

Sir Thomas Lipton goes on hoping in the blandest way.

A conductor wooed and won a lady in two minutes. A limited courtship.

Peaceful pugilists are justified in protesting against being classified with football players.

It beats all how the rest of living does go up. Even Panama Canals are \$200,000,000 higher.

Castellane wants "to control" his sons. Hope they make him do the same thing to himself first.

Eating a six-foot pie such as President Taft lost on the way, must be something like biting into a bass drum.

Kentucky takes occasion to report the largest tobacco crop in its history. That's how Kentucky is plugging along this year.

"Roosevelt bugs four elephants," says the headline. After which he probably slung them over his shoulder and stalked vigorously into camp.

The three sons of Count Boni de Castellane have been turned over to the care of the State. They were lucky boys to get away from both their parents.

The football reformers are beginning to gather, and we may expect soon to hear of reforms that will make the game as innocuous as billiards—until the next season opens.

At Upper Sandusky, Ohio, a man has been granted a divorce and \$100 alimony. Can anybody continue to doubt that woman is getting her rights in this country?

A British museum commission reports that Congo cannibals are very polite. They may be, but we do not care to associate with them because of the way in which they get their living.

A Washington judge declares that mothers-in-law are a much-abused class, and that many things said of them are slanders. Would he attack the very cornerstone of established American humor?

The historic instance when "paralipipidon" was used as a crushing epithet is recalled by an incident in a Southern city. A stranger in town was arrested for insulting a policeman to whom he had laughingly referred as "a walking encyclopedia."

Preparations are already being made for the reception of Roosevelt when he visits the capitals of Europe, and it is predicted that his welcome will beat anything that has ever hitherto been accorded to any monarch or president. It will be a stupendous triumph for the frock coat and the silk hat.

The railroad, whether it wishes it or not, holds different ground in the public regard from that of any other industry. It is a public service corporation, deriving its right to run trains, carry passengers and earn dividends from the people themselves. It cannot shut its doors behind the stone wall of secrecy. Much has been given to it, and much is expected of it. And in any event it cannot rightfully claim to be immune from discussion of the freest and fullest sort. If a railroad's operations are to suffer because the public is informed of them, those operations ought not to succeed.

Engineers who have been at work for a year planning an irrigation system for Mesopotamia have made their report to the Turkish government. They propose the building of a series of dams in the Euphrates and Tigris rivers to control the floods and impound the water for the irrigation of what was once the granary of the ancient world. They estimate that an expenditure of ten million dollars would produce so great results that it would earn an annual profit of nearly 20 per cent, and that if Mesopotamia were connected with the Mediterranean by rail, it would become one of the most prosperous districts in Asia. When the country was thickly inhabited, it was irrigated, but in the centuries since then engineering methods have improved so that water can be distributed much more successfully than was possible in ancient times.

The habit of reminiscence is a symptom of advancing age, and common to men and women of every time; but it is perhaps more fascinating to the elderly of to-day than to those of any previous generation. Such wonders as they have seen come to pass! The village life of twenty years ago has been revolutionized, at least for the women. In that day, when one wanted a friendly visit with a neighbor, the lady would take a recipe, or advice about the baby's cough, one put on one's bonnet and shawl and went to her house. Now we take down a telephone receiver for our talk. Moreover, the bonnet and shawl have given place to hat and coat. In 1889, when one journeyed to the city for a day of shopping and pleasure, it was a long-anticipated and considered matter, involving the family horse and phaeton or a horse-car, then a slow-moving railway train, connecting with another horse-car. Now trolley, "electrified" railroad and automobile whirl us from village to city and back again before our mothers would have made up their minds for the trip. Twenty years ago "setting dressed" was a simple matter, requiring no help beyond a word of friendly criticism from daughter or husband. Now the services of daughter or husband, or both, must be enlisted, and it is currently reported that the village old maid who lives alone has to go to a

neighbor to be "hooked up" every afternoon! We need not walk to the postoffice, since our letters are dropped at our doors, nor to the market, since the telephone takes our order, nor even to church; for the sermon and the music may come to us over the wire. Yet we were never so busy with gadding and going. Will the advent of air-ships complicate still further? Or life of the twentieth century? Or shall we presently be able to retire at will into the calm of the Fourth Dimension, and take there the rest cure which is becoming a necessary antidote even for village life?

The Secretary of Agriculture sings a song of billions and of dazzling prosperity. But he has in mind the proper use of prosperity. He says: "Year by year the farmer is better prepared to provide the capital and make the expenditures needed to improve his agriculture and to educate his children for farm life and work." Let us suppose that the farmer has the capital and then let us see how his children are to be educated. The Secretary's report shows that opportunities are offered them in abundance. States are now vying with one another in their support of agricultural schools and colleges. Several of the biennial State appropriations for these institutions have approached or passed the half-million mark, notably in Montana (\$457,000), Pennsylvania (\$526,000), and Kansas (\$671,000). The growth of the agricultural college is also indicated by the number and character of college buildings completed during the year. Among the more important of these were the following college buildings: Georgia, \$100,000; Iowa, \$406,000; Maine, \$50,000; Michigan, \$175,000; Missouri, \$100,000, and Montana, \$80,000. Wisconsin has completed a \$75,000 live stock pavilion and California has started work on a \$200,000 agricultural building." Eat, west and south these investments are made, and the study of agriculture is being introduced into high schools and elementary schools. There are extension courses, boys' and girls' clubs; there are movable schools and farmers' institutes for adults, and connected with the entire educational system are the experiment stations. If the farmer encourages his children to seize their opportunities they should see that there is much more to excite an intelligent, studious, scientific interest in the work of the farm than can be found in by far the larger part of the work that is done in cities. And farm life now is by no means a life of deprivation. It has the modern conveniences, enjoys, as a matter of course, what were considered city luxuries a few years ago. Surely farmers' children should remain on the soil whether city men return to it or not.

The British government has organized a special department in connection with its national physical laboratory for the investigation of problems of aerial construction and navigation. An automatic time signal sent out from the Hamburg observatory by telephone to all instruments connected with the system of that city has been heard as far as Copenhagen and Paris. In the spring of 1909 seventeen American robin redbreasts, male and female, after being confined for a time in a large aviary near Galford, in Surrey, England, were set at liberty. They built nests in the surrounding trees, and in a short time there were some thirty young robins added to the colony. Efforts are being made to retain them in the neighborhood during the winter, and it is hoped that thus the American redbreast may become a permanent addition to the bird population of England. The Electrician notes some interesting facts about the ventilation of the great Simpton tunnel. The change from steam to electric traction has not altered the arrangements for ventilation. The two entrances, at Brigou, Switzerland, and Isella, Italy, are covered, except at the moment when a train enters or leaves, by huge cloth screens, which are automatically raised and lowered by electricity. Two electric fans, nearly ten feet in diameter, and making 350 turns per minute, drive air into the tunnel at Brigou at the rate of 1,000 liters per second, and a similar station at Isella draws air from the tunnel. The air pressure on the screen at Brigou amounts to four kilograms per square meter, while on the screen at Isella the pressure is twelve kilograms per square meter. Max Bermann of Budapest has recently shown that the spark rays made by the incandescent particles thrown off from iron and steel when put upon an emery wheel afford a means of testing the composition of the metals. Carbon steels, manganese steel, and steels containing tungsten and nickel, each give a characteristic spark, of different forms and colors, which are easily distinguishable. The form of the spark picture changes with the quantity of carbon. Even so slight a difference as .01 per cent of carbon, Mr. Bermann says, can be detected in this manner. Pointed branching lines denote carbon steel; tool steel shows the appearance of "blossom" on the branches; tungsten steel gives red-streaked rays and shining points, "with little balls thrown out of the formation," and "an explosion appearance in the articulation" denotes the presence of molybdenum, vanadium or titanium.

Invariable Regret. "Does your husband enjoy a horse race?" "No," answered young Mrs. Torkins. "If he wins he is sorry he didn't bet more, and if he loses he is sorry he bet at all."—Washington Star.

EDITORIALS

Opinions of Great Papers on Important Subjects.

DRINKING AT MEALS.

NE by one old and cherished ideas are giving way before the simple application of practical tests. Perhaps no other one idea with reference to eating habits has become more widespread and more persistent than that it is injurious to drink water at meals. The old medical rule against eating before going to bed has been discontinued by the medical profession itself for a long time now, and it has been repeatedly shown that a reasonable amount of food taken before retiring is beneficial to many nervous people, and is not infrequently a cure for insomnia. The rule against drinking at meals has been more persistent, but it appears to be doomed, now that the professors in the physiological chemistry department of the University of Illinois have set about making experiments to prove the digestive value of copious draughts of water taken while eating. One quart of water at each meal was the prescription followed, and it was found that the subject actually thrived on it. The theory is that the water, diluting the saliva, "causes the digestive fluid to assume greater digestive activity."—Manchester Union.

THE TWO-DOLLAR BILLS MUST GO.

WISH to simplify coinage has led to the disappearance of many coins which it was supposed would be a popular convenience. The \$3 and \$1 gold pieces have gone. The last was too small and the first never was needed. It was supposed by the men who suggested its coinage that the 20-cent piece would come in handy. It proved to be a nuisance because it was so near the size of the quarter dollar. It did not help materially in making change. So it did not last many years. The silver half dime was abandoned because too small. The 2-cent piece in silver or nickel had a long life, but was discarded finally. So was the 2-cent piece. It was agreed that there was no need of a coin between the cent and the 5-cent piece.

Now it is proposed to get rid of the \$2 bill for a similar reason. The only objectors thus far are the bank tellers. They say it saves them time in handling money when there is a good deal to be handled. Of course it takes only half as long to run through a hundred dollars in twos as when it is made up of ones. But the bank tellers are not the only persons to be considered. There are notes for their special accommodation—\$5,000 and \$10,000 bills, which the common people never own and seldom see. The men who handle money on a small scale—the petty dealers, for instance—would be glad to see the \$2 bill disappear. They consider it somewhat of a nuisance. The twos certainly ought to be called in and converted into ones. There ought to be in circulation more bills of that useful denomination. There is never a surplus of them, so great and so constant is the demand.—Chicago Tribune.

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A SLAP AT HIGH BROWS.

WE ARE overburdened with high brows," says Thomas A. Edison. "We have too many professors and academicians." This surely is a busy world, and the harder a man works in it the more he discovers there is to be done, the more anxious he is to see things done, the less time he takes to brush the dust of granite from his hands before he assumes the next job, the greater the irritation and impatience he displays toward those he terms—with little courtesy—the unproductive. It is given to everyone to catch occasional glimpses of wonders that could be accomplished, of marvels which could be digged from the earth, of happiness which could be brought about, if only such and such work were undertaken. Mr. Edison probably has had more of these great visions than anyone else in this country. It irks him that men should muse over ancient manuscripts or dispute over species of shellfish. Rather, he thinks, should they be up and doing, holding nature up for comforts, soring content out of the energies of sky and earth. And still human nature yearns for the wisdom which cannot be utilized. It loves to gorge itself with the indigestible facts of history and science and metaphysical speculation. How fine for humanity it would be if all worked all the time to cure his ill—and how fearfully, fearfully wearisome!—Toledo Blade.

RESPECTING THE LAW.

THE American people need to have more respect for the law," sagely remarks the chief Police Commissioner of the city of St. Louis, relative to the recent outbreak of crime in the Missouri metropolis. True, but what the American people need most is to be taught to respect the law by being punished when they break the law. Abstract ideas of respect for the law as a great moral engine count for but little with a large part of our population. One man in the penitentiary is often worth more than a thousand lectures upon the beauty of law observance. It is often said that it is much easier to enforce a law in Great Britain and upon the continent of Europe than in this country, because the people of the older countries respect the law more. It would be more proper to say that they fear the law more. If a man breaks the law in England, the odds are about 50 to 1 that he is punished, and punished promptly. Punishment is frequently a great aid in making the law respected.—Louisville Post.

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THE BOY AND THE CENT.

Mr. Peterson did not mind being called a moralist. In fact, he was rather proud of the habit, which he had cultivated, of discouraging in a high, ethical tone about whatever came to his notice. Mrs. Peterson, a silent, hard-working woman, listened to her lord's remarks faithfully, applauding and commenting at what she thought were appropriate spots. One day Mr. Peterson returned from the village hot with righteous indignation and overexertion. "These people," he said, frowning himself rapidly with a palm leaf. "These people and their children! I am almost glad we haven't any children, Maria, for if we had I'm sure we should train them to be just as thoughtless and ill-mannered as the rest of the world."

"What—" began Mrs. Peterson, in her soft voice. "Begging!" answered her husband. "Plain, every-day begging! And John Lincoln's son, too! The little rascal! I don't think he's six yet." "He was five last May," replied Mrs. Peterson, with a readiness which showed that although she herself had no children, her interest in her friends' offspring was keen. "Anyway," maintained Mr. Peterson, "his old enough to know better." This was somewhat illogical, seeing that only a moment before a virtue had been made of the lad's youth. However, Mr. Peterson was a moralist. "He's old enough to know better," said Mr. Peterson, "and he doesn't do better. This very morning, for example," he paused to emphasize again the fact that it was to-day, as if the date made an important difference—"this very morning I was passing by John Lincoln's house on Vernon street and there, in the front yard, was his son John, junior, playing with the puppy. No sooner did the boy see me than he said, 'Please, Mr. Peterson, give me a cent.'"

"I am surprised that Sarah Lincoln's boy—" began Mrs. Peterson. "I am not surprised at anything in this world," announced Mr. Peterson, "after the things I've seen and heard in my life. I am disappointed. So I said to him, 'What do you want with a cent, John?' And to this he replied, 'Buy something.' If any boy of mine had a boy—were seen on the public streets—" "What did you say to him then?" asked Mrs. Peterson, becoming a little impatient to get to the point of the story, as she had cakes in the oven. "Why," said Mr. Peterson, "I happened to have an extra cent in my pocket, and so I lectured him for several minutes on the crime of begging, and—" "Then you gave him the cent!" said Mrs. Peterson, with an odd smile on her lips. Her husband nodded. "I thought I might as well."—Youth's Companion.

MILLIONS IN THE PEANUT.

Gooder. Now a National Food. Brings His Returns to Farmer. The discovery of the new world gave to the people of the earth five treasures that are perennial, cotton, corn, potatoes, tobacco and the peanut. By grace of the first four, whole nations have been saved from extermination. By grace of the last, a food which proved as important as maize

is added to the resources which the whole world can utilize. Like those invaluable staples—maize and the potato—the peanut originated in America, a native wild vine of Brazil. For years and years after some few of the pods were brought north as vegetable curiosities it held its place as a humble garden vine, perpetuated only because some few of the earlier generations happened to have a taste for them, as you have to be born to olives. America, the birthplace of the peanut, really lingered behind all the rest of the world in its exploitation. Until the Civil War it was grown in some of the gardens of the south, harvested, as now, just prior to the danger of frost, and laid away for a few months, to be hauled eagerly by the children as a Christmas dainty. Now it occupies a permanent position among the nation's food staples for man, beast, bird and fowl. "Every living thing likes peanuts," the Virginia planters declare, and they prove it, all the way from the elephants at the circus to the turkeys on the farm. The greatest single market is at Suffolk, Va., where 4,000,000 bushels are handled annually and eight big factories are in operation. The labor is largely negro. The whole area of the South Atlantic States is dotted with peanut acreages and the spread has gone westward until it includes California. At the harvest the vines are plowed from the ground and, with pods attached, are stacked around pools for drying. Late in the fall the fields are occupied by whole families of negroes, who pick the pods from the dried vines by hand. Machine picking is practicable, but, unlike machine planting and digging, the results are an inferior grade because of indiscriminate collection of prime and defective pods. Farmers haul their wagonloads of pods to the nearest factory, where the weight is credited to the growers. The whole cleaning and grading process which follows works by gravity, for the pods are raised from the farmers' wagons to the top floor of the factory, and every process ensuing runs them down to a lower floor. Sorted, cleaned and certain selected grades polished, they are finally bagged by the same automatic process and are ready for dispersal.

The farmer is far from having exhausted his profits when he disposes of his crop to the factory. There are the big piles of culls, which he has left, to feed to his poultry and pigs. There are the vines, which, properly cured, make the finest kind of hay for his cows and there is all the nitrogen which the growth of the vine has left in the soil, fixed in its root nodules. An acre of first-class peanuts, calculating a ton of vines at \$8 to \$10, and 60 bushels of peas at \$40 to \$60, gives an income of between \$48 and \$70. The cost of growing such an acre of peanuts, including seed and fertilizers, is variously estimated at from \$12 to \$25. There is a net return of from \$26 to \$45 on the crop per acre, an amount of money sufficient to pay plenty of farmers well. The farmer is, however, only the beginning of this immensely profitable annual enterprise. Three-fourths of the annual crop, some 9,000,000 bushels, ultimately sell at 5 cents a pint. More than \$25,000,000 comes in nickels and dimes from the pockets of the people for the peanuts sold that way. The 3,000,000 bushels remaining go into confections, and the export trade at \$1 per bushel; so there's \$3,000,000 more. The farmers' utilization of the "waste" products nets them about \$4,000,000. In all, it has been calculated that peanut now brings a revenue of \$36,000,000 annually, without reckoning on the increased fertility it has conferred upon the fields it occupies. That amount is nearly 50 cents a year for every man, woman and child in the United States. We certainly do like peanuts.

Scott As A DUNCE. Great Author Gave Successor Fee for Keeping His Place Warm. Once there was a dunce. The name of this dunce was Walter Scott, and when he was at school he was such a dull boy that his teacher called him "the great blockhead," according to the Philadelphia Record. But Walter Scott did not cry and he always tried to do his best, and afterward, when he grew up to be a man, he became famous all the world over because of the great books which he wrote. And because he was so famous he was made a knight, and afterward he was known as Sir Walter Scott. And yet he was such a dunce at school! One day, when he had become a famous man, Sir Walter Scott went on a visit to the very same school where he had been called "the great blockhead." He talked to the teacher and to the boys, and then he said: "You have shown me the clever boys. Now show me the dunce. You have one, haven't you?" The teacher, therefore, called up a poor little boy, who was very unhappy at being brought before such a famous man as Sir Walter Scott. Sir Walter smiled cheerily at the little boy, and said: "So you are the dunce, are you?" "Yes, sir," said the little boy. Sir Walter patted him kindly on the head, and said: "Well, my good fellow, I was the dunce when I was here, so here is half a crown for keeping my place warm!" I rather think that every boy in the school must have wished he was the dunce then! Only One Way He Could Get Even. Frank Bertram, a well-known actor, tells the following story: "I was playing at Leicester during the fair week and in the market place there were several merry-go-rounds. I noticed one melancholy individual, who, despite the fact that he was apparently suffering greatly, persisted in riding on one of the merry-go-rounds. "Eventually I spoke to him and asked him if he liked it. "The man replied, 'No, I don't like it a bit; the blessed thing makes me ill.' "I then asked him why he persisted in riding, and his reply was, 'I can't help it. The man who owns this roundabout owes me money, and the only way I can get even is by taking it out in rides.'—London Daily Telegraph.

BITS FOR BOOKWORMS

The Roosevelt hunting trip gives distinct interest to a recent book, "In Wildest Africa," by Peter MacQueen. This is the record of a hunting and exploration trip through Uganda, Victoria Nyanza, the Killimanjaro region and British East Africa, with an account of the ascent of the snow fields of Mount Kibo in Central East Africa and a description of the various native tribes.

Arnold Bennett, the English novelist, has the following to suggest about one way of getting the best out of a book: "The only infallible way of getting full value and permanent joy out of a good book is to read it twice. To read a book once is merely to savor it. Every good book will seem better at a second perusal than at the first, and the same statement applies to many volumes that just miss being good."

Messrs. Eaton and Matsui are to publish a series of short biographies of the founders of Methodism, an effort to bring these worthies "out of bulky histories into the light of the modern Church." A beginning has been made with the life of Francis Asbury, first bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The sketch is written by Dr. George P. Matsui, and Bishop Daniel A. Goodsell supplies an introduction.

One poet, at least, has come to honor in his own country. A marble bust of the Manx poet, T. E. Brown, whose delicately beautiful verse is an inalienable part of English poetry, has just been unveiled at Douglas, in the Isle of Man, the Speaker of the House of Keys performing that duty. The Keys adjourned for the purpose of attending the ceremony in company with the Governor, Lord Raglan. It took place in the Town Hall, and the Mayor and Corporation were among those who listened to the panegyric on Brown, pronounced by the aforesaid Speaker of the House of Keys.

Hilaire Belloc pointed out in a recent lecture in London that in fiction there are at present two schools in France, Maurice Barrès being at the head of one and Anatole France at the head of the other. Barrès is the leader of the "reactionary," or religious, school of thought; he defends Catholicism in religion, and nationality in politics. Anatole France, on the other hand, is a conspicuous example of the men who are in revolt against the clerical education of their youth. In other words Barrès is the leader of the clericals and France of the moderns. Mr. Belloc regards the situation as critical and his sympathies are naturally with Barrès.

WAS SHE A DEMON?

Differences of Opinion Regarding Late Empress Dowager of China. The late great Empress Dowager of China had luxurious tastes and was fond of pomp in all of her doings, writes Frank G. Carpenter from Peking, China. She spent money like water, and used fabulous sums to keep up her palaces. During the last year of her life she had planned a new home at the Summer Palace, and had ordered the architects to draw the designs. The buildings were to cost 4,000,000 taels, or about \$3,000,000, and the work was to have been begun in 1909. The plans were made, but, owing to the Dowager's death, they will not be carried out. I am told that her majesty gave equally elaborate directions as to her mausoleum and that it is being constructed on a magnificent scale.

One hears all sorts of stories about the Empress Dowager. All acknowledge her ability and say she will rank among the great queens of all time. There is no question as to her strength of character. Some extol her to the skies as an angel of mercy and light, while others say she was a demon incarnate, and they compare her private life to that of the Russian Empress, Catherine the Great. As to her demonic character, her detractors say she poisoned her husband, the Emperor Hsien Feng, and thereby became ruler in connection with another Empress, whom he married before her. They suspect that the death of that Empress was caused by the Dowager's machinations and plots, who then reigned supreme during the minority of her son, the Emperor Tung Chieh, who was a baby when chosen.

When Tung Shieh had reached the age of 15, at which time he might aspire to rule independently, he died of small-pox, and there are some malicious enough to say that his mother, the Empress Dowager, assisted him on the fairy ride to a far country. They allege that he had begun to resist her domination, and that the small-pox was really an overdose of opium pills. They say also that after his death the suicide of his wife, the Empress, who threw herself into a well, was assisted by this same great woman, and that other crimes of a similar nature may be laid to her charge. There are many people, however, who will tell you that all these charges of her being an assassin are false and malicious.

LIFE IS CHEAP IN RUSSIA.

A letter from Cherson, Russia, describing an execution, says that military trials and the speedy execution which follow them have been of such common occurrence that the public mind has become blunted. "Sentenced to death and executed" has become a stock phrase, and the oft-repeated gallows stories have influenced the minds of children to such an extent that they have a game called "trial," in which the brutalities of which they have heard are enacted. The writer says that the playing of this game by a number of boys in that town, nearly resulted in the death of one little fellow, who had been selected to play the part of the prisoner. He was tried, found guilty and sentenced to be executed. Only the timely interference of elders prevented the tragedy. What hope is there for a country where the rising generation shows this spirit? asks the correspondent.

Cows with Earrings.

By an official decree issued not long ago every cow in Belgium must wear earrings. This decree embraces all animals of the bovine species that have attained the age of three months, and is based on hygienic grounds. Belgian breeders are obliged to keep a strict account of the animals raised by them, and the ring, whereon is engraved a number, is fastened in the animal's ear for the purpose of preventing the substitution of one animal for another.

Coal Was First Used as an Illuminant in 1826.

Coal was first used as an illuminant in 1826. The folding envelope was first used in 1839. The period of deepest sleep varies from 3 o'clock to 5. The first school for the blind was established in 1791 in Liverpool. A patent on a horseshoe designed to prevent the stumbling of horses was granted in Panama four years ago. Notwithstanding the duty of 40 per cent a barrel, large quantities of apples from Oregon, Washington and other states are consumed in western Canada. Recently published statistics show that during the last year the number of births in France has diminished by 12,682. The number of deaths has increased by 25,012, and the population of France has decreased by 28,200. In Cuba they fatten little pigs on coconuts, and bake them into Christmas turkeys, and fine they say they are. Pick out coconuts that are heavy with water and sound solid when struck together. In Barbados and Trinidad they plaster pitch over the monkey eyes to keep the nut from spoiling.—New York Press. Germany's minister of the interior has addressed to the heads of the various governments within the empire a circular recalling the information that the Kaiser from his private purse makes a grant amounting to about \$15 on the birth of an eighth son in any family, of the same father and mother. The Kaiser also promises to stand as godfather to the lucky eighth son. In an interview published in the Kieler Neueste Nachrichten, Grossadmiral von Koester says many interesting things about his visit to New York, among them the following: "In the absence of President Taft, who was away on a trip to the Mexican frontier, the place of honor was taken by the Vice-President of the United States, Secretary of State Sherman, of New York." "Though 'Snooks' as a name is hardly beautiful, its origin is respectable enough. Kindly people picked up a little 'founbling boy' at Sevenoaks, reared him, and started him in life, after baptizing him 'William Sevenoaks.' He became lord mayor of London in the reign of Henry V., was knighted, and died in 1432. He left benefactions to his native place that were doubtless misused, as was his name, which degenerated to Snooks."

ails, unable to enter the inner harbor of Aden and unwilling to suffer the expense of lighters, have dropped the call entirely by enlarging their bunkers sufficiently to take enough fuel to carry them from Suez to Colombo and vice versa. To remedy this state of affairs, the Aden port trust at the beginning of the year decided to make extensive improvements, dredging the entire area of the mooring basin in the inner harbor and the entrance channel, the Torontic Star says. Work was begun in March last, and although the contract called for completion within two years, it is now certain that by the end of February next the entire project will have been carried out, so that the very largest vessels that can now pass through the Suez canal will be accommodated in the inner harbor of Aden.

This much-needed activity in Aden inner harbor forms a parallel to the vast improvements now carried on at Singapore, that other citadel of British imperialism. There, too, competition had made itself keenly felt for some years, thanks to the awakening activity of the Dutch in making the best of their opportunities in the Malay archipelago. Of the rivals that have arisen to Singapore, the best known, but not the only one, is Sabang, at the entrance of the straits of Malacca. This competition, so surprising and frequently alarming to British interests, is proving a needed stimulus to British enterprise, to which a too-long-enjoyed monopoly had been wholly unfavorable. The magnificent works undertaken both at Aden and Singapore, together with the project for a new naval base at Bombay, are irrefutable and welcome evidences of Great Britain's continued supremacy, while the fact that the Suez canal, when fully dredged in another five years, will allow far larger vessels to pass through than at present is a guaranty for still vaster improvements to be carried out by Great Britain in the harbors of her empire.

QUEER STORIES

The folding envelope was first used in 1839. The period of deepest sleep varies from 3 o'clock to 5. The first school for the blind was established in 1791 in Liverpool. A patent on a horseshoe designed to prevent the stumbling of horses was granted in Panama four years ago. Notwithstanding the duty of 40 per cent a barrel, large quantities of apples from Oregon, Washington and other states are consumed in western Canada. Recently published statistics show that during the last year the number of births in France has diminished by 12,682. The number of deaths has increased by 25,012, and the population of France has decreased by 28,200. In Cuba they fatten little pigs on coconuts, and bake them into Christmas turkeys, and fine they say they are. Pick out coconuts that are heavy with water and sound solid when struck together. In Barbados and Trinidad they plaster pitch over the monkey eyes to keep the nut from spoiling.—New York Press.

Germany's minister of the interior has addressed to the heads of the various governments within the empire a circular recalling the information that the Kaiser from his private purse makes a grant amounting to about \$15 on the birth of an eighth son in any family, of the same father and mother. The Kaiser also promises to stand as godfather to the lucky eighth son. In an interview published in the Kieler Neueste Nachrichten, Grossadmiral von Koester says many interesting things about his visit to New York, among them the following: "In the absence of President Taft, who was away on a trip to the Mexican frontier, the place of honor was taken by the Vice-President of the United States, Secretary of State Sherman, of New York." "Though 'Snooks' as a name is hardly beautiful, its origin is respectable enough. Kindly people picked up a little 'founbling boy' at Sevenoaks, reared him, and started him in life, after baptizing him 'William Sevenoaks.' He became lord mayor of London in the reign of Henry V., was knighted, and died in 1432. He left benefactions to his native place that were doubtless misused, as was his name, which degenerated to Snooks."

A letter from Cherson, Russia, describing an execution, says that military trials and the speedy execution which follow them have been of such common occurrence that the public mind has become blunted. "Sentenced to death and executed" has become a stock phrase, and the oft-repeated gallows stories have influenced the minds of children to such an extent that they have a game called "trial," in which the brutalities of which they have heard are enacted. The writer says that the playing of this game by a number of boys in that town, nearly resulted in the death of one little fellow, who had been selected to play the part of the prisoner. He was tried, found guilty and sentenced to be executed. Only the timely interference of elders prevented the tragedy. What hope is there for a country where the rising generation shows this spirit? asks the correspondent.

By an official decree issued not long ago every cow in Belgium must wear earrings. This decree embraces all animals of the bovine species that have attained the age of three months, and is based on hygienic grounds. Belgian breeders are obliged to keep a strict account of the animals raised by them, and the ring, whereon is engraved a number, is fastened in the animal's ear for the purpose of preventing the substitution of one animal for another.

Coal Was First Used as an Illuminant in 1826.

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