

# ODDS AND ENDS OF FINEST FROM FAR AND NEAR

## AN EXPLODING SHELL PHOTOGRAPHED



SOME excellent war pictures from the East have shown exploding shells, but the most of them at a great distance. Here you have a view of just how the thing looks at close range. It all seems very realistic but is the result of a most ingenious arrangement, which, while affording all the characteristics of the real thing, still is merely make believe.

It was arranged during recent English naval maneuvers and shows a supposed shell from one of the gunboats striking a redoubt occupied by a party of blue-jackets, with a twelve pounder gun. The explosion is caused by the men themselves.

## Use of Transparent Envelopes Disallowed.

ALTHOUGH the attention of the postal authorities of the Dominion of Canada has been called from time to time to the use of transparent envelopes, where the address is inscribed on the contents, as being objectionable, causing unnecessary difficulty in sorting mail matter, yet no steps were taken to have it discontinued until lately, when the British Post Office Department returned to Canada a number of post cards in transparent covers, having the addresses written on the enclosures, with a note to the effect that such matter is regarded as non-transmissible on account of being embarrassing to the sorting duty.

In view of this action of the British office no cards in transparent envelopes, with addresses written on the enclosures, can hereafter be accepted for addresses in the United Kingdom or in those countries to which correspondence is forwarded via England, and the department has decided to prohibit their circulation in the Canadian domestic market also. Postmasters are accordingly directed not to accept for transmission any matter enclosed in transparent envelopes with the address written on the enclosure.

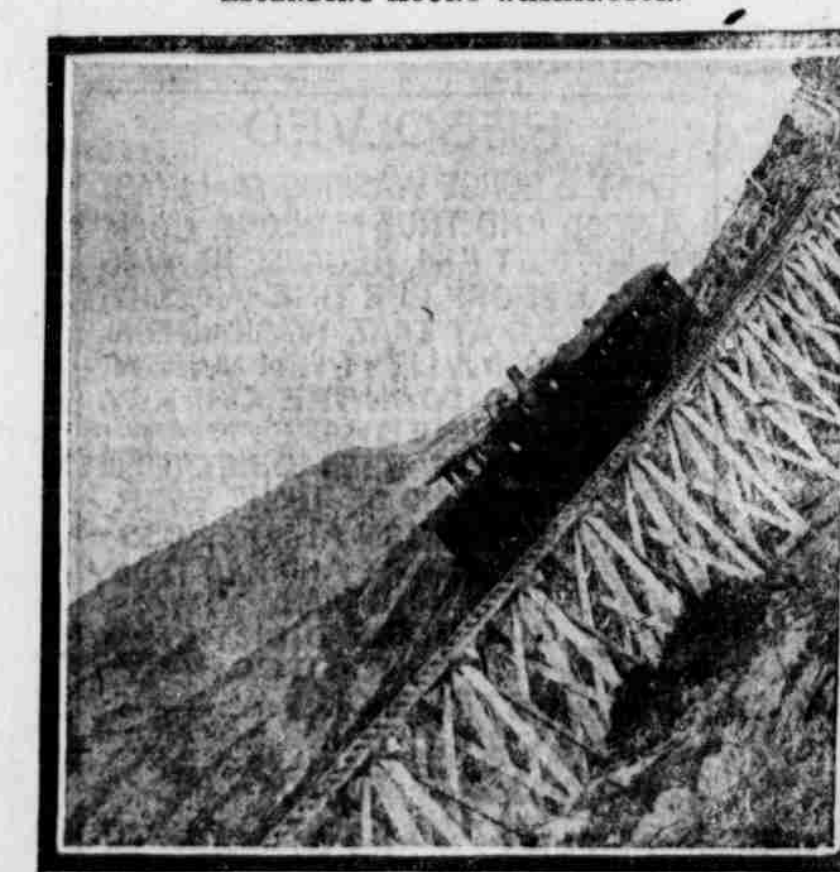
## A Magnified Gnat.



IN the summer twilight, floating in the dusk like agitated moths, you have probably seen the gnats a-wing. One has often wondered what part the gnat played in nature's economy, and, though the answer may not be quickly forthcoming, the insect has assumed no small importance under the microscope. Small as it is, it possesses a certain beauty unrevealed to the naked eye. Under the glass it is a creature full of interest. Here you see one of the beautiful features of the male gnat. Look at it, study it and realize, in a measure, how many wondrous things nature flashes before our eyes which we have not the perception to behold.

It is computed that farm properties in the eleven States that once succeeded from the Union have risen in value more than a billion dollars in two years. The average yield of these lands since this century began is \$200,000,000 a year greater than it was in the preceding six years.

## ASCENDING MOUNT WASHINGTON.



THE railroad which carries passengers to the summit of Mount Washington is one of the most remarkable in the world. Travelling a barren country at a very steep ascent, it presents many unusual problems to the engineers. The accompanying photograph shows one of the trains on this remarkable railroad in the act of making the ascent. The angle of ascent has been somewhat exaggerated by the camera.

Carrying out experiments in psychic phenomena, some scientists at Rivo produced some striking results. A fourteen-year-old boy was put in a trance, and in this condition answered questions put to him in Greek, Latin, Arabic, French, English, German, and conversed in those languages, his voice being that of a man.

## CHILD LABOR IN COREA.



HERE is one of the most picturesque examples of child labor which could be well imagined. The photograph was taken in Seoul, Corea. In that country the children are put to work at a very tender age, as the photograph would indicate. The tiny laborer in question is employed in the carrying of water. He is required to carry two pailfuls at a time.

## Food Adulteration in Germany.

DURING the year 1900 3,000 persons were convicted in Germany for adulteration of articles of food. In 1902 the convictions were larger, a decrease of 5 per cent being noted for 1903. The largest number of convictions occurred at Berlin, where an increase from 598 in 1902 to 645 in 1903 is shown. For producing and keeping for sale and consumption unwelcome articles of food 748 persons were convicted in 1903, against 594 in 1902. This large increase is due to the effects of the inspection law of June 2, 1900. In Berlin 50 persons were convicted for violating the provisions of this law, against 29 in 1902. For knowingly violating the rules with reference to animal epidemics, especially those for the prohibition of imports to prevent rinderpest, as well as the regulations to prevent contamination in the transportation of animals by railroad, and for the wilful use of articles liable to spread contagious diseases before disinfection, 931 persons were convicted, against 1,113 in 1902, showing a decrease of 20 per cent. For knowingly violating the regulations for preventing the spread of infectious diseases 59 persons were convicted, against 67 in 1902.

The Duke of Devonshire possesses, as an heirloom, Claude Lorraine's "Book of Truth," which is said to be one of the rarest and most valuable volumes in Europe. It is worth six times as much as the "Massacre Bible," the most costly book that the British Museum can boast. The late Duke refused an offer of \$100,000 for it.

## Royal Presents.

ONE of the odd features of the English Christmas is "boosing day," which is the day following Christmas, and observed as the holiday by the servants, who are required by their positions to work harder than usual on Christmas. On this day the tradesmen and domestic receive their presents, and the custom is religiously observed by King Edward, who distributes about \$10,000 in money to those who serve the royal household.

In addition the servants at Sandringham all receive joints of beef for the Christmas dinner, the joints being distributed in the proportion of two pounds to each adult member of the family and a pound for each child. The lower servants also receive money, while those of higher station are given a souvenir selected by the Queen. The Kaiser gives three dollars to each of his servants of minor importance, while the others receive boxes of candy made especially for the Emperor in Paris. They cost seven dollars each and bear the imperial monogram in silver on the cover. All of the sentries on duty about the palace receive a small present of money from the Emperor in return for their services. The men he sends home from the royal presence.

In Russia any one who has done the slightest service to the Tsar is entitled to a present. The custom has been much abused. In Portugal the Royal Chamberlain gives each new servant a ticket. It is worth nothing at the time, but on the following year is not only redeemed in cash, but a second ticket is given, worth an additional sum, the following year, the value rising in accordance with the length of service.

Chinese dealers in Singapore have refused to buy Manila cigars from Singapore merchants, on the ground that Manila is an American colony. Still, the China-Manila vessels which go from Manila to Hong Kong very often carry a cargo of cigars, and the dealers in Manila cigars and cigarettes.

## Crime in London.

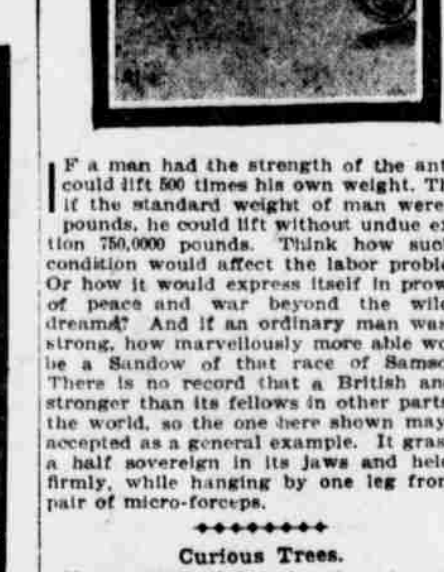
LONDON is paying the penalty paid by all large cities. Crime is inside her gates. In round numbers she has to pay nearly \$2,000,000 to keep criminals in check, for that is the sum paid out to her police, courts, prisons and prosecuting officers. It falls to include stolen property, losses due to the idleness of criminals, losses to injured parties, etc.

Serious crimes, such as burglary, house-breaking, counterfeiting, etc., are increasing. Arrests are more frequent than formerly, and each arrest adds to the expense and loss account of the city. Estimates put the bill of the city's expenses as high as \$10,000,000.

In other words, each taxpayer or head of a household of five persons pays \$2.50 a year for London's crime. Nor do these millions make up the total loss. There are the hundreds of thousands taken, consumed by the criminals, hidden away, lost or destroyed. Add then to these the amounts paid by private parties to prevent burglary, etc., watchman, caretakers, burglar alarms, door and window fastenings, safes, revolvers, life protectors, dogs, etc., and one begins to get a fairly good idea of what are the losses due to crime in a large city.

A table prepared in London puts the police and courts down for \$2,149,000, the prisons for \$383,980, lost property for \$1,346,625, loss by injuries, assaults, etc., \$723,391, loss in labor of criminals, etc., \$1,167,500, or a total of \$13,000,888. These appalling figures cover only one of the well known items.

## A Performing Ant.



F a man had the strength of the ant he could lift 500 times his own weight. Thus, if the standard weight of man were 150 pounds, he could lift without undue exertion 750,000 pounds. Think how such a condition would affect the labor problem? Or how it would express itself in processes of peace and war beyond the wildest dreams? And if an ordinary man were so strong, how marvellously more able would he be a Sandoz of that race of Samsons.

There is a record that a British ant is stronger than its fellows in other parts of the world, so the one here shown may be accepted as a general example. It grasped a sovereign in its jaws and held it firmly, while hanging by one leg from a pair of micro-forceps.

## Curious Trees.

IN the island of Jamaica there is a tree that is greatly admired by all visitors; hence its name—traveler's tree. It is like a fan. A curious feature of this tree is that its plumes leaves away and bend with the wind, and when the wind is calm the leaves bend almost to the ground, but in sunshine they raise themselves to their upright and more graceful position. The effect is very curious. For the leaves of this tree are immense. Any place of consequence in Jamaica has one or more of these specimens, but it is necessary to travel there for a sight of them. Half a dozen are on record which are remedies for disease. Among these the violet has a more important place than any other flower. But it is essential that the essence should be pure and made from the flower. A large percentage of the violet water on the market is only a chemical imitation, and chemically made perfumes are irritating to the nerves if not positively injurious. The idea which our grandmothers had of scenting the sheets with lavender was not only to please the aesthetic sense but to keep the sleeper from catching cold. Lavender is soothing to the nerves and a great sleep promoter. Some refreshing perfumes are stimulating, but lavender combines refreshment and relaxation. Another perfume which has a distinct medicinal value is jasmine. Old writers suggest it as a general tonic, but they add the warning that though when taken alone it is a boon, it is in most compounds injurious, producing nerve exhaustion and profound depression.

## A Plant Insect.



HERE is an insect in India which is one of the most expert mimics in the animal kingdom. Unlike the mimic of the dramatic stage or the social mimic of club gatherings, it does its act for neither pay nor pleasure, but for protection against the destroying hand of man. Its art is consummate, for it is the marvellous art of great nature. Even close observation is baffled by the likeness of the insect to the flower. It is called gongylos gongylos, which is not as pretty a title as might be, and sound more like the name of a Greek merchant than that of one of the most unusual of insects.

## Infant Mortality in Germany.

THE mortality of nursing infants is, with the exception of Russia, greater in Germany than in any other country of Europe. In the German Empire no less than 404,529 nursing infants died in 1903. Of one hundred legitimate children 19.2 per cent died in the first year of their life; of illegitimate, 37.7 per cent. In Magdeburg in 1904 1,812 children died under one year of age, being 30 per cent of the living-born.

This very large mortality of infants is an important social problem and Her Majesty the Empress, who labors without flinching to remedy the evils from which the German people suffer, has called the attention of influential persons in all parts of the Empire to the fact. When the German people suffer, she has called the attention of influential persons in all parts of the Empire to the fact. When the German people suffer, she has called the attention of influential persons in all parts of the Empire to the fact.

## Women's Rights in China.

THE most essential and conspicuous mark of barbarism in China to-day is the division of the sexes. It divides the empire into two classes and robs each of the help which the other is intended to supply. It is astonishing to see to what extent this rule of division is carried. In the families of the better class, male and female members are kept strictly apart. Brothers and sisters are not allowed to associate together after the boys begin their studies, which is usually at the age of five years. The social gathering where both sexes meet is not only unknown but is regarded with abhorrence. To them no country could show greater signs of moral degeneracy and barbarism than to indulge in mixed social gatherings. Even the working people seldom appear in the streets with their wives, and on the rare occasions when they do the man walks behind his wife to see that she conducts herself properly. It is unnecessary to say that among the people of the higher classes the husband and wife are never seen together in the street or any public place. The law requires a man to mourn three years for the death of a father and one hundred days for the death of a mother, but a man would be ostracized socially if he gave any signs of grief at the death of his wife. Probably his wife after marriage—he has no opportunity previously—but it is a breach of good manners to give any sign of such a nature. Two intimate friends engaged in conversation would never think of mentioning the name of any female relative. That common question "How is your wife?" is never heard in China, and would be considered a gross and unpardonable insult even between the most intimate friends. Chinese gentlemen never mention a woman's name to a woman, and if they look at or speak to members of the other sex except those of their own family, they are regarded as being in the wildest of chance meetings when calling on a friend the visitor heralds his approach by shouting as he nears the house, thus giving the objectionable females time to make their escape. It would be a sign of poor breeding to fail to give this sign.

The Chinese are, perhaps, the most successful poultry raisers in the world. They do not feed the fowl, but fatten them on their own food, each flock being kept on the move, as sheep are on a range. The quality of this poultry is, however, poor.

## AT THE PROW OF A FAST SHIP.



ONE can get some idea of a rough sea en route from New Orleans to Hampton Roads. The Sahara is over one-half the area of the United States. Its population is very small for its area. The Libyan and Nubian deserts are only a continuation of the Sahara.

## The Use of Perfumes.

THERE is a great deal said and written for and against the use of perfumes, but a side of the question which is not often touched upon is the fact that perfumes have certain medicinal values. The ancients recognized this and one of the Latin writers has put over a hundred different scents on record which are remedies for disease. Among these the violet has a more important place than any other flower. But it is essential that the essence should be pure and made from the flower. A large percentage of the violet water on the market is only a chemical imitation, and chemically made perfumes are irritating to the nerves if not positively injurious. The idea which our grandmothers had of scenting the sheets with lavender was not only to please the aesthetic sense but to keep the sleeper from catching cold. Lavender is soothing to the nerves and a great sleep promoter. Some refreshing perfumes are stimulating, but lavender combines refreshment and relaxation. Another perfume which has a distinct medicinal value is jasmine. Old writers suggest it as a general tonic, but they add the warning that though when taken alone it is a boon, it is in most compounds injurious, producing nerve exhaustion and profound depression.

Chemists find many interesting experiments in the compounding of scents. Almost all perfumes have as a basis ambergris or civet. And while they are most necessary, great care must be observed in their use, for a grain too much will make the scent distressingly irritating to the wearer, as well as to those with whom she comes in contact. The same is true of many combinations of perfumes, and several separate scents attacking a sensitive skin or nerves at one time may produce hysteria, though the sufferer may be at a loss to find a reason for the attack. This in itself is a good argument against the indiscriminate use of perfumes. Good taste has long waged war against the practice, but with small results. Particularly during the last few years there has been an increase in the offense. Satchels are worn in the gowns, perfume is sprayed on the hair, there are perfumed pasties for the face, nail salve and rouge are perfumed, there are scented soaps and rubbers. And each one of these is probably redolent of a different scent and the combination is not only unpleasant, but harmful to the nerves. The most desirable scent obtainable should be used with great discrimination, so that its wearer need not make herself an objectionable member of society.

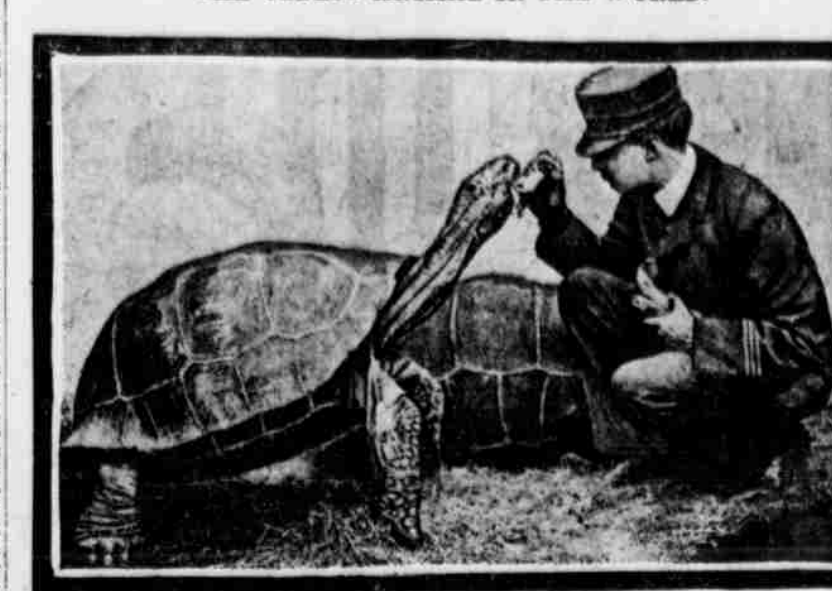
## The Palmist Objected.

THE revival had been a tremendous success, and finally the eloquent preacher mounted the pulpit to give the final hymn.

"The congregation will now sing 'Throw Out the Life Line!'" he said.

At that moment there was a mild disturbance in the rear of the church. A tall man broke away from the usher's detaining hand and strode up the aisle.

## THE OLDEST ANIMAL IN THE WORLD.



IT is a peculiar distinction to be the oldest reptile, and if this tortoise had the weakness of ordinary man it would vault itself above others of its kind, and if it could speak, could tell reminiscences dating hundreds of years back. It is a giant in size and as big as an able bodied man.

## Cabs Here and Abroad.

THE cheapest cabs in any big city are to be found in Moscow, but there, as in so many other places, a bargain must be made. You walk to the cab rank and shout your destination and your price to the drowsy man on the box. The comedy opens, the process of bargaining begins. Starting up, the drowsy man calls upon the saints to witness that the suggestion is preposterous; that his wife and family would be corpses, haunting him through eternity, if such proposals were entertained; that you are a person of vast wealth and generous instincts, and, as you pass on—a vile pauper. You pass on, and finally you get your cab.

Paris, in contrast, has come near to the fixed tariff and the acceptance of it. In Berlin you will get your cabs graded as to comfort and swiftness and price, but all with taximeters. The cab problem is reduced to the simplest expression in Munich. There is no bargaining. Step into the cab and say whether you are bound, the driver starts, and so does the little machine before your eyes. It ticks out the pennings as you go, and as you watch the indicator you feel the blood running. At the end, however, there is a possibility of dispute. The taximeter shows the driver's claim, and if the driver goes beyond that he is hanged, drawn and quartered, immured in a fortress and deprived of civil rights.

The impression in London is that no one but a millionaire, an Englishman or a fool takes a cab in New York. The driver here, they say, spends his day prowling in search of one of these three, and when he finds one of them he frequently goes West to buy a farm.

## Largest of Chains.



THIS is an use of gigantic things and the hardy Spanish voyagers who called the turbulent seas in a cockle-shell caravel would be overcome by wonder in beholding one of the giant steel ships which ply between the Western and the Eastern world.

Everything concerning ships naturally has grown in proportion. Here is a view of the world's biggest cable. You may get some idea of its total weight from the fact that each link weighs one hundred and sixty pounds and there are nearly six hundred feet of it. This monster chain was built for one of the Canadian lines' new steamers, and at the rate at which marine architecture is being pushed it may not remain long the biggest cable in existence.

## AN ACTUAL SNAPSHOT OF A WATERSPOUT.



WATERSPOUTS, which frequently have figured in tales so dear to the youthful heart as a menace to some good ship, and which, until recently, have been pictured only from the mind of some sympathetic artist, have at last fallen victims to the camera. They are not such fearsome objects after all and opposed to a modern steel steamship would probably cause no more damage than sudden heavy rainfall.

Small waterspouts are frequently seen in the waters about the Bermudas and the West Indies and on such occasions small sailing craft give them a wide berth. A small boat would probably fare badly in contact with one of these creatures of the sea. The photograph reproduced here was taken by a German expert and shows a waterspout of no small proportions. And yet it may be noted that it is not such a fearsome thing, as the imagination of the artist has painted.