

# THIS MIGHT HAVE BEEN PREVENTED

... by a Telephone CALL, because this farmer could have called for essential spare parts to keep the machinery going. But the rains intervened — and now he faces a substantial loss. A telephone is a farmer's most loyal business partner — always there to bring help, market news and neighbourly contacts. Why be cut off from the rest of the world?

## LOW RATES FOR FARM TELEPHONE SERVICE

### Festival of Hanukkah an Old Jewish Celebration

Many myths have grown up about the Hanukkah lamps which at first burned outside the Jewish homes as the festival Feast of Lights was celebrated in the streets of Jerusalem and the other cities of the ancient world. Later, the festival of Hanukkah became primarily a home festival, and this, coupled with the fear of persecution, drove the lamps indoors.

The ceremonial of the Feast of Lights, as explained by an authority follows:

On the first night one light is lit, on the second two, and on to the eighth. The lights are set in a place where people on the street may see them, in the window or by the door. They are considered sacred and must not be employed for any ordinary purpose. For this reason a "servant light" (shamash) is placed next to them, which is used in lighting them.

Rabbinical tradition accounts for this feature of the feast by the story that when the priests entered the sanctuary after the Syrians had been driven out, to light the perpetual lamp, they found a vital oil, under ordinary circumstances was only sufficient for one night, but by a miracle lasted for eight nights, until new oil could be prepared for the lamps for the candlesticks.

There are exhibited examples of common clay lamps from Graeco-Roman times and brass, pewter, silver and gilded lamps of more recent history, ornamented with historic and religious motifs. There are the upright lamps which were used in the synagogue and hanging lamps for the home, whereon the imagination of the designer was given free rein and embroider tales of Jewish history and myth and the everyday objects of his life.

### Eight-Eyed Spider Able to See From All Angles

Most interesting of all species of spiders in the British Isles is one that spends its life under water. Yet it must breathe air to live.

The water spider discovered how to live in a diving bell ages before man thought of descending beneath the surface of lakes and seas. It is little more than half an inch in length; in color it is a dull reddish brown, or sometimes mouse gray, and it is covered with a mass of minute hairs. It has eight eyes so arranged that it can see in all directions, notes a writer in London Tit-Bits Magazine.

Insects must breathe air, and those like the larvae of the mosquito, which live in water, must rise to the surface at intervals to take in a supply. Although spiders do not breathe through the mouth, but through a series of tracheae on the sides of the body, the water spider must have air in its natural form.

It is confronted with a difficult engineering problem. If we place one of these creatures in a jar filled with clear water, we notice that directly it gets beneath the surface it appears to be clothed with a glistening silver coat. This dress consists of a covering of air, so that as the spider travels through the water it carries its air supply with it. Head and legs are free, for the spider must capture its food in the water.

The water spider seems to have invented an appliance similar to that which enables engineers to lay foundations of underwater works, and it need only come to the surface for fresh supplies at long intervals.

### Tartan Is Usual Costume of Children in Scotland

It is only at the Highland games that visitors will see many Scots in tartans, although the tartan is the usual costume of Scottish children and is worn even by the younger princes and sometimes the older ones of the British royal family, writes a correspondent in the Los Angeles Times.

Highland costume is made up of two parts, the plaid, a piece of cloth four to six yards long and two yards wide unfolded, one end of which is caught up over the left shoulder with a brooch or pin, and the kilt. The sporran, one of the most conspicuous parts of the costume, is the shield-like piece usually covered with white horse hair and black tassels which hangs in front of the kilt. It is both novel and useful, for it is in reality a large purse.

Tracing the ancestry of a Scot in Highland costume is an easy matter for one with a knowledge of tartans, for all Highlanders once belonged to clans and each clan had its own pattern for its tartan. Descendants of the old Scots determine what tartan they will wear in one of three ways: they may wear that of their mother's clan, that of their father's clan, or if they have served in a Highland regiment, that of the regiment. No Scot would think of wearing the tartan of another's clan, and in the old days the clans regarded their particular tartan so highly that they considered anyone who assumed it to be under their special protection.

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**HOLSTEINS SOLD**

Chester Willard, Still River, Mass., has just completed the selection of 47 head of pure bred Holsteins from herds in the counties of Halton, Peel and Wellington. There has recently been a heavy demand for Canadian Holsteins from the New England States, but this is one of the largest individual shipments to go recently. Breeder-contributors to Mr. Willard's shipment included: J. W. Richardson, Fred W. Hamilton, W. T. and C. T. Scott, E. Sigworth, Elias R. Watson, all of Freeman; Archibald Speers and H. W. Nicholson, of Brampton; N. A. Robinson and Wm. T. Sinclair & Son, of Norval; Victor J. Lawrence, Oakville; D. J. Imond and Robinson Bros., Georgetown; Jos. M. Wickson, Brantford; Wm. T. Dale & Son, and S. F. Leves, Milton; John Taylor and W. V. McKersie, Rockwood; Ernest R. Bayne and W. H. Fair, Guelph.

The Ontario Department of Highways is trying to discourage petting on the main traffic lanes. More than ever signs are displayed warning motorists about soft shoulders.

### OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS WEED CONTROL

Special Invitation Issued to Farmers to Attend Meeting—Ontario Crop Losses Due to Weeds Last Year Estimated at Eighteen Million Dollars.

Members of municipal council, road officials, weed inspectors and interested farmers are invited to attend a meeting in the Field Husbandry Building, O.A.C., Guelph, Thursday, May 26th, at 10 a.m., to discuss ways and means of best battling the weed menace in Ontario which last year cost the farmers of this province at least \$18,000,000. The Ontario department of agriculture proposes to make a concentrated drive on weeds this year and will perfect organization in this and every county, in an effort to materially lessen these terrific losses.

Officials of the crops, seeds and weeds branch, Ontario department of agriculture, will explain provisions of the Weed Control Act and point out the duties of weed inspectors. Noxious weeds and their control will receive special attention, as will eradication of weeds by chemicals.

Officials are anxious to have every farmer possible attend this meeting, and are issuing a special invitation to every farmer in this county to be present.

A diver is busy trying to locate a number of guns in the lake off Burlington. These guns were dumped by the government after the Great War. Why the government wants to recover them is not known.

### Early U. S. Stamps Used as Fractional Currency

The clever adaptation of postage stamps during the Civil war was responsible for the introduction of fractional currency, according to collectors who study both philatelic and numismatic records.

Because so many people hoarded the metal coins (both silver and copper) during the conflict of 1861-1865, small currency was practically drained from circulation.

In order to make change for bills tendered in payment for purchases postage stamps were forced into service. Various concerns produced brass cases into which postage stamps were placed. Other people merely pasted unused specimens on pieces of cardboard and used them instead of money.

One such card, coming to the attention of a banknote designer, inspired him to propose fractional paper money. He used the card as a model, copying the lapped edges and adding only suitable inscriptions and trimmings.

The original engraver's design shows that he even left the words "U. S. Postage" on each of the stamp designs. A pencil correction, however, indicates that the Treasury official who approved the idea eliminated the "postage."

The rest of the design was left intact and paper bills were issued with a face value of 25 and 50 cents. On them were reproductions of postage stamp designs: the 25-cent bill had brown Jeffersons, while the 50-cent had as many green Washingtons.

### First Post Office Seals Bore Words "Registered"

The first post office seal was issued in 1872 and bore the word "registered," since it was designed to secure registered mail against tampering during transit. This green seal was engraved by the National Bank company, which held the contract for printing all United States postage stamps at that time. It has been found in several scarce varieties, including stamps printed on both sides, stamps printed on pelure, or very thin paper, and on paper showing laid lines, and in 1880 a special printing was made on the customary soft paper of that period.

The regular "officially sealed" stamps made their appearance in 1877 and were intended to reseal letters which had been opened in the Dead Letter office and letters which had been opened by mistake as well as others damaged in transit or found open in the mail.

The first samples of this series were engraved and contained the inscription "Post Obitum," in the background. In 1879 new seals appeared which were engraved in brown as in the previous case, but were without the funeral inscription. In 1888 lithography was adopted and the new seals, which omitted the engraver's name in the border, came in a variety of browns and were issued imperforate and rouletted in addition to the standard perforated 12 variety.

### Many and Glorious Stars in Florence's Firmament

Attractions in Florence, Italy, are as wide as the heavens, and in its heaven shine the stars which the world does not forget, observes a correspondent in the Boston Globe.

Here restored almost beyond recognition at 2 Via Dante Alighieri is the house where its greatest poet was born. Here also were cradled Cimabue, Giotto, the Lippi, Del Sarto, Cherubini, the composer, the sculptors Ghiberti and Donatelli.

In the Borgo Ognissanti, Amerigo Vesputci was born; at 16 Via Del Giucardini, Machiavelli, the author of "The Prince," was born. Not far away is the birthplace of Florence Nightingale.

In the Piazza San Lorenzo, Browning bought for 35 cents the old parchment covered book which he made the basis of his "Ring and the Book." In a wood skirting the Arno outside, Shelley wrote his "Ode to the West Wind." In the city is also the scene of George Eliot's "Romola," of Browning's "Christmas Eve and Easter Day," of A. M. Forster's "Past of St. Magdalen," and scores of other books. At the Casa Guida, Elizabeth Barrett Browning wrote in 1857 her "Aurora Leigh." Here died Walter Savage Landor and Theodore Parker.

Here are the tombs of Michaelangelo, Galileo, Rossini and Alfieri.

The firmament of Florence is one of the most famous in the world.

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### Pocahontas Coal

Pocahontas coal takes its name from the coal fields of Pocahontas, Va., which town was named for the Indian maiden celebrated in the colonial history of that state. "And because this little Indian maid stood for the best of the native product of old Virginia," states "The Story of Pocahontas, 1663-1915; a good coal," her name has been associated with the best natural products of our country, and the word "Pocahontas" whenever we see it associated with anything always means to us "best." And because these now famous coal fields produced the best steam coals in the world, they have become known as the "Pocahontas" coal fields and have carried the fame and name of Pocahontas to the farthestmost parts of the earth."

**Early Watches**

Though the Chinese claim to have invented the clock about the year 2000 B. C., there is a general belief that Gerbert, who afterward became Pope Sylvester II, made the first mechanical clock for the Magdeburg cathedral in the year 998. D. Peter Henlen or Hele of Nuremberg, Germany, is credited with the invention of the mainspring which made watches possible, about the year 1500 A. D.; one of the oldest watches in existence was made in that city in 1550.

**Images of Olympic Game Heroes**

Towards the latter part of the Sixth century B. C., it became the custom to set up images of the victors in the Olympic games. The custom apparently gave one of the earliest impulses to Greek sculpture, which resulted in splendid presentations of the male figure. Since high honors were heaped upon victorious athletes, sometimes even divine worship and honor, the greatest sculptors were proud to immortalize the victors in stone and bronze.

"There is hardly any difficulty in the world which could not be solved by the faithful co-operation of the English-speaking peoples,"—Winston Churchill.

There can be no penalty too severe for the man who drives away and leaves the victim of his recklessness or carelessness to the mercy of others.

A Bruce county farmer advertised for a hired man, but received no applications. The county road authorities, however, received 180 requests for jobs on the highway.—Wiarnton Echo.

Here's a surprising item of news. The circulation of The New Outlook, the official organ of the United Church of Canada, has dropped from 41,900 to 12,393 in the 13 years since church union, according to a statement made at a recent meeting of the Essex Presbytery, and further that of the 600 or 700 "lay officials" in Essex there were only 129 subscribers.—Brampton Conservator.

### Odd Laws Affecting Realty

In Morocco if a really owner has a Sultan grant, his title to the property is undisputed, but otherwise he cannot afford to "fall out" with his neighbors. The law requires the testimony of twelve neighboring persons as to uninterrupted and undisputed possession during a period of at least ten years before a clear title can be obtained by the owner. The Turkish law requires affixing of a photograph of the seller to all deeds. In Palestine, deeds and other similar documents are available from the government in three languages—English, Hebrew and Arabic. In China, foreigners hold land only under perpetual lease, while natives in purchasing property must obtain official title besides the government, or through village chiefs. The "middleman" or "introducer," similar to the realty broker in the United States, is held responsible if there are flaws in the title.

**Guessed Wrong**

According to the prophecy in St. Peter's epistle the medieval church expected the end of the world to be near. The first century passed without this catastrophe occurring. Gradually as the year 1000 approached all Christendom feared the millennium. Crowds renounced their possessions and fled to Mount Zion where it was rumored that Christ would appear. In America, William Miller started a group of Second Adventists or Millerites who waited in vain for the end of the world in 1844. There have been various times since this when the coming doom has been prophesied.

**Barnum's Will**

In his will Barnum disposed of an estate of four million dollars and made a careful provision for the perpetuation of his name. Since he had no sons, he provided that his grandson, C. H. Seeley, should receive \$25,000 besides his share in the estate, if he would change his name to C. Barnum Seeley, "so that the name of Barnum shall always be known as his name." Provision had already been made for the continuation of the name of "Barnum & Bailey" as circus proprietors for fifty years from October 26, 1887.

Richard Whitney, late Wall Street chief is to teach prisoners at Sing Sing. Teach what? How to get into prison or how to keep out? Perhaps he may advise his pupils to stay away from Wall Street.

In the opinion of the Farmers' Advocate the abolition of county councils "would be a mistake, for it is a local type of government that members are trained for still more responsible duties in the Provincial and Federal field."

### "Johnny Appleseed" Earned Name

"Johnny Appleseed" is the name applied to John Chapman, a native of Massachusetts who came to Ohio about 1801 and earned that name for himself from his peculiar occupation—his itinerant distribution of young apple trees. It was his custom to clear loamy spots in the virgin forests, on the banks of streams, plant there the apple seeds he had obtained at cider presses in western Pennsylvania, inclose the ground and then leave the place until the trees began to grow. When settlers appeared in the vicinity Johnny brought them his young trees to trade them for an old coat or a knife. But his needs were few and he often gave away his trees or left his little orchards to grow up undisturbed. All over the countryside, through western Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana, Johnny's little apple nurseries were located.

**The Grand Bank**

The Grand Bank is a great shoal in the Atlantic ocean lying off the coast of Newfoundland, famous throughout the world as a fishing ground. "Bank" here means an undersea elevation which produces a shoal, shelf or shallow. The Grand Bank is about 300 miles in length, is less than 600 feet below sea level and projects southeast from the Newfoundland coast toward the center of the Atlantic ocean. Geologists believe it to be the remnant of an ancient submerged mountain range. The bottom in this region is covered with fine mud and sand and the meeting of two currents brings an endless supply of diatoms and algae which supply food for crustaceans and mollusks and other types of invertebrates supplying food for the hosts of codfish which swim in from the deeper waters.

**Influence**

It is not easy to tell how the seed-thought is borne into a heart, there to germinate and ripen; for influences are subtle invisible things. Like the pollen of a flower, which may be carried on the antennae of some unconscious insect, or borne into the future by some passing breeze, so influences which will yet ripen into character and make destinies, are thrown off unconsciously from our common deeds, or they are borne on wings of a chance, casual word.

Hush money is the kind that often talks.

When a man says he is "good and mad" he is often bad and mad.

Pay as you go—then you won't owe. If you can't pay as you go—don't go.

Love is no reason for marriage, but then you know love has no use for reason.

An opportunist is one who can pick up an umbrella and walk away with it as if it was his own.

"The farther Japan penetrates into China the farther she stretches out her neck for beheading by our counter-offensive drive."—Mme. Chiang Kai-Shek.

A Kitchener man who defrauded his fiancée of \$125 has been sentenced to two years less a day's imprisonment. But the lady has escaped the major swindle of having him as a husband.

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