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FACT AND COMMENT

How long can a horse swim? A Boston runaway plunged through an open drawbridge at the mouth of the Charles River and spent thirty-six hours somewhere under the network of piers and bridges but finally appeared headed for the open ocean and still swimming stoutly. He was then caught and rescued. Though he contracted a slight fever from his long immersion in the cold water he recovered.

When the Japanese evacuated Tsingtau Shantung bandits seized the town and the police force before the Chinese authorities could take possession. Instead of trying to drive the bandits out the Chinese head officials gave them a large sum of money and hired them in place of the police whom they had captured. Thus, from the Chinese point of view he restored law and order and got a vigorous police force at one stroke.

As a result of the trials of churchmen for opposing the governmental seizure of church treasures the Russian Church in Moscow has reorganized, and two sects have appeared. In the New Life churches there are only a few changes from the old orthodox form of worship, but in the Church of Regeneration an entirely different service is used. Archbishop Antonin has sought simplicity; he has dismissed his choirs, done away with the secret altars and, standing in the middle of the church holds his services in the Russian tongue. The congregation sees all the singing.

Date palms, originally brought from Egypt, have been growing in Arizona for twenty years. The early plantings of the University of Arizona, which have now come into full bearing, seem to prove that certain parts of the southwest are particularly suited to date culture. An old Arabian proverb says, "The date must have its head in the fire and its feet in the water." The usual yield of a tree is eight bunches, weighing each about seventeen pounds, though they sometimes weigh as much as fortyfour pounds. Some of the Arizona trees have produced as many as sixteen heavy clusters.

Having denounced the tendency of modern thought as expressed in the Einstein theory, the Russian soviet has declared war on ancient tradition as it lingers on in the "institution" of Christmas. The Communist League carried out public demonstrations against Christmas, and an official order forbade the display of angels on Christmas trees. "There shall be no influence of a religious cult whatsoever," reads the order. "Children must not be impressed by this mediaeval, undesirable influence (of Christmas). Instead we shall have costume plays and masquerades, which will give the children a holiday without any evil influences." A similar campaign is planned against the celebration of Easter and the Jewish Passover. Everything in the historic religions is anathema to the Communists; the doctrines of Communism alone are sacred.

It appears probable that the League of Nations will shortly be extended by the admission of Turkey and the Irish Free State. The Turkish negotiator at Lausanne, Ismet Pasha, agreed that the Angora Government should apply for membership and, though his promise is subject to ratification at Angora, there is not much doubt that Mustapha Kemal will influence the National Assembly to take the step. The conference at Lausanne offered the spectacle of a gradual swing of the Turks away from the Russian influence and toward a better understanding with the Western nations. Russia is the only irreconcilable enemy of the League. Germany would join if it were invited, and the attitude of the United States Government as disclosed at Lausanne may be described as friendly to the League as a means of settling the quarrels of the Old World, though unconvinced that it is desirable for it to become a member.

Mr. Bonar Law told Parliament the

other day that Britain can never pay the United States what it owes unless it gets back from France, Italy or Germany some of the money that those nations owe Great Britain. No one was much astonished, although until lately British financiers and public men have insisted that Great Britain could and would pay the debt. Mr. Bonar Law admitted in his speech that the British Empire was virtually at the end of its resources when the United States entered the war. The loans received enabled it to continue to fight but added a fresh burden of debt to the load that already appeared to be crushing. If Great Britain should try to pay it all off without receiving the sums that it lent to its allies, the result, Mr. Bonar Law thinks, would be taxation that would reduce the standard of living to a point intolerably low. The present premier has none of the jaunty cheerfulness of Mr. Lloyd George.

The daring with which criminals work to-day and the seeming helplessness of the police appear in the extraordinary robbery at Denver, Colorado, where at the very doors of the mint \$200,000 in currency was stolen from the armed custodians of the money. One of the custodians was killed and one of the bandits may have been killed, but the robbers got away with a swift automobile without any interference from the police.

The last British soldiers left the Irish Free State a few days before Christmas. As they march down to the quay at Dublin the streets were lined with good-natured crowds who cheered the redcoats handsomely. The incident is characteristic of the Irish people. As their own civil dissensions sufficiently prove, they are on occasion desperate and merciless fighters, but they are warm-hearted too and ready to be demonstratively friendly when there is no longer any reason for fighting.

WESTERN BOY SUICIDED

"BECAUSE HE HAD NO NERVE"
 Not long ago a boy of seventeen committed suicide in a Western city. He was sensitive, he was lonely. The buffets the world had given him had assumed in his morbid imagination the proportions of a tragedy. He considered his life a failure. He left behind him a pitiful little autobiography which is worth attention. From his earliest childhood he lived with his grandmother who, according to his own statement, coddled and spoiled him. She brought him up never to fight or quarrel or indulge in rough sports with other boys. He was a spineless being who was always being imposed upon. Being denied the comradeship of his kind, he ran away when twelve years old. But he found that nobody paid any attention to him, nobody took the trouble to find out whether there was any promise in him. When he got his last job in a bakery he had given up hope and wrote that if he were discharged he would kill himself. He kept his word. And this was no ordinary boy. A lad of seventeen who could write of himself: "That trouble is, that I have no nerve; I am just a baby, a weakling; I never knew how to take care of myself," shows a degree of mental keenness and insight, even if it is morbid, not common in many grown men. Under the right conditions he probably would have gone fast and far in the race for success in life. Is there not a lesson here for dotting fathers and mothers who try to prevent their young sons from being the ordinary, natural, rough-and-tumble kind of boys? And does not the case of this poor, lonely lad, who considered himself a failure at seventeen, admonish all good-hearted men and women to look about them for others in a similar situation and give them a little encouragement?

A MAN OF REAL NERVE

A case of real nerve is reported from Hamilton. In 1918 Alex. Pushka, a Pole, charged with distributing seditious literature in that city and admitted to bail in the sum of \$1,000, jumped his bail and disappeared. On Wednesday of last week the Polish interpreter at Hamilton received a letter from Pushka from Poland in which he asked if he could get a refund of his bail money.

LION'S HEAD DRUGGIST IS SUSPECTED OF ARSON

(Warton Canadian-Echo.)
 Suspected of arson, Mr. R. Cameron of Lion's Head will appear before Police Magistrate McCartney on Friday morning. The preliminary hearing will take place before Deputy Fire Marshall Jordan and Crown Attorney Dixon.

The facts, we understand, are as follows: Mr. R. Cameron, druggist, who purchased the store and stock of Mr. Armstrong, has been in Lion's Head about eighteen months. He left that village with Mrs. Cameron for Toronto on New Year's Day. That night a fire, which started in his store, was discovered by the citizens who soon put it out. Upon investigation it was shown that there had been an extension to one electric wire down to a rubbish heap composed of excelsior and other inflammable material and that upstairs a board in the floor had been torn up, the electric wire stripped of its insulation and excelsior and matches placed alongside.

That the intention of someone was to burn the building and make a good job of it, there is very little doubt, but who is the some one? The Fire Marshal's Department has accused the owner. That gentleman, however, has been informed, maintained, burglars broke into his store and away a number of things and staged the fire to cover up their tracks.

The building and contents were insured as follows: \$2,000 on the building; \$1,700 on the household effects; \$1,000 on store fixtures and \$6,000 on the stock, making a total insurance of \$11,700.

YOUR NAME TO DOCUMENT MEANS YOU HAVE TO PAY

After signing an order for goods it often happens that the signer tries to get out of the agreement and finds that it is a difficult matter. A Port Elgin marble man signed an order for cuts and tried to get out of paying for them by refusing the electros. The Port Elgin Times tells the story of how judgment was given against the monument man. The moral is: "Be careful what you sign."

Judge Greig of Walkerton presided at the Division Court held here on Friday last, when only one case was aired, that-being an action brought by the National Engraving Company of New York against Mr. J. J. George, monument dealer of this village, to collect \$29.21, which sum above company claimed was due them as balance of contract price for supplying our townsmen with electros. It seems Mr. George claimed the advertising plates were not what they were cracked up to be, or in other words, the agent who sold him the service misrepresented their make-up. After receiving a few of the electros and being dissatisfied with them he forwarded a cheque to the company for plates sent him and asked that they discontinue the service. The company, however, kept mailing the electros despite repeated orders from Mr. George to stop same and at the end of the six months' period billed him for \$29.21. This Mr. George refused to pay with the result that the account was placed into Division Court here for collection. After hearing the evidence and perusing a copy of contract with our townsmen's signature at the foot, His Honor gave judgment for plaintiffs for full amount of their claim with costs.

John Bull is too good a sportsman to enjoy the Franco-German game from the sidelines.—Stratford Herald

G. T. R. ENGINEER'S RETIREMENT A MATTER OF LOCAL INTEREST

Last week The Chronicle referred to the retirement of Engineer Walter Box of Stratford, the first engineer to pull the throttle on a train entering Durham. Friday's London Free Press contains some interesting information and besides gives a photo of one of the first engines used on the Grand Trunk lines in Ontario. Without a reproduction of the photo we give the comment of The Free Press as follows:

"The retirement of Engineer Walter Box at Stratford this week after 50 years of railroading served to recall the days of narrow-gauge rails and wood-burning locomotives. The locomotive pictured here is 'The Growler,' one of the locomotives of the same type, taken over by the G. T. R. when the Great Western Railroad was purchased by the former company. It was originally a wood-burning engine, but was later converted into a coal-burner. The picture was taken almost 40 years ago and the locomotive was one of the first of which Engineer Box had charge. This type of engine, with cylinders and connecting rods placed in between the driving wheels, has long since become obsolete on the G.T.R. and it is improbable that a similar type of engine can be found anywhere in the United States or Canada. It is of Schenectady, N.Y., construction and its sole companion of the same type was known as 'The Boxer.'"

Engineer Box also had the privilege of being the engineer to drive the first coal-burning locomotive to haul trains west of Stratford. Coal-burners had been in use prior to that time on Eastern trips, but wood-burning locomotives had been engaged on trains to London and Sarnia.

"In the balmy railroading days of the 70's an engineer didn't commence his railroad career as fireman. He started first as 'wiper' in a round-house, then he became a fireman, and before he presided at the throttle of an engine he had to spend a certain period as a 'turner.' As a fireman Mr. Box spent his days keeping up steam in wood-burning locomotives, a task which he says was easier than firing with coal. Six or seven cords of wood were all that were necessary on a round trip to Sarnia, which meant that many a mile was travelled with the fireman reclining comfortably in the cab of the little 'clawhammer' locomotive.

"Mr. Box was promoted to the position of engineer 45 years ago, his first 'run' being to Goderich, and during the course of his many years at the throttle he was never in an accident which entailed loss of life or injuries to train crew or passengers. With the exception of derailments the only accident in which he figured occurred near Mount Forest, where the rails on a bridge spread and buckled over the train."

While there are still many people in Durham who can well remember the first train that pulled into Durham over the Grand Trunk, it is not likely that anyone remembers the young engineer, in his early 30's who had charge of the engine. It will be interesting for them to know that he has just retired after serving a long and faithful service with the Grand Trunk Company. To our younger population, too, this information may be of interest. No doubt many of them thought that the Grand Trunk line from Durham to Palmerston was as "old as the hills," or even that it had always existed. The fact remains that many of our citizens, not yet turned 50, can well remember the first blast from the whistle of the first train that drew up at Durham station.

CAN SAVE GASOLINE BY SHIFTING GEARS PROMPTLY

Here is a suggestion to motorists for the saving of gasoline, which may be small in amount for a single day's drive, but which will be worth while in a year's driving. The common practice of waiting to shift gears on hills until the car has almost come to a stop is one of the causes of waste of gasoline. According to the U. S. bureau of public roads this fact is shown by tests conducted by Prof. T. R. Agg of Iowa State College.

The tests were made primarily to discover the effect of various kinds of highway surfacing material and different grades on gasoline consumption. The conclusion with reference to faulty driving is merely incidental to the test, but is one which will mean a small saving to every man who drives a car if the advice of the bureau is heeded. The vehicles used in the test were equipped with an ingenious device which makes a continuous record of the gasoline consumed as the vehicle moves over the road and another which makes a simultaneous record of the speed at every instant.

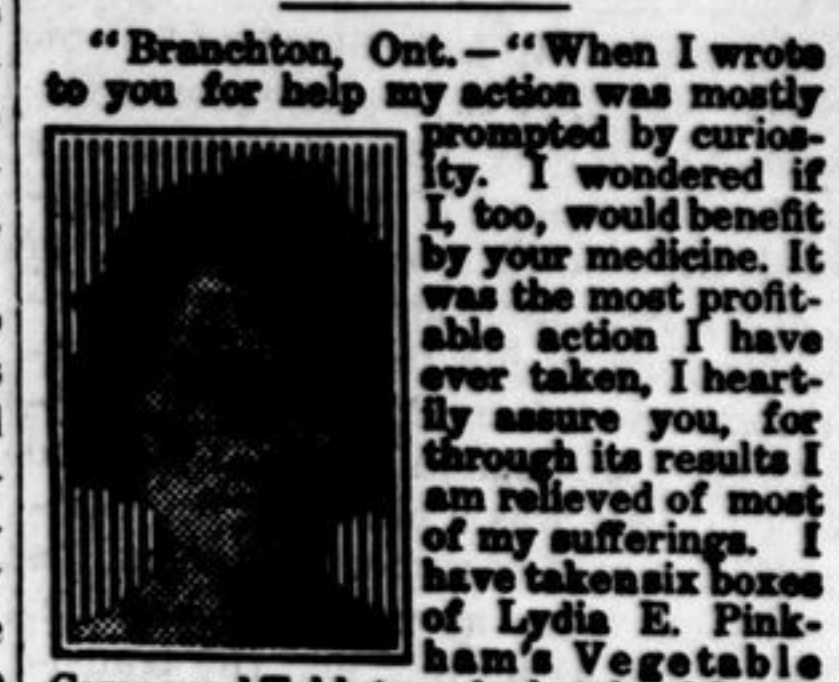
Exact instructions for the most economic driving will vary with the make of the car or truck, but the following pointers will be of value to all motorists:

In ascending a hill, don't wait until the last second to shift to a lower gear. If you do, you will not only lose speed and overtax your engine, but you will also consume more gasoline.

In the two trips over the same stretch of road with a truck having a total weight of a little over four tons, the average speed was approximately the same in both cases. In one case gasoline consumption was at the rate of 4.2 miles per gallon and in the other 3.5 miles per gallon. With more knowledge concerning economic driving a considerable reduction can be made in the gasoline consumed each year.

MRS. MISENER'S AGES AND PAINS

Vanished After Using Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound



"Branchton, Ont.—'When I wrote to you for help my action was mostly prompted by curiosity. I wondered if I, too, would benefit by your medicine. It was the most profitable action I have ever taken, I heartily assure you, for through its results I am relieved of most of my sufferings. I have taken six boxes of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound Tablets and a bottle of Lydia E. Pinkham's Blood Medicine, and I can honestly say I have never been so well before. I had suffered from pains and other troubles since I was fifteen years old, and during the 'Great War' period I worked on munitions for two years, and, in the heavy lifting which my work called for, I strained myself, causing pelvic inflammation from which I have suffered untold agony, and I often had to give up and go to bed. I had doctored for several years without getting permanent relief, when I started to take your medicines.'—Mrs. GOLDWIN MISENER, Branchton, Ont.

Write to the Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Co., Cobourg, Ontario, for a free copy of Lydia E. Pinkham's Private Text-Book upon "Ailments of Women." C

HOTELKEEPER FINED FOR HAVING U. S. CIGARETTES

Having American manufactured cigarettes in his place of business that did not carry the necessary Canadian Revenue stamp cost Edgar Sanders, a St. Thomas hotelkeeper \$200 and costs. This is the third case of the kind since the Dominion tax on manufactured tobacco was increased. Sanders told the police that he had purchased the cigarettes from a stranger who had visited his hotel and was unaware that the law was being violated. The charge was laid by the Inland Revenue Department.

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Curtain Serim at, per yd.	17c. and 20c.
Velveteen at, per yd.	85c. and \$1.00
Navy Blue Serge, 42-inch, at, per yd.	\$1.15
Stanfield's Blankets, at, per pair.	\$4.00
Ladies House Dresses at.	\$1.50 and \$1.75
Heavy Gray Cotton at, per yd.	30c.
Girls' Sweaters at.	\$2.50
Ladies' Gloves, from.	75c. to \$1.75 pr.
Men's Gloves.	\$1.50 to \$1.85
Men's Sox at.	35c. and 50c.

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