

ODDS AND ENDS OF INTEREST FROM FAR AND NEAR

HIGH JUMPING EXTRAORDINARY.



In regular athletics the high jump is, of course, made over a very light bar so placed that it will fall at the slightest touch. To make a very high jump over a stationary object of course requires considerable courage as well as skill, since any mistake in the take off or other mis-

calculation might mean a very serious accident. In the accompanying illustration a jumper is shown in midair above a very curious obstacle. As the result of a wager he actually jumped over the heads of two men seated at a table. The jump was made in safety to all concerned.

Spanish Titles.

THERE are two grades of nobility in Spain, the Grandees forming a special class which refuse to recognize those of newer creation. Titles are openly on sale and one out of every thirty-seven men is a noble.

A mere baronetcy costs but \$2,000, while for double that sum one may become a viscount. Counts have to pay \$6,000 for their title and a duke is still higher in price.

The Grandees comprise the ancient nobility, and they score even the dukes, though the man who has sufficient money to be able to purchase such a title is apt to be far better off than the hereditary but penniless count.

General John C. Bates, who will be head of the General Staff for one brief month, is the first bachelor in the history of the American Army to attain this eminence.

A Coral Canyon.

THE mind of "roads of coral" brings to mind delightful pictures of some wonderful and colorful decked in flowers and forever smiling in the sunshine. The coral utilized in ornamentation and the like are made in a charming shade of red. The coral roads of Bermuda are of white and lie like snowy pathways across the verdure of the island. The government has constructed some fine roads, some of them very creditable bits of military engineering. The workers have cut through thousands of feet of solid coral and Khyber Pass is one of the deepest coral cuts in the world, the road builders simply cutting through a hill. The coral is soft and can be sawed almost as easily as wood.

Magie Figures.

ONE of the newest figure fancies is one by which the month of one's birth and the age may be told. To take an example, one may suppose that the age is fifteen and that August is the birth month. The latter is the eighth month and is taken as the start, in this fashion:

Number of month.....	15
Multiplied by 2.....	30
Add 5.....	35
Multiplied by 50.....	1,750
Add 5.....	1,755
Subtracted 305.....	1,450
Add 130.....	1,580

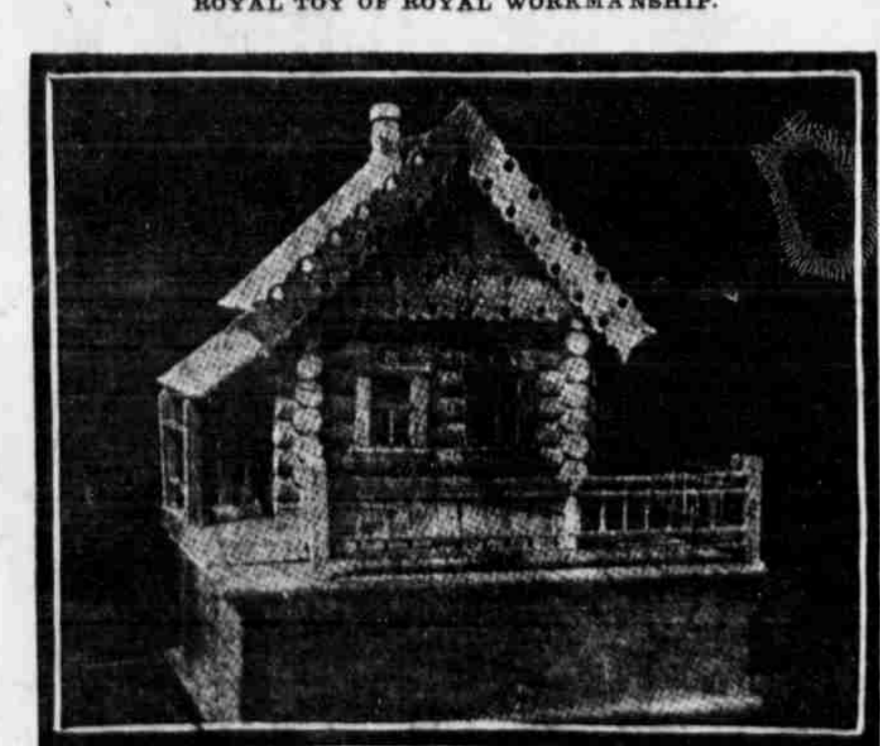
This result gives the double answer. The first figure is the month, while the last two are the years. In the case of a result showing four figures it will be known that the tenth, eleventh or twelfth month is shown. To vary the result somewhat the number of the age may be subtracted from the year and the result read in year and month instead of the month and age. In the latter case it must be understood that should the month fall beyond that in which the calculation is made an additional year is to be allowed.

Do you throw away your old calendars?

A Paris statistician has discovered that it is a mistake to do so, and, being of an economical turn of mind, has discovered further that calendars for 1900 will serve equally well for 1906.

Worcester, England, has refused to give the government a site for a cavalry barracks, though one of the city Councilmen used a strong argument. He urged that the presence of 1,500 soldiers in town would end the prevailing scarcity there of female domestic servants.

ROYAL TOY OF ROYAL WORKMANSHIP.



THIS most distinguished toy maker in the world to-day is neither man nor woman, but a toy which has come to the high place by virtue of long application to the work of a person who had no thought of the commercial side of the work, but was inspired by the holiest of sentiments, a mother's love. She is the Tsarina, and the toy which she fashioned was a Christmas present to her son, the Tsarevitch. The Russian Christmas is later than ours and is celebrated on January 7. The Tsarina is an expert wood carver, and to this work she brought her best skill. The toy is an exact reproduction of the Tsar's summer house in the pleasure grounds attached to the palace at Tsarskoe-Selo. It is fashioned of soft white wood, and is composed of eighty-four separate pieces, which are pulled apart by the royal baby and then put together again. This bit of art would bring a fabulous price in the hands of a collector, no doubt, for it is an intimate part of the bright history of a mighty empire struggling amid darkness and disorder and death.

A Borneo Story.

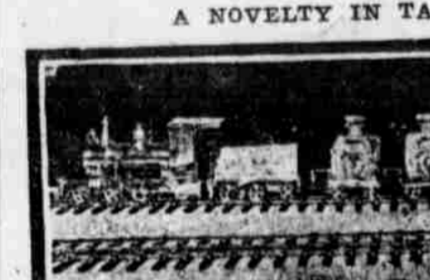
THE spirit of Herod's sister-in-law seems to live forever; at any rate it still prevails vigorously among the head hunting Dyaks of Dutch Borneo. Hathnaveg, a tribesman, had been persuaded by Dutch missionaries to abandon the practice of head hunting. He remained true to his promise and for a time led a quiet life. Recently, however, he fell in love with Dyak maiden, a girl, although returning his passion, declined his offer of marriage because he no longer indulged in the ancient practice of cutting and bringing home the heads of his enemies of the tribes. Hathnaveg, goaded by the taunts of the girl, who told him to dress in women's clothes in the future, as he no longer had the courage of a man, quitted the village and remained away quite a considerable time.

When he returned he entered his sweetheart's hut carrying a sack on his shoulders. He opened it and four human heads rolled upon the bamboo floor. At the sight of the trophies she declared her love for him and flung her arms about his neck, embraced him passionately, and have brought them. Do you not recognize them? Then, to her horror, she saw they were the heads of her father, her mother, her brother and of a young man who was Hathnaveg's rival for her affections. Hathnaveg was immediately seized by some of the tribesmen and a punishment was placed in a small bamboo structure such as is commonly used by the Dyaks for pigs and allowed to starve to death.

Tipped the Sultan.

THE Sultan of Morocco is a very fond of War frequently go to a reservoir in the palace grounds for a little boating. On one occasion, not long ago they had with them a young Englishman who was the guest of the Sultan. During the water excursion the Sultan, who is a poor swimmer, in spite of his fondness for the sport, declared that he and his Vizier were only ordinary ferrymen and that the guest was a passenger. He made a laughable mistake, however, as the ferrymen to the authorities as incompetent, whereon the Sultan declared that they would not hand their fare until he had paid his passage money. As he was proceeding to back up his demand by splashing the passenger with his oars, the latter hastily produced sixteen cents, which was divided between the two men. He now boasts that he is the only man who ever tipped a Sultan and had his tip accepted.

A NOVELTY IN TABLE DECORATION.



NOVELTY in dinner table settings was introduced at a recent banquet in Pittsburg, when a complete working model of a railroad was used to serve the cordials. A very narrow gauge track ran around the table within easy

reach of the guests, and on this a complete train in miniature was run on a regular schedule. The train carried a variety of cordials and was stopped at intervals along the line to deliver goods at various points. A general view of the train, fully loaded, is shown herewith.

Cigarettes in the Crimea.

THE general adoption of the cigarette in England dates from the war in the Crimea. It frequently happened that because of their inability to procure cigars and smoking tobacco the British officers were forced to have recourse to the cigarette. They found them to their liking as a mild smoke and it was not long after their return to England that the manufacture of cigarettes began. To the great pleasure in London tobacco owes its earliest adoption. Until then few persons used tobacco in any form and it was supposed to be a filthy and shameful practice. Then came the plague and it was soon noticed that the plague did not invade the premises of tobacco dealers. Within a few months every one who was called upon to handle plague patients smoked, and the tobacco trade, which until then had been a sickly business, became an important branch of business.

Pneumatic Painting.

THE air brush for touching up solar prints has long been familiar in photographic enlarging studios, but the same principle is now applied to painting much larger tasks. At the shipbuilding yards at Devonport, England, compressed air is used to spray paint on the hull of a boat, two men applying the coat in the same time that twelve ordinary painters would require and adding a much better job, since with the air pressure it is possible to apply the paint in the most inaccessible places. In addition to the saving in the cost of the painters, less paint is required for each coat, and it is declared that the process is found to be most economical. The suggested itself to the foreman of the yards while watching the mechanics working with the compressed air riveting machines.

Chinese Ideas of Geography.

MUCH has been said about the wisdom of the East, and the Chinese are conceded to have been a wise nation before the United States existed. Nevertheless, a traveler from the United States was surprised at a conversation that took place between some local officials at a small village in China. They had appeared to greet the traveler and arrange for his further progress. One of the officials asked him if he had traveled far and if he had come by land or sea. To tell him, who considered one hundred miles a long journey, that ten thousand miles was a long distance travelled was to brand one's self as a gross exaggerator and his answer was met with peals of laughter. The official's next question was as to whether America was north or south of China—to which one of his companions, although ashamed of his ignorance of his friend, pointed out to him that America was in the Western and China in the Eastern hemisphere. The first official then seemed to remember that the United States was between France and Germany. It was the traveler's turn to laugh. The first official was very much ashamed of his friend and repeated emphatically the same information about the hemisphere, but as he volunteered nothing further that might compromise his entire knowledge on the subject. This ignorance, however, from a Chinese point of view, must not be confounded with being uneducated. They were highly educated, having spent in study the amount of time that a college boy of America would spend in a Ph. D. degree at a university. But the Chinese had stopped with the learning of the fifth century before Christ, rather than the twentieth century after.

In Brazil unmarried women wear scarves as a mourning color to distinguish them from the widows.

Takes to Tusks.

ONE of the oldest of royal hobbies is that followed by Queen Maud of Denmark, who for years has made ivory collection a hobby. Not only has she a fine collection of carved ivory statues and other art objects but she collects ivory tusks as well and has a large collection of the trophies of the elephant chase, many of which were sent her by her brother, the present Prince of Wales, who will doubtless add to the collection during the trip through India. Most of these are supplied with tiny gold plates telling where and under what circumstances the animal from which the tusk was taken was killed, and this data is supplemented by written descriptions which have been published in book form by their respective donor under the title of "Tales of My Tusks."

A Skyscraper Nest.



WHILE birds have built their nest in every conceivable position, and the list is a very long one, it is probable that the nest shown in the accompanying photograph indicates an original method of nesting. It is a climbing exotic, a shrub shaped ornament at the top of a tall church spire. It rested rather more than a hundred feet above the street level, considerably exposed to wind and weather, yet in this remarkable position the birds succeeded in raising their family.

Sir Harry Johnston, speaking at a public meeting in London, said he had traveled extensively in Africa for the purpose of putting down the slave trade and that it was his experience that there was more misery and destitution in London than in any one separate part of Africa.

Mandolin Watch.



WHILE the modern watches are doubtless much the superior of old watches in pieces of mechanism, the most original and artistic designs in such creations are doubtless those of the past. During the latter part of the eighteenth and the early part of the nineteenth century watches were made in France which have scarcely been equalled since for beauty and originality of design. A famous design, now long out of date was the French gold mandolin watch, which was common during the days of the First Empire. Watches of this form were, at first expected, extremely expensive.

Strange Bed Fellows.



THAT the lion and the lamb should lie down together is a prophecy, but even a more remarkable combination is that of the fox which was brought up by a cat. This remarkable group is shown in the accompanying photograph. At the time the picture was taken the fox had not reached its full growth, it remains to be seen whether the friendly relations of the two will remain unchanged when it is grown up.

Modern Greek Fire.

"MARINE torches" are the direct descendants of the Greek fire of antiquity, which was used for defense rather than offense and prevents the surprise of an enemy. It consists of an aluminum cylinder used as a projectile. On being fired from a gun it produces no result until it falls into the sea. In its interior it contains stores of calcium phosphide and calcium carbide. The former produces phosphuretted hydrogen on contact with water, which ignites spontaneously, and also ignites the acetylene gas liberated from the carbide through the action of the water. Enough of the chemicals is contained to last for ten hours, and a few of these torches thrown to the points of the compass from which attacks might be expected would leave the defenders in obscurity while not permitting the enemy's approach.

The Weather Plant.

ALMOST every magazine has a small advertisement for a plant known to botanists as "Abrus precatorius," or weather plant. It is a climbing exotic and is held in great veneration by the natives of India, who say that the state of the weather may be told some time in advance by the position which the leaves assume. Though this theory is disputed by some, it is held by botanists of established reputation as being within the bounds of reason. Atmospheric unquietness affects the leaves of flowers and plants and shrubs, and to a close observer this action may indicate ensuing changes in weather which can be correctly fore-shadowed.

One of the great beauties of the plant are its small egg shaped seeds of bright scarlet tipped with black spot. These seeds are very hard, and for this reason are used for necklaces and ornamental purposes. Their size is so uniform that they are used as the standard of weight, and called "rain." It is a recorded fact that the weight of the famous Koh-i-noor was first determined by the aid of the seed of this peculiar plant. Probably the specific name "precatorius," meaning prayer, came from the fact that the seeds are used by the Hindustanis for rosaries.

The products of American farms in 1900 were of the value of \$6,650,000,000. Every working day of the year Uncle Sam's farms earned \$1,000,000, or \$2,000,000 for each hour of ten hours a day.

A RAIN CATCH FOR DRY LANDS.



THE people of Bermuda have no modern water system. Neither do wells supply their drinking water. Their method of supply is most primitive, but wholly satisfactory to the natives. The rain is caught and stored for future use. Some folks use the good, old-fashioned barrel arrangement known in the United States. Those who have the money

DESTROYING A FORTUNE AT A STROKE.



THE work of destroying old or mutilated bills is performed very thoroughly. In the Treasury, at Washington, millions of these certificates must, of course, be regularly done away with. One of the most effective machines used in this work of demolition is illustrated herewith. The knife which ruthlessly cuts its way through enormous fortunes in paper money is of an ordinary pattern. The blade is shown in the very act of cutting up a great bundle of one dollar bills.

Civilization Through Shellfish.

THE apt famous Tyrian purple, the purple of Biblical days, is responsible for the civilization of the southern part of Europe. The dye is the product of a small shellfish, each mollusk affording a single drop of dye. It is a recorded fact that the weight of the famous Koh-i-noor was first determined by the aid of the seed of this peculiar plant. Probably the specific name "precatorius," meaning prayer, came from the fact that the seeds are used by the Hindustanis for rosaries.

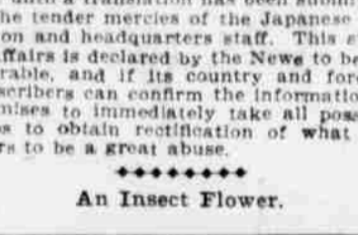
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A Novel Clock.

A WATCHMAKER has invented a clock which has, it is said, never been wound up, as it has no mainspring, and its works consist of but three wheels. The clock, which is in the form of a pendulum weighing forty pounds, is supported from the top by a very thin piece of steel about two inches long and one and a half inches wide. The pendulum rods are made of two different kinds of metal to compensate for contraction and expansion, and the whole thing is constructed to beat accurate seconds. All that was required to set the clock going was to start it swinging, when the force of gravity, indefinitely maintained by the magnets, did the rest. This clock has been going for several months, and will continue to go, the inventor says, so long as the magnets retain their magnetism. This it would seem that the clock is the nearest approach to perpetual motion yet attained. The clock keeps perfect time, and is not affected in any way by jar or vibration.

No copies of the Korea Daily News are permitted to be despatched through the post until a translation has been submitted to the tender mercies of the Japanese Legation and headquarters staff. This state of affairs is declared by the News to be intolerable, and if its country and foreign subscribers can confirm the information it promises to immediately take all possible steps to obtain rectification of what appears to be a gross abuse.

An Insect Flower.



TO the ordinary observer the insect shown in the photograph herewith resembles a flower so much like a part of the plant that it is impossible to tell where one leaves off and the other begins. As a matter of fact, the insect is one of those which conceal itself from enemies who prey upon it by simulating the appearance of the plant. The insect glories in the name of the Idolium Diabolum.

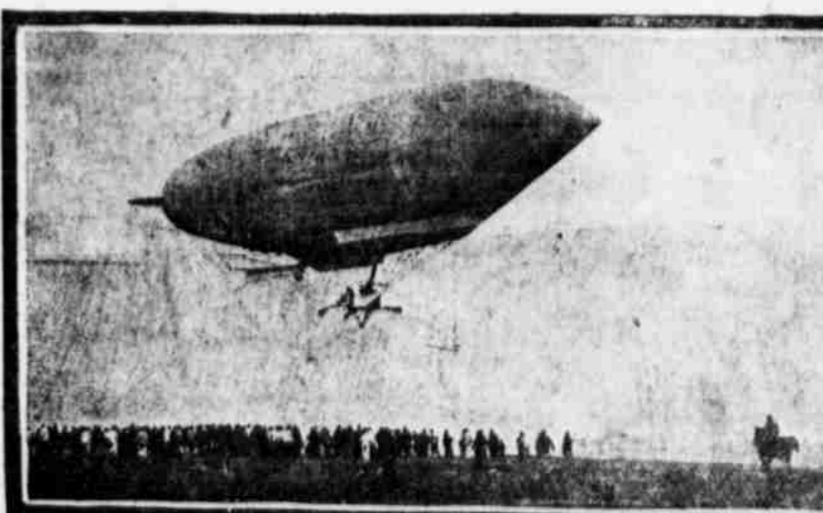
English Postal Puzles.

THE American Post Office Directory gives frequent instances of a dozen towns of the same name in different States and more than one instance of two towns of the same name in one State. The English postal authorities have their own troubles along similar lines, since there are in the book eighty-seven New Towns, seventy-two Suttons, sixty-three Stokes, fifty-two Westons, forty-seven Thorps and forty-one Burtons. This is a matter of greater moment than our own confusions, since the addition of the county does not materially better affairs, there being more than twenty Burtons and Thorns in one county alone. The only recourse is to send the letter over the air, until the person addressed is found for the conservative Englishman would never consent to the time honored name of his town being changed.

Wonderful Photography.

PHOTOGRAPHY, which has caught the railway express train in full motion, has also been brought into use to depict, with equal fidelity, action so slow as the growth of a flower. By exposing a plant to a camera every quarter of an hour for sixteen days it is now possible to watch a bud open gradually, to see the blossoms close at night and reopen in the morning, to see the leaves increase in size and the stems peep out. And all in the space of a minute or two.

A WAR BALLOON IN ACTION.



HERE is shown the highest degree of official perfection to which the motor balloon has been brought in France. It was used during recent military trials and is perfectly balanced. It will be used for reconnoitering the frontier, it is the development of M. Lebaudy and the greatest success attended his bringing to earth by means of guide ropes. The tests have been exhaustive and not a detail of possible contingencies was overlooked. The French are most thorough in these matters. Of eighty ascents only one was attended by any difficulties. Minor official perfection to which the motor balloon has been carried to a degree of development which no other country can rival.

A French talker who advertised "English spoken" was sometimes at a loss for the right word. On one occasion, wishing to tell a customer that her girl was too high, he hesitated a moment, then, with a look of inspiration, he said: "Madame, your curvature is too upstairs."