

Rouen's Overhead Ferry.

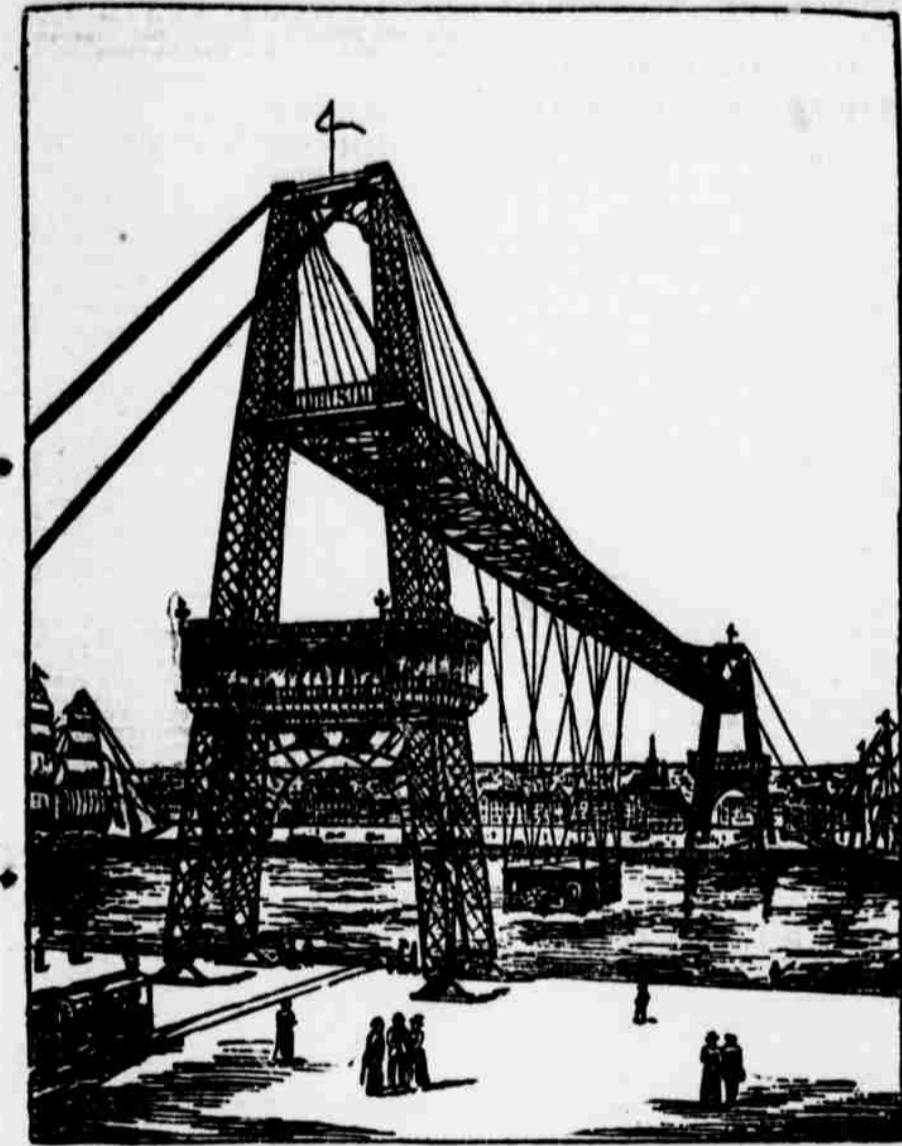
The American vice consul in Rouen, France, E. M. J. Dellaplane, has written to the state department an interesting descriptive letter on the overhead ferry in use here across the Seine. It is called the Pont Transbordeur, and he says it:

"This bridge, with suspended carrier, or overhead ferry, is of especial interest as being the first of its kind in France, or, for that matter, in Great Britain or America; and to appreciate properly its great importance and worth one has only to call to mind the difficulties experienced by engineers in crossing rivers and channels.

"The system exemplified by the Transbordeur here at Rouen remedies many of the defects and drawbacks in trans-channel traffic so apparent in many bridge and boat systems. Its obvious advantages are that it leaves the channel to be crossed entirely clear at

all hours without requiring vessels to make any special signals or modify their rate of speed any more than they would in the case of a cross-channel ferry, and that no increase of distance or ascent or descent is forced on the traffic in order to cross from one shore to the other.

"The essential part of the system may be described as a horizontal railway supported by a bridge spanning the channel and built up at such a height as will allow the tallest masted vessels frequenting the channel to pass beneath. Any kind of bridge may be used, provided the rectangular opening for navigation is left entirely clear, except that the arched bridges, which would reduce the rectangular area, must be excluded. Suspension bridges, however, owing to the facility they offer for spanning wide channels, the great advantage they possess in permitting erection by "launching" without any scaffolding interfering with the navigation, the economy of their construction, the little area they offer to wind pressure, and, lastly, their lightness and elegance, seem to commend preference in the majority of cases. This is the kind of bridge in Rouen."



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LIGHT FOR THE "COPPER."

A genius of Camden, N. J., has patented an appliance which he thinks



POLICEMAN'S CLUB LAMP.

will be of value to the policeman in making his rounds at night through dark alleys and hallways, the device being a lamp for insertion in the end of the club, with means for opening and closing the apparatus automatically. The flame is produced by either a torch or candle, which is mounted on a sliding disk inside the hollow end of the club, a coiled spring back of the disk forcing it outward as soon as the button is pressed to release the automatic lock. The sliding plate shown at the side is hollow and is provided with a match holder and an arrangement which draws the match and across a roughened plate at just the proper instant to ignite it and light the wick of the candle or lamp as it is presented at the opening in the end of the club. By using this form of lighter the flame can be instantly produced just at the desired moment for use, which makes the de-

vice much more valuable than if the policeman had to strike the match and apply it to the wick himself, and a comparatively strong wind or rain should not succeed in extinguishing the blaze or preventing the working of the automatic lighter. The inventor also makes mention of a whistle inserted in the grip end of the club.

A Horse's Birthday.

"Did you ever hear of a birthday party being given for a horse?" said Lawyer Isidor Goldstrom to a Baltimore Sun reporter. "Well, I attended one recently, and when I received the invitation I thought it came from some one who was 'daffy' or a friend who delighted in playing jokes. The invitation was neatly got up and signed 'Countess May-Be-Not.' It announced that the party would be held at Rice's livery stable, North and Mad-

ison avenues. I thought I would chance it—go and take in the surroundings secretly, and if tricked get away without any one knowing I was there. I nearly forgot the year I was living in when I saw a crowd of guests gathered and 'Countess May-Be-Not,' a fine thoroughbred horse, all decorated with purple-colored ribbons and the center of attraction. Robert S. Welsensfeld, the owner, had given the party in the animal's honor. It was the same as any other birthday party. There was good music, a luncheon and plenty of liquid refreshments to supply enjoyment for the guests. It seemed that even the horse knew what was going on."

SINGLE TREE HAMMOCK.

The novelty of the hammock shown in the picture consists in its ability to keep on the shady side of the tree at all hours of the day, and it also



SWINGS LATERALLY AROUND THE TREE.

has the advantage of being adapted for use on a single tree or the side of a house, where only one support is available. Of course, it will not curve from end to end like the ordinary hammock, but it has a swinging motion of its own, and it can be made quite as comfortable for resting as those now in use. The attachment to the tree is made by a ball and socket joint and the two hooks, with the suspending cables, the joint allowing the hammock to swing laterally in substantially the same plane. By providing duplicate heads for suspending the hammock it can be moved around the tree into another position as the day advances, thus always keeping under the shady side of the tree, and when not in use it folds up flat for storage in small compass.

Delicate Satchet Bags.

Little satchet bags of thin silk may be hung unobtrusively upon the backs of chairs to supply a faint, elusive scent to a room, if that is liked. These should be filled with dried leaves of sweet geraniums, lemon verbena and lavender mixed, or of the lemon verbena alone if that delightful odor is preferred. They make sweet sachets for the handkerchief box or the linen closet and the bureau drawer

WHEN TO EXPECT A PANIC.

Extravagant Speculation in Real Estate Options a Forerunner.

In the opinion of Mr. Alexander H. Revell, a writer in the Saturday Evening Post, undue speculation in real estate options is the invariable precursor of the financial panic. The man who takes his cue from real estate speculation and begins to husband his resources and prepare for a storm when he sees this feature of business activity reaching beyond the limits of sound, permanent investment will generally be in time to escape the crash. If he waits for the beginning of the drop in this form of security he may depend upon being caught in the wreck. The earth's surface seems to be about the last thing to which money desiring quick increase, in the form of speculative profit, is inclined to turn. All other forms of security appear more tempting to the speculative instinct because more active and changeable. So long as the main movement of real estate is in the nature of a permanent investment all is well. Then buyers make their purchases for personal use, or on the basis of what the property will yield in rentals or steady income of any nature. They are safe guides. But when men buy this most stable and substantial of securities on a "margin" payment to be sold quickly by force of high-pressure "booming"—the creation of an exaggerated view of values—then the time is ripe for the thoughtful student of affairs to prepare for financial trouble.

BRIDE AT LAST SAID "OBEY."

But It Was Only After the Groom Had Started to Leave.

Being an Episcopalian I always use the formal printed service of the prayer book. In this the greatest stickler is "obey." One day a couple came to me bringing as witnesses the parents of both bride and groom. Everything proceeded smoothly to the point, "love, honor and obey," when the bride refused to say the last. I repeated it and waited. Again she refused, and I shut up my book. Then there was a scene. They talked it over, and the more seriously they argued and discussed the more stubbornly she refused. The parents became angry, the groom excited and the bride hysterical. To humor her he joined in the request to have me leave it out. But I liked the fellow, and decided that a little sternness from me in the present might be a favor to him in the future. So I told them I had no authority to change it, and would not do so. I tried to show the foolishness of her objection, but it was no use. Finally I said to him, "Well, this household must have a head somewhere. I will leave it out for her if you will say it." Then it was his time to refuse, which he did. He gathered up his hat and started for the door, when she sprang after him, led him back by the hand, looked meekly up at him and said it.—Ladies' Home Journal.

Oriental Swearing.

A professor of languages on his return to England from India remarked upon the paucity of imprecations used by Anglo-Saxons when compared with the abundance known to orientals. He gives a case which came under his own notice. A Hindoo man servant, whom he had dismissed for dishonesty, sought an interview with his former master. When he found it impossible to gain admission he sat under the window and the "swearing" process began. He cursed the professor along the genealogical tree back to the first ancestor of his race. Then he dwelt upon every detail of his anatomy, from the top of his head to the end of his toes. "For three consecutive hours he sat and swore," says the professor, "without once repeating a phrase." While traveling on the underground railway in London some men entered the same compartment and interspersed their remarks with the commonest forms of "swearing." The professor politely asked them to desist, whereupon he was told to mind his own business. He at once commenced to translate into English some specimens of eastern oaths which he had heard. The men shied from him as if he had the plague, and at the next station sought another compartment.

Poor Lo's Salvation Is Work.

The attitude of our government toward the Indian, in allowing him in idleness to follow his own untrammelled will on the reservation, is a relic of the old French and Spanish original discoverers. Are these wards of the government never to have homes, but be always condemned to tribal relations? Are they never to know the mental uplifting (or self-lifting or down-lifting) of a wife's hands, but be always fated to burden-bearing squaw life? Some day a statesman will arise and point the way for these aboriginal Americans to become men and women among us, and truly citizens of our states. Until that time—until Indians are alienated from their savage surroundings—their treatment is a proposition not reached by any pink-tea standard of ethics.—National Magazine.

Prize Fencer of Italy.

One of the most remarkable swordsmen of the day in Italy, one of those Old World nations in which the knowledge of fencing not only is an accomplishment, but a prime necessity of life, is 12-year-old Signor Attilio Monferri. This lad has just won the national fencing tournament in Bologna. His antagonists were the most celebrated fencers in Italy, including Sartori, whose assistant Attilio used to be. Now the former employer, who was a prize winner in his day, is beaten by a mere boy.

RUSSIA'S FORESTS.

Protection as Stringent as if Instituted for Persons.

Russia has elaborated a system for the protection of her forests as stringent in its provisions as if it were instituted for the protection of human beings, which in reality it is. Only so much wood may be cut down annually in each locality as will be compensated for by the growth of the remaining trees, and all the clearances made are immediately replenished by young plants. Even private owners of forests are not permitted to cut down their trees except under government inspection. No absolute ownership in trees is now recognized, in fact, but that of the state. As a matter of fact, a very large part of the Russian forests belong entirely to the state. The largest private, or rather semi-private, proprietor is the administration of the imperial appanages, which possess numerous estates, the revenues from which are devoted exclusively to the support of the members of the Russian imperial family. The total area of these estates is a good deal over twenty million acres. Being situated in the most diverse districts, an extraordinary variety of sub-tropical and temperate natural productions is cultivated, including sugar, tobacco, cotton, wine, tea, fruit, roses, as well as grain of every kind. The principal culture, however, at any rate in extent, is timber, forests, covering nearly fifteen million acres of the total. In the exploration of these forests the greatest care has to be given.—Pearson's Magazine for June.

STEALS LIVE HONEY BEES.

Georgia Thief Got Away with a Novel Bit of Plunder.

The thief is not very choice about what he steals these days. Not very many months ago the Macon Telegraph related an instance where somebody had stolen a red-hot stove from the kitchen of a Walnut street residence while supper was being cooked. Now comes a man who stole four beehives in which were a myriad of the little stingers. It is well known that a professional chicken thief has a language by which he can persuade the barnyard fowls to keep a deadly silence at night while he picks over the lot of them and inveigles into a sack those on which his fancy becomes fixed, but it is rather surprising to hear that any man can make bees understand that they must not sting him as he lifts a busy hive to his shoulder in the dead hour of the night and marches across country with it. This is what has been done, however. In a neighborhood through which Ross street runs a bee farm was robbed night before last and four big hives were carried so far that the bees have not yet found their way back to their old homes. It is said that when bees want to go to any particular place they rise in the air and circle around until they find the proper direction, and then make what is commonly known as a "bee line," going straight to the place than a crow could fly.

Scots Had an Eye to Business.

The medieval university differed in many respects from our idea of a modern university. It was primarily a guild of teachers and scholars, formed for common protection and mutual aid. It was a republic of letters, whose members were exempt from all services private and public, all personal taxes and contributions, and from all civil procedure in courts of law. The teaching function was often secondary and often entirely overlooked. The Scottish university from the beginning, however, emphasized the teaching function and created an atmosphere academic rather than civil or political. The early curriculum was crude, but fully abreast of the age, comprising in the main, philosophy, theology, canon and civil law. All instruction was in Latin and the writing of Latin dissertations was the daily task of the student—a straight and narrow way of learning.—Scribner's Magazine.

Decline in British Agriculture.

The agricultural returns for 1900, just issued, show that the decline of British agriculture still pursues its painful course. The area under corn crops in Great Britain, which a generation ago, in 1870, was 9,548,000 acres, has fallen to 7,335,000 acres; that is to say it is less by one-quarter than it was then. The area under green crops has also fallen almost as heavily while only the acreage laid down in grass and clover shows an increase. In horses, cattle, sheep and pigs, there is a slight advance in the period, but not such as to keep pace with the increase in population or to compensate for the diminished corn production. The England which used to grow her own corn and to feed herself is becoming each year more dependent upon importations.

Widowhood in Sumatra.

In Sumatra the wind decides the length of time a widow should remain single. Just after her husband's death she plants a flagstaff at her door, upon which a flag is raised. While the flag remains unburnt by the wind the etiquette of Sumatra forbids her to marry, but at the first rent, however tiny, she can lay aside her weeds, assume her most bewitching smile and accept the first man who presents himself.

Mountain of the Monks.

In the "Mountain of the Monks," on the coast of Macedonia, there are twenty monasteries. The place is sacred to the male sex, and no woman is allowed to cross its borders.

WANT HARDY ORANGE.

EXPERIMENTS IN HYBRIDIZATION BY GOVERNMENT.

Orange Tree That Grows as Far North as Maryland, Indiana, Kentucky and Missouri—Its Fruit Runtty and Value for Food.

A large crop of paper bags seems to be the yield of a little tree which stands in the grounds of the Department of Agriculture at Washington. There are about fifty of these bags, each with the neck firmly, as close inspection discloses, about one of the terminal twigs. The effect is rather grotesque. The tree is the particular charge of Prof. Herbert J. Webber, who, with his assistant, is responsible for its bagging. It is a species of orange tree, the variety having been brought to the United States from China about ten years ago with the idea of using it for hedges. It is evergreen, grows about thirty feet high, and has sharp thorns. The fruit is small and runtty, and quite unfit for food. But the fact that it flourishes as far north as Maryland, Kentucky, Indiana and Missouri gives it a great value to the scientists who are experimenting with a view to securing a more hardy breed of orange. And this is the explanation of the crop of paper bags. The blossoms of the tree have just been crossed with the St. Michaels and Sanguina oranges, which are the standard varieties of sweet Florida fruit. Prof. Webber is trying to secure a hybrid which will retain the edible qualities of the sweet Florida orange, and at the same time preserve the hardiness of the Chinese mother tree. One plant with these characteristics would be worth more than a bonanza gold mine. It would serve as the parent stock for thousands of plants which would be grown throughout the Gulf states, revolutionizing the agricultural industries there, and yielding millions to the growers. Experiments with this end in view began several years ago. At the present time the department has about 300 hybrid seedlings. It is expected that some of these will bear their first fruit this fall, though the majority of them will not appear much before next year. The 300 hybrid seedlings which Prof. Webber has secured represent a deal of patient labor. To cross varieties which are closely related is a comparatively simple matter; but the Chinese orange and the Florida variety have been long separated, and have grown in such different environments, that they have almost forgotten that they belong to the same genus, and they do not take kindly to each other. Consequently not more than one blossom out of a hundred fertilized with the foreign pollen bears fruit; and then not more than seven out of fifteen seeds in that fruit will germinate and produce a plant. The paper bags are used to protect the flower which has been fertilized with the pollen of the sweet orange. The first step in the operation of cross-fertilization is the removal of the pollen-bearing stamen from the blossom. This is done with small scissors and pincers. The petals are also removed leaving the stigma exposed. This is all done before the insects might have carried the pollen from some open blossom and deposited it on the stigma. When the stamen is gathered from the blossoms of the trees in the government greenhouses and shaken lightly upon the prepared flower, then the bag is tied tightly in place to make sure that no pollen from the same tree becomes mingled with that already used. After the fruit has had time to begin forming the bags are removed and the twig is marked with a tag giving the name of the other parent. As soon as the seedlings but they are sent to different parts of the country to be grafted on plants which have already been started. Thus it is soon discovered whether the plant is sufficiently hardy, and the only remaining question is as to the quality of the fruit.—New York Sun.

It's First Use.

"Maria," said a business man, residing in the suburbs, to his wife, "you have been wanting a telephone in the house for a long time. The workmen will come and put one in to-day. Call me up, after they have gone away, to see if it works all right." Late in the afternoon there was a call at the telephone in his office downtown. Putting the receiver to his ear, he recognized the voice of his wife, pitched in a somewhat high key. "Is that you, James," she asked. "Yes." "Will you please go out right now and mail that letter I gave you this morning?" He had forgotten it, of course, and he obeyed.—Youth's Companion.

Fame of Flora Macdonald.

On the base of the Flora Macdonald statue on the Castle hill, Inverness, there has just been engraved a sentence in Gaelic which in English reads: "So long as flowers grow on field the fame of the gentle lady will last." Immediately underneath there is the following quotation from Samuel Johnson: "The preserver of Prince Charles Edward Stuart will be mentioned in history, and, if courage and fidelity be virtues, mentioned with honor."

Fleas Dislike Tar Paper.

A writer in the Canadian Entomologist states that in Australia, where fleas are plenty, the people keep their houses free from them by the use of tar paper, as they have found that fleas will not stay where it is. He also says that upon trying it in Canada it worked like a charm.

THE AMERICAN WOMAN.

Professor See: Effemination of Higher Culture in This Land.

"In America, on the other hand, the women are the real supporters of the ideal endeavors; in not a few fields their influence is the decisive one; in all fields this influence is felt, and the whole system tends ever more and more to push the men out and the women in," says Professor Munsterberg in the International Monthly for June. "Theater managers claim that 85 per cent of their patrons are women. No one can doubt that the same percentage would hold for those who attend art exhibitions, and even for those who read magazines and literary work in general, and we might as well continue with the same arbitrary figure. 'Can we deny that there are about 85 per cent of women among those who attend public lectures, or who go to concerts; among those who look after public charities and the work of the churches? I do not remember ever to have been in a German exhibition where at least half of those present were not men, but I do remember art exhibitions in Boston, New York and Chicago where according to my actual count the men in the hall were less than 5 per cent of those present. As a matter of course the patron determines the direction which the development will take. As the political reader is more responsible for the yellow press than is the editor, so all the non-political functions of public life must slowly take, under these conditions, the stamp of the feminine taste and type, which must have again the further effect of repelling man from it more and more. The result is an effemination of the higher culture, which is antagonistic to the development of a really representative national civilization."

Cave Dwellers at Dieppe.

People who only know the gayer side of Dieppe would be surprised to hear of the existence of the cave-dwellers there. One is apt to connect such people with the gnawed bones and flint implements of prehistoric times; but here they are at Dieppe, within a stone's throw of the Casino, and they may be seen any day about the town, selling the shellfish from the rocks outside their habitations. They have certain marked characteristics, one being a peculiar complexion of their own that can be traced largely to a disinclination on the part of the cave dweller to avail himself of the water that washes so close to his door. Their language, also, is peculiar; but whether it really belongs to the stone age no one seems to have discovered. They have to hold a license from the municipality, though, which savors of no age but the present.

The Straw Hat.

The style in straw hats has reached the commonsense point. It is no longer necessary for a moon-faced man to clap a tiny "lid" on his head not much bigger than a pancake to show the world that he is in the fashion. We hat makers have remedied all that by making the same hat in different shapes. That is to say, given a hat for a certain style—say stiff rim, stiff straw, regulation black band, etc.—we can make modifications of this hat. While preserving the same general style, we make the crown higher in one hat, the rim wider or narrower, with the result that a man with most any kind of a head or physiognomy can get a hat that will become him. This is true of straw hats of every description, whether the shape be fedora or round-crowned with turned-up rims.—New York Telegram.

Costly Trips to the Arctic.

It costs about \$25,000 to fit out for a season's voyage to the Arctic such a vessel as that for the Peary expedition, which sails in July, or that for the Baldwin expedition, which also sails next month. The fare for the round trip, if any passengers are taken, is usually \$500. Members of the crew of an Arctic ship are paid about a fifth more than on ordinary voyages. The captain will receive about \$125 a month, the mates and engineers perhaps \$50 to \$75, and the seamen \$35 a month. These wages, it is always stipulated beforehand, must be paid promptly and regularly to the men's families in Newfoundland or Nova Scotia. There are usually 10 to 20 men in the crew.

Catching Commodore's Tagged Fish.

Several of the codfish set free by the United States fish commission at Wood's Hole last winter after they had been marked with tags showing their weight have been caught by the Nantucket fishermen. None of the fish had gained much in weight. Fish A, 536, released near Wood's Hole on Jan. 10, was caught off Quiddnet on April 27. Fish V, 32, released near Nobska on Dec. 21, 1900, and A, 522, set free in Great Harbor, were also caught off Quiddnet, and a dozen or more fish liberated at Wood's Hole on Jan. 16 have been caught off "Seonest" 50 miles away.

Their School Luncheon.

In the rural districts of France every pupil, boy or girl, takes to school in the morning a handful of vegetables and puts them in a large pan of water. They are washed by one of the older pupils, who takes turns at performing this duty. Then the vegetables are placed in a kettle with water and a piece of pork, and are cooked while the lessons are going on. At 11:30 o'clock each member of the co-operative association has a bowl of hot soup. To cover the cost of fuel and meat those pupils who can afford it pay from 2 to 4 sous a month.