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SMOKING MERRIHUANA.

It Fills Mexican Peons With Something Like Delirium Tremens.

Water bugs and worms are among the tidbits in which the Mexican peon delights. He catches his bugs as they skim along the top of fresh water ponds, drying them and then eating them with as much zest as an American boy eats peanuts. As near as the peon can explain it, their flavor is something on the order of the chestnut, but as no white man has ever tried eating water bugs, or if he has doesn't dare confess it, the exact taste of these Mexican morsels can't be described very accurately.

The peons dote, too, on the nice, fat pulque worm. This insect is about two inches long and half an inch thick. They fry the dainty in grease and pack it in brown paper packages of a dozen worms, which fetch 2 cents a paper. An industrious pulque worm collector makes a good living.

The worm inhabits the maguey or pulque plant, from which is distilled the agua miel, or honey water, of Mexico. After twenty-four hours' fermentation it is very intoxicating. After the Mexican has primed himself with several drinks of agua miel and has smoked half a dozen cigarettes made of the dried leaf of the merrihuana weed and brown paper he is ready for any crime of violence.

This combination of stimulant and narcotic has the effect of deluding the victim into thinking that his enemy—and every peon has a choice collection of enemies—is a pygmy in stature. At the same time it gives him an idea that he is tremendously strong and wonderfully brave. So he sallies forth to make mincemeat of his enemy or enemies and, as a rule, lands in the

local calaboose.

One of the peculiar effects of merrihuana smoking is to distort the size of all animals, making them of enormous size and horrible shape. The smoker is filled with a horrible fear, something like the horrors brought on by delirium tremens. A kitten or a puppy to his distorted vision appears as some terrible creature. A common sight in Mexico is to see a swarthy "greaser," armed to the teeth, flee in terror from a small dog, while he would fearlessly attack any man with his knife or his machete.

A FAMOUS RACE.

The Greatest Steamboat Contest on the Mississippi River.

The greatest race ever run on the Mississippi was between the Natchez, a boat built in Cincinnati and commanded by Captain T. P. Leathers, and a New Albany boat, the Robert E. Lee, under Captain John W. Cannon. There was spirited rivalry between the two vessels, and when the Natchez made the fastest time on record between New Orleans and St. Louis (1,278 miles in 3 days 21 hours 58 minutes) Captain Cannon resolved to beat it. He engaged the steamer Frank Pargoud and several fuel boats and arranged for them to meet him at various points up the river with wood and coal. Then he had his boat cleared of all her upper works likely to catch the wind or make the vessel heavier.

On Thursday, June 20, 1870, at 4:45 p. m., the Robert E. Lee steamed out of New Orleans. The Natchez followed five minutes later. The race had been advertised in advance and was now awaited with gathering interest at all the river towns. Large crowds were assembled at Natchez, Vicksburg, Helena and other large places.

Between Cairo and St. Louis the Natchez afterward claimed to have lost seven hours and one minute on account of a fog and broken machinery. The Robert E. Lee, however, was not delayed and arrived in St. Louis thirty-three minutes ahead of the previous record established by her competitor. Fifty thousand people from the housetops, the levee and the docks of other steamers welcomed the winner as she steamed into port. Captain Cannon was the lion of the hour. The business men gave a banquet in his honor.—Travel Magazine.

A SIMPLE YOUNG MAN.

Parable of the Bundle of Sticks Brought Down to Date.

Ellis O. Jones, in Life, relates the following interesting tale. Of course it has a moral—all interesting and truthful stories have:

The old man called his son to him to explain the mysteries of business.

"My son," said he, "you have finished college, and you must make a show at least of getting busy. Let me explain to you a few fundamentals. Here I have a bundle of sticks. See if you can break them."

The young man had been absent from school with appendicitis at the time his class had read the old story of the bundle of sticks, and so he was not next. He tried and tried to break the sticks, but could not.

"See how easy it is," said the old man, taking the sticks, cutting the cord and breaking them one by one.

"Gee, that's a bum joke!" said the young man as he puffed his cigarette and tried to look interested.

"It's no joke," said the old man. "It is a parable. The bundle of sticks taken together represent organization, which is very desirable in the case of

capital. If, however, we look upon the sticks as representing labor it is criminal and immoral for them to be tied together. They would then represent a union. Always keep your capital sticks tied together and your labor sticks separate."

"I should think what's sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander," said the son, whose point of view was still blunt.

"It depends on how big a goose you are," replied the old man.

Brewery Workers' Accomplishments.

Reports read to the International Union of United Brewery Workers' convention in Chicago the other day show an immense gain in the organization in Canada. Among the successful accomplishments of the past year were the organizing of the women employed in the bottling shops of Milwaukee, St. Louis and Lacrosse, Wis., and the voluntary affiliation with the organization on the part of the beer drivers of St. Paul, who formerly were members of the Teamsters' International union. In the matter of jurisdiction between the Brewery Workers' union and the Steam Engineers' union it was decided by the convention that a referendum vote should be taken by the engineers in the breweries as to which international they desired to affiliate with.

To Unionize Working Girls.

In a report made to the Central Federated union Miss Leonora O'Reilly of the Women's Trade Union league said that the league had formed a large committee to organize thoroughly the 800,000 working girls in Greater New York. With this end in view, she said, the city is to be divided into districts, each member of the committee to be in charge of a district.