

# The Fenelon Falls Gazette.

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No. 2

FOR 1914

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### WOMEN WHO RULE

Father Minds the Baby While Mother Works

The district of Willesden is a perfect paradise for a certain type of husband. There is no need for him to go out to work; his wife will see to that. All he need do is stay at home and mind the baby. He has a job for life, and practically nothing to do.

It is no uncommon thing for a husband to mind the baby while his wife goes to work. This arrangement is due to the peculiar industrial conditions of Willesden, where there are many laundries and factories, and female labor is much in demand. Although it is cheaper than male labor would be at the same class of work, the wages are good considering that only five days a week are worked in the laundries, the women not being required on Mondays. As much as from \$5 to \$6 a week can be earned, \$5 being a common wage, even for girls.

Consequently the women rule the industrial world of Willesden. The positions of man and wife are reversed. There is no need for the man to go to work. Not only would he be unsuitable for the job, but the labor and the wages would not suit him.

### The Forth Bridge

The Forth Bridge in Scotland has a total length, with its approaches, of 8,295 feet. It contains 50,958 tons of steel, and required 6,500,000 rivets to fasten it together. There are three huge built graceful steel towers, each 345 feet high, from which are built out the great cantilever arms, each 680 feet in length. Sir Benjamin Baker declared that a battleship could be hung at the end of each cantilever arm without causing the ties at the tops at the tower to part, so strong is the structure. The bridge contains two spans of 1,700 feet, the greatest of all bridge spans. The structure took seven years to build, cost \$15,000,000, and demanded a toll of fifty-seven lives.

### Memorizing Figures

Mark Twain told of a plot who knew every bend, creek, current and shallow in the Mississippi river throughout its whole mighty length, but could not remember what he had for breakfast. A story is told of one man with a memory that apparently collects only figures. He can always remember one's age, even if he forgets the name. He will memorize easily the times of all the trains to a given place, but he generally forgets the platforms from which they start. Reel off to him a column of statistics and he will recite them again a month later without a mistake.

### FIGHTING PLANTS

Thorns, poisons and Daggers Used in Their Defence

Plants have to defend themselves from their enemies in the same way as men. They have to fight with each other for room enough in the soil to live, and the weaker plants often go under in the struggle for existence. The battles of plants, however, are mainly fought against the animals and insects which are always threatening to destroy them.

Many plants have wonderful weapons for their protection. The thorns of the rose bush, bramble and gorse prevent cows and horses from eating them, as well as keeping off snails and slugs. The cactus family of plants have a formidable armor of prickles and daggers. The plant known as the Spanish bayonet is armed with taper-pointed spears that have fle-like edges. Some plants, such as the ragged robin, have sticky stems, covered with fine hairs to which insects stick if they climb up to try to steal the honey.

Many plants use poison as a means of protection. The sun spurge has a poisonous juice which kills any insects which approach it, while the poisonous properties of the deadly nightshade are well known.

The common bladder wort, an aquatic plant, not only defends itself against insects and animals, but catches worms and fish for its food.

Perhaps the most original means of self-defense is that possessed by a strange plant called the rattlesnake iris, which grows on the prairies of America. When ripe its seeds give a rattling noise very similar to that made by a rattlesnake. This is greatly feared by animals, who will never go near the plant.

### Baseball in England

Baseball has invaded at least one school ground in England. With the aid of a diagram of the diamond and a more or less accurate description of the game cut from the papers, the youngsters of a London County Council school equipped themselves for the fray. A piece of broomstick served as a bat. In stern adherence to the rules of the game the pitcher provided himself with a hard heavy ball also. He understood it to be his duty to hurl it as fast as he could. Unfortunately the players were not able to perform the miracle of the American champions and at the end of ten minutes the catcher was weeping and the first baseman was staunching the flow from his wounded nose, while centre field was hopping around on one foot. Baseball is off for the present in that school.

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M. W. Reive, Manager.