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Bottles, Tin First Used for Preserving in 1809

Nicholas Appert of Paris, France, discovered the art of canning and was awarded the prize for it by Napoleon in 1809. He used wide-mouthed glass bottles, with cork stoppers. A year later, Peter Durand took out an English patent for preserving food in this way, but sealing it up in "canisters" of tin as well as glass, etc.

Ezra Daggett and his nephew, Thomas Kensett, introduced the canning of salmon, oysters and lobsters in New York in 1819 and Kensett was one of the pioneer developers of the tin can, with the Englishman, Peter Durand, its inventor, in 1825. Oysters and sea foods were the first canned foods to become popular and Kensett soon moved to Baltimore, which became the canning center.

Small canneries sprang up all along the Atlantic coast until Civil war times they worked under difficulties. The cans were crudely made by hand and were expensive and undependable. The canners were without scientific knowledge of the principles involved and each had his own secret methods. Tinsmiths or cappers sealed the food in the cans, and their demands were sometimes unreasonable. Processing was done with boiling water and took several hours. Gail Borden took out his patent for canning milk in 1856, fruit canning in California began, also the Pacific salmon canning.

The Civil war demand for canned foods gave the industry its great impetus, machinery was invented for performing the various operations and the use of canned goods became widespread. While some branches of the industry, such as meat packing, are centralized, other branches such as fruit and vegetable canning, are scattered throughout the country.

Five Kinds of Tonnage Used by Large Vessels

Vessel tonnage should not be confused with cargo tonnage. A cargo weight ton is 2,240 pounds, while a cargo measurement ton is 40 cubic feet. A vessel measurement ton is 100 cubic feet. The carrying capacity of ships is limited by the amount within their holds and by the amount of weight they can safely carry. This is called register or deadweight tonnage, respectively. The five kinds of vessel tonnage, advises a writer in the Chicago Tribune, are:

Gross register—The total enclosed space of a vessel, expressed in measurement tons of 100 cubic feet, including engine room, bunker (fuel) spaces, crew quarters, store-rooms, cargo spaces, etc. Net register—The total enclosed spaces of a vessel available for cargo and passengers, in measurement tons of 100 cubic feet. Total deadweight—The number of weight tons of 2,240 pounds, consisting of cargo, fuel, stores, supplies, fresh water for the boilers, etc., required to put a ship down to her marks, her maximum loadline. Deadweight cargo capacity—The number of weight tons of 2,240 pounds which a ship can carry as cargo after deducting the weight of fuel, stores, supplies, and fresh water required for the boilers, etc. Displacement—The equivalent of the weight of the water displaced by a vessel fully loaded and ready for sea; this is the largest tonnage dimension of a ship, but it is not commercially important.

The "Roorback"

A "roorback" is a fictitious story or forged report, concerning a political candidate, circulated just before an election, when it is too late to prove its falsity before voting begins. It originated from a story printed in 1844 to injure the reputation of James K. Polk candidate for President. Just before the election, the Chronicle of Utica, N. Y., printed what was supposed to be an extract from "A Tour Through the Western and Southern States in 1836," by Baron Roorback. The item contained a description of a slave-driver's camp and stated that 40 of the slaves had been purchased by Polk. This statement was printed in a number of other papers, but the part concerning Polk was proved to be a forgery. The description of the camp had been taken from Featherstonhaugh's "Excursion Through the Slave States." There was no author named Baron Roorback.

"The Book of the Dead"

"The Book of the Dead" (Book of Going Forth in the Day), an Egyptian text, was established in its present form before 700 B. C. The greater part of it is found in pyramid inscriptions and in papyri of about 1500 B. C. It includes the prescribed funeral words, including magic formulas for the dead to use. There is also some description of the afterworld.

Lighthouses Wrecked by Waves

All over the world, the sea seems resentful of man's efforts to help mariners. Four times lighthouses have been built on England's Eddystone rock. The first, constructed in 1694, was torn to pieces in only ten years. The second lasted more than 50, the third more than 100. But in the end, the booming surf had its way.

FOLKS

If folks would only practice what they preach, There'd be a healing balm for every breach; Vast heights would be attainable, Lost hope would be re-gainable, If folks would only practice what they preach.

If folks would just be careful what they say, There'd then be few heartaches day by day; And burdens that oppress would roll From many a weary, troubled soul, If folks would just be careful what they say.

If folks to other folks would just be kind, There'd be a mighty healing of the mind; The world with happiness would hum; Regain its equilibrium If folks to other folks would just be kind.

So folks, let you and I to day agree The other fellow's point of view to see. And life will be more livable If we'll just be forgivable, And help ring in the year of jubilee. —E. Emily Pickard.

SAYS DUTCHMAN INVENTED GOLF

Scotland is due for a severe shock when they learn over there that the grand and bonnie game of golf is not Scotch at all, but Dutch. The discovery has just been made, strangely enough, by a group of Harvard Professors of Government.

Conducting a research into international law, they turned to the life of Hugo Grotius, or Huig van Groot, as he was known in his own country, the great Renaissance authority on jurisprudence. In one volume they found an engraving from a painting of Grotius as a youth, showing him holding a golf club quite similar to those now in use. As Grotius was born in 1583 the game must have been well established in Holland by the time he reached manhood.

Further research revealed that golf was played on the ice in the Netherlands as early as 1600. Holes were chipped in the frozen surface of the inland waterways which must have presented a smooth if chilly surface. The game is believed to have been introduced into Scotland by two Scottish sailors who learned it while their boats were frozen in Dutch waters. It is said on strictly unreliable authority that their families have been using the same ball ever since.

THOUGHT AND LANGUAGE

In its broadest sense, language is any means of expressing thought, and this would include the sounds made by a baby or by a dog, observes a writer in the Detroit News. Only the very simplest of thoughts can be expressed without words, though musical composers, mathematicians and others have their own ways of expressing thought by music, figures and letters, etc. Language had to be evolved in some way or other. Possibly the language of the most primitive man consisted largely of gestures and cries or grunts, but this is mere speculation.

HAM, CHRISTMAS DELICACY

Hams, many of them Canadian, are a Christmas delicacy in the British West Indies. Canada's ham and bacon trade with the West Indies has been steadily increasing for the past decade. Nearly 2,000,000 pounds of Canadian hams and bacon were imported in 1937.

The value of Australian exports to Canada for 1937-38 was £2,140,725, a slight decrease from the previous year. Canadian exports to Australia were valued at £8,945,136 (approximately \$40,225,680), an increase of more than 32 per cent on the previous year's total.

The 75th anniversary of the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association will be celebrated at the association's annual convention to be held at K. Antville in December.

PART OF ANCIENT LINE IN USE TODAY

Nine miles of Canada's first railway line, built over 102 years ago, are still in use as part of the Canadian National Railways present route from Montreal to points across the St. Lawrence River and form an important connecting link on the Montreal New York-Boston service. The original line of which these nine miles remain, was sixteen miles long and ran between Laprairie and St. Johns. The crude coaches introduced in 1836 were drawn over iron-shod wooden rails by an English locomotive, the Dorchester, and on occasion the "scandalous" speed of 20 miles an hour was attained.

IF EARTH STOPPED REVOLUTION

The United States coast and geodetic survey says that the absence of revolution, the whole system of tides, currents, rivers and, in fact, the general configuration of the earth's surface, that conditions would be unimaginably different. As to the possibility of the sudden cessation of revolution, the late Camille Flammarion, the noted French astronomer, said: "Were the earth suddenly stopped in its course, the shock would be transmitted by recoil, so to say, to all the constituent molecules of the terrestrial globe, and as if each received a stunning blow, the whole earth would be instantaneously luminous and burning, and an immense conflagration would devour the world."

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T.C.A. PLANE RUSHES SERUM AIR EXPRESS SAVE A LIFE

When Mrs. Dick Toomer of Margrath, Alta., was brought to Lethbridge recently suffering from pneumonia, her physician, Dr. D. B. Fowler, found that her case required a special serum. There was none available in Lethbridge. At 10 o'clock at night a long distance telephone call was put through to a wholesale house in Winnipeg. By 11:30 the precious serum was on board a Trans-Canada plane. By four o'clock next morning, it was in the hands of Dr. Fowler. Through the agency of the T.C.A. and the Canadian National Express, Mrs. Toomer's life was saved.

"The new air service will prove a real boon to medical service," said Dr. Fowler. "In this case it was a life-saver and we surely appreciate it."

Poor Man
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