for \$40 a piece at Edmonton. Mr. Mundie states that Mr. Secord's pack of robes was worth \$10,000. He had in the lot no less than 600 beaver skins, the finest that has ever been seen in this country. In fact, all the furs from the north this season is far better than ordinarily.

A Lady Doctor of Science. A correspondent of the London Times writes:—"Considerable interest attaches to the fact that Miss M. M. Ogilvie, daughter of Dr. Ogilvie, of Glasgow, has gained the highest credit the final examination for the degree of Doctor of Science of London University. Her career seems to have been one of exceptional brilliancy. At the Ladies' College, Edinburgh, she gained the gold medal asdux of the school, a prize of £100, and other distinctions. She is an accomplished musician, having studied under Dr. A. C. Mackenzie, president of the Royal Academy of Music, and Sir George Macdonald, who presided over the science class at the Heriot Watt College, Edinburgh, and determining upon a scientific career, Miss Ogilvie proceeded to University College, Edinburgh, where she gained the B.Sc. degree, in the department of natural science, in 1890. She was awarded the gold medal in Professor Ray Lankester's class of zoology and comparative anatomy. She then went to Germany for the purpose of doing original work, as required in the case of candidates for the degree of Doctor of Science. She studied at Munich, under Professor von Zittel, professor of geology and palaeontology in that University; and she made a detailed geological survey of a district in the South Tyrol Dolomites. Miss Ogilvie is the first lady Alpine geologist. The result of her survey was published in the Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society for February last. This paper was accepted by the London University as her thesis for the D.Sc. degree, and a few weeks ago, on her return from Germany, she successfully passed the written examination in London."

AN OPINION ON SILVER.

New York, Aug. 3.—Gov. J. B. Rant of Colorado, who is the head of the silver smelting works at Denver and Omaha, on his way to Washington, said in an interview yesterday that the silver advocates would make a fight against any repeal of the purchasing clause of the Sherman Act unless compensating legislation were agreed upon. "The proposition to repeal the bullion purchasing clause of the Sherman Act," he said, "and then look about for a substitute will not meet the approval of the advocates of silver coinage. If the purchase of silver is to be stopped the business in the states where that is one of the industries must continue to suffer. The silver states are but a small fraction of the country to transact business. I would favor as a substitute for the present law, if that be repealed, establishment of a ratio of about twenty to one and coinage of as much silver as is offered. Authority should be given to the treasury to issue bonds to the amount of \$300,000,000 if necessary."

One of the surprising yet encouraging signs of progress and adaptability on the part of the colored people of this city is found in their efficient and successful management of Provident Hospital, at the southwest corner of Dearborn and Twenty-ninth streets. From this recently established institution there was graduated about a year ago the first class of colored trained nurses ever sent forth by any school in America. Their services have since been in constant demand, and they have proved themselves most excellently equipped for their trying work. Before many weeks another class of trained nurses will be graduated from the same school.

In this hospital also are found colored physicians and surgeons capable of applying the most skillful treatment known to science, and performing some of the most difficult operations attempted by modern surgery.

A surgical case of unusual interest to the profession was received at Provident hospital a few nights ago. The patient was a strong, young colored man, had got mixed up in a street brawl and was stabbed in the left breast by an assailant who wielded a sailor's knife. When brought to the hospital the injured man was very weak from the shock, internal hemorrhage and loss of blood, and by the attendants he was thought to be dying. The doctors saw at a glance that his condition was alarming.

On examination it was found that the wound in the left breast was a diagonal cut about four inches long, between the fifth and sixth ribs. There was also every indication that the cut was very deep, and it puzzled the surgeons not a little to see that the patient was still alive when it appeared probable that the knife had reached his heart. Everything possible to secure rest for the patient was done, and preparations were made for an operation early on the following morning.

On account of the unusual interest attaching to the operation, which was for injury to the heart and pericardium, Dr. Williams notified other members of the profession and a large attendance was secured. A score or more of surgeons, anxious to witness the operation and note the result, were present in the interest of science. The heart being involved in the injury, the patient was not anesthetized, but anesthesia was produced by the use of chloroform. Then he was taken from the wheel bed and placed on the operating table. Dr. Williams and his assistants, clad in white gowns tied around the waist, and the trained nurses upon whom so much depends at such critical times, were ready for the ordeal. The others were gathered about like observers at a clinic.

The operation did not last very long, but it was most delicate as well as daring. The wound was carefully opened and the walls were held apart while the surgeons dexterously removed parts of two ribs. Then deeper explorations were made, but with the utmost care, until at last the unconscious man's heart was laid bare. It was found that the pericardium had been cut with the murderous knife, and that the point of the weapon had actually punctured the heart itself. The wound was, in fact, of such character that few surgeons would have hesitated to pronounce it fatal.

But in this case the patient's condition seemed to be in his favor; neither his temperature nor his pulse was extremely high. With dexterous hands the surgeon explored every part of the wound, while he proceeded with the greatest delicacy and caution to dress the injury and close the cut in the pericardium. Several that had been severed were secured with artery clamps and tied with ligatures of catgut. A call for sutures was then made, and after every precaution had been made, the wound was partially closed at the outer surface. A small rubber tube was left in the wound for a few days, which served to drain off into the outer dressings all fluid exudations.

Since the operation, which took place on July 9, the healing process has been going on admirably, and the patient yesterday gave every indication of recovery. It is certainly a great credit to the colored people of Chicago, and to the entire country, for that matter, that an operation of this character can be performed in an institution of their own, where surgeons and trained nurses of their own race are in attendance. Such skillful work and deep scientific interest are the forerunners of great advancement for the colored people.—Chicago Inter-Ocean.

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