

WORKING HOURS ABROAD.

The Laboring Day in Various European Countries.

A Turkish laboring day lasts from sunrise to sunset with certain intervals for refreshment and repose, says Chambers's Journal. In Montenegro the day laborer begins work at 8 for half an hour, works on till noon, rests until 2, and then labors on until sunset; this is in summer. In winter he commences work at 7:30 or 8, rests from 12 to 1, and works uninterruptedly from that time to sunset. The rules respecting skilled labor are theoretically the same, but considerable laxity prevails in practice. In Serbia the principle of individual convenience rules in every case. In Portugal from sunrise to sunset is the usual length of working day. With field laborers and workmen in the building trade the summer working day begins at 4:30 or 5 in the morning and ends at 7 in the evening, two or three hours rest being taken in the middle of the day. In winter the hours are from 7:30 to 5 with a shorter interval of repose. In manufacturing the rule is twelve hours in summer and ten in winter, with an hour and a half allowed for meals.

Eleven hours is the average day's labor in Belgium, but brewers' men work from ten to seventeen hours; brickmakers, sixteen; the cabinet-makers of Brussels and Ghent are often at work seventeen hours a day; tramway drivers are on duty from fifteen to seventeen hours, with an hour and a half off at noon; railway guards sometimes know what it is to work nineteen and a half hours at a stretch, and in the mining districts women are often kept at truck-loading and similar heavy labor for thirteen or fourteen hours.

The normal workday throughout Saxony is thirteen hours, with two hours for meal-taking. In Baden the medium duration of labor is from ten to twelve hours, but in some cases it far exceeds this, often rising to fifteen hours in stoneware and china works and cotton-mills; in saw-mills to seventeen hours; while the workers in the sugar refineries, where the shift system is in vogue, work for twenty-four hours and then have twenty-four hours free, and in many of the Baden factories Sunday work is the rule. In Russian industrial establishments the difference in the working hours is something extraordinary, varying from six to twenty. It is remarkable that these great divergencies occur in the same branches of industry within the same inspector's district and among establishments whose produce realizes the same market price.

Women Who Charm.

Beyond beauty, cleverness, wit, attainments, beyond any endowment which can be given to a woman, is the simple and indefinable attribute which we call charm. It is impossible to analyze its component parts, and equally so to write a prescription in avoidance or apothecary's weight the resultant precipitate of which shall compose this best of the creator's gifts to woman. Eve had it, we fancy, and Miriam, Ruth and the queen of Sheba; and it belonged, too, no doubt, to Jezebel, the infamous but splendid and surpassingly brave princess before whom even Elijah's courage quailed. Sappho had charm; so had Cleopatra and Beatrice and Rosalind. Mary of Scotland bewitched men's hearts not less by her conquering charm than by her wonderful loveliness and dauntless daring, while Elizabeth of England—many sided, strong and resolute, with a man's heart under a woman's corsage—had the fatal defect of lacking charm. There are women in every community, in every church, who with no apparent effort captivate all hearts and enjoy a popularity which others vainly envy, continuing to please till their latest day, for age cannot wither nor custom stale the infinite variety of a really charming woman. A rose is a rose, and a cabbage is a cabbage, and each has its place; but no body claims charm for a cabbage, though it take the prize at a country fair; while the simplest rosebud on the bush by the way side challenges the world of flowers with this royal distinction.

What is it? A trick of manner, of speech, a lifting of the eyebrow, a drooping of the lip, an air of gentle breeding, a fine-grained courtesy? These may be part of it, but charm is something deeper. The pretty waitress at your elbow may possess it, while it is denied to her mistress, the daughter, perhaps, of a hundred earls. Whatever else it is, be sure it is pure womanliness and has belonged to the fair sex since that far-off day when the sons of God beheld the daughters of men, and, beholding, loved them.

Why They Are Called Church Widows.

"What would the churches do if it wasn't for the women?" inquired one citizen of another as the two met in a reading-room. "They are very successful in church work, that's certain," answered his friend carelessly, adding, "Give me a light, Charlie." "Do you know what they call those excellent women who go to church alone every Sunday?" asked the first speaker. "No. It must be some saintly title, I'm sure."

"They are known as church widows, because their husbands are never seen with them. It will be a little hard on some husbands if after all they can't get into heaven by proxy, won't it?"

Shall Women Be Allowed to Vote?

The question of female suffrage has agitated the tongues and pens of reformers for many years, and good arguments have been adduced for and against it. Many of the softer sex could vote intelligently, and many would vote as their husbands did, and give no thought to the merits of a political issue. They would all vote for Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription, for they know it is a boon to their sex. It is unequalled for the cure of leucorrhoea, abnormal discharges, morning sickness, and the countless ills to which women are subject. It is the only remedy for woman's peculiar weaknesses and ailments, sold by druggists, under a positive guarantee from the manufacturers, that it will give satisfaction in every case, or money will be refunded. See guarantee on wrapper around bottle.

Guest (attempting to carve):—"What kind of a chicken is this anyhow?" Waiter:—"Dat's a genuine Plymouth Rocker, sah." Guest (throwing up both hands):—"That explains it. I knew she was an old-timer; but I had no idea she dated back there. Take 'er away. I draw the line on the hens from the Mayflower."

NAVAL NOTES.

Some Interesting Items Relating to the British and Other Navies.

The British torpedo gunboat Speedwell completed the second of her series of progressive trials under forced draught at Portsmouth Thursday week. According to the foreign reports the vessel was run for three hours with three inches of air pressure in the stokehold. The engines are said to have worked very satisfactorily. The average pressure of steam in the boiler was 130 pounds, the revolutions 257 and 256 1/2 per minute for each engine, and the collective power indicated 3,584 horse, which was slightly beyond what it was proposed to obtain. The speed upon the measured mile was 19.4-10 knots, while the mean speed realized the three hours as determined by logs was 19 knots. Like the rest of her class the Speedwell still evinces too much weakness to stand the strain of forced draught without extensive vibration, and if the Admiralty wish to have efficient ships, British engineers say, they must not sacrifice every contingency to the problematical advantage gained by cutting down weights and banishing all dead wood and substantiality in the hulls of the new-fashioned cruisers.

The United Service Gazette quotes Mr. W. H. White, Director of Naval Construction, as speaking at a banquet recently given by the Shipwrights' Company where he stated that Great Britain is now engaged in one of the most important enterprises which she has ever undertaken, the building of seventy ships of war, at a cost of £21,000,000 in five years. These ships are designed to be ready in April, 1894. England, Mr. White says, is pre-eminently the shipbuilding country of the world. During the past month he had visited all the yards where these ships were being built, and he could assure his hearers that each of these yards could do more than the whole of the shipbuilding yards of any other nation.

Five years ago the Spanish Parliament voted nine millions sterling for increasing the naval armament, and to build by degrees a new fleet of cruisers, torpedo vessels, and fast gunboats in the royal arsenals and in foreign and native yards. In execution of this project the new Minister of Marine, Admiral Montojo, has decided to reorganize the naval forces at home and in the colonies. An evolutionary squadron, composed of one large iron-clad, five new cruisers, two gunboats, and several torpedo vessels, will be permanently in commission at home. The squadrons attached to the West India and Philippine Islands, largely reinforced, will each in future be under the orders of a Vice Admiral. The Minister of Marine also proposes to improve the colonial fortifications and the defenses of ports and arsenals at home at a cost of several million pesetas annually.

The British cruiser Reindeer, which has just arrived at Zanzibar from Mozambique, appears to have experienced a rough time at the hands of the Portuguese. The officers of the Reindeer state that they were completely boycotted by the Portuguese, all the merchants absolutely refusing to sell them even the necessaries of life, and openly stated that their refusal was due to direct orders from the Governor himself. Insulting remarks are said to have been made of those officers attending the band stand.

The Italian naval manœuvres that have taken place during the past fortnight off the west coast of Italy are said to have produced interesting results. There were three divisions. The first, composed of the iron-clads Italia and Piemonte and the gunboat Colonna, with six torpedo boats, made an attack upon Genoa. The second tried to capture the Magdalena and the third Spezia. The three places were defended by their respective squadrons, who all gained an advantage over the ships.

The British Admiralty have abandoned their intention of fitting out the Sapphire for service as a training ship, and have decided not to employ her again as an effective ship of war. The East African Lakes Company is in treaty with the admiralty, it is said, for the purchase of a store ship for use on the Zambesi, and if the Sapphire is found suitable on survey, it is expected she will be sold to the company.

A change has been made in the armament of the British cruiser Narcissus. The vessel has been provided with two 9.2-inch twenty-two-ton breech-loading guns, which have been mounted on their fittings at the bow and stern. After her gunnery trial it is expected that the Narcissus will be prepared for commission for service with the channel squadron.

The British war ship Vulcan is still in dock at Portsmouth. Nothing has been done as yet to strengthen her frames. These only show weakness under the water-tight bulkheads, and there only to a very slight extent. Her steam trials are to take place in May, when her ventilating arrangements will be thoroughly tested.

It is reported that inquiries are being made in the ports of Australia and New-Zealand for the information of the British Admiralty as to the facilities offered for coaling ships of war. This problem is one of the most important which the naval world has at present to grapple with.

The Snail's Mouth

The mouth of the snail is armed with a very formidable instrument, in the shape of a remarkable saw-like tongue. It resembles a long narrow ribbon, coiled in such a manner that only a small portion of it is called into use at once. Thickly distributed over the entire surface of this ribbon are an immense number of excessively sharp little teeth, designed in a manner which admirably adapts them to the purpose for which they are intended. The quantity of these teeth is incredible—one species, for instance, has been indisputably proved to possess as many as 30,000 of them. The reason for their disposition on a coiled, ribbon-like surface lies in the fact that by use they become worn away. As this happens the ribbon is uncoiled, and the teeth which before were wrapped up in it, at the back of the snail's mouth, come forward to take the place of those which have served their turn. The upper part of the mouth consists of a horny surface against which the sharp toothed tongue works. A leaf which is to be operated upon is caught between the two, and subjected to a regular file-like rasping on the part of the tongue. So effective an instrument does this form that the tough leaves of the lily may often be found to be entirely rasped off by it.

When it takes a fellow eighteen minutes to assist a girl to don her sealskin saque the natural inference is that he hopes to be more than a brother to her.

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By order of the Board. (Signed) D. COULSON, Cashier. The Bank of Toronto, Toronto, April 23, 1890.

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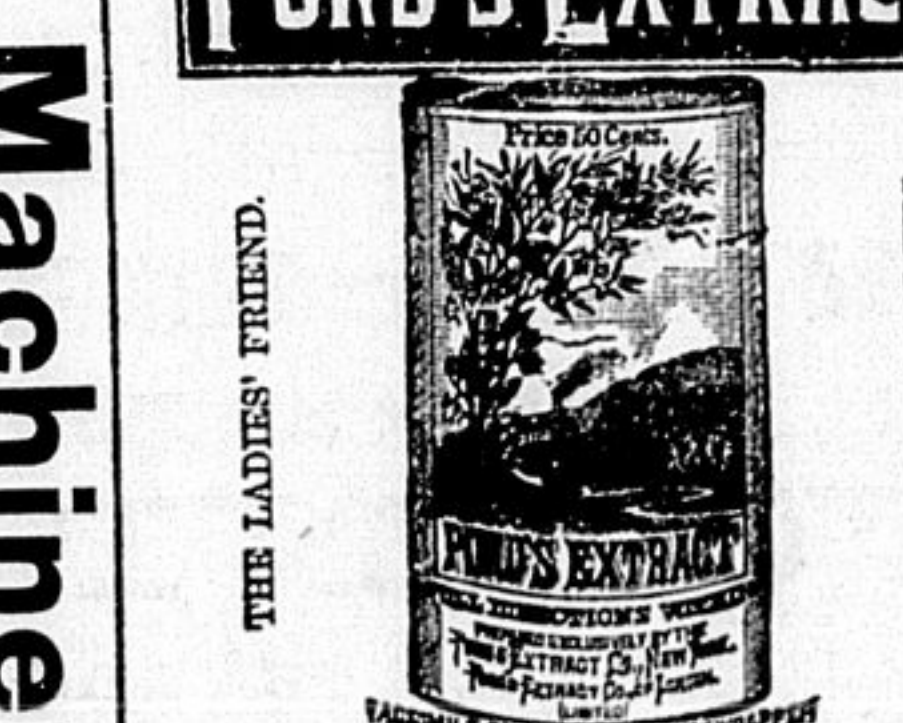
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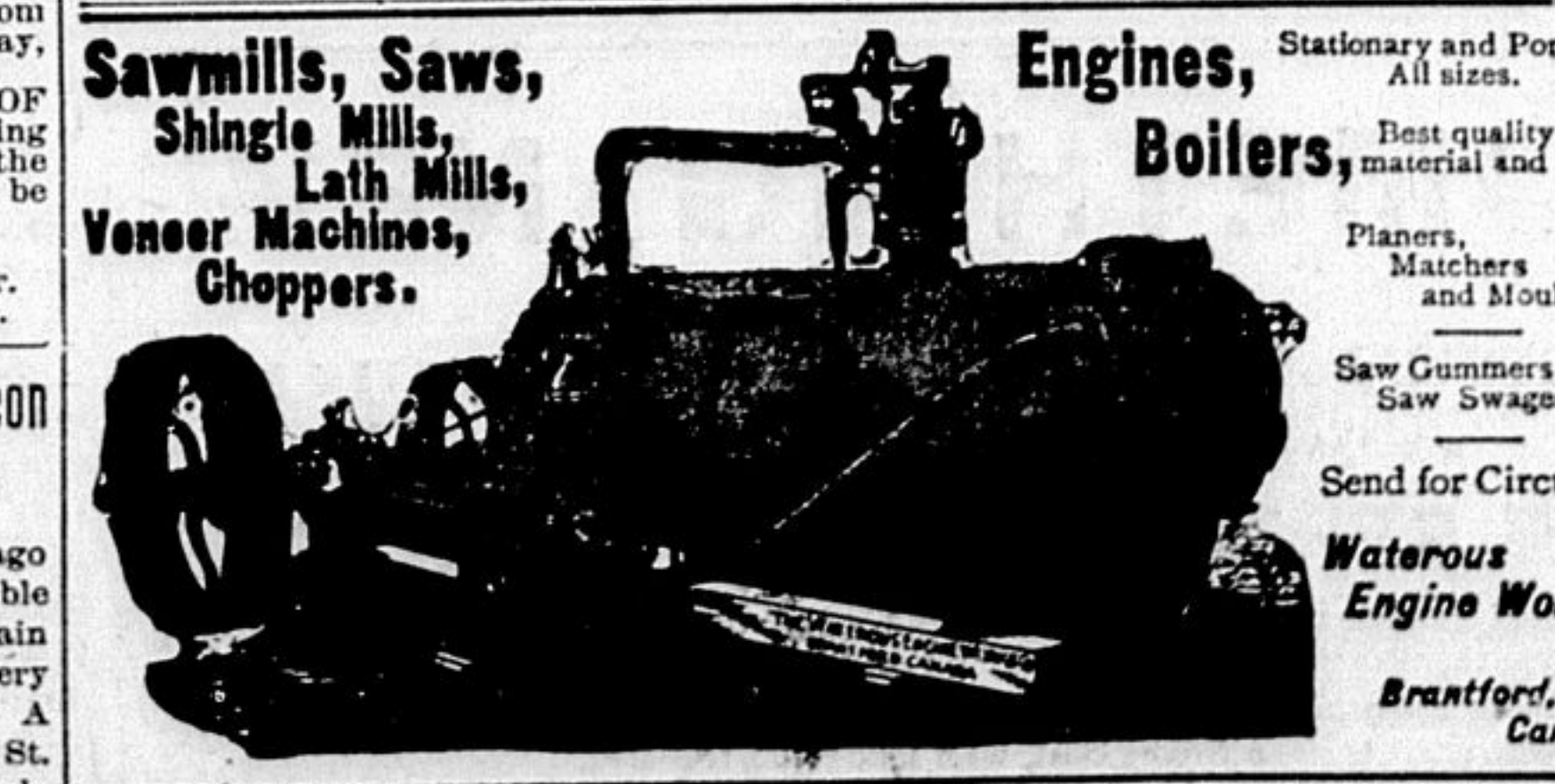
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