A WONDERFUL CONJURER

By Fred F. Foster.

Beats of legerdemain are ever a source of interest to the young; nor are those of an advanced age indifferent to them, for the tend to Gratify that love of the marvelous which seems instinctive to the human race: and next to witnessing is hearing of such exhibitions.

Hence, it is not strange that the Russians—naturally fond of stories, and credulous, also—listen with pleasure to and believe implicitly such tales as the following, which is said to have occurred early in the present century, at a time when the people of Petograd were electrified by the performances of a conjurer named Pirnetti, whose talents were of a most wonderful character.

Alexander I., that enlightened and virtuous prince, was then Emperor of Russia, and expressed a desire to have Pirnetti give a court exhibition, which the magician consented to do.

On the evening appointed for the entertainment, the room in which it was to take place was filled with the members of the royal household. But when seven o'clock—the hour designated for the exercises to begin—arrived, Pirnetti was still absent.

Every few moments the Czar impatiently looked at his watch; and when it was more than half-past seven, messengers were dispatched for the delinquent. They returned without him. Finally, Pirnetti was announced, and entered his majesty's presence with the utmost serenity. Alexander began to harangue him sharply on account of his tardiness, when he quietly said:

"Seven was the hour appointed for my appearance?"

"Yes," was the curt reply.

"Your watch will show you I am on time."

The Czar drew his watch from his pocket to confute the bold assertion. To his surprise, it indicated seven exactly. The watch of each of those present marked the same hour.

"If you now look at your watch," observed Pirnetti, "it will point to the hour of the evening it really is."

Again consulting his watch, the Czar found it denoted five minutes after eight, as did every timepiece about the palace.

This specimen of his skill at once established the wizard's powers; but for more than two hours he astonished his audience with tricks equally remarkable and incomprehensible.

At the conclusion of the entertainment, Alexander, addressing him, remarked:

"You have slated this evening that you can go anywhere you choose."

"I can, sire."

"Can you enter this palace, if its doors are guarded against your so doing?"

"I can gain access to your most private apartment, despite your every precaution to the contrary."

"You overrate my ability, sire. I perform no impossibilities."

"You will doubtless leave Petograd as stealthily as you came to this room."

"On the contrary, I shall go from this city at ten o'clock in the morning, and by all the gates at the same time."

When the day announced for his departure arrived, crowds were present at each of Petograd's fifteen gates, to witness his exit. These spectators asserted that they saw and recognized Pirnetti, that he moved slowly bowed to them, bade them adieu. And, as if to corroborate their declaration, the passport of the "wonderful conjurer" was inscribed in the register for that purpose at each of the fifteen gates.

Do You Vote?

You say that taxes are too high,
But do you vote?
About ex vagrance you sigh,
But do [illegible]?

[illegible] "must we co-

Nova Scotia Cow is World's Champion.

Nova Scotia has added another champion to its long list, and Betsy White, an Ayrshire cow, owned by [illegible] Musquodobo[illegible] been recorded [illegible] cow of the

To a Very Small Girl.

(In a Peach Bloom Coat)

I think that God was smiling when He sent you
Down to the earth from Heaven's Garden place;
I think that, at the last, He laughed and lent you
A glowing little rosebud for a face!
He took, I know, two butterflies that lingered
About His beds of clover, pink and white,
And made your dimpled hands, alert, swift fingered;
Your eyes were pansies—brown, and softly bright.

So, when you don your peach bloom cloak and bonnet,
And start out on your wee, unsteady feet,
It is small wonder that I write a sonnet,
—Margaret B. Sangster in N.Y. Sun.

Anti-Bolshevists Seek to Settle in Canada.

Representing some 50,000 Cossack farmers, who desire to settle on land in Western Canada, Joseph Okulitch of Belgrade, who was assistant minister of food supplies in the Imperial Russian Government, interviewed railroad and colonization officials, on a tour of the Dominion.

Mr. Okulitch is in Canada also on behalf of the Prague Society of Russian Agricultural Colonies, whose leader is Prince Peter Dolgorukof, and bears an official request from the Prince to the Canadian Government for assistance in obtaining suitable land for some 480 families who are affiliated with the Russian Colonies Society, but are not Cossacks. These people, as well as about 1500 Cossacks, are ready to move to Canada next March, if the red tape tangle which is the necessary accompaniment of such projects, can be straightened out before that time. Of the 50,000 Cossacks who desire to settle in Canada, about half have the money to finance themselves, while the remainder are farm laborers.

These people are living at present in Estonia, Poland, Latvia, Lithuania and Riumania, in districts which formerly were included in the Russian Empire. They are all opposed to the Bolshevist regime, Mr. Okulitch said.

Inventor Extracts Power From the Sea.

Special interest is taken in the communication to the French Academy by George Claude, inventor of liquid air and synthetic ammonia, in which he claims to have devised a method which will permit the exploitation [illegible] sea at a [illegible]

NEW TIES UNITE BRITAIN'S VAST DOMINION

The British Commonwealth of Nations includes 13,406,103 square miles, about one-fourth of the habitable globe. Its population numbers more than one-fourth of the inhabitants, a total of 441,595,956, according to the latest available reports. These, in many instances, are several years old, and do not take into account increases since the statistics were compiled. Detailed figures follow:

	Miles Square	Population
United Kingdom	95,041	44,147,601
Europe	26,712	3,402,540
India	1,802,629	319,075,132
Other Asiatic possessions	170,056	9,998,668
Union of South Africa	472,089	6,729,382
The Soudan	1,014,600	4,000,000
Other African possessions	2,533,115	33,171,516
Canada	3,729,665	8,788,483
Other American possessions	280,564	2,434,977
Australia	2,974,581	5,496,794
New Zealand	103,881	1,274,001
Other Australasian possessions	182,350	708,697
Oceania	19,120	368,166
Total (British Dominions)	13,406,103	441,595,956

Bank Secrets.

No place in London is more inaccessible to a stranger to-day than the famous blind site of the Bank of England in Threadneedle Street.

There is nothing there worth stealing, beyond a few cranes and derricks, because the Bank and its bullion are now temporarily in Finsbury Circus, but precautions against the admission of unauthorized persons are taken [illegible] prospective robbers should use the opportunity during the rebuilding now in progress of stucking the Bank's future internal arrangements.

The plans of the interior of the buildings, which will rise in a few years inside the present blind defensive wall, are known only to about twenty people. Even the specially-selected artisans and laborers engaged on the demolition of the old buildings are divided into parties, neither knowing exactly what the other is doing.

The workmen's entrances are Guarded by four stalwart sentinels, and every mason and mechanic has to pass their scrutiny.

While work is in progress, a chain of detectives is continually drawn round the demolition and excavation areas, and at night there is a constant patrol of armed watchmen.

At every few yards of the ground on which the new Bank of England is to be built alarm bells have been placed, and within thirty seconds any foreman can summon to his help either a fire-fighting squad or scores of men on vigilance duty.

Statesmen at Play.

We are hearing a lot just now about statesmen, so many have been visiting Britain for the Imperial Conference, says an English writer. Mostly we hear about their work, but [illegible] they do when they are [illegible]

Among the Empire [illegible] Mackenzie King [illegible] was youngest [illegible] example and cho[illegible]

[illegible] Lodge was occupied by King Edward, when Prince of Wales, for some weeks before his marriage to Queen Alexandra. Queen Victoria [illegible] for a short time.

[illegible] erected him a life lease.

While Lodge has been the property of the reigning monarch ever since it was built by King George II. It was a favorite residence of this sovereign's and since his day it has been occupied by many members of the Royal family and other distinguished people. In recent years it was the first home of the Duke and Duchess of York after their marriage in 1923.

Queen Mary also has many memories of White Lodge. It was at one time the home of her parents, the Duke and Duchess of Teck, and the Queen spent part of her childhood there.

The house stands in a splendid position, commanding a magnificent view down a Great avenue of oak trees, to Richmond from the front, and looking across to Wimbledon Common from the back. It has been empty since the Duke and Duchess of York left to take up residence in the West End.

Lord Lee of Fareham, the new tenant of this famous house, has had a distinguished career. It was he who presented Chequers to the nation to serve as country seat to the Prime Minister six years ago.

Among Lord Lee's predecessors at White Lodge was Lord Sidmouth, a distinguished statesman of the beginning of the last century. Nelson visited him here, and marked out with his fingers on a table the plan of attack which he afterwards carried into execution at Trafalgar. This table is a cherished possession of the present Lord Sidmouth.

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