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DESERET EVENING NEWS.

Wednesday, - May 7, 1890.

SALVAGE OF BIG FIRES.

A STRANGE BUSINESS THAT FLOURISHES IN CHICAGO.

There is but one house in the city, or in fact in the country, that makes a business of rehabilitating the salvage of great fires, and, as that house takes care of salvage of any and all kinds from fourteen different States, something of the scale upon which it is conducted can be imagined. As, of course, all the goods saved from the flames are badly injured by water, they must all be subjected to a drying process. For this purpose there is upon the second floor of the main building an immense drying room, which occupies the entire floor. In one corner of the room is an engine, with a huge pipe extending the length of the room, from which short pipes open downward, above a triple row of slats about fifteen feet long, which extend across the room at right angles to the wall the entire length of the building at intervals of three feet. These slats are set in galvanized hooks and depend from strong timbers; from them when visited by the writer hung festoon upon festoon of cloth of every hue and kind, some scorched at the edges, others whole and perfect, and all soaked.

The steam caused by their rapid drying and the intense heat of the room made the atmosphere almost unbearable, although the air is kept constantly in motion and constantly changing by the great revolving fans in the open windows.

THE PROCESS OF DRYING.

Connected with the engine is an ingenious arrangement for renewing the pile of plush and velvet goods injured by water. It consists of a large square box filled by steam from the engine. This box has a perforated zinc top, and while the manipulator turns the plush from side to side it is brushed by a revolving brush; the air from the revolving fans, near one of which it is placed, constantly circulating over the surface of the goods, dries it at the same time by evaporating steam. When this room is given over to the drying of dried fruits, nuts, beans, rice, tobacco, coffee, cigars, and groceries of every kind, they are arranged upon large perforated trays set upon slats in tiers one above the other. The air, at a moderate heat, is kept circulating over and around them by means of fans, and they are thus dried by evaporation without injury.

Flour is very little injured by water, as a paste forms upon the outer surface which preserves the flour within from damage; therefore it is simply necessary to remove the staves of the barrel, scrape off the outer paste from the flour, and place it in a large bin, from which it is sifted through an immense sieve, and reweighed and barreled. Tea preserves itself in somewhat the same way. A quantity of tea saved from the burning of a tea warehouse aggregating 1,200,000 pounds had been dried and was ready for reboxing, when it was found by a chemical analysis to be unfit for food on account of the river water with which it had been saturated. Although to all appearances it was as good tea as one ordinarily buys, and there was nothing unusual in its taste, being unfit for food, it could neither be sold nor given away. What was to be done?

As a last resort it was decided to feed the furnace with it, and for five months was the entire building (five stories) heated with tea for fuel.

HOW THE SALVAGE IS HANDLED.

Upon leaving the drying room and ascending to the third floor the writer found numberless women and girls busy assorting the dry goods which had just been returned from the drying room. Some that were so badly burned at the edges as to be useless for any other purpose were thrown aside to be sold to manufacturers of "cottage carpets," or to the paper mills, to whom thousands of tons of such refuse are sold every year. Other pieces, mainly cotton cloth, which is very inflammable, while not too badly burned for use, are still damaged so much as to be unsalable. These goods are given to aid societies and the poor, and, when suitable, to hospitals for bandages.

The fourth and fifth floors are devoted to measuring goods, making them into bolts, and clipping off burned edges, the clipping being done by a huge knife worked by a lever, which clips and presses a whole bolt by a single movement. They are then ticketed and made into lots and are ready for market. Hats and caps are subjected to pressure to expel the water, and are then dried and reblocked. It was interesting to observe the busy workmen and watch them take from the bin, which must have contained many thousands of hats, a crushed, shapeless thing, and watch it under their hands become as perfect a hat as could be bought from a fashionable hatter.

The other buildings, which are a part of the reclaiming establishment, are devoted mainly to the care of groceries and tobacco, to rebagging coffee, spices, nuts, etc., and to the renovation of cigars. This branch of the business is skillfully done. Tobacco, which quickly molds when wet, must be slowly and carefully dried in order that its flavor may not be injured, as must also cigars. The original packages are carefully counted, and an affidavit of their number made to the revenue department of the government, which furnishes free of charge the stamps for the new packages. Cigars receive new wrappers and boxes, and are sold in wholesale lots.

All the processes described have been invented and experimented with one by one. It has been the work of a lifetime to bring them to their present perfection. The apparatus which is used for measuring cloth, as well as the many contrivances for brushing and polishing goods of all kinds injured by smoke and water, from pecan nuts to brass bedsteads, was invented by the head of the house, as well as all the other processes referred to in this article.

Great skill is required in removing stock from the ruins, as lack of skill in this particular would add greatly to the losses.

The large cheap stores, as well as many wholesale dealers, are the purchasers of reclaimed salvage. The goods when they come into their hands are almost as perfect as when they came from the factory.—*Chicago Tribune.*

Death of The Marquis Tseng.

A Peking dispatch says that the Marquis Tseng, the well-known Chinese statesman and former minister to the courts of London, Paris, and St. Petersburg, is dead.

The Marquis Tseng, says the Philadelphia *Press*, was the head of one of the few Chinese families which according to the ideas of the west would be termed aristocratic. The Tsengs trace their ancestry back to old Tseng-tzu, who was not only one of the four disciples of Confucius, but also the author of the classic book called the "Ta-heo." Tseng Kwofan, the father of the statesman whose death is now announced, was elevated to the hereditary rank of nobility called "hou," which has been generally translated as marquis, for rallying the fighting men of central China for the siege of Nankin. Until his death in 1872 he was the foremost and most influential official in China.

The just deceased marquis, whose "Christian" name of Chitse it is indecorous, according to Chinese etiquette, to so much as mention, was born December 7, 1839. In accordance with a usage prevalent in China, which accords to the sons of all officials of the third rank and upward this privilege, he was admitted to study in the Kwo-tzu-chien or Imperial college—admission to which confers, after a stated interval, but without examination, a certain official rank. When the Taeping hordes poured across the plains of Hoonan to the great river he accompanied his father during the whole of the military operations which followed for a period of twelve years. Upon the death of his father the emperor gave him, as a special mark of his esteem, the right to assume at once the title of marquis without waiting as usual for the conclusion of the period of mourning.

After passing five years in retirement mourning the death of his father and brother the marquis went to Peking, whereupon he was elevated to the dignity of tang kwan, which may be rendered as brevet or expectant secretary of state. It was while waiting for some substantial appointment of sufficiently high position that he was selected in 1879 to succeed his relative, Kwo Sung Tao, as envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to the capitals of England and France. Notwithstanding his unique position among Chinese officials derived from the signal services of his father, he was in his fortieth year before he obtained a post equal to his natural capacity and affording scope for the talents he had cultivated.

In 1880, on the failure of Chung How's mission and the repudiation of the treaty of Livadia, the Marquis Tseng was appointed, in addition to his other missions, ambassador and envoy plenipotentiary to the court of St. Petersburg, and instructed to proceed without delay to Russia in order to reopen the negotiations on the subject of the province of Kuldja. He proceeded in the task with such tact and decision that not only did he succeed in inducing the Russian foreign office to reopen the question, but even to make a new treaty, by which China secured the whole of the province of Ili, with the exception of a small and unimportant district on the west of that region.

While living in London the marquis attracted much attention. At State affairs he appeared in gorgeous array, with a purple cap from which depended an enormous tassel, a heavy dark silk petticoat, and a yellow, wide-sleeved jacket. Although Tseng was reported to have a fortune of $100,000 a year, he lived without ostentation, and his revenues were devoted to the support of his clan in the province of Hon-Naur.

Since his return to China he has been engaged in the battle for railroads and other public improvements. He carried home with him from Europe progressive ideas which have since been felt in the modification of Chinese policy.

The marquis was brilliantly educated. He was a great Chinese etymologist and an author and poet of skill. He married the daughter of Liu Ting, the governor of Shang hai, and leaves three sons and two daughters, the youngest of whom was born in London ten years ago.

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William Grant ..... American Fork
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C. N. Smith ..... [illegible]
[illegible]
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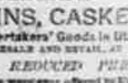

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