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ODD ITEMS FROM VARIOUS LANDS

The great little game of poker is making rapid headway in Egypt despite the fact that no playing cards are manufactured in that country. In eight months the United States exported 12,227 packs for the Egyptians to amuse themselves with. This was 1,100 packs more than were exported in the period of the previous year.

The Egyptians are fond of playing all games of cards, but their favorite game is poker. American exporters know this by the stipulation made by Egyptian dealers that the 2s, 3s, 4s, 5s, 6s and 7s are separated from the rest of the pack by a thin band of paper, leaving the poker deck of thirty-two cards loose. This arrangement is absolutely required.

The Egyptian card players are particular in other respects, too, for they insist on having the numbers or the "markers" in all four corners, while in the case of those who purchase packs by the dozen, the buyers insist upon having six of the packs with the backs and the remainder with the red backs. The clubs use only the best quality cards, and decks once played with are resold to local retailers.

When the typists in Siam sit down to their daily grind they do their pointing on the keys of American-made typewriters, according to our vice-consul at Bangkok, who reports that American typewriters reign supreme in that far country. This is due to the fact that the United States manufacturers were the pioneers in fitting their machines with Siamese type.

This was no easy job, for the Siamese characters, some of 24 letters, 17 vowel symbols and 11 or more diacritical signs and marks of punctuation, have no resemblance to the Roman alphabet. The fact that machines are in daily use in the various government departments throughout the kingdom shows how well the American makers did the trick.

Incidentally, the Siamese are not enthusiastic over rebuilt typewriters, for the report states that machines of this type have entered the regular trade channels, nor have any been advertised for sale.

The pride of the Mexican is his hat, or his sombrero, as he calls it. No matter how poor the rest of his attire may be he spares no expense for his head covering, and will toll day and night until he has saved money enough to purchase an appalling sugar loaf, wide brim, heavily corded hat. A shabbily dressed Mexican wearing a hat that cost less than \$50 is not an uncommon sight.

The main reason why Mexicans desire so much attention and money to their hats is because it has become the symbol of one's standing in the community. The grandees of Spain and the privilege of standing in the presence of their sovereign with their hats on and naturally they vie with one another in the size and gorgeousness of their hats. The populace follow this example as best it could, and so the hat became as distinctive on the heads of the men as the mantilla over the heads of the women.

At one time the Mexican placed his hat and his horse above all other worldly possessions, spending \$500 for a hat, gold-trimmed and embroidered, and as much more for his silver-trimmed saddle and bridle. Mexicans of the higher class have abandoned the cap and the hat for city wear, as they have accepted our style of clothing, but every Mexican gentleman still has his native costume of spangles and glitter, with hat to match, which he wears as he may think occasion demands.

Teeth Topics.

Dental science was restored to the world in 1700, after a lapse of a thousand years, during which long time no notice was taken of teeth troubles.

Of every ten teeth belonging to adults, at least nine are saved by the progress of dentistry. Fifty years ago teeth were ruthlessly drawn, and filling was unknown.

Teeth of sycamore wood were used by the ancient Greeks. Ligatures of gold and silver were fastened to these wooden pegs, which rested next to the natural sound ones.

Under the Moslem law, "an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth," was carried out to the letter. Amongst the old-time executioner's instruments of torture would be found a pair of forceps.

Savages have the best teeth. It is usually found civilized people possess the worst teeth.

Black stain is put on a Japanese girl's teeth just before she marries. The custom is more usually practised among the rich classes, and the stain is a repulsive kind of varnish.

A West African children, on reaching a certain age, have their teeth deliberately broken.

Monks, according to an authoritative source, stain their teeth with various colors. Bright red and vivid blue are common, and a tint of brilliant green is got with the aid of arsenic and lemon-juice.

Livingstone has told of how a Kafir child with a prominent upper jaw, with good teeth, was regarded as a monster, and immediately killed.

Toothache in a decayed tooth, it is said, can often be cured by putting a small piece of cotton, saturated with strong ammonia, into the hollow of the affected tooth.

Web-Footed Folks.

Occasionally it happens that a boy or girl is born with webbed feet—that is to say, with toes united by fleshy tissue. It is a phenomenon called "syndactyly."

This eccentricity is apt to be handed down from generation to generation in a family, appearing in some of its members, but not in others.

The Magazine of Heredity describes one such case, in a branch of an old New England family. The paternal grandfather was web-footed and bequeathed his peculiar toes to a son, who passed them along to three of his six children.

If these people were to intermarry for three or four generations with another web-footed family, all the children born would exhibit the peculiarity. For nature, curiously enough, seems always willing to perpetuate freaks of any kind.

What we call freaks, or "sports," in the animal or the vegetable world are nature's little experiments. It is by his means that she creates new species and varieties. Some anthropologists are of opinion that all human beings were originally black and that the first white man was a sport. It might be said that many white people to-day respond to that description, though not in the same sense.

Conservation of Soil Fertility and Soil Fibre.

An unusual interest to the farmers of Western Canada is the publication of the Dominion Department of Agriculture and Conservation, entitled "Conservation of Soil Fertility." This pamphlet contains a series of papers and discussions by leading authorities on the problems confronting the prairie farmer. Particular attention is paid to the control of soil drifting; the retention of moisture; and to cropping systems for drought areas.

The purpose of this publication is to place before the western farmer the results of the experimental work conducted by the Dominion and Provincial Departments of Agriculture, and by the Agricultural Colleges, in their efforts to determine the cropping systems and methods of cultivation most suitable for the various prairie areas, particularly those which have suffered most severely from soil drifting and from drought.

Copies of this pamphlet may be obtained free on application to the Commission of Conservation.

A "Doonum."

In issuing regulations that are to govern the transfer of land in Palestine, the high commissioner, Sir Herbert Samuel, helps to put into the language a word that will be new to most readers of English; the word "doonum," a measure of land. The regulations, intended to protect Zionists, oblige everyone who wishes to sell land to get the written consent of the administration; and to get it he must describe the character and situation of the land and name the price. The buyer must be a resident of Palestine and can buy under the new ordinance not more than three hundred doonums of farming land or more than thirty doonums of city real estate. A doonum is one forty-fourth of an acre.

Germany's Census.

The census of Germany, recently completed, shows a total population of 60,282,000 people. The total number of inhabitants in 1913 was about 65,000,000.

Babies with dark eyes at birth are very rare, most newly-born infants having blue eyes.

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Lyons, Perfume City.

Lyons, in France, is the city of scents. It is the centre of a region which supplies the world with perfumes and has the only university that offers a course in perfumery making to students.

Within the last few years Lyons has developed a great laboratory system for the manufacture of artificial perfumes by the processes of synthetic chemistry. Thus its technical experts convert oil of verbena into violet and heliotrope, aniseed into vanilla and oil of rosewood into bergamot.

Toluene (a derivative of coal tar) they transform into jasmine and artificial roses. From xylene (likewise a coal tar product) they obtain artificial musk.

Roses are grown on an immense scale in the region about Lyons for the manufacture of perfumery. Likewise sage, thyme and sweet marjoram. That region produces 90 per cent. of the total world's output of real lavender oil, representing a value of 20,000,000 francs a year. One concern has ten square miles planted with lavender.

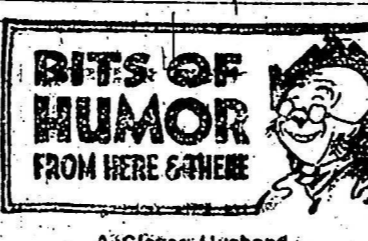
MONEY ORDERS.

The safe way to send money by mail is by Dominion Express Money Order.

Reserving the Aborigines.

The Commonwealth of Australia has taken steps for the preservation of the aborigines of that country and has assigned a tract of public lands in the Northern Territory as a reservation for the tribes. It includes the Man and Peterson Ranges and practically the whole of Lake Amadeus. The Governments of South and Western Australia have set aside adjoining areas for the purpose of this reservation.

Thunder is audible at a distance up to eighteen miles.



Wife—Mrs. Jones has another new hat.

Hubby—Well, if she were as attractive as you are, my dear, she wouldn't have to depend so much upon the milliner.

Advice Followed.

Doctor (to profligate patient)—"I'm afraid you have not heeded my advice to adopt some hobby or fad that would take your mind off your ordinary business."

"Oh, yes, I have doctor."

"What did you take up?"

"Going collecting."

He Couldn't Wait Forever.

A young fellow, who was the crack runner of his town—somewhere in the south—was unfortunate enough to have a very dilatory landlady. One evening when out for a practice run in his rather airy and abbreviated track costume he chanced to dash past the dusky lady who at the time was a couple of weeks in arrears with his washing. He had scarcely reached home again when the bell rang furiously and an excited voice was wailing in the porch:

"Pek de Lawd's sake, won't you all tell Marse Bob please not to go out no mo' till I kin git his clothes round to him?"

Pass the Salt.

Mr. Green's radish-bed had been attacked by slugs.

Distracted, he sought the advice of a neighbor.

"If you want to exterminate the pest," said the neighbor, "place salt between the rows of plants."

Mr. Green went off full of hope.

A few days later they met again.

"Did you do as I told you?" asked the neighbor.

"I should think I did!" replied Mr. Green.

"Was it successful?"

"Well, I put salt down one evening, and bless me, when I got up the next morning the slugs were pulling the radishes up, dipping them in the salt, and eating them with such happy tools upon their faces!"

Quite Unnecessary.

At a certain college it was the custom to have the students write the following pledge at the bottom of their examination papers:

"I hereby certify on my honor that I have neither given nor received aid during this examination."

Soon after handing in a paper to a professor noted for his sarcasm, a young fellow hurriedly entered the classroom and said:

"Professor, I have forgotten to put the pledge on my paper."

"It's quite unnecessary," replied the teacher. "I have just finished looking over your paper, and I felt sure that you did not give or receive aid."

Bringing Up Father.

"Father," said James, "why is it they say that the child is father to the man?"

Mr. Jones shivered. The elucidation of an abstract problem like this was rather more than he felt equal to. Therefore, he temporized.

"Well—or—because it is so, I suppose."

"Oh, then, if that's so, pa," answered the youngster brightly, "I'm going to see if I can't get you a ticket for the theatre to-morrow and a half-dollar to spend. I always said if I was a father I wouldn't be so stingy as the rest of 'em. Go along, pa, and have a good time while you are young!"

Whereupon Jones smiled reflectively and handed out the needed. A smart boy like Jim, he considered, deserved it.

Minard's Liniment Relieves Distemper.

The Childer.

The house that have the childer is the house that has the joy in it. To me it's only home that has a girl or a boy in it.

And every one that's added only makes the place a cheerer.

If childer are the gifts of God the more He send the merrier.

Sure; every little one I've had gave something to my bliss the more. And every little baby face my lips were drawn to kiss the more, And tho' I know the trouble and the thrall and the care they are, And tho' I know how often wild, how wayward and how quar' they are, And tho' his many a night I've watched beside the little beds of them, And held their little hands and cooled the fevered little heads of them, And tho' I know the surly moods that fall upon the best of them, Can one who is unkind outweigh the love of all the rest of them?

No, no, the trouble that I've had through them I'll never rue at all, And sure, without the childer now I don't know what I'd do at all.

—Doris E. McCarthy.

The Story of Treasure Island.

From all accounts Robert Louis Stevenson never plumbed himself on having written Treasure Island. He used whimsically to grumble that so much of his reputation rested on a book that, he declared, cost him less labor and contained less originality than more anonymous plagiarisms than anything else that he ever wrote.

Once in a burst of candor he told how he came to write it. His confidant was Mr. W. E. Clark, head of the Anglican mission at Apia, who relates the story:

Stevenson, it seems, was on a visit to his father's home near Balfour Castle in Scotland. The weather was bad, and he and his schoolboy stepson, Lloyd Osbourne, were confined to the house. To amuse the boy "L.L.S." drew pictures in pen and ink, which the boy copied on the pictures on the nursery wall, and which the boys' friends assembled in the afternoons R.L.S. playing the part of showman, improvised a story to suit each pic-

NERVOUS PEOPLE NEED A TONIC

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills Enrich the Blood, Thus Enriching Your Nervous Energy.

Nervous people who have not yet developed a disease that can be recognized and treated by the medical profession, often have great trouble in finding relief. Irritation, headache, sleeplessness, nervous indigestion, all these ailments make life miserable, but are endured rather than run a doctor's bill.

Such sufferers should know the danger of such a condition, which, if allowed to persist, may result in a nervous breakdown. In this condition what is needed is rich, red blood. As a tonic for the blood and nerves, Dr. Williams' Pink Pills have been used with much success. They have a direct action on the blood, and through it carry to the nerves the elements needed to restore their normal function, at the same time improving the general health. The benefits that follow the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills is shown by the case of Mrs. Norman Selfrid, West Montross, Ont., who says: "It would be hard for me to overstate the benefit I have derived from the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. Before I began taking the pills I was very nervous, weak and run down. I could hardly do my household work, and as there is a great deal of work to do about a home on a farm, I felt very much discouraged. One day while reading a newspaper I saw an advertisement of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills and decided to give them a trial. I could not notice beneficial effects after taking a box of the pills, and by the time I had taken a few boxes, I could again do my work with ease, was no longer weak or nervous, slept well at night, and awoke in the morning feeling well and strong. I am happy to say that the pills so greatly benefited me."

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are sold by all dealers in medicine or will be sent by mail on receipt of 50 cents a box or \$2.50 for six boxes by writing to Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

Awards For Gallantry.

One of the most interesting phases of the work of the Boy Scout Movement is its recognition of acts of gallantry performed by its members. There are three grades of awards which are granted, and oddly enough the highest is not a gold, but a Bronze Cross. The second highest award is the Silver Cross and the third highest the Gilt Cross. All applications for awards of this nature are not made by the boy, but by the Scoutmaster of the Troop he belongs to. All the evidence in each case is carefully considered by a Local Board of Honour, and when complete, is forwarded to the Provincial Board of Honour—a permanent committee whose duty it is to make recommendations to the Chief Scout for Canada as to the action to be taken.

The Chief Scout for Canada has just made awards in the following cases which are of particular interest:

Troop Leader Charles Haddleton and Patrol Leader William Haddleton, of the 29th Ottawa Troop, were awarded the Gilt Cross for their efforts in the attempted rescue of two little boys who had fallen into the Rideau Canal. A brother of one of the little fellows, when he realized what had happened, started to throw stones in to the water with the idea of making waves to wash the other two boys ashore. In this way he attracted the attention of the two Scouts, who at once jumped into the water. Only after considerable difficulty were they able to locate the little bodies, but life was extinct before they could be brought ashore.

Troop Leader E. Goulet, of the 51st Ottawa Troop, is awarded the Silver Cross for his successful attempt at rescuing Mr. M. Villeneuve, of the La Salle Cadet Corps, who was swimming at Britannia Pier when he became exhausted and began to drown. Scout Goulet at once jumped into the water, and although very much smaller than the man he attempted to rescue, succeeded in bringing him ashore after a struggle in the water which lasted almost ten minutes. The rescue was particularly plucky because of the fact that the rescuer had never received any instruction in life-saving work.

THANKFUL MOTHERS

Once a mother has used Baby's Own Tablets for her little ones who have been suffering from colic, indigestion, or other ailments, she will find that the Tablets give such results that the mother has nothing to say. The Tablets are the only medicine that the mother has nothing to say. The Tablets are the only medicine that the mother has nothing to say.

The Spring That Comes to Flanders.

The spring that comes to Flanders goes by on silent feet. Lest they should wake, remembering how once the spring was sweet. And streams that flow in Flanders, Past poppy field and hill, Are silver streams and shining, But thoughtful streams and still.

The Dummy Knob.

On the door of a house at which I was calling the other day I found two knobs. One was a dummy put there for symmetry; when I tried it, it turned round and round in my hand. The other resisted my hand but, opened the door.

The two knobs reminded me of Dick Hartley and Dan Cortelyou. Dick's mother feared that his character was weakening. When at her request I urged him to be a man and resist temptation, he smiled and promised to do everything that I asked; but his promises were so glib that I had no faith in them. He was like the dummy knob that turned round and round in my hand. I could not open the door.

Dan Cortelyou was different. When I spoke to him of his wild ways, his color mounted, his eyes grew defiant. How could he help it, he asked, if his pals were doing this and that? Whose business was it what he did? He resisted. I knew that I had hold of a live knob. Before long the door had opened wide enough to admit the truth.

But the door knobs reminded me of other things than people—the easy and the hard way. There was Jim Smedley. As his father was well to do, he had a golden knob that opened every door. He never put his strength against an obstacle, but played with the knob that turned round and round so easily. The doors to real success remained closed to him.

For many years the French missionary Francois Collard, labored among the Barotsse, a native tribe in South Africa. When he felt that his death was near he wrote: "I solemnly bequeath to the churches of France, my native land, the responsibility for the Lord's work in Barotsse, and I adjure them in His holy name never to give it up."

Bequeath work? We usually bequeath something that we think the heirs will prize. But work—especially work, calling for self-sacrifice? But think again, is there anything more precious than the chance to do a great work? Many persons find life insipid merely because they have no task that will make them work with all their might. A hard task is something to rejoice in. Take hold of that knob. It may resist obstinately, but it will open for you the doors both of earth and of heaven.

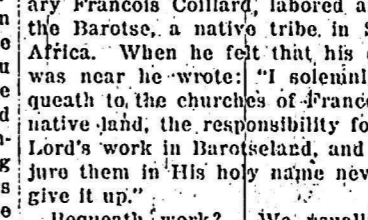
A tree will make a million matches; a match may destroy a million trees. When in the woods take no chances with lighted matches, tobacco, or camp-fire. Get the habit. Be careful with fires in the woods.

A Quick Relief for Headache.

A headache is frequently caused by bad digestion, food, the excess and acid resulting therefrom are absorbed by the blood which in turn irritates the nerves and causes painful symptoms called headache, neuralgia, rheumatism, etc. 15 to 30 drops of Mother Selge's Syrup will correct faulty digestion and afford relief.

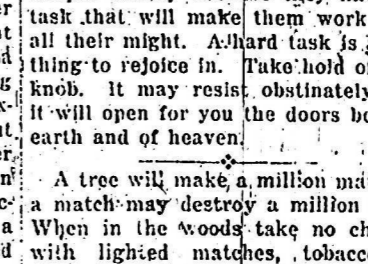
Warming relief for rheumatic aches.

HE'S just used Sloan's Liniment and the quick comfort has brought a smile of pleasure to his face. Good for aches resulting from weather exposure, sprains, strains, lamo back, overworked muscles. Penetrates tissues, soothing. All druggists have it.



ASPIRIN

"Bayer" is only Genuine



Warning! It's criminal to take a chance on any substitute for genuine "Bayer Tablets of Aspirin," prescribed by physicians, for twenty-one years and proved safe by millions. Unless you see the name "Bayer" on package or on tablets you are not getting Aspirin at all. In every Bayer package are directions for Colds, Headache, Neuralgia, Rheumatism, Earache, Toothache, Lumbago, sore throat, Hayfever, etc. Twelve tablets cost few cents. Druggists also sell larger packages. Made in Canada. Aspirin is the trade mark (registered in Canada), of Bayer Manufacturing of Monacreticacidester of Salicylicacid.

CUTICURA HEALS INTENSE ITCHING

Burning On Hands; Could Not Put Them In Water; Lost Sleep.

"My hands were very sore and I could not get them in water to wash them. There were some pimples on my hands, and the itching and burning were so intense that I scratched and irritated them, and I could not sleep at night."

The trouble lasted two weeks before I tried Cuticura. When I had used two boxes of Cuticura Soap and one box of Cuticura Ointment for about two weeks I was healed." (Signed) Reginald Daigle, R. F. D. 2, Fort Kent, Maine.

Use Cuticura for every-day toilet purposes. Blanche Soap, soothe with Ointment, dust with Talcum.

Soap 25c. Ointment 25c and 50c. Talcum 25c. Sold throughout the Dominion. Canadian Depot: Toronto, Limited, 24 St. St., W. Montreal, Quebec, 140 St. St., W. Montreal.

Cuticura Soap always without soap.

What's Your Experience?

If coffee keeps you awake nights, change to

INSTANT POSTUM

a delicious meal-time drink, wholesome and satisfying, but containing nothing that will disturb your rest.

Economical — Better for You

"There's a Reason"

the
sixteenth