WHERE SULPHUR IS FOUND. Sicily Threatned With Competition From

Deposits in Louisiana, If the sulphur deposits recently reported from Louisiana are really abundant, their discovery is a matter of importance. Hitherto the chief important deposits of elementary sulphur known to the civilized world as those of Sicily, those of the Italian mainland, of Spain, France, Transylvanie, Poland, Germany, and the Island of Formosa. The deposits in Formosa, now that Japan has come into possession of that island, are likely to be developed in the interests of Japan's military progress. Mount Pinace, in the United States of Columbia, has a sulphur cap of nearly 1,500 square yards that gains annually two feet in depth. There is a sulphur deposit at Solfa ar, in the Red Sea, that yields about 600 tons of sulphur annually-a mere trifle compared with the commercial product of the world. There are sulphur deposits in Armenia, high in the sides of volcano, which are worked chiefly with the rifle, great masses being dislodged with rifle balls shot from a distance below. A sulphur deposit in California was once suppose I to contain many tons, al hough the whole would be insignificant compared with the annual demand of this country.

Sicily his for a great many years supplied the civilized world with sulphur. The Sicilian deposits are a mazingly rich, but are worked with a reckless wastefulness and almost total neglect of modern labor-saving devices. Even now only a tow of the mines use machinery for hoisting the sulphur to the surface. Boys from 12 to 18 years of age are employed in the others for this purpose, and there is a curious custom of paying the miners and permitting them to hire for themselves carriers at what price they may. Doubtless the conservatism of the Sicilian peasant has made it difficult to supersede this crude method of getting out sulphur.

The Sicilian method of procuring pure sulphur from the crude material is wasteful in the extreme. A pit is dug in the hillside, about thirty-three feet in diameter and eight feet deep, and this is filled up with the crude sulphur. It is then fired from the top and permitted to burn so long as it will. The pure sulphur runs out below and is collected in a stone vessel, and then ladled into deep poplar-wood molds. These molds give the truncated cones of sulphur known to commerce, and weig's from 110 to 130 pounds each. A pit containing from about 28 000 cubic feet of crude sulphur yields in two months 200 tons of the pure sulphur. A large quantity of the crude sulphur is thus consumed crude sulphur yields in two months 200 tons of the pure sulphur. A large quantity of the crude sulphur is thus consumed in buraing the rest, so that a comparatively small percentage of the pure sulphur is obtained from the mass. The method is, besides, most unwholesome both to man and to vegetation. Strict laws prevent the burning of sulphur within a certain distance of human habitation or growing crops, and the region where sulphur burning is general is a dreary waste. The scarcity of fuel in Sicily has seemed to render necessary this crude method of reducing the ore. More scientific methods have been introduced at the sulphur deposits of the main land, where the ore is reduced by the use of steam. Very pure su'phur is obtained by the use of sulphate of carbon in reducing the ore. The pure t sulphur is obtained by distilling Sicilian sulphur. Most of the Sicilian sulphur is used in the production of a sulphuric acid.

The production of sulphur in Formosa under the Chinese rule was a crown monopoly. Whether it shall thus remain under the rule of the Japanese or not, the system is likely to be modernized, and if the deposits are rich enough Formosa may become an important competitor with Sicily in supplying the needs of the civilized world. The advantage of the discovery of crude sulphur in large quantities in the United States would be the prompt application of thoroughly scientific and economical methods to the reduction of the ore, and it is probable that were rich sulphur ores developed in the United States sulphur could be produced there as cheaply as in Sicily, by reason of the fact that the waste would be small in the production of sulphur by scientific methods. Sicily has over 300 mines of sulphur, and between 25,000 and 30,000 men are employed in the sulphur industries. They have for years past been a disappointed and un-happy body of workingmen, and the condition of the industry is extremely bad. Some years ago it was estimated that the sulphur deposits of Sicily still contained 50,000,000 tons, which would mean a supply at the present rate of consumption for over 100 years, The discovery of paying sulphur mines in the United States would doubtless attract hither more Sicilian ime migration, and have an important effect upon the wages and upon the whole sul-phur industry in Sicily.—New York Sun.

Population of Japan.

A report received at the Department of State from Consul General McIvor, at Kanagawa, Japan, gives the population of that country in 1894 at 42,000,000. Adding Formoso, which became part of the country by the late treaty with China, the population is estimated at 45,000,000. The area of the country is given at 26,326 square ri. Compared in extent with European countries Japan stands next to Spain, being about equal to Sweden. She is larger than Great Britain and Ireland 6,933 square ri, and is the eleventh largest country in the world. Compared with Great Britain and Ireland she has 7,100,000 more people and in population ranks as the fifth power in the world. The estimates given, Mr. M Ivor says, are conservative and reason-

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EXTEMPORANEOUS PROPOSAL. Breaking Away From Time-Honored Forms Saved Valuable Time,

Young Bellamus hitched forward in his chair, pulled up his trousers a little at the knees, glanced at his cuffs to see that they projected the proper distance beyond his coat sleeves, and nervously began,

"I have something to say to you, Kate, I-don't turn your face away from me, please. You have not been eating onions have you?" "Sir!"

"Neither have I. Listen to me. There s something resting on my mind-" "Impos-"

"Resting on my mind, I say, and it has

become a burden, that I am going to shake off. Now, there isn't any use in your pretending you haven't any idea what I want to talk about."

"Assuming that I do, Mr. Bellamus-"Well?"

"Let it pass. Go on."

"That's right. You act like a good sensible girl in deciding to hear me. You might as well anyhow, because when I get started I'm hard to stop, and I am going to say what I came here to say this evening if it takes all-if it takes a quarter of an hour. That's the sort of desperate lover I am, Kate Naggus, though I didn't mean to give the whole business away in one breath like that. I intended to lead up to it gradually. I don't suppose, however. the shock of surprise was very great. You had an idea something of the kind was coming, didn't you?"

"Rather." "I knew you did. But it doesn't seem artistic to block out a regular form of doing something and then fly the track and jump across lots in order to get there sooner. What I intended to say was about like this: Ever since I have known you I have had a different feeling toward yon from which I entertain toward otherbut before I go any further I'd like to have some hint as to whether I'm wasting my time or not. Somehow I don't feel quite as confident as I did when I began."

He stopped a moment, took a long breath and inquired uneasily: "Is it of any use for me to go on,

The rosy lips of the fair young girl parted and she softly answered:

"That settles it," rejoined Mr. Bellamus, recovering himself and drawing on his gloves. "It hasn't turned out exactly as I hoped it might, but I've saved at least ten minutes of valuable time for each of us. and that makes twenty minntes, I don'i know what your time is worth, but my time computed from a business point of view, is worth \$2 50 an hour. I will not

FOR LUCK IN MARRIAGE.

the Making of Wedding Gowus. One superstition that exists among sew-

ing girls and their associates of Paris and New York is that if the head dressmakers will stitch into wedding garments a single hair from the head of each they will become brides within a very short time after the maiden who wears the bridal outfit then in preparation. A young woman of experience and with a quick eye for what would interest The Sun's readers said to a Sun reporter the other evening:

"Let me tell you fof this strange and yet pretty superstition which exist among some of the sewing girls in Paris and New York. I am more familiar with the superstition as it exists among the girls of some of the bigger dry goods shops in New York city, and so in this instance I will confine my story to them. When the sewing girls in the different apartments and the girls behind the counters learn that the house has received an order for a big trousseau they besiege the head dressmakers and ask them to stitch into the wedding gown especially a single hair from their heads. This hair is so fine that it is easily concealed and cannot in any way mar the beautiful wedding gown. The head dressmakers very often humor the girls.

"I know positively that this superstition exists, and I know positively [that in many wedding gowns, could they be picked to pieces, would be found many hairs stitched in. The girls when they go home at night tell their girl friends that a hair from their heads has been stitched into the wedding gown of Miss So-and-So, and the lucky one is immediately envied. She will be

married very soon, her associates say.
'Many of the girls in the big shops secure bits of the wedding gowns of fashionably brides. They take them home and treasure them up. They make collections of them, and they point them out to their friends in the neighborhood, saying, 'That was Miss So-and-So's wedding gown,' and so they go through the list. The sewing girl who possesses the greatest collection of these bits is a very important young woman in the eyes of her young woman to include She is considered to be almost friends. She is considered to be almost fashionable herself, because she is so near It improves the Diges. the throne. But by far the prettiest superstition that I have yet heard of is the one where a single hair from so many of these shop girls is stitched into these very expensive wedding gowns."-N. Y. Sun.

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WHY WRITTEN IN LATIN.

Several Reasons for Prescriptions in a Long Dead Language.

"I don't see," said the man who was leaning against the drug store counter, 'why a doctor can't write his prescriptions in English, instead of Latin. Suppose I need some whiskey on one of these Roosevelt Sundays. Suppose my system absolutely requires whiskey; that my health and future asefulness to society depend upon it. Well, I go to my doctor and get a prescription. It calls for spiritus frumenti. Now that aint what I want. I want whiskey. Why can't he come out flattooted and say so? But I suppose he thinks that would be giving the game away. I suppose he would rather I would tike his wisdom with a grain of chloride of sodium than with a grain of salt. Isn't

The druggist smiled and said: 'You've got the same idea most people have. You think, I suppose, that the doctor writes his prescription in Latin so it can't be read so easily-so the layman can't steal his trade and learn what he is giving him. But that's all wrong. In the first place, Latin is a more exact and concise language than English, and, being a dead language, does not change, as all living languages do.

"Then, again, since a very large part of all the drugs in use are botanical, they have in the pharmacopeia the same names that they have in botany-the scientific names. Two-thirds of such drugs haven't any English names, and so couldn't be written in English.

"But suppose a doctor did write a prescription in English for an uneducated patient. The patient reads it, thinks he remembers it and so tries to get it filled from memory the second time. Suppose for instance, it called for iodide of potassium and he got it confused with cynanide of potassium. He could safely take grains of the first, but one grain of the second would kill him as dead as a mackerel. That's an exaggerated case, but it will serve for an illustration. Don't you see how the Latin is a protection and a safeguard to the patient? Prescriptions in Latin be can't read, and consequently does not try to remember.

"Now for a final reason. Latin is a language that is used by scientific men the world over, and no other language is. You can get a Latin prescription filled in any country on the face of the earth where there is a drug store. We had a prescription come in here the other day which we had put up originally, and which had since been stamped by druggists in London. Paris, Berlin, Constantinople, Cairo and Calcutta. What good would an English prescription

be in St. Petersburg?" "Go: any good tooth powder?" asked the man leaning against the counter.— New York Herald.

Military Punishments, 1746.

The military punishment of that day were terrible. The Duke of Cumberland's general orders contain on three consecutive days sentences of 800, 500, and 800, lashes for thieving, "mutinous expressions," and "insolent behavior." Three days afterwards a sentence of "1,000 lashes" is recorded; it is fair to say the man deserved to die; but death would have been a merciful punishment. A martinet of that day might be and was a terriable tyrant to his men. Strange, out-of-theway punishments were inflicted for trifling offences, without adding one iota to the efficiency of the army. The soldiers might either be "picketed" or made to ride the "wooden horse." In "picketing," the culprit's naked heel rested on a sharpened stake driven into the ground, his right wrist and right leg being drawn up as high as they could be to a hook fixed in an adjoining post. The whole weight of the body rested on a sharpened stake, which though it did not break the skin, inflicted exquisite torture; the only means of aleviation was to rest the weight on the wrist the pain of which soon became unendurable. Soldiers were frequently sentenced to stand on the "picket" for a quarter of an hour; and in the cavalry it was often inflicted by order of the colonel, without

authority or court-martial. The back of the "horse" was formed of planks so arranged as to form a sharp ridge eight or nine feet long. The legs (siz or seven feet in length) rested upon a stand moving upon wheels; to complete the resemblance a rough wooden head and tail were added. The offender was placed on the back with his hands tied behind him; and to increase the punishment a be inflicted by sentence of court-martial, or by order of the colonel of a regiment, wrough so much injury to those subjected to its discipline that it had to be discontinued. Francis Grose tells us that, so late as 1760, the remains of a wooden horse were standing on the parade at Portsmouth.—Chambers' Journal.

Thirteen Tipsy 'C ons.

John Davis, one of the largest cidermakers in Indiana, killed thirteen 'coons one morning during the past week, the result of very peculiar circumstances. Mr. Davis' ican Idea, the American Spirit. These first, cider mill is very extensive, is built of wood, and stands away from his house. He was awakened by noise from the mill at midnight, and upon investigation found that thirteen 'coons were on the inside drinking cider. He fastened the door and locked them in securely and went to bed. When he got up the next morning he took a 'coon dog and several hands and began the killing. He found the 'coons drunk and undergoing all stages of jags. The scene was a most peculiar one. They had rolled the barrels over, which had been left open to allow the cider to work. They had drunk themselves full of hard cider. In five minutes all had been dispatched, and their skins were brought to The Weekly, - - - \$1 a year this city last night as substantial evidence.

—Anderson (Ind.) Correspondence Sen-



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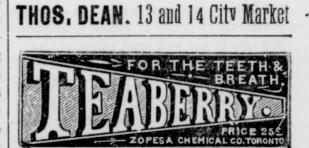
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