

# RAILWAY SPANS GREAT DESERT

Road in Australia Crosses Inhospitable and Waterless Stretch of Country.

## TOOK FIVE YEARS TO BUILD

Daring and Skill of Engineers Conquers Most Desolate Waste in World—Heat and Insects Make Life Unbearable.

Melbourne.—When the Prince of Wales decided to make his recent journey from Perth to Adelaide by means of Australia's first transcontinental railway, it was a compliment to the daring and skill of the Australian engineers who conquered one of the world's most formidable deserts.

It was the late Lord Kitchener who suggested the line, pointing out that for strategic and other reasons western Australia should be linked with the other states of the commonwealth by an iron road.

But the great Victorian desert lay between, a barren, inhospitable and waterless stretch of country. Not a rivulet is to be found in the whole of this vast region. It is one dreary expanse of sand and limestone rock, relieved here and there by salt-bush, which even cattle refuse to eat. Worse still are the intense heat and the blood-sucking insects which abound.

Five Years Required.

The fact meant a five-year battle against terrible odds. It was only completed just before the armistice.

The survey work alone occupied two years, and cost £20,000, the total expenses of the undertaking amounting to over £7,000,000. Camels had to be requisitioned to carry the surveyors and their stores. The chief engineer records how it was impossible to use ink, as it instantly dried on the pen and the leads dropped out of the shriveled pencils. To secure relief from the rays of the midday sun they had to bury themselves in holes in the sand, where they were attacked by fierce insects.

The route having been decided on, the steel rails were laid simultaneously from each end across the desert.

# Great Air Mail Hangar at Omaha



The transcontinental air mail hangar at Omaha, one of the stops in the New York to San Francisco air service.

As the country was for the most part flat, and not a river or a noticeable hill intervened, little grading work was necessary. It was simply a case of making an even bed on which the sleepers were quickly laid. Then came the placing of the steel rails across them by means of a track layer, and spiking and bolting them.

Very trying, however, was the heat, particularly during the summer months. It was often impossible at midday to touch the steel rails or handle a shovel without fear of blistering the fingers. The men had to be provided with rubber gloves to enable them to handle their tools, and also to save their finger nails from splitting, and wear masks as a protection against the insects. Life was only made possible by a liberal daily supply of ice, obtained from the refrigerating cars attached to the construction trains which followed them.

Discover Water.

At intervals of 50 miles or so, water tanks were built, the intention being to use these in connection with the working of the trains. They were to be supplied with water pumped from the reservoirs at Kalgoorlie. But after two and a half years' work, during which the track had progressed at the

rate of about a mile a day, the engineers realized that if a really efficient service was to be maintained the proposed method of obtaining water would have to be modified.

So they sent for a boring plant, and at a point 350 miles from Kalgoorlie began boring for water. Everyone shook their heads, declaring there was no water in the whole of that barren land. But at a depth of 1,300 feet water was found.

This discovery of water not only relieved the engineers of considerable anxiety and greatly lessened their work, but it has changed the whole aspect of the country. Sneeep now graze along the track, which a few years ago was a barren waste. Experts declare that the once formidable desert will become a great grazing country, carrying at least 3,000,000 sheep.

## Used Stolen Money to Pay Attorney Who Freed Him

John Hartman of New York city, accused of stealing a pocketbook containing \$10 from the home of Hose Avev, near Bryant, Ind., was acquitted when tried before Justice of the Peace Whiteman of Bryant.

As soon as the decision was reached Hartman produced a pocketbook and took \$2 from it to pay his attorney, Urban Bonifas, a young man recently admitted to the bar.

"Why, that is my pocketbook," Mr. Avev said, when he saw Hartman produce it and the money. He was right, but Hartman could not be placed in jeopardy twice for the same offense, and he left town \$5 to the good.

## 1,300-FT. SERPENT AS MOUND

Left by Ancient Peoples in Ohio as a Symbol of Religion—Built of Earth and Stone.

West Union, Ohio.—A great serpent 1,300 feet long, built of earth and stone, a symbol of the religion of ancient peoples, stands a few miles from here as the most interesting and important earthwork, left by the mound builders of Ohio.

Situated in a rather secluded spot, supposedly selected by the mound builders for privacy in performing their ancient rites, the massive reptile winds gracefully back from a glen to higher land. The serpent's head rests on a rock platform which presents a precipitous face to the descending sun and is about 100 feet high. The jaws of the mouth are widely extended in the act of swallowing an egg, represented by an oval ridge of earth.

## Tribute to Former Foemen.

Knoxville, Tenn.—Hector W. Church, Union veteran, resident of Oxford, N. Y., has left his estate to the United Daughters of the Confederacy, providing that the income be used to perpetuate the fame of Jefferson Davis, Gen. Robert E. Lee, Gen. John B. Gordon and Gen. Jubal Early.

# SEVERE ON TOURISTS

Many Travelers Take Ships to Marseilles or Venice to Escape Arguments at the Frontiers.

Constantinople.—Nine visas are required to carry a traveler from Constantinople to Paris on the Oriental express, and the task is so great most travelers take steamers to Marseilles or Venice in preference to the jumbled rail trip across the Balkans, which necessitates endless controversies with officials at various frontiers.

An American going to Paris by rail must start with the "use of the United States consulate on his passport, then go to the Swedish legation to get the Bulgarian visa. The Serbian stamp is next in order. It must be followed by three Greek stamps.

Then visas must be had of the Italian and the French military controls. Many passports are not large enough to carry all the stamps. An Englishman who recently attempted to get the collection on an old passport ex-

hausted all the blank space in four calls. His embassy would not permit him to attach a blank sheet to his passport. Consequently he had to have a new one issued and started over again on the round.

Since the Polish disaster, bolshevism agitation has become so acute in Turkey that travelers are watched more carefully than ever before by the allied officials.

On a recent passenger ship from Batumi, a so-called Russian colonel, whose conversation with British officials showed a decided ignorance of military affairs, was arrested. He had five passports in his trunks, with great quantities of soviet literature in many languages. The bogus colonel was sent to General Wrangel in the Crimea.

The rear sight of a new sporting rifle can be adjusted in the dark, as every turn of the thumb screw makes a clicking sound.

# WASHINGTON SIDELIGHTS

## Our Allies to Owe Us Twelve Billions



WASHINGTON.—The allied governments will owe the United States nearly \$12,000,000,000 for loans made to them during the war by the time they are scheduled to resume interest payments in 1922. Negotiations are still in progress between Great Britain, France and the other allies on the one hand and the United States treasury on the other in regard to placing the loans on a new basis with interest due, but unpaid, included in the principal.

By virtue of the accounts repaid, the total outstanding principal of the loans is now \$9,455,401,528. Cuba is paying its interest regularly. Russia paid interest up to Nov. 15, 1917. The

other debtors paid interest in full up to the spring of 1919, when they ceased to pay on account of the unsettled exchange situation and sought a three-years' suspension of interest payments; now the subject of the negotiations with the treasury department. The debtor nations undertake to pay in full eventually both the principal and the interest in arrears, compounded semi-annually.

The interest accruing between April, 1919, and May, 1920, totalled \$463,215,615.

The United States loaned a total of \$9,594,622,043 to nations at war with Germany, distributed as follows:

Debtor.	Loaned.	Repaid.
Great Britain	\$4,277,000,000	\$64,164,007
France	2,967,477,800	12,147,000
Italy	1,631,338,986	.....
Belgium	338,745,000	10,000
Russia	187,729,750	.....
Czecho-Slov.	60,524,041	.....
Serbia	26,780,465	605,000
Romania	25,000,000	1,794,180
Cuba	10,000,000	500,000
Greece	10,000,000	.....
Liberia	26,000	.....

## America Is a Nation of Coffee-Drinkers

THE people of the world annually consumed more than two and one-half billion pounds of coffee in pre-war days—enough to load a train of cars reaching from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh, says a communication to the National Geographic society, issued as the third of a series of bulletins on "Where Our Imports Come From."

This consumption now perhaps is nearer 3,000,000,000 pounds, and, in the United States alone 42 per cent more coffee was drunk during the fiscal year 1919-1920 than in the preceding 12 months.

Three-fourths of the world's coffee is grown in Brazil, a country that has become rich from its coffee industry alone. Europe and North America bear approximately the same relation to the consumption of coffee that Brazil does to its production, these two continents using nearly four-fifths of all the coffee the world produces.

Holland is the greatest coffee drinking nation on the globe. It uses 15 1/2 pounds per capita annually, while we use 13 pounds, Germany 5 1/2 pounds, Austria-Hungary two and two-fifths pounds, and the United Kingdom two-thirds of a pound. On the other hand, we use less than one pound of tea per capita, while the United Kingdom uses nearly seven pounds. Canada is about two-thirds English and one-third American in its use of coffee and tea;



It shows a decided preference for the tea, but drinks less of it than the mother country, making up the difference with coffee. The Germans and the Austro-Hungarians use only a negligible quantity of tea.

The coffee plant is a shrub which, under cultivation, grows from four to six feet high. In its wild state it grows three or four times as high as in its cultivated state. The dwarfing of the plant increases the crop and facilitates picking. The leaves are of a fresh green color; the flowers are white and have an odor strongly resembling jasmine.

The green coffee berry of commerce is nothing more nor less than the seed of the coffee "cherry." These "cherries" turn crimson on ripening. They are then picked, the pulp is taken off by machinery, and the two husks which lie between the pulp and the seeds themselves are removed.

## Three of Uncle Sam's Battle Cruisers



KEELS of three United States battle cruisers were laid in one day recently. Secretary of the Navy Daniels said that it was an event believed to be unprecedented in the history of shipbuilding when within the space of a few hours the keels of three battle cruisers were laid. One of these vessels, battle cruiser No. 3, the Saratoga, is being built by the New York Shipbuilding corporation at Camden, N. J.; the other two, battle cruiser No. 5, the Constitution, and No. 6, the United States, are being built side by side at the Philadelphia navy yard.

The keel of another vessel of this class, the Constellation, was laid in August 18 at the yard of the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock com-

pany, at which yard preliminary work is going ahead on a sister vessel, the Ranger.

Similar preliminary work is also being done in the sixth of the class, being built by the Bethlehem Shipbuilding corporation at its Fore River plant, where the keel of the Lexington will be laid very soon.

"These are the largest and fastest battle cruisers in the world," said Secretary Daniels. "They were originally authorized in 1916 as a part of the three-year building program, but their construction was suspended during the war. Since that time their designs have been redrawn to take full advantage of the lessons learned from war experience, with the result that the vessels are materially larger and more powerful than at first contemplated."

Famous names in United States naval history are some of these, and most famous is that of the Constitution. In defeating the Guerriere in the War of 1812 the Constitution won the victory that made the United States navy. The original Constitution lies at the Boston navy yard, though launched in 1797. It was proposed to dismantle her in 1828, but Holmes' poem, "Old Ironsides," saved her.

## Farmers Must Be Given Immediate Help

AN OFFICIAL statement by the American Farm Bureau federation, summarizing its investigation into business, industrial and agricultural conditions, declares that America "is facing an agricultural economic condition which, if not intelligently dealt with, will lead to consequences so grave as to affect all industry to the point of imperiling the social order."

The statement says farmers must be given immediate help in transportation, finance and labor, and recommends the following as remedial efforts which would go a long way toward solving agricultural difficulties:

Preferential treatment in transportation to all farm produce held for shipment and to all goods consigned to farmers which are necessary to conduct the business of farming.

More profits for farmers, better distribution systems which would tend to eliminate middlemen and stabilize prices.

Ample finance, with rural banks assuming the obligation of financing the farmer with long and priority credits.

Protection from "wildcat" investments, which are said to be taking millions of dollars from farms annually.

Equalization of agricultural and in-



dustrial labor wages, which the statement declares can be accomplished only by lowering industrial wages or increasing farm wages.

Encouragement of immigration. The statement, in asking encouragement of immigration, declares that this is necessary to supply labor, and adds that "the mere fact that a man cannot speak American does not mean he will not be a good citizen."

The statement closes with a plea that the farm and farm life be advertised to overcome the tendency of farmer boys to flock to cities.

"The home life on the farm must be given added attractions," it says. "There must be more amusement, more recreation and assets to overcome the lure of the city, which temporarily intoxicates the farm boy's brain."

# BREAKS A GOLD IN JUST A FEW HOURS

"Pape's Cold Compound" instantly relieves stiffness and distress

Don't stay stuffed-up! Quit blowing and snuffling! A dose of "Pape's Cold Compound" taken every two hours until three doses are taken usually breaks up a severe cold and ends all grippe misery.

The very first dose opens your clogged-up nostrils and the air passages of the head; stops nose running; relieves the headache, dullness, feverishness, sneezing, soreness and stiffness.

"Pape's Cold Compound" is the quickest, surest relief known and costs only a few cents at drug stores. It acts without assistance, tastes nice, contains no quinine—insist upon Pape's!—Adv.

## A Wise Owl.

At that, he who hesitates is a wise old owl compared to the fellow who jumps at a get-rich-quick scheme.

## GREEN'S AUGUST FLOWER

A Marvelous Remedy for Indigestion.

Those who suffer from nervous dyspepsia, constipation, indigestion, torpid liver, dizziness, headaches, coming up of food, wind on stomach, palpitation and other indications of disorder in the digestive tract will find Green's August Flower a most effective and efficient assistant in the restoration of nature's functions and a return to health and happiness. There could be no better testimony of the value of this remedy for these troubles than the fact that its use for the last fifty-four years has extended into many thousands of households all over the civilized world and no indication of any failure has been obtained in all that time. Very desirable as a gentle laxative. Sold everywhere.—Adv.

## The Kind.

"Why are they sending out circulars about this business?" "To show it is on the square."

Cuticura Soothes Itching Scalp On retiring gently rub spots of dandruff and itching with Cuticura Ointment. Next morning shampoo with Cuticura Soap and hot water. Make them your every-day toilet preparations and have a clear skin and soft, white hands.—Adv.

There doesn't live a man who objects to having nice things said about him.

## Nebraska Directory

FILMS DEVELOPED FREE

When Prints Are Ordered: Prints 2 1/2 x 3 1/4, 3 cents; 2 1/2 x 4, 4 cents; postal card size, 6 cents, postpaid. Beatson Photo Supply Co., 15th & Farnam Sts., Omaha, Neb.

## Stove Repairs

For All Stoves, Furnaces, Heaters, Etc.

LINCOLN STOVE REPAIR COMPANY LINCOLN, NEB.

## BE A NURSE

Exceptional opportunity at the present time for young women over nineteen years of age who have had at least two years in high school to take Nurses' Training in general hospital. Our graduates are in great demand. Address: Supt. of Nurses, Lincoln Sanitarium, Lincoln, Nebraska.

THE SOLAR SANITARIUM Masonic Temple Bldg., 17th and Douglas St., Omaha Solar Baths FOR RHEUMATISM Write for booklet.

## BAILEY THE DENTIST

A specialist in each department of dentistry. Makes Dentistry Easy for You. 704-714 City Nat'l Bank OMAHA

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## WE REPAIR

FALSE TEETH IN 24 HOURS

Broken plates \$1.50 up. Mail teeth, we return same day. Bailey Dental Company 704 City Nat'l Bank Bldg., Omaha, Neb.

# Dives of West Being Closed

Resorts That Have Bulk Large in Traditions Will Soon Be Only a Memory.

## "OWL" IS THE LATEST TO GO

New Government of Mexico Frowns on Gambling and Other Evil Conditions Along the International Boundary—Orders Clean-Up.

Mexicali, Lower California.—One by one the resorts whose names have bulked large in the traditions of the West are meeting an end. Latest to go is the "Owl" at Mexicali, which its operators and officials of the Cantu regime in Lower California freely admitted had paid large sums for permission to operate.

In the Owl were to be found all the attractions that went to make up the typical dance hall of frontier days. The building itself was new, the "old Owl" having been destroyed by fire last February, but the traditions of the place were much the same and those familiar with the older establishment were at home in the new.

A Busy Place.

## OLD CHANCERY INN FOR SALE

Famous London Building, Six Centuries Old, Will Be Offered at Auction.

London.—After six centuries the historic Clifford's Inn, oldest of the nine Inns of Chancery, is to be offered for sale by auction.

The first authentic record of Clifford's dates back to 1310, when it was granted to Baron Clifford by Edward II. It was first let to students of law in the reign of Edward III.

In the quaint old hall Sir Mathew Hale and seventeen others sat after the great fire of London in 1666 to adjudicate upon claims of landlords and tenants of burned houses. There are preserved in the British museum forty thick volumes recording their decisions.

Belongs to the "Old School." Connorsville, Ind.—A woman called for jury service in a magistrate's court here refused to serve. She said she had dishes to wash and housework to do and if forced to serve she would not return a just verdict.