

The First Step.
Ed Bowes, the theatrical manager, used to live in San Francisco, and out there he knew a certain contractor who did a good deal of work for the city.

One morning—so Bowes says—a stranger who professed to understand street repairing in all its branches applied to the contractor for a job as foreman. The boss undertook to test the applicant.

"Well, now," he said "supposin' you was called upon to clean out a sewer down in Chinatown that was clogged at both ends. What would you do first?"

The man thought a moment. "I'd bless myself," he said simply.—*Sunday Magazine.*

Unnecessarily Alarmed.
The postman handed him the letter. One glance at the envelope sent him nearly into hysterics.

"Heavens!" he cried, "the first challenge I ever got."

"Duel!" was in big letters on the outside of the envelope.

"But I can't fight, and—"

So he hurried to the station house, explained that he knew of no enemy who would demand his blood and asked for protection.

Three blue-coated arms of the law presented themselves.

The detective force hurried out. By that time the desk sergeant had recovered.

He said it meant, "Due one cent."

Both Ways.
"His argument was fatuous."
"Did it strike you that way? Now, I thought it was rather thin."

Don't think because variety is the spice of life that everybody is stuck on hash.

CHINESE MONARCHIST'S TRIAL HAS BEEN ORDERED BY NEW PRESIDENT



Chow Tzu-Chi, China's ex-minister of finance. Chow Tzu-Chi, for several years minister of agriculture and commerce and finance under the late Yuan Shai Kai, has been listed with other monarchists to be punished by the new president and will be put on trial if he can be brought within reach of Chinese jurisdiction.

MAKING RAPID STRIDES

Canada Improving in Every Way—Agriculturally, Commercially and Financially.

The reports coming to hand every day from all branches of industry in Canada speak highly of the constructive ability of that country.

Recently the managing directors of the Canadian Credit Men's Association gave out the statement that business in Western Canada was good. In every branch it is better than in 1913, and everyone will remember that in that year business was excellent. He says:

"The beauty of it is the way in which payments are coming in. Merchants all over the West are taking their cash discounts. Such a transformation I never saw."

"From the records in the office I knew it was getting better. We clear here every retail merchant in the country every three months, and we are therefore in the closest touch and have intimate knowledge of the way trade is going and how payments are being made. Conditions at the present moment are better than I had dreamed it was possible that they should be."

"The statements which we are receiving with reference to the standing of country merchants indicates that there will be very few failures this fall. It is quite remarkable. Men who have been behind for years and in the hole are actually paying spot cash for everything, and taking their cash discounts. Banks and loan companies this fall will have more money than they know what to do with."

"This is about the condition of trade, and I am glad to say there is no exaggeration in what I have said. The business of the prairie provinces is in splendid condition."

Crop reports are also good. From all parts comes the word that the crop conditions were never better, and the situation at the time of writing is that there will be fully as great a yield as in 1915, when the average of wheat over the entire country was upwards of 30 bushels per acre. The harvest therefore will be a heavy one—and, following the magnificent harvest of last year, the farmers of Western Canada will all be in splendid shape. Old indebtedness, much of which followed them from their old homes, are being wiped out, improvements are now being planned, and additional acres added to their present holdings.

During the past year there was a large increase in the land sales both by the Canadian Pacific and Canadian Northern land companies, as well as by private individuals. A great many of the purchases were made by farmers who thus secured adjoining quarters or halves, the best evidence probably that could be had of the value of Western Canada land when those who know the country best are adding to their holdings. A number of outsiders have also been purchasers, but very little land has changed hands for speculative purposes.

An evidence of the prosperity of the country is found in the fact that such a large number of farmers are purchasing automobiles.

Alleged hard times in Manitoba have not dampened the ardor of motorists or prospective ones. The automobile license department reported a few days since that there are 1,600 more private owners of cars in the province this year than last. The number of licenses issued this year was 10,400, as against 8,800 last year. At an average cost of \$1,000 each the newly purchased cars represent a total outlay of \$1,600,000, while the total number of cars in the province are worth approximately \$10,000,000. The new cars are of modern types.

Many people, for some unexplained reason, have feared and continue to fear that this country will experience a period of industrial and business dullness after the war. There seems to be no justification for such a speculation.

On the contrary, there are sound reasons for belief in the prediction of Mr. Kingman Nott Robins, vice president of the Farm Mortgage Bankers' Association of America, who, in the *Monetary Times*, declares that Canada will experience her greatest proportionate development in production immediately after the conclusion of the war. The country will certainly have exceptionally favorable commercial conditions to take advantage of.

There will be the great need of Europe in the work of reconstruction.

and along with this, the natural tendency of the allies to trade among themselves, and perhaps special trading privileges. Mr. Robins points out that the greatest development in the United States followed the costly and destructive civil war.

Mr. Robins, in an address before the Bondmen's Club of Chicago, expressed the opinion of a far-thinking mind and the review of an experience of the last of his numerous trips through the Canadian West. When he said he regarded the spirit of the Canadian people, as he found it, the most admirable and encouraging feature of the entire situation. They are facing the sacrifices of war courageously and with calm confidence as to the result, and in similar spirit they face the economic future, confident, but expecting to solve their problems only by dint of hard and intelligent effort.

An important part of Mr. Robins' address, which invites earnest attention, is that in which he refers to the land situation, and when his remarks are quoted they carry with them the impression gained by one who has given the question the careful thought of a man experienced in economic questions, and specially those relating to soil and its production. He is quoted as saying:

"Agricultural Canada was never so prosperous, and immigration of agricultural population both during and after the war seems a logical expectation, finding support in an increasing immigration at present from the United States, in spite of numerous canards spread broadcast throughout the United States to discourage emigration to Canada. The lands of Western Canada, however, as long as they are as present the most advantageous for the settler of any on the continent, must continue to attract, despite misrepresentation, and on the increase of its agricultural and other primarily productive population depends the economic future of Canada. All other problems are secondary to this, and the large interests of Canada, recognizing this fact, are preparing to secure and hold this population both during and after the war. They are content to let city development and other secondary phases and superstructure follow in natural course. This recognition of the true basis of economic development is an encouraging augury for the future."

"The war has brought the United States and Canada nearer together economically than ever before. The total investment of United States capital in Canada doubtless exceeds \$1,000,000,000, of which \$300,000,000 has been invested since the war began. Except for Great Britain, Canada is the United States' best customer. Our exports to all of South America in the last three years were less than a third of our exports to Canada in the same period, although Canada has been rigidly reducing her imports since the war began. Even France, a good customer of the United States, bought \$70,000,000 less than Canada during 1913, 1914, 1915. And yet Canada's purchasing power is in the first stages of development only. It has been estimated that the United States can support a population of 600,000,000. Using the same basis of calculation in reference to natural resources, Canada can support a population of 400,000,000."

"Canada is potentially the most populous, and, in primary production, at least, the richest unit of the British empire, and it behooves us in the United States to know our Canada."

The social conditions throughout Western Canada are everything that could be desired. Schools have been established in all districts where there may be ten or twelve children of school age, and these are largely maintained by liberal government grants. A fund for this purpose is raised from the revenue derived from the sale of school land, one-eighth of all lands being set aside as school lands. All the higher branches of education are cared for, there being high schools at all important centers, and colleges and universities in the principal cities.

The different religious denominations prevail, each having its separate church, and religious services are held in every hamlet and village, and in far-off settlements the pastor finds an attentive congregation. The rural telephone is one of the great modern conveniences that brings the farm home nearer to the market.

It is not saying too much to state that in matters of social importance, in the most remote settlements they carry with them the same influence as is to be found in the most prosperous farming districts of any of the states of the Union.—Advertisement.

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BRAVE SOLDIER OF FORTUNE

Grimaldi, Who Drove the Moors From the Mediterranean, Given Monaco as His Reward.

One of the many disappointments of the present war is almost total absence of thrilling stories concerning the soldier of fortune. Even the "foreign legion" of France, that is made up of dare-devils from all over the world, has little or nothing in the way of romance to offer, and the romantic spirits have always been the ones that attached themselves to the French banner.

Did you ever hear of the most distinguished of the Grimaldi family, not the Genoese general who remained at home and fought for his own country, nor yet the artist who did heroic stunts on canvas, nor the sixteenth century Grimaldi who died by the hand of an assassin in the palace at Monaco, but the tenth century ancestor of that prince, who saved Monaco from the Moors? His was an achievement worthy of a true soldier of fortune.

The tiny principality, perched on its scarp cliff had been settled by the Greeks even before Athens became the greatest city of the civilized world. It was one of the cultural outposts of Rome, and in the fifth century it was an important center of Christianity.

Then the Moors crossed the Mediterranean, extended their sway over Spain and seized the ancient Herculis Monoecus Portus and gave over its churches and monasteries to the infidels. For 200 years they defied the soldiers of Europe, and then Grimaldi came. There had been many wars in Genoa, and here was a chance for a Genoese captain. When his military genius had driven the Moors into the sea, he was rewarded by being made absolute monarch of a country 53 miles in circumference.

Possibilities of Slang.
Slang and its possibilities were vividly expressed in the conversation of two youths in a Back Bay home one night recently, says the Boston Traveler. The boys got into a discussion and when all legitimate arguments had been exhausted, the following repartee was heard:

"Show again, I didn't catch the drift."

"Keep on spouting, kid, you're a whale."

"Tie yer shoe, your tongue's hangin' out."

"Hang crepe on yer ear, you mutt, yer brain is dead."

"Aw said your track, yer slipplin'!"

"Sneeze, little one, your bean is rusty."

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Boston's Culture Vindicated.
The much acclaimed culture of Boston won for itself new laurels when no less a person than Dr. W. T. Sedgwick discarded a time-honored expression that has been in use for years unnumbered.

In his lecture to a class of public health students he said to his highly amused hearers:

"Public health work should be in the hands of an especially trained class of men—and should not be left to every Thomas, Richard and Henry!"

Exit the familiar old "Tom, Dick and Harry" of our childhood.

His Reading Matter.
"What are you reading nowadays?"

"The key lines in moving picture shows mostly."

Give some people half a chance and they'll swipe the other half.

She is a wise wife who knows her own husband.

Personal Endeavors.
"My face is my fortune," said the girl with the dazzling complexion.

"Permit me," replied Mr. Dustin Stax, "to extend the compliments of a self-made man to a self-made woman."

A small boy defines a lady as a grown-up girl who isn't saucy.

Barbers and carpenters are both shavers.

WISDOM'S CHILD.

From the Milwaukee Journal.

Poker and love are both games of bluff.

Only a man who is wise doubts his own wisdom.

You can't push ahead by patting yourself on the back.

There are more heroes on the stage than in real life.

It's hard to believe some things, even when we want to believe them.

Any man is liable to make mistakes, but it is the other fellow that makes blunders.

One trouble with reform is that every man wants to apply it to the other fellow.

Most women have become so familiar with promises that they have no faith in them.

A young man always likes to have a girl keep on loving him even after he has quit.

What a married man can't understand is why a single man is unable to appreciate his liberty.

Half the world doesn't stop to consider that it is not its business how the other half lives.

Kindly King George.

From Tit-Bits.

Many stories have been told of the kindly, considerate nature of King George, but the following touching episode particularly emphasizes that sympathetic feeling which his majesty has for every subject. A short time ago a widow living at Forest Gate, who has four soldier sons, was seized with a dangerous illness and craved for the sight of her boy, Cecil, who was a corporal in the Second East Anglian Brigade, R. F. A., which has been in France for some months.

Believing her mother to be dying, his sister wrote to Cecil asking him to apply for leave and come home, if he wished to see his mother alive. The corporal presented the communication to his captain, who told him that there was no chance to leave, as he could not be spared.

The sister then made a direct appeal to the captain, but again the message came through: "Sorry he cannot be spared." In the meantime the stricken mother was calling for her boy, and her cries so affected the daughter that she suddenly decided to appeal to the king.

Her great joy she received the following letter in a day or two:

"Madam: In reply to your petition to the king, which has been forwarded to this department, I am commanded by the army council to acquaint you that a telegram has been sent to the military authorities overseas, asking that leave may be granted to your brother, Corporal C. T. T. R. F. A., as an exceptional case. I am your obedient servant, 'R. B. Cubitt.'"

And thus it came about that one night, when the corporal was sitting on a bundle of hay, depressed and downhearted at the thought that he might never see his mother alive again, he was told that the captain wanted him. Then he learned that leave had been granted him. He was told to saddle up at once and a guide would take him 30 miles across country to the railway, where he would catch a coast-bound train, and thus home. Needless to say the corporal wasted no time, and a few hours later was kneeling by his mother's bedside. The sight of her soldier son had a most beneficial effect on the old lady, who, although still very ill, has made a marvelous rally, thanks to the king, who heeded her cries.

Reading the Dictionary.

From Answers.

Mr. Rudyard Kipling finds both pleasure and profit in reading the dictionary, and this habit largely accounts for his wonderful knowledge of words, his rich vocabulary and his newness in the use of words. He does not confine himself to the ordinary dictionary. He likes to look at a slang edition or a dictionary of a dialect.

There is a certain noble lord who loves nothing better than turning over the pages of Bradshaw, spying out all the ways to anywhere, all the branch lines, and noting the railway stations with queer names. He is an adept in all railway lore, and is often referred to by his brother peers when a moot point is raised about the iron roads of the world, for his knowledge extends

Unique Water Sport.

Walking on water by means of water shoes or ski is not a new sport, but its periodic reappearance in one form or another is always attended with interest. This time the sport is suggested by an Italian engineer, who has evolved an ingenious form of shoe to which he gives the name "hydro ski."

The new water shoes or skis consist of two pontoons, one for each foot of the wearer, just as with the ordinary water shoes. But the method of propulsion is decidedly unique and immeasurably more efficient than that of the majority of forms introduced in the past. It has been the general practice to use ordinary pontoons, which are manipulated in much the same manner as skis or snow shoes; that is to say, first one foot and then the other is slightly raised and moved forward, resulting in a forward motion of the wearer.

In order to overcome the difficulties of water walking heretofore experienced, the present shoes are provided with two sets of cross arms to which paddles are fitted at their extremities. One arm is held to one pontoon by means of a small shaft, while the other arm is held to the other pontoon in the same manner. The shafts are not in alignment, so by an upward and forward manipulation of each pontoon, the paddle wheel not only serves to give the necessary hold on the water but also rotates with sufficient power to propel the pontoons and their load forward to a fair rate of speed without undue exertion on the part of the wearer. Steering and different maneuvering is facilitated by the use of a double paddle.

"Unbelief."

There is no unbelief; Whoever plants a seed beneath the sod And waits to see it push away the clod, He trusts in God.

Whoever says when clouds are in the sky, "Be patient, heart; light breaketh by and by," Trusts the Most High.

Whoever sees 'neath winter's field of snow The silent harvest of the future grow, God's power must know.

Whoever lies down on his couch to sleep, Content to lock each sense in slumber deep, Knows God will keep.

The heart that looks on when eyelids close, And dares to live when life has woes, God's comfort knows.

There is no unbelief; And day by day, unconsciously, The heart lives by that faith the lips deny. God knoweth why!—Edward Robert Bulwer Lytton.

Meaning Business.

"The American girl means business." The speaker was Miss Alberta Hill, the courageous and popular New York suffragette. She went on:

"She is quite right, too. I know an American girl whose two weeks at the shore a pale young man in a blazer tried to monopolize."

"What is the meaning of platonic affection?" he asked her, one evening on the board walk.

"'Its usual meaning,' she answered, 'is that the chap who talks about it is either too poor or too stingy to get married.'"—Cincinnati Enquirer.

There Are Others.

"It is very strange that no one has ever been able to find Captain Kidd's treasure."

"Oh, well, Captain Kidd isn't the only man, who has put his money into real estate and couldn't get it out."

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