

CITIES RISE IN A NIGHT IN THE DAMOND COUNTRY; A RUSH FOR PRECIOUS GEMS IN AFRICA

Even South Africans are losing count of their own diamond rushes, so frequent have they become. Two rushes occurred in the first six months of this year, according to a writer in the New York Times. The June rush "brought 20,000 new inhabitants to a remote farm at Elandsputte, in the Western Transvaal, and was described as the most amazing diamond rush in the history of South Africa." Nevertheless—

It was eclipsed the other day when the population of another farm district of the Transvaal increased overnight from a few hundreds to 50,000. Fifteen thousand persons, including 120 women, entered the race, and more than 25,000 claims were pegged out.

South Africa furnishes two kinds of diamonds, obtained in two very different ways. In kimberlite pipes of volcanic "blue earth," diamonds are mined by means of shafts sunk deep into the rock. The pipe may be small in diameter, or large and oval-shaped—as is the great Premier Mine which measures 2900 feet in length by 1,500 across. The bluish rock is brought up in great lumps, and pulverized—formerly by exposure for months to the elements of the veldt, but more often nowadays by mechanical processes. After being washed many times, the mud is passed over pulsating tables covered with a special grease preparation to which diamonds adhere.

Much Capital Needed.

Large outlays of capital are necessary for exploiting such a diamond mine. Men employed in a mine are bound by contract and are under constant surveillance. Among other precautions, when a worker is about to leave, the seams of his clothing are ripped up and examined, to make sure that he does not get away with any bits of the precious product.

The other kind of diamond the alluvial, lies mixed with sand and gravel on or near the surface in the valleys of the Orange and Vaal rivers and in German Southwest Africa. Getting these diamonds in an open-to-all, grab-process. In South Africa some one is always pottering around in possible diamond ground, but new discoveries are fraught with dangers to the nicely balanced equilibrium on which the success of the diamond business depends. Here the government puts forth a guiding hand. From time to time it proclaims certain tracts of land as diamond fields, and, making proper provision for the interest of owner and discoverer, sets a date for the general public to take possession.

Business men in their city clubs listen for word of a diamond rush; vagrants in public houses prick up their ears at the news, and college students take note. Sailors in port, girls in stores, hardened backveldters, black

Kaffirs, and professional men hear of it. Some of them pull up stakes and move to the new diamond field. First they pay their shilling entrance fee and apply for a digger's certificate. This must be done a fortnight in advance to give time for posting the applicants' names at the magistracy, a process akin to the publishing of banns and intended to scare off crooks the I. D. B.'s (illicit diamond buyers, the bootleggers of the trade.)

Crowds Flock to Stop.

The horde begins to arrive days in advance of the rush, and some of its varied elements are thus sketched for us.

Dutch farmers come in wagons, piled high with family and household effects, and tramps arrive with only what they can carry on their backs. For miles around the roads are ruled with flivvers and high-powered automobiles, with ox-carts and saddle horses, with bicycles and foot-passengers. Until twilight and by dawn prospectors eagerly examine the broad acres. They are selecting what they intend to head in the race.

On the day of days comes the crowd, marking pegs in one hand and rigging certificates in the other. Lined up are many college athletes, professional runners, and perhaps an Olympic champion, hired by syndicates or financiers to run for them, for this race is to the swift alone. The line stretches some two miles, and in places it is ten deep. All eyes are turned toward a small flag attached to a bamboo pole. All ears strain for the sound of a pistol shot.

They're Off.

The Mining Commissioner's watch points to noon. The flag drops. The pistol goes off. The thousands surge over the line for the two-mile dash to the diamond land. Dust clouds envelop their heads. The first comes take their choice of plots, and the others scramble for what is left. In the Transvaal the claims are forty-five feet square. Prospectors pay a tax of \$1 a month. In Capetown the charge is the same; but the claims measure thirty feet square. On the first day the one-to-a-customer policy is observed; after that additional plots may be had.

Hard behind the runners come the women and children, their arms loaded down with domestic things, and by nightfall the diamond field has become a camp. Storekeepers open shop. Some one opens a movie. The tent-and-tin-shack city is made.

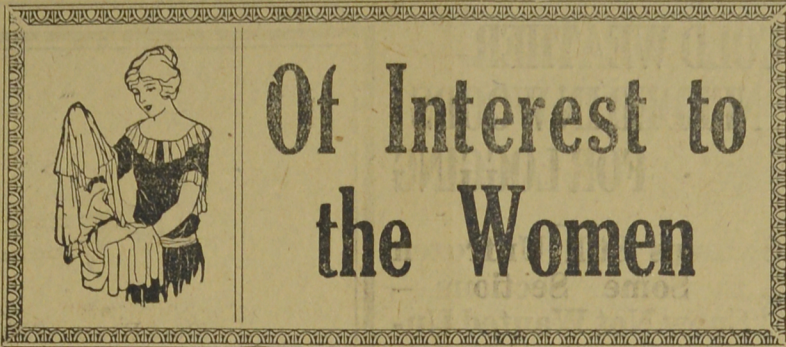
Diamond rushes have been going on in South Africa ever since the child of a Dutch farmer picked a small diamond from the mud plaster on the "hardest house" at Bultfontein farm, and started the farmers thereabout to searching. A few years before this, in 1867, a bushman hardboy had picked up a bright stone on the banks of the Orange River, below Hope Town, and given it to the children of his Dutch master as a plaything. A little later a Kaffir witch doctor was persuaded, in consideration of a flock of sheep, a team of oxen, some horses and a few other things, to part with his most potent charm, and this charm turned out to be the "Star of Africa," for which the Earl of Dudley paid 255,000 pounds.

In this fashion the diamond business of South Africa was started, and whole families set themselves to sifting the sands of the river bed and to digging. At Bultfontein the farmers were turned out, but other diggers began jumping the claim, and the owner was unable to keep them away. He then decided to grant diggers' licenses on thirty-foot plots, for which rent would be asked. The day of distribution was marked by a mad scramble to mark out claims with anything at hand—stones, sticks and bones. Revolvers were used to back up arguments.

System Continued.

The system thus initiated has continued ever since, but for no good to South Africa, progressive citizens lament. The practice of rushes, they declare, has long since gone too far. From all over the world those possessed of the get-rich-quick idea are drawn there, and the greater proportion of the influx, they assert, is riff raff. There is no keeping folks back when digging is open to all comers and diamond tales are circulated. Only 2 per cent. of the workers ever make real finds.

These "rush" towns are considered anything but a healthy influence in South Africa. The lure of easy money prompts substantial farmers in poor seasons to sell off their stock and depart for the diamond fields. Usually they are stranded and have to be taken care of by sacrificing relatives. Adventurous youth, lured by the call, is said to be never the same after contact with "derelicts of the rush town." These towns know little of sanitation and hygiene; everything of gambling



Of Interest to the Women

THE KITCHEN FLOOR.

Are you trying to decide how to treat the kitchen floor? Shall it be stain, wax, varnish, shellac, oil, paint linoleum?

There is a vast difference in the appearance of these and of course you want an attractive floor. The amount of labor required to apply the finish is worth considering. A kitchen floor should have a good wearing finish; one that is easy to keep clean. It is wise to select one that will not be spoiled by water—wax and varnish are not recommended for kitchen floors. If your kitchen floor is cold and you desire a comparatively noiseless floor, you will select linoleum. The kitchen floor should be comfortable to walk and stand on, so that eliminates a slippery finish.

In making a decision therefore, it is advisable to compare the desirable and objectionable qualities of each finish and consider these in relation to the requirements for an ideal kitchen floor, and your floor in particular, then select the one that scores the most points in favor.

MOCK PUMPKIN PIE.

One half cup graham cracker crumbs, 2 cupsful hot milk combined beat two eggs slightly. Add 1½ teaspoons each cinnamon, nutmeg, ¼ teaspoon ginger, ½ teaspoon salt, ¼ teaspoon allspice, 2 tablespoons molasses, ¼ cup brown sugar. Combine two mixtures and pour into pastry lined pie crust. Bake same as a custard pie.

CRANBERRY FRAPPE.

One quart cranberries, 2½ cups sugar, 4 tablespoons lemon juice, 2 tablespoons gelatine, 1 cup cold water 3 cups boiling water. Cook cranberries in boiling water until soft. Strain through a sieve. Add sugar lemon juice and gelatine which has been dissolved in cold water. Cook until all is dissolved and freeze.

MEAT CROQUETTES.

Two cups cooked meat
Two cups cold boiled rice
One cup cream sauce
One teaspoon salt
Pepper to taste
One half teaspoon grated nutmeg or scraped onion.

One tablespoon finely chopped parsley
One teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
One egg and breadcrumbs
Put the meat and rice through food chopper add the sauce and other ingredients mix well. Sauté on platter of cool. When firm take a spoonful into floured hands and form into cone or oblong shapes when all are formed dip the egg (one egg beaten with one tablespoon cold milk) then roll in breadcrumbs. Fry in deep hot fat drain on paper. Serve with well seasoned green peas, tomato sauce or cream sauce.

HASHED POTATOES WITH MEAT.

Leftover potatoes
Leftover meat
Two tablespoons finely cut onion
Two tablespoons finely cut parsley
One tablespoon drippings
Salt and pepper to taste
Chop the potatoes and meat rather fine. If three cups of potatoes and a half cup of meat are used use one tablespoons drippings; if less use less drippings. Put the drippings into fry pan with the onion, cook a few minutes, then add the chopped potatoes and season to taste. When heated through add the chopped meat and if a little gravy was left over, add it. Heat through and serve on toast, sprinkled with chopped parsley.

Note: The hash will be improved if one uses the drippings from roasted meat.

Patient—That doctor always gives me a dirty look when I kiss you. Does he think that making love will delay my recovery?

Nurse—I suppose he does. He's my husband.

and drunkenness. When a real diamond is found, its "baptism" usually means drinking the profits.

With such arguments as these the statesmen of South Africa, the clergy and leaders of public opinion are heard with increasing frequency in the press and on the platform urging an end to the rushes and the substitution of a less demoralizing system for garnering the alluvial diamond crop

POPULAR ASTRONOMY.

Once I could name the constellations In the bright firmament of Art I knew their various mutations By heart.

I watched for signs with an ecstatic Eye that envisaged quite a lot; If a few orbits were erratic Why not?

I put the planets in their places Dismissed with scorn the satellite Saw Venus lift a thousand faces Each night.

Sitting in my observatory I made old Saturn change his line; The pen that praised you con amore Was mine.

Not that I craved your favor merely In pretty flattery well versed: I swore your magnitude was clearly The first.

Alas for mortal man's computing! What poor astronomers we are! Time proved you, Lady, just a shooting Star!

—PAUL RAYSON in New York Sun.

BREAKING IT GENTLY.

"Miss Ponder," said the boss "you are a very handsome young woman." "Oh!" said the typist, blushing. "You dress neatly and you have a well modulated voice. Your deportment is also above reproach."

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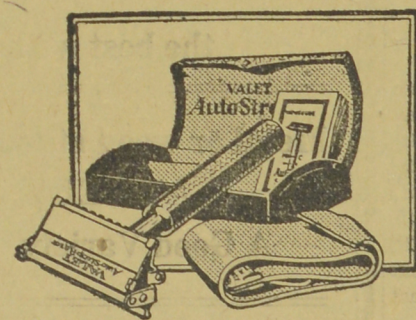
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