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Driving Back the Ocean.

The people of Holland have undertaken a gigatic work, by means of which they expect to recover the larger portion of the territory now covered by the Zuyder Zee, the inland sea of the country, and turn it again into a fertile farming region. It is now just five centuries since the inundation of that part of the Netherlands now covered by the Zuyder Zee was completed, the encroachments of the sea having been going on for 225 years, previous to which time the territory was covered with forests.

By the most stupendous exertions about 350 square miles of country has already been recovered by an elaborate dyke system, which has gradually reclaimed section after section that was lost, but the new scheme transcends the previous work in extent and importance. The towns of the region which had become of considerable importance as seaports through the bringing of the waters of the ocean to their doors have lost considerable of that importance through the difficulties of navigation and the transfer of the trade to the North Holland canal and the Y ship canal, which connects the metropolis with the ocean. On this account the remnants of commerce are not worth as much to the towns as the country would be after it is reclaimed, and therefore there is general acquiescence in the plan to drive the ocean out.

On account of the great cost it will be distributed over a period of 23 years, so as to make it less oppressive and to make the benefits gradually bear their share of the expense. A colossal sea wall is first to be built from North Holland to Friesland, shutting out the tides of the ocean. This wall will be 216 feet wide at the base and the top will be 17 feet above the sea level, while along the inner side and at some distance below the top will be a track wide enough for a wagon road and a railway.

After the sea is barred out the inclosed space to be reclaimed will inclose within separate embankments four areas containing in the aggregate 750 square miles. One of these areas will be first drained by pumping the water over the embankment, the water finding its way to the sea through the main channel, and as the shallow portions become exposed they will be successively brought under cultivation. It is calculated that within ten years 25,000 acres can be made annually available, and in the end the inland sea will be reduced to a channel about 15 miles wide called the Yesselmeer, communicating with the sea by locks at Wieringer, with Amsterdam by a branch three miles wide, and by another with the mouth of the Yssel. The plan has received the sanction of the government, and the engineers pronounce it feasible.

McCarthy's Bomb.

Hamilton Spectator.

The want of confidence amendment proposed by Mr. McCarthy has met its fate. It has been declared lost without a division. The amendment was supposed to be a declaration that Manitoba should not be coerced; but, as The Spectator pointed out yesterday, the language in which this declaration was supposed to be made was too profuse and indefinite, and left loop-holes through which those who favored non-intervention could find their way and join their parties. In the discussion upon the amendment speaker after speaker expressed the view that Manitoba should not be coerced, but found excuse in the indefinite nature of the language of the amendment to refuse to vote for it.

Thus ends the matter for the present. The Government has fastened the millstone of coercion about its neck, and the Laurier party is as free as air to do and say in Quebec what it pleases, and to do and say in Ontario and the other provinces whatever may be thought to be politic.

There can now be no excuse for prolonging the session. It is to be hoped that the remaining business will be permitted to go through without obstruction, that the unfortunate session be brought to a speedy close.

Then we shall see what we shall see.

He Was All Right.

A dilapidated specimen of manhood, who was leaning hard against a telegraph pole in the neighborhood of the Stock Yards yesterday morning, with his eyes tightly shut, called out, the Chicago Tribune says, to a man whose footsteps he heard approaching:

"Say!"

"Well?" said the other.

"Have you got a minute or two to spare?"

"I reckon."

"Would you mind just looking inside the fence right there where that board's broken off and telling me if you see anything on the ground?"

"No objection at all, sir. I see two dead rats."

"Anything peculiar about them?"

"Nothing, except that they are whoppers. They are two of biggest rats I ever saw."

"Anything else near them?"

"No—yes; there a queer looking snake."

"Is it alive?"

"It's all dead but its tail. That still wiggles."

"Is it a green snake that looks as if it had swallowed a baseball?"

"Yes."

"Got a queer looking stripe down its back?"

"Yes."

"Then it's all right," rejoined the dilapidated citizen, straightening himself up, opening his eyes and walking on. "You have done me a great kindness, mister. I was afraid I'd got 'em again."

Omaha has another case of a woman being allowed to die under Christian science treatment, consisting, as Mrs. Lathrop, the High Priestess of the cult, described it, of silent prayer and thought transmission from a distance." Whatever merit there may be in praying and "believing you are not sick," in some ailments, it proved incapable of curing catarrh of the bowels. The patient died, and now the law's officers, who in practice decline to admit the authority of the last chapter of Mark's Gospel, are after the Christian scientist. Moral: Mix your believing with plenty of hard common sense.

To Pack a Picnic Basket.

The woman who has mastered the art of preparing picnic luncheon which is palatable has achieved a great success, but she who has learned how to pack the luncheon when it has been prepared has achieved a greater one, says the New York Tribune.

"Mussy" is the unpleasant adjective that most fitly describes the condition of the average picnic hamper when it arrives at its destination. The butter is soft and the sandwiches are hard. The filling is oozing out of the layer cake, and the hard-boiled eggs have cracked and scattered particles of shell among the berries. There are too many crumpled napkins and not enough spoons. A tumbler is broken and the contents of the olive jar have mysteriously precipitated themselves upon the tablecloth, which is thereby ruined. All of which calamities could have been easily avoided if the packer of the hamper had understood the gentle art of packing.

In the ideal hamper there are no glasses to break. Tin drinking mugs which fit into each other have been carried, instead, taking up very little room. There are no rumpled tablecloths or crumpled napkins, for a small pasteboard box, properly labelled, contains a set of Japanese paper napkins and a tablecloth to match, all costing less than the washing of the linen articles. These are dainty and inexpensive. These do not have to be carried home when the merrymaking is over, and they may be stained with all varieties of fruit without damage. Instead of china plates the convenient wooden receptacles of the marketman are piled up in a box. These dishes come both in shallow plate size and in deep bowls, and the experienced picnicker never uses anything else to set her picnic table or to serve her picnic food. If any one of her guests is too fastidious to like them he is too fastidious to go on a picnic, and should be sent home with a valet.

The experienced packer makes liberal use of pasteboard boxes, twine and paper. The tin cups, paper plates, dishes, napkins, tablecloths, tin forks and cheap knives are all packed in one box. Sandwiches thin as pasteboard, crustless and dainty, should be covered with oiled paper and packed in another box. The hard-boiled eggs should be packed in an egg-dealer's box, with pasteboard compartments, to keep the eggs apart. Sugar, salt, pepper, mustard, and salad dressing each in a proper receptacle, should be packed in a box. Fruit and cake may occupy different compartments of the same box, and a layer of paper above them will enable the economical packer to put tarts in the same box. The strained and sweetened lemon juice should be carried in a bottle. The butter should be packed in a small unglazed jar. The jar of butter should be hardened by remaining in the ice box awhile, and should then be wrapped in paper soaked in ice water, placed within a larger jar, and, if possible, surrounded with ice water. This will keep it cool and firm until it is used, even if ice cannot be carried.

Salads and soft fruits should not be carried picknicking. They almost inevitably mash, spill and run over things. Sandwiches and crisp rolls, firm fruit, cake, olives, eggs, tarts and similar viands form a most acceptable picnic bill of fare, and they may be carried in a neat and orderly style, which will enhance their value.

Catching Cod.

Cod fishing nowadays means work night and day while on the trip, very little time being given to sleep.

The most common way of catching cod now employed is by trawls, which have taken the place of hand lines. A trawl is made of three lines of about 50 fathoms each, or about 1,000 feet in total length. On these long lines at regular intervals are fastened short pieces of line about two feet in length, to which are attached the hooks. On an ordinary trawl there are from 400 to 500 hooks.

An ordinary fishing smack carries about 15 trawls. When the fishing ground is reached, the crew is sent out in the dories at an early hour, and the trawls, after being baited, are set and moored with bouys, on which are placed flags, so that they may be readily found. By the time the last trawls are set the first are ready to be pulled in, then the boats go back, and the crew commences to haul in the half mile of line.

As the first trawl is hauled in it is carefully coiled in a tub so that the hooks will not become tangled up and prevent it from running out smoothly, and the fish are unhooked and thrown into the boat. Sometimes a trawl will be hauled, and only four or five fish will be caught, and at other times 100 or 200 will be taken from a single trawl.

The trawls are then set again, and the fish already caught are taken to the smack and thrown into the well. A second hauling, and then it is time to go to the smack for supper. After supper the crew set to work repairing trawls, replacing hooks that have been lost and then baiting them for the morrow's fishing. Baiting 7,500 hooks before going to bed is no small matter, and when the job is finished the crew are ready to turn in, to be called out at 3 a. m. to begin their day's work again.

The spare time of the crew is taken up in opening clams to be used in baiting the hooks. While the boats are off with the trawls the cook is left in charge of the smack, and he fishes with a hand line from the deck. What fish he catches in this manner he gets paid for by the piece. Sometimes the boats will be away from the smack nearly all night. Trawls get tangled, and lots of extra work is necessary. This routine is gone through daily until enough fish have been caught to pay for coming to market.

The smacksmen are seldom troubled twice with the same guest, as a visitor usually gets satisfied after helping to haul two or three trawls. Smacksmen are well paid in comparison with other classes of sailors, but they earn all they receive.—New London Day.

A List of Don'ts for Stamp-Collectors.

Harper's Round Table.

Don't paste your stamps in your albums, but use "stickers" or "hinges."

Don't use any old copy-book if you can afford to buy an album. Dealers can supply albums at any price from twenty-five cents upwards.

Don't trim your stamps. Many valuable stamps have been ruined by this process.

Don't cut envelope stamps to shape. Cut them out square, leaving a good margin on all sides.

Don't handle your stamps any more than you can help.

Don't buy rare stamps from any but responsible dealers. Some counterfeits resemble the genuine stamps marvellously. No one not an expert could tell them apart.

Don't buy Chinese locals, "Seebecks," and other philatelic trash, which is made purposely for sale to stamp-collectors.

Don't expect to get something for nothing.

Sulphurous Facts.

Sulphur is a solid, non metallic mineral, which has been known from earliest ages. It is hard, yellow and brittle, and has a very offensive odor. It is found in veins or beds, mostly near active volcanoes. The imported sulphur mostly comes from Solfatia in Sicily, but large quantities are also procured from copper and iron pyrites. These minerals are heated, and the sulphur being volatile flies off in fumes, which are conveyed by means of pipes to a condensing room. If left in the powdery state in which it condenses it is called flour of sulphur; if melted and cast into bars it is called roll sulphur.

The mange is a parasitic disease to which some animals are very liable. Sulphur ointment should be used as an external treatment, and flour of sulphur given internally, mixed in the milk.

A German physician recommends to consumptives the sulphur treatment. This consists in the patients living in rooms where one or two drachms of sulphur are melted daily, on a hot stove. The first few days there will be felt increased irritation and a cough; these soon decrease, and improvement is rapidly felt, and complete cures often effected, if the disease is not too far advanced.

When plants, roses, etc., are at all affected with mildew, sprinkle the foliage with water, then dust on flour of sulphur quite thickly and allow it to stand for a few days, when it may be rinsed off, but it is to be renewed if necessary.

To disinfect clothing, mix one teaspoonful of the milk of sulphur to one pint of water, sprinkle the clothing lightly with this, then iron it with an iron hot enough to volatilize the sulphur without burning the clothing.

Sulphur may be kept in small muslin bags in drawers and cupboards as a protection against the ravages of the red and black ants.

For preventing vermin in bird cages tie a little sulphur in a bag and suspend it in the cage. Sulphur is said to kill all kinds of fungus in man, beasts or plants.

For diphtheria, put a teaspoonful of sulphur in a wineglassful of water, stirring it with the finger so that it will mingle with the water. After it is well mixed, let the patient gargle it, and after gargling swallow a small quantity. If the disease is too far advanced for gargling, throw some sulphur into the throat by means of a quill, which will cause the fungus to shrink, after which the sulphur gargle may be used.

A sulphur wash is an excellent remedy for roughness and pimples on the skin. Make it by taking one ounce of sulphur flour and pouring over it one quart of boiling water; allow this to stand and steep for twelve hours; then apply it to the skin three or four times a week.

Traces of sulphur are found in both the vegetable and animal kingdom, as well as in the mineral. Oftentimes the disagreeable odor which some plants give forth are due to the sulphur which they contain.

Sulphur is used for bleaching; also in making gunpowder and matches.

In case of being very near to premises or apartments where there is diphtheria, the simplest, yet effectual mode of fumigating is to drop a little sulphur on a hot stove, or on a few coals carried through the rooms. In this way the spread of the disease may be stopped.

Sulphur makes one of the best treatments, both externally and internally, for skin diseases, particularly where itching is a symptom.

For a sweetish or bitter pasty taste in the mouth try a few doses of sulphur.

Sulphur is good for chronic diarrhoea. For constipation, sulphur will often give speedy relief.

A Huge Pie.

From Harper's Round Table.

The largest pie ever known was that described in the Newcastle Chronicle for the 6th January, 1770. It was shipped to Sir Henry Gray, Baronet London, Mrs. Dorothy Patterson, housekeeper. Hawic, being the maker. Into the composition of this great pie entered two bushels of flour, twenty pounds of butter, four geese, two turkeys, two rabbits, four wild ducks, two woodcock, six snipes, four partridges, two neat's tongues, two curlews, seven blackbirds and six pigeons. It weighed twelve stone and was nine feet in circumference at the bottom. It was furnished with a case on wheels, for convenience in passing it round to the guests.

The receipt for this pie is given here as a hint to those of our readers who may be thinking of getting up a picnic within the next two or three weeks. A half-dozen pies of this size ought to be enough for at least one picnic.

They Smiled.

There is a good joke going the rounds about a certain clergyman who is noted quite as much for his absent-mindedness on occasions as for his general piety. He was called in by a young couple whose home had just been lightened by a miniature representive of the mother's sex. The happy parents decided to have the christening at home. The minister took the child in his arms, and in his kind fatherly way addressed a few words of advice to the young people. "See that you train this child up in the way that he should go," he began. "Give him the benefit of a good example, and see that he is surrounded by the very best influences. If you do this who knows but that he may become a Gladstone or a Salisbury? What is his name?" "Jennie," demurely responded the mother.

Answering Invitations.

When a gentleman and his wife are invited and do not go to a reception, all that is necessary to represent them is their visiting-cards. A man and his wife have seperate visiting cards, those uniting the names being seen very seldom nowadays. A wedding invitation should receive some recognition; a courteous little note containing either an acceptance or regret would seem to be the proper way in which to acknowledge this civility. When a lady and her daughter send out cards for an afternoon tea, one would send if one did not go, a card for each.—July Ladies Home Journal.

Suspicious.

"I shall not see you again, my dear, for some time. I am going on the confor a couple of months."

"Indeed! Does your husband go with you?"

"No. Business matters necessitate his staying in town."

"And doesn't he object to your going away and leaving him behind alone."

"Not in the least."

"Then if you take my advice, as a married woman who has had more experience than you have, you will stay at home."

Last week Mrs. Coombs was murdered at Plaistow, an eastern suburb of London, by her two sons, aged thirteen and eleven, because she had whipped the younger of them. The boys stabbed her to death while she was asleep.

Footballers by a Gun.

Bisley Camp, July 20.—Pte. Hayhurst of the 18th Battalion and Boyd of the 3rd Lanarkshire tied at 270 each for first places in the Queen's Prize competition.

Three shots each at 900 yards were to decide the tie. Boyd put in an inner, a miss and a bullseye and made 9. Hayhurst's first was an outer, and the hearts of his comrades beat anxiously. His next was a good inner and his third another, making him 10. The outburst of cheering was checked for a moment when it was learned that Boyd protested the last shot, claiming it was a miss. The inner, however, was confirmed, and with a wild shout the Canadians seized upon the winner to bear him to camp, the hero of Bisley.

During the shooting a heavy rain was falling, and the 16-mile wind was blowing across the range. The rain caused a great falling off in the numbers. Many volunteers, regarding the event as a certainty for one of the Scotchmen, did not remain in camp. Perhaps they were piqued at the continued success of the Scotchmen in the leading events throughout the meeting. There was a marked absence of notables. The Duke of Connaught, who witnessed the final in 1893, was to-day otherwise engaged.

When the Queen's Hundred took the position at 800 yards, Hayhurst and the Silver Medalist Sergeant Hogg of the Scottish Borderers, squadded together, while Robinson of Manchester and Boyd squadded at the next target. The others were dispersed over the Stickle-down ranges. Hogg finished first, scoring 40 within ten shots, giving an aggregate of 245. This was not lowered until nearly all had finished, when Wattleworth of Liverpool aggregated 246. Hayhurst and Boyd each aggregated 241 at 900 yards. Hogg was ahead until the ninth shot, which he missed, thus allowing Hayhurst and Boyd, who had been steadily bettering, to take the lead. The final struggle was the most exciting of any on record. When both had fired the eighth shot the Scotchman was one point ahead, but he finished with a magpie and inner. Hayhurst's ninth shot was a bullseye and his tenth a magpie. He and Boyd were thus tied for 279. They immediately proceeded to shoot three times. The Gael was unlucky. His His first was an inner, the second a miss and the third a bullseye. Hayhurst's shots were a two and two inners. Enthusiastic cheering greeted the Canadian, whose skill was most popular. He was carried from camp to camp and given an ovation, which he received modestly. The prize was a gold medal, a gold badge and £250 in money. Boyd takes a National Rifle Association badge and £60. Skedden scored 258 and Spearing 252, and take money prizes.

Two Fool Canucks.

Hamilton Times.

The latest "flag out rage" is reported from Boston, where two crack-brained youths, claiming to be of Canadian birth, have been pulling down the Stars and Stripes used in decorating the People's Temple. The reports say shots were fired at them and they surrendered and were locked up. In this country we don't shoot at flag destroyers; we regard them as objects of pity as well as contempt. The Buffalo News regards such persons as "excessively loyal"; we do not. The tearing down of flags indicates lack of gentlemanly instincts, but the offence is not so great as to merit such punishment as the News suggests when it recommends that they be made to sing "The Star Spangled Banner" night and morning for a month. Six months at the stone pile would be ample; torture is abolished by the codes of civilized nations.

Anecdote of Sir John Macdonald.

Canadian Gazette.

A reception was given to Sir John in the west, and a bishop from Belgium was present. As the party were being escorted by a body of men in Highland costume, the foreign bishop, seeing the bare legs, and kilts, asked why these men were without trousers. "It's just a local custom," gravely replied Sir John. "In some places people take off their hats as a mark of honor to distinguished guests; here, they take off their trousers."

The Province, of Victoria, British Columbia, relates a remarkable exploit of a daughter, aged only 14, of George Brown, of Beecher Bay. The girl was out walking with her younger sister when a dog that was with them treed a panther. Leaving her sister and the dog, Miss Brown ran back to the house and returned with a Winchester, with which she took aim and killed the beast at the first shot—breaking its neck.

Near a certain Scotch town the railway runs for some distance by the fence of a lunatic asylum. Not long ago some workmen were busy repairing the railroad, when an inmate of the asylum approached one of the laborers, and, from his position on the inner side of the enclosure, began a somewhat personal conversation. Inmate: "Hard work that?" Laborer; troth an' it is!" Inmate: "What pay das 'yo git?" Laborer; "Sixteen bob a week," Inmate "Are ye marrit?" Laborer: "I am, worse luck—and have six children!" A pause then the inmate added sentiniously, "I'm thinking, ma man, ye're on the wrong side o' the fence!"

COOK'S CURE COMPOUND.

A specific for Suppression, Irregularity, Leucorrhœa, Inflammation, Ulceration, Pain in the back and kidneys, Nervous Prostration, Sleeplessness, Nervous Irritability, Hot Flashes, Dizziness, Palpitation of the Heart, Bearing-down Pains, Dragging Sensations, Pain in the Spine, Pain in the Side, Pain in the Limbs, Pain in the Joints, Pain in the Feet, Pain in the Head, Pimples on the Face, Blotches on the Skin, Blood Impurities, Boils, Carbuncles, Ulcers, Sores, Tumors, Cancers, Tetter, Eczema, Salt Rheum, Scaly Skin, Ringworm, Nervous Debility, Mental Depression, Loss of Memory, Loss of Power, Lassitude, Lack of Energy, Want of Confidence, Dyspepsia, Constipation, Kidney Complaint, Dropsy, Gravel, Diabetes, Bright's Disease, Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Sciatica, Lumbago, Chronic Diarrhœa, Chronic Dysentery, Chronic Cough, Chronic Bronchitis, Chronic Nasal Catarrh, Chronic Sore Throat, Chronic Sore Eyes, Chronic Sore Ears, Chronic Tapeworm, Chronic Nervous Headache, Chronic Female Weakness, Chronic Nervous Weakness, Chronic Nervous Prostration, Chronic Nervous Debility, Chronic Diseases of the Kidneys, Liver, Lungs, Bowels, Blood, Nerves, Skin, Scalp, Bones, Glands, Muscles, Joints, Nerves, Tissues, Cellular Tissue, Mucous Membrane, Synovial Membrane, Spinal Marrow, Brain, Pelvic Organs, Uterus, Ovaries, Testicles, Bladder, Urinary Organs, Digestive Organs, Nutritive Organs, Respiratory Organs, Vocal Organs, Heart, Stomach, Throat, Nose, Lungs, Tongue, Teeth, Gums, Ears, Eyes, Head, Face, Neck, Breast, Chest, Back, Loins, Side, Limbs, Joints, Feet, Hands