

ODDS AND ENDS OF INTEREST FROM NEAR AND FAR

THE FIRST SILK HAT EVER WORN.



HERE is a picture of the first silk hat ever worn. It made its appearance in the streets of London on January 17, 1792. It was worn by a Mr. John Hetherington, a London hatter, who took this means of advertising his wares. His appearance almost caused a riot, and resulted in his wearer being arrested and fined for disturbing the peace. The original hat is in the possession of an American.

THE total length of railways in Japan is now over 4,500 miles. The gauge is three feet six inches.

New Oyster Market.

OSTERS of the most inferior quality, indigenous to the nearby coast region, are brought to the markets of Buenos Ayres and, notwithstanding their very low grade, readily disposed of. Oysters of a good quality, M. Beupré's, the United States Minister says, would bring a high price, have an enormous sale in the city of Buenos Ayres, which has a million inhabitants, and there is no reason why a most lucrative industry of this kind could not be established.

An Ancient Diver.



THE art of diving is, of course, a very ancient one, and the plan of supplying air by means of the helmet with a tube leading to the surface is much older than is commonly imagined. The illustration accompanying is from an ancient drawing of a diver and his outfit made early in the last century.

Talking Machines Wanted.

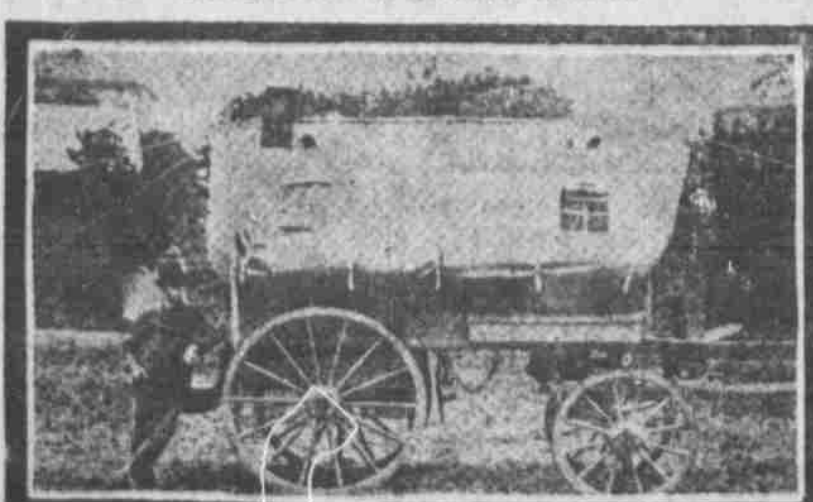
THE present prosperous state of trade in Honduras has caused an increased demand for phonographs and talking machines of various kinds. Many of the small country stores are purchasing phonographs for the amusement of their patrons. Now that talking machines are becoming so well known and liked, the demand for first class high priced instruments is increasing. Many persons are selling the cheaper machines originally purchased to buy those of a better grade. The outlook in Honduras for an increased sale of phonographs and talking machines is very encouraging and for the sale of Spanish-American offers a most attractive market, one that should receive particular attention.

Lima, the historic capital of Peru, is to have a system of electric street railroads operated by power obtained from falls in the Rimac River, thirty miles from the city. The cars used will be American and so will the electric machinery and the track.

Three years ago one fifty-thousandth of a pound of radium could be had in London for \$25, but now that the Austrian government has prohibited the exportation of radium that amount—a mere speck—would cost \$250.

No fewer than five Shakespearean plays were being given at different theatres in Berlin during the first week in February.

NOVEL FORM OF COVERED WAGON.



TENT wagons take the place of four-wheel automobiles in many European countries, and since they offer much of the same comfort at a greatly reduced expense they are in common use. The latest design in tent wagons is shown in the photograph reproduced herewith. The wagon is so arranged that the entire

operation of housekeeping may be carried on within.

Waxey Yahola, a full blooded Creek Indian, seventy-five years of age, had his hair cut the other day at Okmulgee, Okla., the first time that scissors ever touched his locks.

Remodelling the Nose.

IT is not more than five years since a physician conceived the idea of injecting paraffin into the flesh as a substitute for the fibrous tissue in the living body. Because of an accident the treatment was for a while unpopular, but previous to this a number of remarkable operations were performed. The physician published the history of more than thirty successful cases treated in this way, in which "clefts and fistulae were narrowed, cavities here and there were filled up, snail-like marks were taken out, sunken noses were remodelled, the falling in of the cheek after removal of the upper jaw was repaired and a nerve divided for the relief of neuralgia was prevented from growing together again."

An eminent English surgeon, who has had much success in the same line of work, in an address which he gave before the Medical Graduates' College not long ago, gave his experience with forty-three cases of sunken noses and three prolasae. Among these cases there were no deaths, no sloughing of the skin and the results were permanent and good. Some cases which seemed hopeless were treated successfully and some which looked easy were found to be insuperably hard. It is anxious work and heavy responsibility altering the shape of people's noses, and the surgeon must be content if he succeeds in making a nose that shall be merely unnoticeable.

It is no small matter to accomplish this, for the patients have sad stories to tell of the ridicule, the staring in the streets and ill-natured laughter which were their lot as a burden. But with a nose which, if not a Greek model, will at least permit the owner to go through life unnoticed and freed from contempt the surgeon has earned eternal gratitude.

Paraffin is a difficult material to use and there are many tricks in the use of it which must be learned before a surgeon can remodel noses. So often something goes wrong just at the last moment; a syringe leaks or cracks, the paraffin sets in the needle, or escapes above the piston, or otherwise fails to do what it should. The method of injection, says this authority, is much the same, whether a patient's nose is to be remedied or a sinus is to have its walls brought into apposition or a prolapse is to be held up. The paraffin is put in water that is well above its melting point, but not hot enough to crack the bottle. Everything being ready, draw up four or five cubic centimetres of paraffin; then hold the syringe under water, adjust the screw-nut and press out a drop or two of paraffin to make sure that it is all right; then dip your needle for six or eight seconds into water that is boiling or just at the boil, and then make the injection.

Joseph Nix, the Wesleyan reformer, took 348 signatures to a pledge in a single day at a gospel temperance meeting recently held in Bradford, England.

A Fifteenth Century Clock.

THE clock shown in the accompanying illustration is the work of a Holland clockmaker of the fifteenth century. It works were made of brass and the mechanism being kept in motion by the weight of two stones. Despite its crude construction, after all these years it is still able to run after a fashion and keep somewhat near the correct time.

Philosophy of Shaving.

LOW men, even after shaving themselves for years, understand the philosophy of the thing," said a New York physician the other day. "The use of soap lather prior to the shaving is regarded merely as a means of facilitating the troublesome operation. Soap is said to extract the oily matters from the hair and thus to render it brittle so that the blade of the razor saws through it easily. After all, shaving is a delicate sawing process. With sensitive skin, of course, a soap of good quality, and preferably free from alkaline excess, is desirable. On the other hand, it might be thought that an excess of alkali would prepare the beard more readily than a pure soap or superfatted soap. The correct effect of alkali, however, leaves no doubt as to what description of soap should be used. Soap probably plays a more important role than that of a soapifier of the natural oil of the hair. In spite of the fact that those who use the razor frequently cut themselves, it is rarely that anything more serious than a cut follows. The slight wound generally healing quickly, and the risk of septicaemia arising in this way would seem to be almost nil. In the majority of cases it is clear that the razor blade must be bacteriologically clean, which may be attributed to the fact that probably it is dipped into hot or sterilized water before use, or else that the soap lather is antiseptic. The latter explanation seems the more probable of the two.

The amount of soap rubbed on the skin is considerable if the shaving is to be in any degree comfortable, and soap has considerable antiseptic power, a six per cent solution being sufficient to destroy typhoid bacillus. There can be little doubt, therefore, that the skin is rendered sterile by the liberal use of soap, and this fact is in favor of any cut that may be made remaining healthy, and without any serious consequence. In a word, soap in the operation of shaving not only facilitates the process, but plays the same valuable role, when the shaver is unlucky enough to cut himself, as does the antiseptic in surgery.

Black Spanish lace shawls are prescribed for wear in England next summer. That is because of the marriage of the Duke of Sardinia and Princess Eou. The Pall Mall Gazette remarks that when the married bookbinder of London was rather out to it to supply the sudden demand for George Sand's "Consuelo."

Impure Food in Germany.

CONSUL GENERAL GUENTHER, of Frankfurt, writes about the trial of the proprietor of a sausage factory in Munich and the verdict arrived at, which have been much discussed by the German press and public. The defendant was charged with violation of the pure food laws and it was proved that in his factory large quantities of spoiled hams, decayed sides of pork, sausage covers that had been used before, the intestines of cattle and scraps of meat which had been designated for dog food, and even detestable parts of meat extracted from the garbage barrels, were by him converted into sausages and sold as good quality products.

In his defence other butchers and trade experts testified that the use of some of these substances was customary in sausage manufacture. The State's prosecuting attorney demanded that the accused be sentenced to one year's imprisonment and five years' loss of civil rights, but the court imposed only fourteen days' imprisonment and \$25 fine.

This model sausage manufacturer also supplied the army barracks and other public institutions with his vicious product.

Lord Balfour, the most eminent layman in the Church of Scotland, is arguing for Presbyterianism.

Remarkable Ice Formation.

A NEW steel for tools is being placed on the market. It can be hardened by simply heating to a high temperature and allowing it to cool in the air. Tools made out of this steel do not become soft through growing hot while being worked.

The finest army Y. M. C. A. building in the world is to be erected at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., the largest military post in the United States. It is a gift of a woman who withholds her name from the public and it will cost \$45,000.

An Indian Newsboy.

HOMBAY newsboy is usually of the Suti cast, which is several degrees above that of an ordinary coolie. He carries a sign, as shown in the picture, telling the latest news of interest. The newsboy receives from ten to twelve cents, or rather, in Sudan money, five to six annas a day, or one anna being equal to two cents of American money. The Bombay newsboy wears shoes—something uncommon for the East Indian native—but he has become a Christian and feels it necessary to adopt some of the expensive habits of Western civilization, which is gradually being carried to the Far East.

Bacon in Canada.

CONSUL HARVEY, of Port Erie, on the Canadian shore opposite Buffalo, sheds some new light on the much discussed subject of American bacon in Canada, giving the statement of some live stock men that Canadians often buy an inferior grade of hogs that are rejected by American packers, which may account for part of the general complaints against the quality of the cured meats. Canadian packers, however, are particular about the animals they kill for export, as Canada cured bacon sells, the consul states, higher in price than that of ours, which takes but a few hours, while the Canadian process takes days. American bacon sells lower than the home product at Port Erie after paying two cents per pound duty.

No beef cattle are exported to the States from this district. Beef retails three cents higher per pound than in Buffalo. Among farm products going to Buffalo are lamb, calves, hides, live poultry and clover. Timotey and blue grass seed in considerable quantities. For racing purposes 600 to 800 American horses are sent here annually, while 27 Canadian horses, valued at \$15,875, were exported from Port Erie last year to Buffalo and New York city. These latter were coach, draught, riding and hunting horses.

The largest article of export from that district is natural gas, which is produced in large quantities. Most of it is piped to Buffalo, the amount being estimated at 10,000,000 cubic feet per day.

Narrowest House.

THE Rev. Sylvester Horse has a billiard room at Whitehall Tabernacle, London.

Secrets of Savages.

EVEN very low types of savages are able to do many things which the modern nations cannot explain, and sometimes to beat the white man at his own game. Servals is a Roy, a conjurer, on one occasion took a trip up the Congo. His feats of magic deluded the natives, and their professional magicians would frequently show the greatest interest in his tricks. At last, however, he met one who was more than his match. This man took an ordinary turnip and made it change into a human face. How he did it the Belgian conjurer has never succeeded in discovering.

Some of these African wizards profess to be able to turn themselves into lions or other animals, and so travel vast distances and find out the plans of their enemies. In this case it may be quite certain that these tribes have means of finding out with telegraphic rapidity occurrences at great distances.

About five years ago Dr. R. W. Felkin accompanied Emin Pacha on a tour through Uganda and the territory beyond it. The doctor then travelled northward toward the Sudan. At last he got to Lado, about a thousand miles south of Khartoum. One morning after his arrival a local wizard told him that during the previous night he had been at Meachera el Rok, on the Nile, 60 miles away, and that two steamers had just arrived there. The doctor, who had been away from civilization as long as he knew nothing of the relations of the Sudan and the territory beyond it, but the "old" or wizard, insisted it was true, described the people on the boats and spoke of one Englishman, short with a big beard, who had letters for Dr. Felkin. He said he was coming to Lado, and would be there in about thirty days. Thirty-two days later Lupton Bey arrived with letters. As for the wizard, the doctor believes that he never was more than a few miles from his native village in his life. It seems certain that he, and others of his kind, must have a far greater command over the mysteries of telegraphy than any European.

Bacteria and Flies.

THE story that flies were entirely harmless and were useful in the rôle of scavengers was prevalent for many years. But with the coming of bacteriology this was exploded and the fly was found to be a most dangerous source of amount of harm which the familiar insect did was not known.

There have been many experiments made to ascertain this fact, but the most recent was carried on at Johns Hopkins University. A box which had been divided into two parts was prepared. In one side was exposed some food material, which was infected with a species of harmless bacteria easily recognized. In the other side a dish containing a sterile medium for bacteria. Common house flies were confined in the first compartment or eat of as they were seen to alight on one side of the box which had been a small door into the other side of the box so that they might have the opportunity to come in contact with the sterile medium. The result was that the bacteria nutrient medium deposited upon the sterile characteristic colonies.

These experiments were further carried out by placing a dish of molasses with one side of the box with a dozen flies. Half an hour later the door connecting the two came in contact with the flies allowed to As soon as this was accomplished the flies covered and put away to develop. A hundred colonies of yellow bacteria had formed on the sterile nutrient. The same experiment was repeated with red and violet dyes with the same result. It was proved that the germs from which these colonies grew came from the infected material in the first compartment and not from accidental sources. Other groups of flies were allowed to come in contact with the nutrient, but with no infected material, were not produced. Further proof that the bacteria was made by placing the infected material in the first compartment, but with no flies. The result was that the dishes of nutrient in this case produced no colonies.

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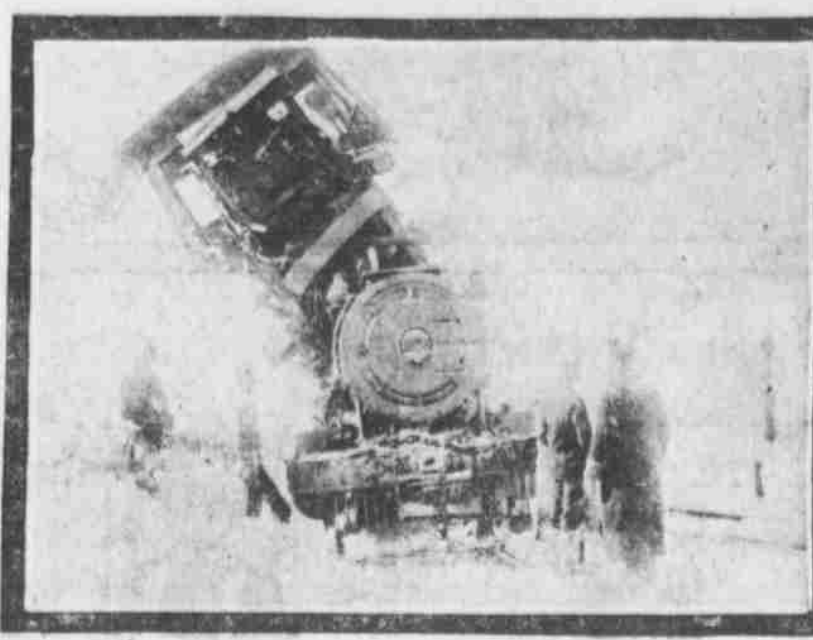
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RESULT OF A HEAD ON COLLISION.



HEAD on collisions are by no means uncommon, but the remarkable result of such an encounter, which occurred on a railroad in Massachusetts, holds a unique position in railroad history. In this case the lighter locomotive actually rode over the engine it encountered and became firmly wedged on top of it. So secure was its position that it was possible to draw it for a considerable distance in safety without its being dislodged. A remarkable feature of the collision was that the front of the lower locomotive was very slightly damaged in the encounter.

A London advertiser offers for 102 or a grammophone a gray African parrot, six years old, that can speak distinctly eight hundred words and uses sentences of from twenty to thirty words.

The Making of a Forest.

OF the many remarkable undertakings of the United States Forestry Commission none will be watched with more interest than the experiments in forest making. The movement was begun in 1890 and was in many ways the most important work of the kind ever undertaken. It is a new plan for solving the problem of forest destruction by growing new forests under the care of the government. The scene of this endeavor is in the sand hills of Western Nebraska, where the commission hopes to cover these bare reaches of drifting sand with sturdy pine forests.

To the uninitiated the spot selected seems hopeless to the success of this undertaking, but the scientists tell us that this region was once the bottom of a sea. It is the lowest point in this region, and this gives the drainage from the surrounding plateau, which is a condition necessary for the growth of a forest. Though the top soil may be dry the soil underneath is all ways moist, the very dryness of the sand above serving to keep the dampness from evaporation, no matter how hot the sun may shine upon it. There are certain trees, these grow downward to a great length, and the trees are well nourished. The pine has been known to make growth of from fifteen to eighteen feet in ten years under exactly these conditions.

This part of Nebraska is used for grazing by rich farming lands. The co-operation of the government to keep this embryo forest from being ravaged by fire. The two experimental reserves which have been established in this section comprise 21,000 acres. A nursery was established at Hildes, in the valley of the Middle Loop River, with a half acre seed bed protected by a fence. Nearly six hundred pounds of seed, principally Western yellow pine and jack pine, were prepared for the spring sowing. Various scattered areas are being tested, these, by sending the seed amounts, are to be united into one great forest. It will, indeed, be a marvellous undertaking, and, if successful, will change the face of the plain.

Proposals for enabling persons to prepare replies to letters sent abroad will be discussed at the Postal Union Congress at Rome next April.

London Scene.

QUEEN LOUISE of Denmark is said to be the richest princess in Europe. She is believed to have inherited \$15,000,000 from her mother's father, who was Prince Frederick of the Netherlands. She received another fortune from her father, King Charles of Sweden.

Employers of barbers in the West End of London are combining to do away with tips. They say the tips are not only obnoxious to most customers, but result in a waste of time by the barbers in the form of excess of attention to customers who give the highest tips.

STREET DANCERS OF INDIA.



DANCING in India is held in the highest esteem and dates back many centuries. The girls never dance with strangers, but, as shown in the accompanying illustration, with each other, performing all sorts of grotesque figures. These girls are usually about twelve years old and wear many solid gold ornaments, including the dancing girls are the musicians, each playing world strains on a kind of violinette. These two men chant and play while the dancing girls whirl about and tickle each other on the nose and chin, a token of mirth and affection in that hot country. After performing the dance they "salute" to the onlookers and receive a few coins.

Accompanied only by an Indian blind-brother in Nevada, says she discovered in the foothills of the Funeral Mountains of Death Valley a ledge of rich copper and gold ore. It is worth of the find is correct it is worth millions.