

SUBSTITUTE FOR RUBBER. The story from Philadelphia that a man of that city has discovered a substitute for rubber which he manufactures from various kinds of waste will be accepted with a grain of salt until the facts he claims are fully established. It has long been the dream of chemists that a substance which would take the place of rubber to many of the forms in which it is used would ultimately be discovered, but, like the famous passage to Cathay in the time of Columbus, the result has eluded pursuit. It may be put down as a fact that some time, somewhere, such a substitute will be found, says the Washington Herald. It may not have all the qualities of rubber, which seems to have been a special gift of Providence to mankind, of a value impossible of replacement or counterfeit. But the uses of rubber have extended so enormously, and the supply is so limited in tropical countries, that the mind of the world has been, as it were, concentrated upon the proposition of finding some substance which would, under proper condition, take its place. Until now no such product has been found.

One notable feature of present day drama is the decline in popularity of the triangle theme, which thus bids fair to lose its identifying adjective "eternal." Cast your eyes over the failures of the past few seasons, and you will find that plays dealing chiefly with ill-mated couples and unhappy love intrigues bulk large in the storehouses, says Munsey's Magazine. The public has sickened of the unsavory mess. By the same token, we are growing tired of plots which call for so-called "strong emotional" work on the part of the heroine. This is distinctly a material and nonsentimental age. Glance over recent successes, and you cannot fail to note the presence in each one of them of something more substantial than love.

The Yonkers judge who decided that the woodpecker has the right to pry his vocation of tapping the trees in early morn, no matter whom he wakes, indirectly gives his sanction to a whole lot of sleep-disturbers. The cock's shrill clarion, the quacking of the ducks and geese, the squealing of the pigs and the barking of the dogs all get license from this judicial declaration. Incidentally as newspaper comments indicate that the defendant woodpecker indulged this habit as early as 4 a. m., a woodpecker who drills for worms at that hour during this season of the year must be a night hawk.

While we are talking and writing a great deal and expending a great deal of thought on the subject of school gardening, and the promotion of kindred activities which lead children to take an interest in the soil and the possibilities of its cultivation, it would be just as well for us not to overlook the importance of this same subject of the soil and its products to that class of city grownups who have the ground or can get the ground for the cultivation of a kitchen garden.

A Gotham judge in a suit over a suit decided that the dress in dispute was a fit. This nearly gave the fair defendant one, and proved again to the satisfaction of injured femininity the intrinsic injustice in our man-made decisions.

A Pittsburg physician declares that the human race will gradually extinguish itself. Another expert holds that the quantity is too far in excess of the quality. In the meantime, the race is going on enjoying itself or making itself miserable, as usual, and probably will continue to do so long after conflicting theories and theorists are forgotten.

A Boston medical authority says the time is coming when every household will have its electrical apparatus to supply its members unconsciously with the electrical energy they need to keep them in a perfect state of health. That's all very well, but down this way we will have to know first what it's going to cost. We are a little sensitive about our electricity bills.

A young man who steals from his employers for the purpose of providing a pleasant honeymoon for his chorus girl bride may mean well, but it will have to be admitted that he is misguided.

A scientist arises to deny the theory that telephone mouthpieces are full of germs. Possibly they are destroyed by the superheated language that results when a patron is told that the line is busy.

Society folk at Newport protest against the practice of shooting big guns in that vicinity, but they would turn flipflops of joy to welcome the duke of Connaught and other big guns from across the sea.

It is hard to concentrate one's energies on the best means of saving the country while one is willing to hear the score.

Many a man refrains from deserting his post of duty and going to the ball game, for fear that he will meet his boss there.

A New York woman has been fined \$500 for gasping. If she is cured, the money will have been well spent.



CONG. ISAAC R. SHERWOOD

MEMORIAL DAY rolls around each year the thoughts of the veterans of the nation's mightiest conflict revert to their comrades-in-arms—in the ranks of both the Grand Army of the Living and of the dead—and to the stirring incidents they themselves witnessed. To them Memorial Day is a day of recollections so vivid that eternity alone can efface them; a day when their dreams hark back to the old camp ground, the bugle's call and the cannon's roar. And, as they fondle in memory the scenes through which they passed, they pay tribute to the God of battles who spared them until their eyes could close on the hands of the Confederate gray and the Yankee blue clasped across the firing line in a Union indivisible.

"I have never been able to forget an incident that occurred on the battlefield of Antietam," said General A. W. Greely, U. S. A., when asked for his most vivid recollection of the Civil War. "And each Memorial Day, somehow, it presents itself with increased appeal. On my way back to the field surgeon's hospital for treatment—I had been wounded twice—I met one of our doctors applying restoratives to a wounded Confederate. He was a mere boy, not a day over 15. I was but 18, and he also had been shot twice—so there were things in common between us.

"But it was his courage, his unflinching, unyielding spirit that impressed me most. As he lay there, horribly mangled, his eyes were as steady and his manner as cool as though he were idly lounging in his own home. His nerve was not broken; nor the fear of death on him. He seemed grateful for the attention, but not in the least humble. 'Thank you, gentlemen,' he seemed to be thinking, 'but when I get well I'll be at you again.' If there are many more like him in the southern army, I thought, we are certainly in for a long, hard struggle. I have wondered many times since what became of him—whether he pulled through or died on the battlefield. I have never been able to learn."

General Greely made two attempts before he was allowed to enlist. "You get out of here; we don't want babies, we want men!" was the objection of enlisting officers. Finally he found one who passed him. He served throughout the entire war and was the first enlisted man in the Union army to attain the grade of a general in the regular army.

"I recollect an extremely pathetic incident that occurred on board the U. S. S. Monongahela," said Admiral C. D. Sigbee, U. S. N., the hero of the battleship Maine, sunk in Havana harbor just before the outbreak of the Spanish-American war. "The Monongahela, cruising along the Texas coast, had rammed and sunk a Confederate ironclad down near the head of the passes in the Mississippi river and then steamed on to New Orleans for repairs. On board was a brother officer, Lieutenant Roderick Prentice, to whom I was particularly attached. He spoke to me frequently of a premonition of impending disaster that he simply could not shake off. In fact, it marred his joyous anticipations of meeting his young wife, hardly more than a bride, at New Orleans, whether she had hastened from the North when she learned his vessel was to touch that point. Their devotion was idealistic.

"They saw each other but once there before the call of duty dragged them apart. I had been transferred to the Brooklyn at Mobile. After a successful passage of the forts my first inquiry was for the welfare of my old shipmates on the Monongahela and especially for Prentice. His premonition had come true. He had been standing in the gangway, which had been raised somewhat above the level of the deck, it seems, when a shot struck the hammock he was sitting in and the flying fragments imbedded themselves in his leg, almost tearing it from his body. He died in a few hours.

"At New Orleans we picked up a little boy named Isaac Alken, a tiny fellow, of whom Prentice was especially fond. The lad was simply heart-broken as he sat by the berth of his dying friend. Prentice urged him not to cry and to brace up and be cheerful, insisting that he would soon be all right, though he knew all the while that his end had come. But the lad's sorrow was nothing compared to that of the girl-wife. She fainted dead away when told the ghastly news and never afterward fully recovered."

"Another incident that I remember quite vividly," continued Admiral Sigbee, "happened at the assault on Fort Fisher. The man just ahead of me was killed and another on my left. A big, red-haired man, groaning horribly, suddenly clutched me. 'Look!' he exclaimed. 'Lieutenant Bache is wounded!' 'Why are you groaning?' I asked. 'Are you hurt?' 'Yes,' he answered slowly and without even a trace of concern for himself. 'I think I'm dying—but look at poor Bache!'"

"And he fell to earth, still calling for aid for his wounded officer. He died shortly after I left him, so I was told."

"Memorial Day to me suggests the flag," said "Corp." James Tanner, known to Grand Army men from coast to coast.

"I have listened to many eloquent apostrophes to our national emblem, but never to one that touched me more than that which came from a hospital bed. In September, 1865, I was lying in Fairfax Seminary Hospital in the suburbs of Alexandria, Va. I was part of the wreckage of the second battle of Bull Run. In the ward in which I lay and to the right of me was a comrade seriously wounded. He, too, was a son of Ireland. He was the life of the ward, and he smiled and joked and laughed, confident of his recovery. "One day the surgeon notified the visiting priest that he had better inform Pat that his time was short. I was lying so that I had a good view of his face when the priest broke the dread news to him. He choked in his throat in an effort to master himself, and then asked the good father to wheel his bed around so he could look out of the window. It seemed a strange request, but without hesitation the priest obeyed. And then, as Pat turned his gaze upon the world without his window, we became aware of the reason of his request—he wished to see once more before he died the flag floating at the head of the ward outside. 'Darlint,' he breathed, fervently, 'there ye are 'an at th' top! Plaze God, ye shill wave onchallenged from Maine to Mexico!'"

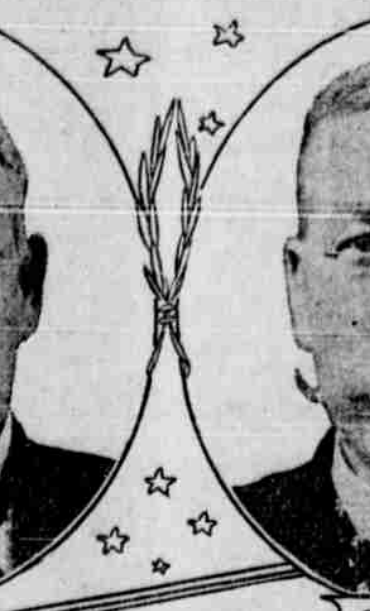
REMINERS OF WAR IN MEMORIAL DAY



JAMES R. TANNER



GEN. CHARLES DICK



GEN. KNUTE NELSON



SEN. CHARLES DICK



SEN. FRANCIS E. WARREN



SEN. KNUTE NELSON



GEN. A. W. GREELY

"Never so long as I live shall I forget that dreadful day when I lay wounded on the battlefield, from sunrise until the shades of night had closed down on the dead and the dying," said Senator Knute Nelson of Minnesota. "It was in the siege of Fort Hudson, La., when on June 14, 1869, an unsuccessful attempt was made by Banks' army to capture the place by storm and my regiment led one of the charging columns. Just as the sun was peeping over the hills we sallied forth in battle array. The 'Charge' was given and we tore across the open ground straight at the enemy's breastworks. When within eight or ten rods of the intrenchments I fell to earth with a bullet in my thigh. My comrades were driven back—no man could long stand against that avalanche of leaden death that poured out of the fortifications—and I was left with only the dying and the dead to keep me company. Then began my long vigil in the ghastly inferno. The torment of it all—and the thirst, the maddening thirst! Only those who have lain thus can appreciate its terror."

In the same battle were two other soldiers—one under the stars and bars, the other under the Stars and Stripes—who now hold positions of unusual trust and prominence under the same flag. The former was no less a personage than Chief Justice White, of the United States Supreme Court, serving then as aid to General Gardner, commander of the Confederate forces within Fort Hudson during the siege. "The latter was Senator Francis E. Warren of Wyoming. At the time, of course, no one of the three men knew of the existence of the others, and indeed it was not until the past few months that I became aware of the facts. Senator Warren, who enlisted when but 17 years of age, was awarded a medal of honor for conspicuous gallantry in the engagement.

"When I look back on the Civil War, as I frequently do, and especially on Memorial Day," he said as he sat in his rooms in the Senate office building, "one fact stands out with increasing clarity as the years roll by, and that is that the great struggle was waged principally by boys. The rank and file of the Union army was made up of mere lads, and in the Confederate forces they were even younger. They were tried as perhaps no other generation of American youth has ever been tried. The horrors, the struggles, the hardships they faced, made men of them, and a great portion of our public men throughout the nation, including the Congress of the United States, have been those who served as officers or enlisted men in those two armies of striplings."

War-time recollections crowd so thick and fast on Gen. Isaac R. Sherwood, representative from the Ninth district of Ohio, that to single out one of them is but to omit others of equal import. He participated in 45 battles, and there is not a soldier now living who was under fire a greater number of days than he. Six times he was commended in general orders for gallantry on the veteran on the Democratic side of the House. But, more remarkable than all else, he is the only man who entered the Union army as a private and emerged from the war a brigadier general.

"I suppose," said General Sherwood, "the fight at Franklin, Tenn., November 30, 1864, is as vividly impressed on my mind as any; maybe because, considering the size of the forces engaged, it was one of the most desperate engagements of the entire war. The Confederate loss was 40 per cent in a five-hour battle, and a larger number of their generals were killed or wounded than at Chickamauga of Gettysburg, where their forces were twice as strong. My regiment, the One Hundred and Eleventh Ohio, of which I was colonel, lost more men in that battle than any other regiment on the Union side.

"My horse was shot from under me three times in the engagement. My third horse fell in a most unusual manner. The bullet that

killed him passed first through my leg and then reaching him, I could not get another mount, so I fought the rest of the battle on foot. As it afterward turned out, this was fortunate for me, for every mounted officer on both sides was either killed or wounded. When the battle closed there was not a mounted officer on either line.

"I have in my home one reminder of the Civil War that should all else fall, would compel recollection of that mighty struggle. It is a Confederate flag captured in the two-day fight at Nashville in December 1864. During the first day's fighting we made a change and captured six 20-pound guns, and on the second 3,000 Confederate soldiers and three stands of colors. Immediately after the battle I secured one of these flags and sent it home by express. I believe I am the only private citizen in the country today who has in his possession a captured Confederate banner."

These are the veterans of the Spanish-American war. Ex-Senator Charles Dick, of Ohio, recalls a rather unusual incident in this, our most recent conflict. "My regiment arrived at Santiago, Cuba, just one week before its surrender, being sent there to reinforce General Shafter," said he. "We, as a regiment, were eager to be sent on to Porto Rico, but the authorities insisted on our undergoing a ten-day quarantine for yellow fever. They camped us on top of a high hill so that we were completely isolated. At the expiration of the time set, the doctors discovered 210 cases of the dread disease among us. This, of course, shattered all hopes of our ever going anywhere except home, when the sick ones recovered."

Hallowed by a supreme sanctity are the graves of the soldier dead. So it was in the days of the ancient races, and so it will be when the last war has been fought and the battle-flags are forever furled. Those who have offered themselves as a sacrifice for their flag and their country, who have endured the hardships of camp and march, or who have fallen in the red carnage of battle, have a peculiar claim upon the gratitude and affection of succeeding generations.

In no land has this claim been more freely recognized than in our own; and no people are ever before so generous in its tributes to its fallen heroes, or in its treatment of those who came home from its wars. When returning springtime brings the flowers, in all their elegant beauty and symbolism, we celebrate a Memorial day which is characteristic of the spirit of the republic.

It is now an even half-century since the beginning of the stupendous conflict for the preservation of the Union, and the anniversary is bringing home with renewed emphasis the sacrifices and the significance of those dark days. Happily, it brings also a greater appreciation of the complete reunion of the severed sections, and of the peace and prosperity which bless the land.

Before General Logan wrote the order, in 1868, which was the beginning of the popular and official designation of May 30 as the patriot dead, a tender impulse of womanhood in the stricken south had begun the beautiful custom of strewing with blossoms the passionless mounds above those who had fallen in the passion of battle.

The usage and the associations of years have consecrated the day above our other holidays. Upon it there gleams a glory which lightens the past, and which shows us that the blood and the tears were not shed in vain, and that the fruition of the sacrifice justifies the seed which was sown.

The Heroes. Bring laurel and myrtle oak and bay, And wreaths of roses, white and gold, And drape their graves on this holy day With the flag they loved in the days of old; For the red is red of the blood they gave, The white is the smoke of the bechimg gun, And the blue is the blue of the sky they clava To gain the stars in the crowns they won.

Queer Paradox. "They say a laboring man cannot choose a job but must take what he can get." "Well, isn't that so?" "Yes, and it's odd, because as a matter of fact he can always take his pick."

The Other Part. "He always kept an eye on the stage." "Did he get a part to fit him?" "He did. He got the hook."

Tricked Brother Smugglers

An amusing incident on the Swiss-Italian frontier shows that there is no honor among smugglers. Eight young smugglers of Varese, carrying sacks filled with tobacco and saccharine, boldly cut through the wire fence on the frontier during an exchange of guards not long ago, and passed over with their valuable booty. They were placing the sacks in a convenient cave when suddenly eight

Success Through Earnestness

"I have been very fortunate in worldly matters; many men have worked much harder and yet not succeeded half so well; but I never could have done what I have done, without the habits of punctuality, order and diligence, without the determination to concentrate myself to one object at a time no matter how quickly its successor should come upon its heels. Heaven knows I write this in no spirit

Practical "Water Shoes."

Herr Kleier, a German inventor, has taken a three-mile walk over Stranberg lake, near Munich, using "water shoes" of his own construction. Despite the wind and the rough surface of the water, he covered the distance in an hour and a half. The "water shoes" are of cylindrical form and are six feet long. They are constructed of brass frame and sailcloth.

Home Town Helps

RULE FOR PRUNING SHRUBS

Operation Should Be Performed After They Flower, Except in Case of Hydrangeas.

All flowering shrubs but hydrangeas should be pruned after they flower. Most people who spoil the flowering shrubs do so because they prune them at the wrong time of the year. The expert gardener who really knows what he wants, and how to attain it, can prune at any time of the year, but for the inexperienced amateur it is wise to follow this safe rule—prune after flowering. This is stating the idea in the shortest terms, and in practice is the same as the rule commonly given, viz., to prune spring flowering shrubs in the early summer, and the late flowering kinds, like the hydrangea, in the winter.

Pruning is done for three definite objects: First, to keep the bushes in proper shape; secondly, to keep them within bounds; thirdly, to insure an abundance of bloom next year. These three objects can be attained at the same time, but generally the third feature is sacrificed to the other two. The broad principle to observe is to remove all branches which have flowered. This causes other buds to push out, and the new wood is made for the next crop of flowers. All dead wood or overcrowded branches will of course be removed in the ordinary course of events.

All the common or popular spring blooming shrubs flower from the shoots of the previous year; they have the buds all ready to develop as soon as there is sufficient warmth. By pruning as soon as flowering is done room is made for a full growth of the new shoot which will flower next season. These shoots are strengthened by this exposure to plenty of light and air, and are in every way better. Moreover, the amateur can see just what he is doing. The expert horticulturist, who can tell the old wood from the new, will prune in winter or early spring, and be quite successful, and he will get a more profuse blooming.—Garden and Farm Almanac.

TRAINS ITS CITY OFFICIALS

Dusseldorf, One of Germany's Municipalities, Establishes a New Kind of School.

Dusseldorf, one of the conspicuous well groomed cities of Germany—and for that matter of the world—has established a precedent that may be followed to great advantage in America. It has established a college for the instruction of municipal officials who have a real career open for them in that city and country.

According to advices from Germany, although her cities, perhaps, have the best public officials in any nation, the recent development of municipal policies has proved that even in this field further instruction is necessary. The rapid growth of German municipalities has forced many of their officials into spheres of greater responsibility than they faced at the time they entered office, and it is, therefore, incumbent upon them—especially those who hold higher and more responsible positions—to study in order to fulfill the duties connected with executive positions. And to their credit it must be said that they are eager for instruction.

Dusseldorf has conceived a plan under which a special school for the higher municipal officials has been established. This institution of learning, standing absolutely under the control of the municipality, opened on October 30. Its courses are intended to cover two semesters of three months' lecture periods each at the end of which the students will have to undergo a graduating examination. The course of study will cover all phases of municipal law; the modern problems in the life of the city, such as labor and social questions; the relief of the poor, public sanitation, the organization of city government and city charters.—Christian Science Monitor.

Watering Lawns. Even during the hottest weather lawns do not need daily waterings, or if the grass does show such need it is the result of unwise treatment—over-watering. From the first of the season slight daily sprinkles are given which wet the soil but do not reach the roots. Lacking proper encouragement to penetrate deeply the grass roots remain in the top two inches. If neglected for a day or two these "surface" lawns quickly fly the distress signal. Water lawns only when necessary, and then so thoroughly that when the surface water is exhausted the roots will go down in search of moisture. Lawns so treated will last for a week in the hottest weather without watering.

Incentive to Cleanliness. The city of Alameda, Cal., is about to employ a unique plan to raise the standard of cleanliness in residences and business houses. In future the sanitary condition of the premises is to be shown by plaques bearing the inscriptions "clean," "dirty" or "filthy." Those places which do not satisfy the board of health will be placarded as dirty or filthy until they comply with the demands of the authorities.—Municipal Facts.

Correct Taste in Parks. No inconsiderable moral responsibility rests upon park builders. People yet know but little of artistic landscape gardening, and to guide growing appreciation into proper permanent channels we must have good public examples of garden building. A proper appreciation of landscape art and the fine things about us must be cultivated by those having charge of our public gardens.