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### AN INFLAMMABLE CARGO.

#### Mineral Water and Sodium Make a Bad Combination.

In nine hundred and ninety-nine cases out of a thousand, water, if applied in sufficient quantity, will eventually quench any fire. But the thousandth case, when water not only proves ineffectual, but actually kindles and nourishes the fire, is a perfectly possible occurrence. The Boston Herald prints an account of an extraordinary fire at sea that shows how helpless is man in fighting the flames when deserted by his ally, water.

When the freighter Hardy steamed out of Le Treport, France, she carried, besides the mineral water in her hold, a number of small wooden cases marked "metallic sodium."

The Channel was rough. The vessel rolled and pitched violently. The captain saw that the ship was listing to port, and suspecting that the cargo was shifting, sent a boatswain below to investigate. As the boatswain entered the hold, he saw that several cases of mineral water had broken, and that the water was swishing about in the hold. Then suddenly he saw one of the wooden cases marked "sodium" burst into flame.

Immediately he gave the alarm, and the crew rushed to their fire stations. The captain directed the men to play the hose into the hold. As the first stream of water struck the burning case, there were several explosions, as package after package within the case caught fire. By this time two other cases of sodium had broken open, and their contents, as they came in contact with the water from the hose, burst into flames.

The crew could not believe their eyes. The more water they poured on the fire, the more intense grew the conflagration. Then suddenly two cases flew into the air, crashed against the overhead beams, and spread out in sheets of fire, the smaller pieces dropping back only to bounce and dance about, hot balls of flame, in the half-swamped hold.

Panic-stricken, the crew dropped the hose lines and fled above decks. But the captain ordered the cargo flung into the sea, and led his men back into the hold. They succeeded in throwing several of the cases overboard. But as each case hit the waves, it rebounded into the air, a flaming ball.

The superstitious crew was fast becoming unmanageable, and the captain saw that, in any case, he must abandon the ship. He ordered the crew to the boats not one moment too soon, for as the boats rowed away from the blazing hulk, several loud explosions came from the hold. Then there was one mighty detonation; the freighter broke in two, and plunged out of sight.

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The origin of the fire was, of course, in the sodium. Sodium is a peculiar metal, which oxidizes rapidly when water touches it, and flames as soon as the water becomes warm. According to the chemist's classification, it is the second member of the alkali group that includes lithium, potassium, rubidium and caesium. All of these elements have the same characteristics as sodium in greater or less degree. The sodium should have been shipped in hermetically sealed tin cans enclosed in wooden cases. But the rolling of the ship and the careless stowing of the cargo broke open some of these cases, and the sodium, which was not properly packed, was liberated.

## LIFE'S SUNSHINE

### Gladdens Those Who Regain New Health and Strength

When the glow of health comes back to sallow cheeks; when languid weakness gives place to vigor; when you notice some pale, exhausted invalid restored to active health—enquire. More than likely you will find the cure to have been yet another of the thousands already wrought by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. Headache and neuralgia, St. Vitus dance and twitching of the limbs, indigestion and rheumatism, eczema and disfiguring eruptions, and the ailments of growing girls and women all disappear when the veins are filled with the new, rich blood Dr. Williams' Pink Pills actually make. Here is one instance among thousands; Mr. F. Ashford, Haileybury, Ont., says: "Some years ago I completed a lengthy term of service in India, the last three years being spent in the beautiful but treacherous Poshawar Valley. Ague and dengue fever were rife, and although I was fortunate enough to escape a severe attack of either, on my return home it soon became apparent that the enervating climatic conditions had left their ravages on my constitution. In short the reaction had set in, and inexorable nature was exacting a severe toll from years of strenuous labor. My first warning of the impending breakdown were severe pains in the back of the head and eyes, insomnia, irritability, a general anaemic condition and an indefinable nervousness. Life had lost its zest, work became impossible and companionship intolerable. It really seemed that I was swiftly passing to that stage where nervousness ends and insanity begins, when by chance I read an advertisement of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. I confess I was skeptical of them doing what doctors had failed to do, but concluded that the cost was small, and perhaps, the chance in their favor, and so decided to try them. To my joy there was soon an improvement, and a continuance of the treatment effected a complete cure. I was now as fit and healthy as any man and am grateful that the lucky perusal of an advertisement brought to my notice the wonderful curative properties of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills."

Sold by all medicine dealers or by mail at 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2.50 from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

### BLUEJACKETS AS "HORSES."

#### Draw Bridal Carriage at Wedding of British Navy Lieutenant.

A bride and bridegroom in full wedding regalia driving in an open carriage drawn by bluejackets provided an unusual spectacle last week in Victoria Street, London, England. The occasion was the wedding of Lieut. Frederick A. Buckley, R.N., H.M.S. Excellent, son of Mr. and Mrs. Buckley, of Crouch End, and Miss Eva Godskesen, only daughter of the late Dr. Godskesen and Mrs. Godskesen of Copenhagen, and the ceremony had been performed at St. Margaret's, in Westminster.

While the wedding was proceeding in the church a dozen bluejackets, looking very smart in their sailor blue with white straw hats and gay buttonholes, quickly unhorsed the bridal carriage and lined up four abreast to draw the couple to the hotel, where the reception was held. Bluejackets from the bridegroom's ship also formed an archway of honor with their cutlasses from St. Margaret's to the carriage.

Her Father (sternly)—Young man, can you support my daughter in the style she's been accustomed? Lover (briskly)—I can, but I'd be ashamed to.

### THE MORMON MEMBER.

Martin Woolf, the member of the Alberta Legislature for Cardston, is making his influence felt in the Provincial Parliament. Last year Mr. Woolf was honored with the Premier's request that he second the speech at the opening of the session. This year the Cardston member made grave charges



Mr. Martin Woolf.

against an employe of the Dominion Government in one of the Western Provinces, and Western papers are reporting that his speeches are the most brilliant that have been heard in the house.

At home Mr. Woolf is a farmer, having a large tract of land south of Cardston, the Temple City of Canada. In religion he is a Mormon, and because of his religious belief, grave fears for the future of the Province have been expressed. Contrary to general belief, Mr. Woolf is not a polygamist, although he believes in the principle of polygamy. He is the only Mormon in the Alberta Legislature, but the time cannot be far distant when a redistribution must be made to take in another large tract settled by Mormons, and in all probability another Mormon will have a seat in the House.

## THE WORLD IN REVIEW

### Tragedies of Disobedience.

One frequently reads distressing accounts of accidents to children, accidents which seem unnecessary and preventable. There was an item just the other day concerning a little four-year-old, who climbed up to a high cupboard, secured a bottle of poison and drank it. We call such occurrences accidents, and no doubt many there are. But many others, it is certain, are merely the natural result of a very general and regrettable cause. And this cause is the laxness of modern parental discipline.

The laziness of parents who will not take the time and trouble to enforce obedience from their children almost being in the class of criminal negligence. Strict discipline, not indulgence, is what makes for the real happiness of children; and also it is the best means of securing their safety. Dangerous objects cannot always be kept from their reach, but children can be taught not to meddle with the property of others, and they can be taught to obey absolutely. There is very little of this absolute obedience seen lately. One of the new plays of the fall deals with the subject, the domination of modern children over their parents. Unfortunately it is a weak play, not adequate to the theme. But what a subject that is for a playwright of the day, full of tragic as well as comic possibilities.

### A 200-foot Flagpole.

The erection of a flagpole in front of the Provincial Court House at Vancouver, B.C., has presented unusual features because of the desire to use a long, single stick, representative of the timber resources of the Province, and to so place it that its base would be secure from decay. A suitable timber was out and delivered in the rough at the Court House in the fall of 1912. It was left for a year to season, when there would be no likelihood of curving when drying. In September, 1913, it was moved on rollers to its final location. The flagpole is 208 feet long, 36 inches in diameter at the base and 10 inches at the top, and when ready for erection weighed about ten tons. Surmounting the pole is a four-foot globe and a twenty-foot weather vane in the shape of an arrow.

### Extension of Suffrage in Europe.

Evidences abound of the steady onward march of democracy in Europe through the enlargement of the suffrage. Less than a century ago the suffrage came first poked his nose into the government tent. To-day both his front feet are inside everywhere except in Russia and the Balkans.

Italy has just granted what is practically manhood suffrage, without property qualification. Even illiterates will be allowed to vote in the approaching elections. And now in Denmark the struggle that began in earnest forty years ago for a more liberal voting franchise bids fair to be victorious.

The Danes have been fighting for a reduction of the voting age limit to twenty-five years, for the extension of the suffrage to women on the same basis as that of males, for the removal of property qualifications for voting and for the popularization of the upper house of the Danish Parliament.

All these measures will go into effect provided they are endorsed by a majority of the electors in the forthcoming appeal to the country, and of that there is said not to be the slightest doubt. The oncoming wave of popular rule has washed the shores of Denmark and is likely to wet the feet of standpat Danes.

### Racial Butt of Rudeness.

All races are caricatured upon the stage. The comic Englishman is quite as much food for laughter as the comic Jew or the comic German. None of it is a very high form of wit; and none of it is any form of art at all. A more refined taste on the part of the audience would sweep the whole "slap-stick" business into the dust-

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heap. But when many people find themselves wounded by this sort of thing, then we cannot wait for the elevation of taste—we must act more directly and quickly. To permit the playhouse to be made a scene of discomfort for any considerable section of the community is not only poor business—it is a low grade of civilization.

### Roads Will Be Numbered and Named.

In France a new system of road designation for the convenience of tourists has been adopted. Every road in the country will be given a name and a number and these designations will be painted upon direction posts at the road crossings and the 100-meter posts along the roads. The highways of France are classified as national roads, department roads, and so on. The roads in each class will be numbered. The direction post will state the class of highway and the number of the road. The tourist starting on a journey will need only a strip of figures, and he will be able to find his way anywhere.

### Capitalized An Idea.

Thomas A. Sperry, the inventor of trading stamps, died recently, leaving an estate valued at \$10,000,000. Young men who are discouraged because they lack capital to establish great enterprises should consider the case of Thomas Sperry and take heart. He capitalized an original idea and made it worth \$10,000,000.

The world has places of honor and distinction for men who can think, who can lift their minds out of the endless circle of aimless thinking and give definite direction to their thoughts.

Thomas Sperry observed the custom of some merchants to give their customers what the French call "lagniappe" and the Spanish call "pelon." He conceived the idea of systematizing the practice and making it a magnet to draw trade. The trading stamp was the result and fortune smiled on him.

Progress is but the result of the application of new ideas to old ways of doing things. A man's mind is his best capital. It is a bank account that increases as it is drawn upon.

In this land of opportunity no man is poor who has an unclouded mind and the energy to work to translate his plans into deeds.

### Britain's Navy is Growing.

It is reported unofficially that the new battleship Queen Mary made a record speed of 35 knots on her trials. It is impossible to realize exactly what this speed signifies without taking into consideration the huge size of the vessel. The vessel was built at Jarrow and is fitted with Parsons turbines. Her contract speed was 28 knots. She is armed with eight 13.5-inch guns, unless these have been changed to 14-inch as was suggested. In appearance she is much the same as the battle cruiser New Zealand, only she is 405 feet longer and has nine feet more beam. Her indicated horsepower is 76,000, as compared to the New Zealand's 46,894. But even the Queen Mary will have to play second fiddle to the Tiger, a battle cruiser of 29,000 tons, to the Queen Mary's 27,000. The Tiger has 25,000 more indicated horsepower than the Queen Mary, and although her contract speed is only 28 knots, it will be interest-

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