

THE QUEEREST TOWN

NORTHWICH THE CENTRE OF GREAT
BRITAIN'S SALT INDUSTRY

It Is Disappearing—Rests Upon a Shell of Earth—Buildings Begun to Sink and Are Constantly Sliding and Collapsing in Every Direction—Yawning Chasms Constantly Appearing in the Streets.

Northwich, the centre of the salt industry of Great Britain, is one of the queerest towns in the country. The whole underlying country is simply one mass of salt. When descending a shaft, one passes through successive thick strata of the mineral. The mining of the salt constitutes the staple industry of the district, and from Northwich alone 1,200,000 tons of salt are shipped annually. The product is obtained by two methods—quarrying and brine pumping. In the former case, which is the method generally adopted, a shaft is sunk about 300 feet, and the salt rock blasted and excavated in the usual manner. The brine-pumping, although it is still continued on a large scale, is gradually falling into disuse. When the industry was started it was considered that only one stratum of salt existed, and that was only a few feet below the surface. Fresh water found its way into this extensive salt deposit, with the result that the salt dissolved like snow. A huge subterranean lake of water, charged with 26 per cent. of salt, was thus formed. Pumping engines were then installed to convey this brine to the surface to large evaporating pans, in which a heavy deposit of salt was left after the water had evaporated. The result of this extensive pumping is that Northwich now rests, as it were, upon a shell of earth, which at times proves insufficient to support the weight of the houses, with the inevitable consequence that the buildings are constantly sliding and collapsing in every direction. As the result of a subsidence a building fell over upon its back in the course of a single night, and it is noteworthy that the house, owing to the care observed in its construction, fell over intact, not a crack being produced in the walls nor even a pane of glass being broken. This is by no means a single instance. Throughout the town the same efforts are to be observed upon all sides. There is scarcely a perpendicular wall to be seen; in numerous cases the doors and window frames of the houses are awry; the roads are extremely uneven, and are often closed owing to the falling in of portions. Houses are being continually condemned as unsafe for human habitation and demolished. The depreciation of public property is enormous. No matter how substantially a house may be built, or how great the care observed to obviate subsidence, the building is bound to sink sooner or later. In one instance, a house that cost £6,000 to erect, was shortly afterwards sold for £1,700, it had been so injured by subsiding. In some cases the sinking is very gradual, while in others it is unexpected and instantaneous. One of the principal thoroughfares took 40 years to sink fifteen feet, while another grew appreciably wider every day. Examination proved that one side of the street was slipping completely away. In this instance the foundations of the houses were three feet distant from the buildings which they originally supported. The shop of a drygoods merchant sank one-fifth of its height in ten years and

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The REV. C. F. WELLS, of Villa Ridge, Ill., says: "Your trial bottle of Asthmalene received in good condition. I cannot tell you how thankful I feel for the good derived from it. I was a slave, chained with putrid sore throat and Asthma for ten years. I despaired of ever being cured. I saw your advertisement for the cure of this dreadful and tormenting disease, Asthma, and thought you had overspoken yourselves, but resolved to give it a trial. To my astonishment, the trial acted like a charm. Send me a full-sized bottle."

REV. DR. MORRIS WECHSLER.

Rabbi of the Cong. Bnai Israel.

New York, Jan. 3, 1901.

DR. TAFT BROS. MEDICINE CO.,

Gentlemen: Your Asthmalene is an excellent remedy for Asthma and Hay Fever, and its composition alleviates all troubles which combine with Asthma. Its success is astonishing and wonderful. After having it carefully analyzed, we can state that Asthmalene contains no opium, morphine, chloroform or ether. Very truly yours,

REV. DR. MORRIS WECHSLER.

Avon Springs, N. Y., Feb. 1, 1901.

DR. TAFT BROS. MEDICINE CO.

Gentlemen: I write this testimonial from a sense of duty, having tested the wonderful effect of your Asthmalene, for the cure of Asthma. My wife has been afflicted with paroxysmal asthma for the past 12 years. Having exhausted my own skill as well as many others, I chanced to see your sign upon your windows on 130th street, New York. I at once obtained a bottle of Asthmalene. My wife commenced taking it about the first of November. I very soon noticed a radical improvement. After using one bottle her Asthma has disappeared and she is entirely free from all symptoms. I feel that I can consistently recommend the medicine to all who are afflicted with this distressing disease.

Yours respectfully,

O. D. PHELPS, M. D.

DR. TAFT BROS. MEDICINE CO.

Gentlemen: I was troubled with Asthma for 22 years. I have tried numerous remedies, but they have all failed. I ran across your advertisement and started with a trial bottle. I found relief at once. I have since purchased your full-size bottle, and I am ever grateful. I have family of four children, and for six years was unable to work. I am now in the best of health and am doing business every day. This testimony you can make such use of as you see fit. Home address, 285 Rivington Street.

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At the subsidence seven years subsided another fifth. Several houses may be seen, the windows of the ground floor of which are level with the roadway. It is no uncommon circumstance for a building to be constructed and have to be abandoned shortly after its completion. The inhabitants, however, endeavor to mitigate the danger of their buildings collapsing by constructing them upon the frame principle, with massive timber beams securely bolted together. By this means if a subsidence occurs the house does not necessarily collapse, but heels over in toto. In this instance the house is raised to its normal position once more by means of jacks, the cavity filled in, and the building once more rests upon a firm foundation. Should another subsidence occur, the process of lifting is repeated.

The area in which these subsidences occur covers about two square miles. A few years ago the matter was brought before the attention of the British Parliament, and the result of their investigations showed that damage had been inflicted upon 892 buildings, of which total 636 comprised houses and cottages. Some idea of the extent of the excavations in this area may be gathered from the fact that as a ton of salt represents one cubic yard, and 1,200,000 tons of salt are produced every year, therefore 1,200,000 cubic yards of solid material underlying the town is removed annually.

The water from the river also gravitates towards these subsidences, causing huge inland lakes, which aggravate the danger. One of these lakes, locally called "flashes," covers no less than 100 acres and varies from 40 to 50 feet in depth.

Notwithstanding the frequency of these subsidences and that they are often unexpected, strange to say, not a single life has been lost. Havoc has been wrought among cattle, however, several animals being completely engulfed. The tall shafts of the pumping station are also another source of danger, since they are gradually thrown out of plumb, the list continuing until the stack heels over, burying and destroying everything in its path.

A few years ago a compensation board was founded. This board levies a tax of threepence upon every ton of brine that is pumped to the surface, the revenue derived from this source being devoted to compensating those unfortunate whose property has been damaged by subsidence.—London Telegraph.

The Editor's Fault.

"Your face is very familiar," said the congressman as he shook the calloused hand of a constituent, "but I really can't recall your name."

"I don't wonder a bit at that," said the caller. "It's all the fault of that fool editor of our'n. The time we had our last county fair he went and printed my picture with Bill Perkins' name under it."



Game Season

Opens September 1st.

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Has become a proverbial phrase to express the futility of mere desire. There are a great many people who think it is as

useless to hope for health as to cry for the moon. They have tried many medicines and many doctors, but all in vain.

A great many hopeless men and women have been cured by the use of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery; people with obstinate coughs, bleeding lungs, night-sweats and other symptoms of disease which if neglected or unskillfully treated find a fatal termination in consumption.

"Golden Medical Discovery" has a wonderful healing power. It increases the nutrition of the body, and so gives strength to throw off disease. It cleanses the blood from poisonous impurities and enriches it with the red corpuscles of health. It is not a stimulant, but a strength giving medicine. It contains no alcohol, neither opium, cocaine, nor any other narcotic.

Sometimes the extra profit paid by inferior medicines tempts the dealer to offer a substitute as "just as good" as "Discovery." If you are convinced that "Discovery" will cure you accept nothing else.

"I was in poor health when I commenced taking Dr. Pierce's medicine," writes Mr. Elmer Lawler, of Volga, Jefferson Co., Indiana. "I had stomach, kidney, heart, and lung trouble. Was not able to do any work. I had a severe cough and hemorrhage of the lungs, but after using your medicine a while I commenced to gain in strength and flesh, and stopped coughing right away. Took about six bottles of the 'Golden Medical Discovery' then, and last spring I had Grippe, and it settled on my lungs, leaving me with a severe cough. I had the doctor, but he didn't seem to help me any; so I commenced your medicine again and took three or four bottles of the 'Discovery' and two vials of Dr. Pierce's Pellets, and that straightened me up. I feel like a different person. I gladly recommend your medicine to all sufferers, for I know it cured me."

Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets cure constipation by curing its cause.



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