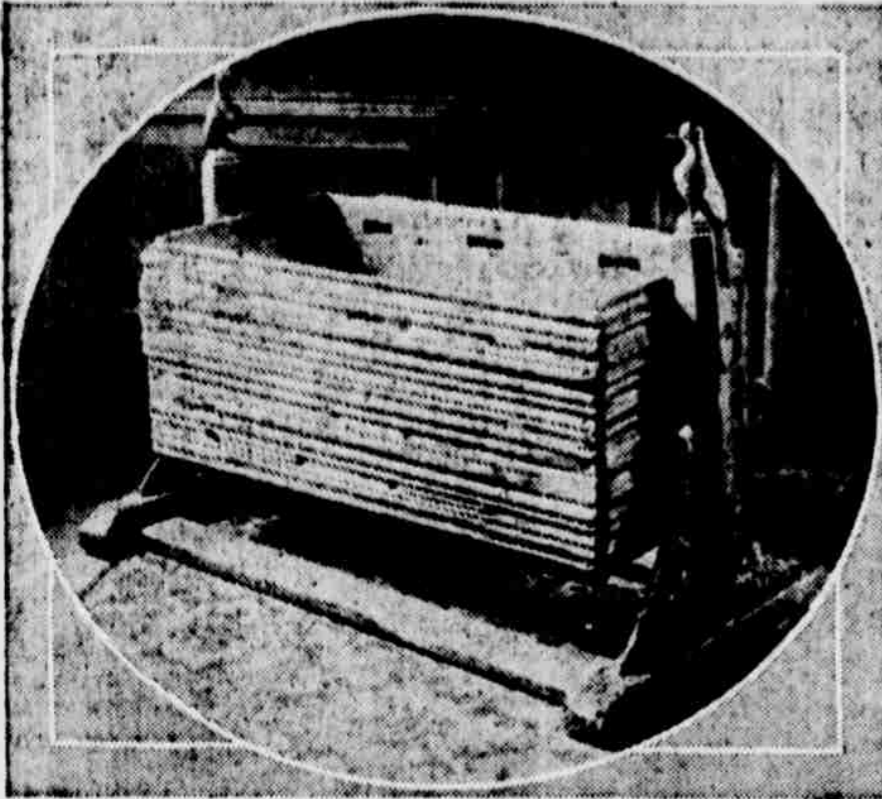


# Things Queer and Curious

## Cradle of King Henry V



Among the thousands of interesting objects placed in the recently established London History Museum in Kensington Palace is the cradle of King Henry V. It has carved ends and two carved birds on top of the supporting posts, but it would be considered very crude and uncomfortable by a modern baby of high degree.

## PAGAN CHIEF OF WUKARI



For a long time the pagan kingdom of Wukari, in Socoto, Nigeria, has been known to civilization, but even the conquering Fulani stopped short of subduing it. As befits such a record, the chief of Wukari is literally a great man, with an imposing figure. In the accompanying portrait he is carrying the staff of office, the emblem of his allegiance to Great Britain, and wears sandals adorned with ostrich feathers.

## ENGLAND HAS TIMUR RUBY

It has just become known that the famous Timur ruby, known in the days of the Mogul empire as the "Tribute of the World," is now among the British crown jewels. Some experts had supposed it was lost. The gem is a royal match to the Kohinoor diamond, the "Mountain of Light," which has been in the British regalia since 1850.

The Timur ruby is the largest in existence, weighing in its present shape a trifle over 352 carats. It is uncut, but polished. The first account of this ruby is in 1398, when the Ameer Timur, known in Europe as Tamerlane, plundered the Indian city of Delhi, and seized a great stock of princely gems. Tamerlane bequeathed the Timur ruby to his son and successor, Mir Shah Rukh, who passed it down in turn to his son, Mirza Ulugh Beg.

The ruby fell into the hands of a Persian king at the downfall of the Tartar empire. In 1612 the stone was presented by Shah Abbas I, greatest of the Safavi kings of Persia, to the Mogul Emperor Jehangir. At that time it had engraved on it the names of Tamerlane and his son and Shah Abbas. The Emperor Jehangir obliterated them and engraved on the ruby the names of himself and his father, Akbar the Great.

Nur Jehan, favorite wife of Jehangir, told him he ought not to have scraped off Tamerlane's name, to which the Persian monarch replied: "This jewel will more certainly hand down my name to posterity than any written history. The House of Timur may fall, but as long as there is a king this gem will be his."

Shah Jehan later put his name on the ruby and set the stone in the famous Peacock Throne. There it remained until Nadir Shah invaded India and sacked Delhi in 1739. He carried off the Timur ruby and 25,000 other gems. When the Nadir was assassinated in 1747 the ruby descended to Ahmad Shah, who founded the kingdom of Afghanistan. His son surren-

dered it as well as the Kohinoor diamond to Maharaja Ranjit Singh, and the English got the two jewels when they annexed the Punjab in 1840.

The Kohinoor was sent direct to Queen Victoria. The Timur ruby, after having been for some time in possession of the East India company, is said also to have been sent to the queen, but it got into the private royal collection and has been lost to public notice ever since. Its history was collected by King George on his Indian coronation tour.

## POPULATION OF THE WORLD

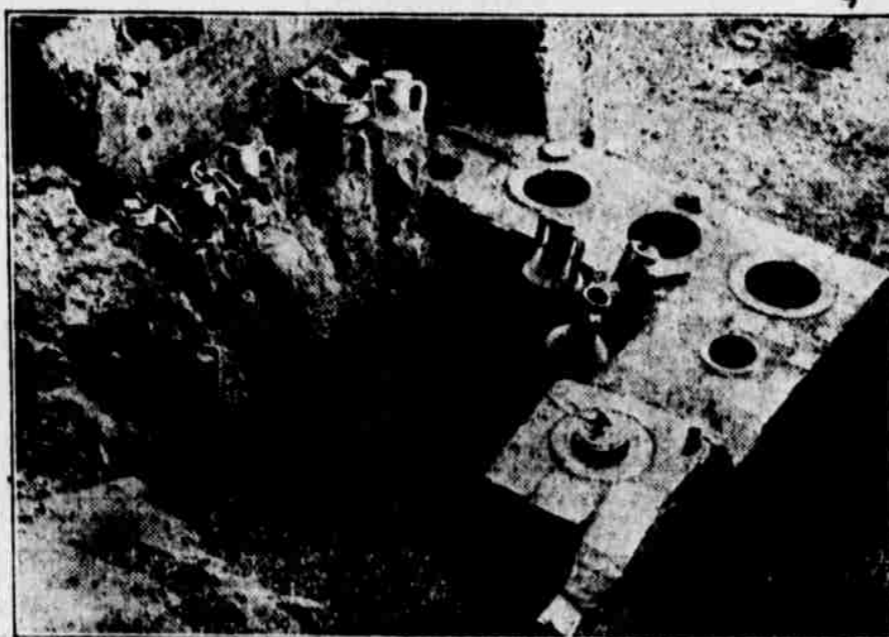
The total population of the world is now estimated at 1,700,000,000. This is based upon the most recent censuses, which all civilized countries now take, with a careful estimate of the number of inhabitants of uncivilized lands. The proportion of the sexes is known for 1,038,000,000 of these, the ratio being 1,000 males to 990 females. The ratio varies considerably in different places. In Europe there are 1,000 men to 1,027 women; in Africa, 1,000 men to 1,045 women; in America, 1,000 men to 964 women; in Asia 1,000 men to 961 women; in Australia, 1,000 men to 937 women.

The highest proportion of women is found in Uganda, where there are 1,467 to every 1,000 men. The lowest proportion is in Alaska and the Malay States, where there are, in the former, 391, and in the latter 389 women to every 1,000 men.

## CURING THE BEST CAVIAR

The finest caviar is the blagva prepared from the roe of the white sturgeon; little less fine is the sevriuga, prepared from the sterilized sturgeon. Both are put up at Astrakhan, Russia. According to United States Consul John H. Grout, stationed at Odesa, the roe is rubbed through a sieve with care not to break the grain. It falls into brine, where it remains for three or four hours, after which it is packed in sacks and allowed to drain. This is the only preparation given to the best caviar. The cheaper varieties are more strongly salted. Caviar is digested with ease and is one of the finest forms of nourishment, especially for the sick.

## Roman Bar Found In Pompeii



Recent excavations in Pompeii have revealed a number of houses in the Street of Abundance, and a wine shop or bar. The latter has the customary counter, with holes for the terra cotta wine jars, and a raised piece of masonry holding a copper boiler with cover made to close hermetically, which rests above a square hole for the fire. Various wine jars lean against the wall, on the counter are copper coins, and a small square box of bone contains gold and silver coins.

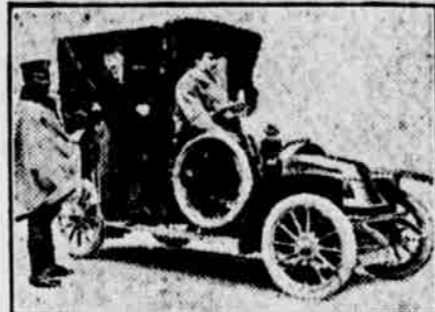
## "RUBBER" MADE OF SEAWEED

A substitute for hard rubber, gutta percha and leather, has just been put on the market in England under the name of seagumite. It is prepared from seaweed. The properties of the new discovery are said to be that it is non-inflammable, proof against heat, cold, oil and weather; its insulation resistance increases with immersion in water; it is unaffected by dilute sulphuric acid, which makes it especially valuable for use in storage battery jars and separators. It is well adapted for motor gears, switchboard panels, switch handles, steam and gas packings and to replace leather in beltings.

## NO ALMANAC FOR CHINESE

The Chinese public in the lower part of the nation is in a predicament this year owing to the lack of their usual almanac, which tells them what days are lucky, what are unlucky, and which gives them similar items of useful information. Each year hundreds of thousands of books are sold, and the publishers got them ready as usual this year. They put on new covers with proper dates, and kept the inside just as it was before, as they were accustomed to do for many years back. Then the new government stepped in and strictly prohibited their sale. The public now has no means of insuring itself perpetual good luck.

## PRINCE AS A CAFE RUNNER



Many royal personages today are skilled in some form of handwork, and not a few of them could earn their living. Prince Frederick Charles of Hohenzollern, a cousin of the emperor, is a good blacksmith; his brother, Prince Frederick Sigismund, has learned the joiner's trade; the crown prince of Roumania is an accomplished cabinet maker; the king of Bulgaria has learned to be an engine driver, and Princess Marie Louise of Schleswig-Holstein is a skilled worker in enamel. But Prince Kouleury Onbero, son of the late Prince Benhanzin of Africa, actually found it necessary to earn his living, and not having any trade, he went to Paris and became chasseur for a popular restaurant in the Bois de Boulogne.

## ROCK IS THE HOME OF BATS

Phillips rock, situated near Valley Springs, Llano county, Texas, is a limestone formation and rises abruptly out of a level plain to a height of about 80 feet. It covers an area of several acres. The serried sides show the effects of centuries of exposure to the elements. The projecting layers of the stone afford a means of climbing to the top of the elevation. The top is a level surface and it is a favorite resort for picnic parties. Its sides are penetrated by wide caverns which are the homes of countless bats.

## LONG TRIPS FOR DUCKS

New Zealand dealers recently shipped several consignments of frozen ducks to London, with good results. They sold for about 75 cents each, and when ready for the table are said to have averaged up to the English product.

## THREE BIG SHIPS HELD BY ONE COOK

Steamers Brazos, Comanche and Comal, Were All Late in Getting Away.

## OILER STARTS SCRAP

He Hit the Man Who Prepared the Food and Two Labor Unions Were Then Involved Which Delayed Sailings Several Hours.

New York—A cook of the steamer Brazos made an effort to defend himself the other afternoon against the charges of an oiler of the Firemen's union that he did not know how to cook. The last argument of men of the sea, coastwise or otherwise, is a scrap, and the oiler and the fireman had it. The cook got the worst of it and the skipper of the Brazos decided to leave the fireman behind.

The fireman appealed to his union, and all hands on three ships under the same management, the Brazos, the Comanche and the Comal, decided to back up the aggressive fireman. They said the cooks had not been treating any of them properly anyhow.

The Comanche was the only ship that got out of dock at the foot of Spring street with all her force of eighteen firemen. They refused, however, to work until they received assurances that the oiler would be taken back. She sailed promptly at 1 p. m. and got as far as Liberty island.

The skipper told of his plight by wireless and H. H. Raymond, head of the line, got busy trying to straighten out the trouble. The Atlantic Coast Seamen's union, which has general control of the subsidiary unions of coastwise seafarers, also got in the game, having a contract with the lines to furnish firemen who would stick.

The firemen of the Brazos and the Comal deserted their ships at the pier and stood by awaiting the result of negotiations between the representatives of the unions and Mr. Raymond.



The Cook Got the Worst of It.

who had volunteered to arbitrate the trouble. A tug with Marine Superintendent Rockwell went down to the Comanche, whose firemen had an independent grievance against a cook on their ship, and there was an earnest talk between the union representatives, Mr. Rockwell, the skipper of the ship, and the aggrieved fireman. Mr. Raymond wanted to get the three boats away, with their passengers and freight, and finally did after they had been held up more than four hours.

The oiler was taken back pending investigation of the case against the cook. The cook's union will make an effort to adjust its troubles with the firemen's union meanwhile.

## Count as Master of Kennels.

Pueblo, Colo.—Pueblo is probably the only city in the country which can boast of a member of the nobility for a dog handler. Count Von Bulow of Germany, well known in many sections of the United States and particularly in this city, who returned here a short time ago strictly "on his uppers," has just been tendered the position of master of the kennels in Pueblo.

During the last four or five years Von Bulow, claiming to be a real count, has been identified with some remarkable performances of various descriptions.

His most noteworthy accomplishment occurred three years ago when, it is alleged, he persuaded a Pueblo woman, Mrs. Christina Pfumner, who had \$300,000 in the bank, to marry him. Von Bulow, it is said, spent the money, his wife deserted him, then died, and he is back in Pueblo after an absence of two years.

## Ends Own Life at 80 Years.

Chicago—Charles Stein, for 30 years a manufacturer in Milwaukee, and a brother of former Superior Judge Philip Stein, shot and killed himself the other day at the Hyde Park Rest Cure, where he had gone for medical treatment. He was eighty years old. Suicide is attributed to ill health.

## In the PUBLIC EYE

## UNCLE JOE, 76, STILL YOUNG

"Uncle Joe" Cannon celebrated his seventy-sixth birthday at Washington the other day under a cloud of grief. The night before he exultantly announced that he was going to observe the day by dissipating wildly. A circus was in town and he was going to take the afternoon and, if necessary, the evening off and go to see the lions and tigers and the hippogriffe and the beautiful lady acrobats and the hair-raising trapezists.

Instead of that he went meekly up to the home on Congress street, of Massachusetts, with his daughter and spent the evening decorously there.

"Thought you were going to the circus," a reporter said to him.

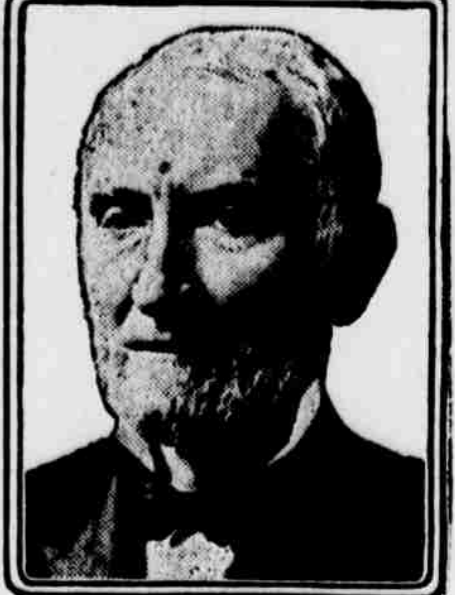
"I was," said Uncle Joe, "but it rained. And in the course of seventy-five—I mean seventy-six—years of quiet and irreproachable life I have found that whenever it rains and I go to a circus I always get wet.

"The people around me seem to be dry and happy. I always get that wet spot and am miserable. If seventy-five years—I should say seventy-six—each a man anything, it must be to profit by experience.

"It has taken me seventy-five years to learn anything, but now that I'm seventy-six I have learned this lesson, if not any other, and I have just sense enough not to go.

"So I'm up here at John Weeks', with Mrs. Weeks and my daughter, and 've missed the circus, but I'm happy and I'm not damp."

"Yes," said the ex-speaker, reflectively. "Quite a number of people came up to me and congratulated me on being a year nearer the grave. Funny thing to congratulate a man on. Don't you think so? But they meant it kindly."



## SULTAN A MEDIATIZED RULER



On March 30, France inaugurated a change in her political dealings with Morocco, by the signing of a treaty with the Sultan, Mulla-Abd-el-Hafid, establishing a French protectorate. France has had much experience in the government of the North African countries, which line the Mediterranean from Tripoli to the Atlantic ocean, and the decision to leave the government nominally in native hands is a wise one. It is evidently based on the success of her peaceful conquest of Tunis where the externals of Arab rule have been preserved. In Algeria, on the other hand, where the administration is directly and openly French, her domination aroused the bitter jealousy and hostility of the natives who saw in the elimination of their native rulers a threatened subversion of the Mahomedan religion, with the result that France has had to maintain her footing by rigorous military rule. Mulla Hafid, the present Sultan and nominal ruler of Morocco, is known to his subjects as the Prince of True Believers and is the thirty-sixth lineal descendant of All, uncle and son-in-law of the Prophet Mahomet. He revolted against his brother, the Sultan Mulla Aziz, in 1907, and his usurpation of the throne was recognized by the powers in January, 1909. He is a learned and devoted adherent of Islamism and has written several books on theology and philology.

## GOV. WEST TRUSTS CONVICTS

"The only honor lacking in the average criminal is that which is wrenched from him by incivility, distrust and inhumanity. Extend to a convict the courtesy, confidence and trust due him as a man and he will respond with more honor than the average person who has never seen the bars, the dungeon or the dismal gray walls of a penitentiary."

Basing his action on this bit of philosophy, Gov. Oswald West of Oregon recently threw open the barred doors of the Oregon state penitentiary and turned more than 200 convicts out into the inviting forests and fields to serve the remainder of their terms without guards, stripes, chains or stockades.

With one sweep the dungeon, the dark cell, the striped suits, the ball and chain and the gallows were wiped out as unnecessary parts of the institution and in their stead was established a unique and revolutionary, honor system. Since the first wholesale liberation convicts have been added to the list as they have proven eligible until the total number today is about 500. Honor is the only guard over fifteen convict camps which are maintained permanently in various parts of the state, in some cases many miles from the dingy walls of the prison, and in all cases in the forests where the only effort required to make an escape is to leisurely disappear.

The men are engaged in building roads, operating rock quarries and clearing land.



## VICE-PRESIDENT OF BIG SHOW



Reuben B. Hale, the vice-president of the Panama-Pacific International exposition, to be held in San Francisco in 1915, celebrating the completion of the Panama Canal, was one of a special commission appointed to make a trip abroad to lay before ministers of foreign affairs and army and navy authorities, the details and scope of the enterprise. The commission sailed on the Mauretania April 24th. Mr. Hale is a well-known merchant of San Francisco, who was the first person to suggest the holding of an exposition to celebrate the completion of the Panama Canal. The commission consists of Mr. John Hays Hammond, president; Mr. Reuben B. Hale, vice-president of the Panama-Pacific International exposition; Brigadier-General Clarence B. Edwards, U. S. A.; Mr. William T. Sesson, vice-president of the San Francisco chamber of commerce; Mr. Theodore Hardee, executive officer; Mr. Charles F. Wilson, diplomatic officer, and Mr. Archibald C. Emery, secretary. General Edwards and Admiral Staunton were detailed by President Taft to represent the army and navy. The commission is accredited by the department of state to American ambassadors and ministers abroad, and bear letters to the highest government authorities of the various countries visited.