# A CARGO OF ASPHALT.

## A STICKY SUBSTANCE THAT IS IMPORTED FOR OUR ROADS.

### Trinidad's Lake of Boiling Pitch Which Is Used in Making Asphalt—Something About the Island and Its Workers—How the Stuff is Handled.

Go which lurks from the West Indies are not the only vessels outside the usual ports of entry that ever force Washington with a visit. Two of them are lying off the wharf at the foot of New Hampshire avenue and are well worth a visit.

Down in the hold the cargo looks like the edge of a dead zone. Solid, black and uniform, and apparently as hard as brick, but the hardness is deceptive. Press upon it with the point of your cane, and it is seen to be soft, and yet the impression will not be lasting. It will at first fill the whole of the place dark, and by immense pounding may seem divergent, contain slowly back into the powder. This slow running is only when the mass is in motion, and it is only when the surface of the cargo is exposed to the air. The cargo is in the form of a cone, and the surface is hard as brick. Even on a cone of this kind, which Columbus saw, which will be probably the exploration between the seasons of the Indian people, the outlined passage, the outlined passage, the island was then inhabited solely by Indians, with dual nations, but neither the Indians, nor, nor neither the North American Indians, neither in their language, which has the Chinese of our own western tribes, has been succeeded by the Spanish race. For many years the island remained a neglected dependency of Spain, with a constantly decreasing population, which consisted of the Spanish nation. In 1797 it passed into the hands of the British government and has remained an English colony since.

There are but two towns of importance in the island—Port of Spain and San Fernando. These live mostly by their income the chief productions of the island and its own economic living and resources. The sugar crop is large, but it does not pay to export it. The population of the island is mixed. Indian is the most numerous, and the majority of the people are negroes, descendants of the slaves of the British, the white planters and British officers and English clerks are known as the "coal black bandanna boys" on account of their dress.

Some of the original Caribs are still to be found among the island people, but they are mostly descendants, and in their pure form are the negroes only. The only water, which was originally brought to the island above Port of Spain, is now in fewer than a terrible number of the islands are perhaps of more than the bottom of the African coast with the exception of the Tonnelle Islands. Water is now supplied in the business by the good and abundance of the sources that would then have not although imported water is now of a high quality, and is considered of them ever. Rent is cheap here. Stringent laws governing the sale and use of water, however, and, when it is to the purpose, are well enforced, and many of the owners by the time they get rent their eight years' contract not so well to distant. Indian people do the work by the plow and hoeing nearly all the year.

The great pitch lake, which is the chief source and foundation of the island, is one and a few, every season of the southwestern coast, near Cape Corbera. The surrounding country is low and unbroken, is rising gradually to the high hills and rich valleys of the coast further back. The lake is owned by the British government and leased by it to an American firm which controls the trade for the United States. This present lease has four years yet to run. The laborers are all negroes, even the overseers are coming from the best and in hours of the place. The lake itself is not a mile in diameter, hard at the edge and narrowing toward the middle. The surface is comparatively clean, apparently fresh some substances action of the sun of dry land and even trees and grass will disappear in a single night and fresh islands of soil be reared in other places.

The lake is in all probability merely an immensely large deposit of bitumen or such that has undergone a transformation from decaying vegetable matter in contact with water, and so near the surface that the roots penetrate down to keep it dampened. Hundreds of the negroes for our annual toil at the lake's edge, taking out cargo after cargo from the supply that seems never to diminish. They work under overseers of their own color and are paid at the rate of seventy-two cents a day. The asphalt crust is broken up into pieces and then carted and hauled to a large shed, where it is cut in the shape of a single cubical block and is stored in other places.

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The cargo comes through a long cavity and down to the wheel of the water's edge where the load is dumped and carried to a large shed, where it is cut in the shape of a single cubical block and is hauled in carts down by a single mule and hoisted by a hand-power crane to the ships. In a half mile out in the clear water, the small barges of packings are loaded in a manner similar to that in the hold, where they sink down into a compartment, forming a fresh filling the next day, and so on till the cargo is completed.

When the vessel reaches the port of discharge the asphalt has to be broken up into before it can be removed from the hold. Going to it. There quality of the mass "rock." It has in the valley of Sunflower through the nearly self-sound the Kansas of late the company has been discovered by a rival, which has begun mining operations on the island not far from the vicinity of the older company's holdings, however, great fears of the asphalt rock in 2 or 3 years. After which it is thought process from the original deposit.—Washington Post.

### Men Who Were Little.

Men stand 5 feet 8 in his stockings and feel allowance of inches for a pair. But in Middle Time Money, professor the discussion of the average. Money was usually not five feet, save in his stocks, the floor of which, by the way, he polished long the two years "Chronicle Little." And when a quack he defied the mind from regulated was failed the change in the "Chronicle" sometimes, "Money was little and little is Money."

We think that Mr. Carnegie, the eight-thousand and Nineteenth century singing who, will forgive us for bringing him a very much a great deal to the twelfth of his life.—Gentleman's Magazine.

The barrel of the time is Hoverdell, the blind blacksmith of Bristol, R. I. He not only surpasses other but do times, and he surpasses himself from time to time. Lord year the sculptor salary pride about the Atlantic coast was the Chronicle, considered the perfection of a model. But this year appears the Wasp, designed and built by Hoverdell since last summer. In the race for the $1,000 cup, which the cup got as the fastest racer on the water, the thinnest herself was a contestant. Will Hoverdell ever beat the Wasp?

### Girls' Appetites.

A gentleman who is an advanced thinker and friend of the higher education of women says that some things in the nature and disposition of a girl puzzle him. He overheard two young ladies talking one day about a luncheon they had had. They were going to get a little dose luncheon alone. They had decided on a glass of soda water and on the cream alone as the refreshment which would last with their dainty digestion.

But just as the girls were entering the restaurant door they met the gentleman who is an advanced thinker and a friend of the higher education of women. He, too, was going to have luncheon, decided more substantial than soda water and ice cream. Like the gallant man he was, however, he said to the young ladies, "Come, girls, and get luncheon with me." They did not long back to accompanying, but accepted the invitation in the spirit in which it was given, cheerfully, and went. But now comes the remarkable part of the narrative—the part the puzzled man does not understand. No sooner did they find that the decided man was going to pay for their luncheon than suddenly their appetite expanded like the Africa in out of sin has. They took it all in that day, and when they left the banquet hall they had put away a bushels of four persons, costing the man $4.00. Worst of all, they went away and laughed about how much they had made the highest individual pay for their food. They thought it was a good joke, those two girls.

The man is sober and wise. But he would fain like to know how it is that girls' appetites can grow so suddenly and enormously. Perhaps they just went through the four courses to show him there wasn't anything mean about them.

### Irrigation Prospects.

As an investment for Eastern capital, irrigation stands in the region west of the 100th meridian after as present exceptional inducements, and there is no reason to doubt that the expectations formed will be realized. The magnificent four mining regions of southern California was a part of the so called Great American Desert before irrigation transformed it into absolutely the richest agricultural tract on the earth today. Colorado too was a part of the same Great American Desert laid down in the geographies of forty years ago. Yuma Colorado potatoes are famous throughout the country and absolutely alarming in their abundance and bigness. Colorado has nearly 2,000,000 acres of arable land under cultivation that would have been barren only for irrigation.

California has over three and a half million acres of irrigated land under cultivation. The total amount of land now reclaimed and in tillage through the Pacific states is estimated to nearly sixteen million acres. Two methods of irrigation are in vogue. One is the artesian well plan, the other the irrigation ditch method. In the latter method the water is conveyed in flumes and ditches from rivers, lakes and mountain streams. There is a controversy as to which is the better. It will probably be found that artesian wells are best suited to certain localities, and ditches to others. The best way of all to decide is to ascertain which has been found to be that called subsurface irrigation, in which the water is conducted under ground to the roots of the plants, leading them to strike down into the earth. But this method is the most difficult to introduce and the most expensive.

## A POINT IN ASPARAGUS CULTURE.

### Would It Pay to Secure a Field Entirely of Male Asparagus Plants?

Mr. Green, of the Ohio experiment station, reports that male plants of asparagus proved about 50 per cent more productive than the female, and the shoots, being larger, have a greater market value. Among prominent agriculturists commenting in The Rural New Yorker upon the question whether it would pay to secure a field of male asparagus plants exclusively Mr. E. S. Goff, of the Wisconsin experiment station, says: "If the results obtained by Mr. Green can be depended upon for old plantations of asparagus, it seems to me that all growers of this vegetable located upon high priced land can afford the extra labor required to grow exclusively male plants.

"For such plantations the seedlings could be grown in the country, where land is cheap, and set out closely, where they could remain until their character can be determined, when the male plants could be inserted out and removed to their permanent place. I think it very fairly to questioned if all plantations of asparagus would show so marked a difference in favor of the male plants as did Mr. Green's. In a trial conducted by myself in 1890, on a garden bed, the male plants showed no appreciable advantage in productiveness. The report of this trial has not been published because the bed was not a large one and the plants were rather uneven."

Mr. W. M. Munson, of the Maine station, says: "In my opinion the extra trouble of selecting male plants would be justified. There is certainly a marked difference in the yield of male and female plants, and . . . but is never too great."

J. M. Smith says: "The only safe way I know of to distinguish the male from the female plants would be to let both grow in the seed beds for at least two years, for the plants rarely bear seeds the first year, and then match the rows in such a way that each can be looked. If by this means we get a nice bed of two thousand plants, it is said that no stalk will come up in the spring, accepting as with a great loss of young plants, and these must be destroyed or the bearing beds will be ruined within a few years.

"After I have finished cutting for the season, my aim is more a luxuriant growth and a large crop of seed ripens every fall. This growth is all allowed to remain on the ground during the winter, as it is the most perfect mulch I have ever seen. After taking off and burning the tops the beds get a very heavy dressing of manure, which is worked in, care being taken not to disturb the roots and the beds are ready for their season's work. After a time the weeds begin to come up, and as the weather becomes warmer the young plants from the seeds fall upon the beds start also, and both soon be destroyed. The best way to do this is to set some good, careful men at work with hoes, and, just after we have cut the beds every clean. They destroy the weeds and the young asparagus plants at the same time.

"We finished hoeing our beds on June 6, and I could say to a neighbor of mine, and one who is a reader of this paper, that we saw dozens of stalks to every the young asparagus plants with the weeds, and I do not remember yet to have found it necessary to go over the beds on purpose to destroy the young plants. I do not believe that I could make any money by going to the trouble and expense of making beds of purely male plants. If I had thought so—and I have thought the matter over many times—I would certainly have had beds of them a number of years ago."

### Stocking.

In farm parlance a mulch is any material laid upon the surface of the soil in such manner as to prevent the evaporation of moisture. When mulching is practiced in agriculture, however, each cultivator is either, large, damaged lay out the hoe are the same most usually employed. The effect of mulching, which is very beneficial in horticulture than in ordinary farming, may readily be seen by lifting up a board or stone that has lain flat on the surface, when the ground will be found to be beneath it. The ancillary connection has been established up to the under surface of the mulching substance, which has stopped the upward movement of the moisture and hindered its escape to the atmosphere.

From the nature of the case, mulching of the ground by natural causes is relatively rare in farm practice. Points have sometimes been grown under a mulch of straw, but more as an experiment than as a profitable method. In fact, the mulch method is not well suited to a farmer's school. Thus by mulching strawberries between the rows moisture is conserved and the berries are kept from the ground.

The best substitute for an actual mulch is a fine surface tilled from earth, such as can be made with the use of cultivator. While not perfect mulch for conserving moisture it will have the effect to a considerable extent, and, along with the destruction of weeds, two purposes may be well served by the same operation.

### The Potato Crop.

According to the report of the agriculture at Washington, the average yield of potatoes is returned at 81.6 per cent of the large crop of last year. In the south, where the breadth of cotton has been increased, a considerable increase in the area devoted to the tuber has been made, but in the New England and western states, where the largest yield is obtained and the bulk of the crop of green, there is a considerable decrease.

### Suppress Mars.

It's Mars, they say, who is bringing all this trouble on the world. He is busier at now than he has been for fifteen years or than he will be in fifteen years again, for which let us be thankful if the present year furnishes a specimen of how the old rascal gets in his whack when he has a chance at us.

Famine in Russia and Indian anarchists ready in Paris, floods, storms, earthquakes and railway accidents all over the world, the cholera spreading through Europe and threatening to America, thousands of deaths in Russia from it, Russia in Persia, where people religion, while towns are depopulated and the lazy old shah has lost his head completely, endeavoring to compensate for it by making other people lose theirs. In Europe the past two weeks the heat has been torrid beyond description. Horses and cattle have died by the hundred, soldiers have dropped dead from exhaustion, and the usual military maneuvers in Austria were omitted on account of it. In London there is an epidemic of glanders among the horses, and hundreds of them have died and been killed. In order to be English some of the horses in New York City got glanders, too, and had to be shot.

In America we cannot have a famine because our country is too great and too rich, but we have done our best to keep up in the way of big fires, floods, accidents and storms. There we have strikes enough to do a whole world. That is how we take our share of the visitation of Mars, apparently in strikes, and there seems no prospect that they will be definitely settled before Mars comes around again.

It is time to call on Mars. There ought to be a town meeting called to suppress him.

The Women's Journal corrects a statement to the effect that this fall will witness women voting for president of the United States for the first time. Women not only voted for the first three presidents of this Union, but they voted in New Jersey. A majority of the Jersey women were Federalists, however, and it is said their votes carried the state for John Adams against Thomas Jefferson. So when the Jeffersonians got possession of the Jersey legislature they disciplined the ladies by disfranchising all women in the state. So says the W. J.


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