

TIDAL POWER STATION UNDER WAY IN FRANCE

What is believed to be the world's first tidal power station is in process of construction at Aberwrack, north of Brest. Due to the tidal variation at this point the power will not be constant. The present plan is to use it for the operation of an electro-chemical factory.

This experiment will be watched with especial interest because of the recently proposed American exploit of harnessing the tides of the Bay of Fundy.

OLDEST BEETLE FOSSIL FOUND IN NORTH CHINA

A scarab beetle of an age that makes King Tut's reign a mere tick of the watch ago, has been turned up in that most venerable land of old things, China. H. C. T'an, of the Chinese Geological Survey, working in Shantung, the sacred province of north China, found the fossil beetle in rocks of the Cretaceous period, or Age of Fishes, of an age estimated at fifteen million years. This makes the scarab easily the oldest beetle in the world. Evidently the genus has been very conservative in the matter of evolution, for this primitive scarab resembles very closely his present-day n-th degree great-grandchildren. He has been named *Proterocscarabaeus* or "earliest scarab."

SPECIAL THERMOMETERS TELL WHEN ORANGES ARE COLD

Fruit thermometers, similar to those used by the doctors, are being employed by the fruit growers of Southern California in order that they may know when the oranges are chilly. They are inserted in small openings in the skin of the orange and warn the grower of approaching freezes.

Twenty-seven degrees F. is the danger point for oranges, and the fruit thermometer makes it possible for the grove owner to start his heating plant in time to save his fruit. Otherwise, depending on ordinary sheltered thermometers he might start it too soon and lose by operating unnecessarily long hours. Or, being a thrifty soul, he might delay operations and lose his crop.

Loss by frost in 1924 was unusually small due to the fact that there was very little rain, and the trees were heavily mulched with bean straw. The frost loss was particularly great in 1923, due to a heavy freeze following mild weather.

More than 8,000,000 cattle are under supervision for the eradication of tuberculosis.

Methane gas may be collected from garbage and used for heating and lighting.

All cotton grown by the experiment station of the Louisiana State University is to be marketed cooperatively.