FISHERS OF THE AIR.

An Exciting Sport Peculiar to a Section of Italy.

It is not often that one comes across a little place that has an ingenious and exciting sport all its own. At Cava dei Tirreni, in Italy, however, there has for a thousand years existed a peculiar form of pigeon-catching. It was introduced in 892, says Mr. Herbert Vivian in Italy at War, and it has flourished ever since. At the beginning of every autumn great flocks of pigeons migrate from Siberia to Africa and pass over Cava and the Gulf of Salerno. They probably have other routes, but Cava is the only place where they are waylaid with nets and slings. The season is at its height from the 15th to the 25th of October.

The pigeon-catchers are mostly men of the lower middle class, who club together to form six societies, or "games." A game usually consists of three or four towers and a clearing where the nets are set up. One tower is probalby a thousand yards from the net, and the nearest perhaps seventy yards, but the distances vary. The towers are tall and slim, windowless and weather-beaten. There are steps about halfway up the inside, and a rickety ladder leads to the parapet at the top. Each society has also a neat little clubhouse, usually near the chief tower.

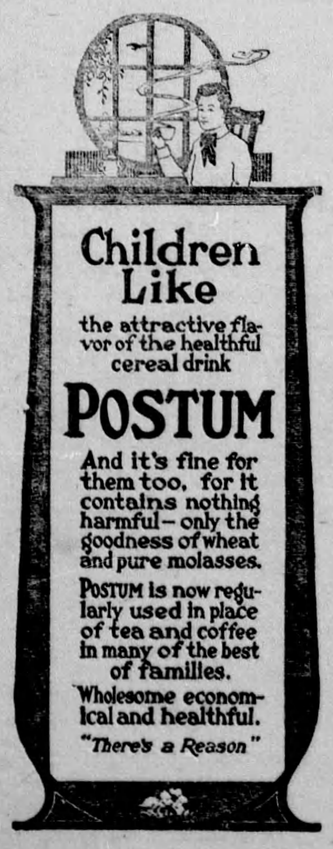
In a merry mood the members take their places in the fresh morning air. Most of them are dressed in velveteen coats, top-boots and peaked caps. Two men ascend each tower and the rest are distributed among the nets. In each of the clearings stands a small house from the centre of which rises a tall black mast. To that two huge nets are fastened, stretching right and left to clumps of trees and spreading out obliquely to the ground. Inside the house is a handle and a cogwheel for raising the weighted nets. The lookout place is a straw hut two or three miles away in the direction from which the pigeons are expected. When the watcher sights a flock of birds he gives a signal on his horn, which other watchers scattered about the woods take up.

The birds travel at a tremendous speed, always with a leader, and in flocks of from thirty to one hundred. Everyone takes to cover, for the birds are easily freightened. The men on the towers are provided with long slings and whitewashed stones about the size of small hens' eggs. These they discharge with great force. The pigeons, it is said, mistake the stones for hawks and make frantic efforts to avoid them, so the slingers must fling the stones where they do not wish the birds to go; yet when they are flying high, a stone flung beneath them will bring them hurtling downward. Then, with loud cries, the watchers drive them toward the nets. The stone-slinging is the essence of the sport, and it requires strong muscles, a quick eye and a steady aim.

But the netting is also difficult. The man at the ropes is white and nervous; everything now depends upon him. If he releases the weight at the right moment, the net comes down instantly and the birds are bagged. A moment too soon, and they see the danger and avoid it; a moment too late and they pass in safety. It is a matter of an instant, and many more flocks escape than are taken.

The birds are gray and somewhat smaller than the domestic pigeon. They cannot be trained or tamed. The sport is far from being profitable, for even when they have good luck the pigeon catchers never take enough birds to pay for the elaborate preparation they have made. But the moment when the nets whirl down at Cava is a moment of rare excitement.

If your car is a new one there is some means provided for warming the inlet manifold, such as casting it inside the cylinder block so that it will be warmed by the waterjackets. An old engine will have to be fitted with a manifold in which inlet and exhaust pass through the same casting, so that the exhaust heats the inlet and so warms the gas.



A British naval gun that has "got" many subs. It is the chief weapon of what is known as a submarine parent ship.—Admiralty Official photograph. Crown Copyright.

OPINIONS ON WORLD PROBLEMS

By Chas. M. Bice, Attorney-at-Law, Denver, Colorado.

THE GERMAN PEOPLE.

This war has ben a continuous succession of startling events. The world has been given gasp after gasp, and the surprises never seem to end. It has witnessed on the one hand the Russian convulsion, ending in the destruction of monarchic autocracy and the substitution of anarchic autocracy; and on the other hand it has witnessed the iron autocracy of Kaiserism forged more firmly than ever around the necks of the German people. It is now witnessing the gradual, but certain dissolution of the last vestige of feudalism in Austria-Hungary.

The Romanoffs have gone, the Hapsburgs are going, but the Hohenzollerns are mightier among their people than ever. Verily, Frederick the Great, were he alive to-day, could learn much from his descendants.

* * * *

This of itself, is startling; but that which surpasses all other situations in the element of surprise is the fact that the world, wise as it is, wiser as it grows, did not know that for forty-five years a very considerable portion of its affairs had been intrusted to the keeping of a nation absolutely dedicated to ideals that had been swept aside at Runnymede, England, during 1215—did not know that medievalism flourished stronger than ever before, but under the alluring name of "Kultur." Perhaps the very grotesqueness of the idea disarmed suspicion.

* * * *

While the world at large—the world of civilization and spiritual ideas, has been consecrating itself to the task of freeing mankind from the bondage of materialism, giving increased expression to the principle of the brotherhood of man, to which even China has awakened, we find Germany, hypnotized by the Nietzches, Trietsches and Bernhardis—a willing, servile disciple of the doctrine that might makes right, and that the golden rule was never intended to apply as between nations.

Hence the hatred universally directed against Germany is a hatred of her idols and ideals, and the more bitter it is the more it reflects the freedom of Germany's foes.

Little wonder then, that the question is oft repeated: "Are Kaiser-trained Germans fit for civilization, or citizenship in civilized nations?"

Not unless they can be made to see the folly of their vassalage and subserviency to autocracy, and the utter idiocy of the thought of themselves as "supermen," can any hope of their reformation be entertained.

* * * *

Great things were accomplished in this war by the German "machine" that caught other nations unprepared: unheard of slaughter is to her credit, or disgrace, as we may view it, barbarities that will rise to plague the German people for generations to come, destruction on land and sea that is bound to affect the future attitude of all nations dealing with her. This record cannot be condoned or forgotten by the rest of the world very soon. But Kaiser Wilhelm, in the face of it all, like Macbeth, conjures vain hopes and appears to have met the witches on the heath. He will soon be disillusioned, and then what? Time alone can answer.

* * * *

A year ago France was suffering from the Aisne disaster, and the morale of the army was lower than it had been since the war started.

The Russian situation was rapidly growing worse, and if the allied centers did not know it, Berlin did, that Russia as a factor in the war would soon be nonexistent.

Later in the year the Isonzo disaster came upon the allies without warning, and Italy seemed to be nearing the chasm over which Russia and Rumania had disappeared.

The enemy was scarcely to blame if it decreed last autumn that Italy as an antagonist need not be counted. The winter months gave Germany possession of what she required in Russia, and relieved her of holding an army on the eastern front. It was a question of an early spring, a united German army on the western front, and a glorious victory at last.

* * * *

When March came and Germany struck, the blow made the allies reel, the blow falling most severely on the British lines with very heavy losses, and consequent danger to the Channel ports.

Two months later, the French armies to the south were assailed, and it is only recently that Paris could be considered as safe from German investment.

During the war year just ended, the losses from submarine attacks were at the highest point, and the London Times is authority for the statement, that during the Picardy assault that came so close to a Waterloo for the allies, the United Kingdom was never so near the door of starvation, due to railroad congestion near New York, etc.

* * * *

But thank heaven! the fifth year opens with a clear sky. France, Italy and Britain, politically and militarily, are stronger than they were a year ago, and more united and determined to prosecute the war to victory. The submarine menace has been met and solved, the allied shipping has immensely increased. The Atlantic bridge is effectually maintained.

Only in recent months has America's contribution been powerful or effective. A year ago we were unable to do aught but grant credits to our allies; to-day we are dispatching men by the hundreds of thousands. The Foch counter attacks in the Soissons-Rheims salient have staggered the Huns, while their retreat from the Marne is little short of a rout.

* * * *

Foch is in his element in assuming the offensive, and he appears to be a great general, far outranking anything Germany has produced. His recent victory is the most brilliant in the annals of war.

America is building a magnificent army in France, and the portion of it now on the firing line has demonstrated its courage and spirit in a manner that has elicited the highest praise from Military circles. We will have an army of over 4,000,000 men in France by next Spring. Huns, please take notice.

FISH THAT CARRY LANTERNS.

Strange Animals That Inhabit the Depths of the Ocean.

Up to within very recent years it was believed that the depths of the sea were uninhabited by any living creatures. But it is now known that the marine abysses have a fauna of their own, consisting of animal species wholly unfamiliar to us.

Among these animals are many kinds of fishes, most weird and strange—for instance, sharks that in shape resemble huge eels. A striking funny type is the "black swallower," which spends its time buried in the shelly ooze of the bottom. It is nearly all mouth, and gets a living by waiting for prey to walk into its covernous jaws.

Another species is able literally to swallow fishes ten times as big as itself, its jaws being enormously distensible, so that it climbs around the victim, so to speak, and envelops it. In general, the fishes of the ocean depths are black, and either blind or else provided with huge eyes to catch every ray of light.

The marine absses are a region of total and absolute darkness. But this darkness is illuminated by the phosphorescent torches which the fishes and other creatures carry. Even the jellyfishes are luminescent, and at moderate depths the bottom is covered over wide areas with seafans and other animal growths that, counterfeiting plants, bear their own lights.

One understands, then, why the depth-fishes (when not wholly blind) have such great eyes. Some of them also carry lanterns, seemingly designed to help them in looking for prey. These lanterns, in some species, are constructed much like eyes, with a lens, a nerve entering at the back like the optic nerve, and even a muscular arrangement for turning the lantern this way and that.

A species named by the scientists Argyropelecus has more than two-score such lanterns, each of them is provided with a brilliant reflector. They are veritable bullseye lamps, with double-convex lenses of crystal-clear substance. To make each reflector more efficient, there is behind it a layer of black pigment, which, in fact, envelops the whole of the globular-shaped lantern, just as is the case with a human eye.

Another species of fish has on either side of its head a double lamp, with reflectors, the two pointing different ways. That is to say, one pair of lanterns points ahead, like the lamps of an automobile, while the other pair is directed downward to illuminate the bottom over which the fish is passing.

The lanterns carried by the abyssal fishes give lights of different colors—silvery, golden or greenish. They must lend to the scenery of the ocean depths a weird and wonderful effect.

YES! MAGICALLY!
CORNS LIFT OUT
WITH FINGERS

You say to the drug store man, "Give me a small bottle of freezone." This will cost very little but will positively remove every hard or soft corn or callus from one's feet.

A few drops of this new ether compound applied directly upon a tender, aching corn relieves the soreness instantly, and soon the entire corn or callus, root and all, dries up and can be lifted off with the fingers.

This new way to rid one's feet of corns was introduced by a Cincinnati man, who says that freezone dries in a moment, and simply shrivels up the corn or callus without irritating the surrounding skin.

Don't let father die of infection or lockjaw from whittling at his corns, but clip this out and make him try it.

If your druggist hasn't any freezone tell him to order a small bottle from his wholesale drug house for you.

A Fatal Pudding.

Conversation overheard in a munition canteen after a serving of some pudding:

Alf—This 'ere puddin' ain't half 'eavy stuff.

Bill—That's nothing. My missus made some one day that we could not eat, so we gave it to our ducks. A few minutes later a little boy knocked at the door, and said: "Missus Jones, yer ducks have sunk."

Minard's Liniment Cures Distemper.

Oh! Those Farmeretts!

Farmer: "Just hold that horse's head while I get down, will you, missie?"

New Land-worker: "Which one?"

Farmer: "Why, the off un, to be Sure."

Land-worker: "I'm awfully sorry, but I don't know anything about horses, so I can't tell which one of them is an orphan!"

Minard's Liniment Cures Diphtheria.

Pneumatic balls help the springs to support a new bicycle saddle.

Greek capitalists plan to exploit the famous petroleum springs of that country, which have been regarded as curiosities of nature for more than 2,800 years.

DEATH IN THE PUBLIC CUP.

Even The "Bubble Fountain" is Not Entirely Satisfactory.

If it were practicable, the public health service would have every public fountain cup made in the shape of a death's head. It would be appropriate.

..The public cup is a disease carrier. You drink from it. But who was the last user? A sufferer from diphtheria or some other horrid complaint? You can't tell.

The "bubble fountain" has been introduced to do away with this kind of danger. It is an immense improvement, but not wholly satisfactory. Commonly it happens that a drinker brings his lips into contact with the apparatus, and thus may infect it.

But, as experiments have proved, the bubble may itself carry germs. They may literally "dance about" on the surface of the bubble for many minutes, and so convey disease to the next comer.

GIRLS!. WHITEN SKIN WITH LEMON JUICE

Make a beauty lotion for a few cents to remove tan, freckles, sallowness.

Your grocer has the lemons and any drug store or toilet counter will supply you with three ounces of orchard white for a few cents. Squeeze the juice of two fresh lemons into a bottle, then put in the orchard white and shake well. This makes a quarter pint of the very best lemon skin whitener and complexion beautifier known. Massage this fragrant, creamy lotion daily into the face, neck, arms and hands and just see how freckles, tan, sallowness, redness and roughness disappear and how smooth, soft and clear the skin becomes. Yes! It is harmless, and the beautiful results will surprise you.

Saving the Eyes.

The eyes were made to use without a doubt. So were the hands and feet, and all can be abused and become sources of pain forever. A life time of just ordinary vision, just seeing what goes on about us, is about all we can expect from a pair of normal eyes. Added strain like fine sewing, too much reading and poor light will use them up so much sooner. Wage-earners have to sacrifice many things, including eyes, but for absolute waste of vision there is no excuse.

Lachute, Que., 25th Sept., 1908. Minard's Liniment Co., Limited.

Gentlemen, Ever since coming home from the Boer war I have been bothered with running fever sores on my legs. I tried many salves and liniments; also doctored continuously for the blood, but got no permanent relief, till last winter when my mother got me to try MINARD'S LINIMENT. The effect of which was almost magical. Two bottles completely cured me and I have worked every working day since.

Yours gratefully,
JOHN WALSH.

When We Honestly Try Economy

Economy is still the word we hear constantly in our ears, and it is to be hoped that suggestions under that head are received in the proper spirit. Economy, just a little of it now and in the right place, a little of it by everybody, means an immense saving in the future. Self-denial, taken as a matter of course, is far easier than self-denial grudgingly given and thought over for a long time; also that trite epigram, "He who gives quickly gives twice," is very truly put. So make up your mind to economize and do it now. Economize in the way that the government has indicated as most necessary, and this does not as a rule mean save, it means substitute, even if it costs a little more.

MONEY ORDERS.

When ordering goods by mail send a Dominion Express Money Order.

Live Fish in a Mine.

Live fish have been found in the bottom of Transvaal gold mine, in a vertical shaft 3,800 feet deep. They were barbel, from 6 in. to 12 in. long, and up to three-quarters of a pound in weight, and must have been merely spawn when they fell. In exceptionally dry weather small bull-frogs have been seen to distend themselves and deliberately jump down the shaft, apparently in search of water. How they ever reached the bottom alive is a mystery.

Minard's Liniment Cures Colds, Etc.

That Scared 'Em.

A gentleman made a rockery in front of his house in which he planted some beautiful ferns, and, having put up the following notice, found it more efficient and less expensive than spring guns and man traps. The fear-inspiring inscription was: "Beggars, beware. Scolopendriums and Polydiums are set here."

A Friend Indeed.

There is one dog in London, which, were its duties known, we should all join in voting an extra ration, says the London Chronicle. It is the ears of an entire household. All the human members of the family are deaf and dumb. The dog answers the door, or a ring it conveys the information to That is to say, when it hears a knock its betters by barks, which are detected by the opening and shutting of its mouth, by wagging its tail, and in the last resort by gently pawing its master or mistress and running towards front or back door.

Minard's Liniment Cures Garget in Cows

A humorous writer once said "if you want to become a popular conductor, take lessons in swimming and carpet-beating."

FOR SALE

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER FOR SALE in New Ontario. Owner going to France. Will sell $2,000. Worth double that amount. Apply J. H., c/o Wilson Publishing Co., Limited, Toronto.

WELL EQUIPPED NEWSPAPER and job printing plant in Eastern Ontario. Insurance carried $1,500. Will go for $1,200 on quick sale. Box 69, Wilson Publishing Co., Ltd., Toronto.

PEDIGREED NEWFOUNDLAND Puppies, that noble breed now so nearly extinct. We have some very fine ones. R. A. Gillespie, Abbotsford, Que.

PEDIGREED BLACK SIBERIAN Fur Hares weighing fifteen pounds at maturity. Charles Reasbeck, Vankleek Hill, Ontario.

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AGENTS WANTED—$1,000. YOU can make it in your county with our fast selling Combination Cooker. One salesman banks $388.55 the first month. Another agent sells 20 in two hours. Others cleaning up $10 daily. No capital necessary. Goods shipped to reliable men on time. Territory going fast. Write quick to secure your field. Combination Products Co., Thomas Bldg., Foster, Que.

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CANCER, TUMORS, LUMPS, ETC., internal and external, cured without pain by our home treatment. Write us before too late. Dr. Bellman Medical Co., Limited, Collingwood Ont.

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