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Making Trips Across Atlantic

SINCE that day, August 3, 1492, on which the great Christopher, with his three little ships, the Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria, ventured forth from Palos into the "Sea of Darkness" on the voyage which was to end in the discovery of the New World, navigators have been striving to shorten the time of getting across. It took the admiral himself considerably more than two months to make the passage, and great seamen that he was, he shortened it all he could. Some hundred and thirty years later, the Mayflower did not greatly improve on this time, but as the years went by, and the lanes became better known, the demand for speed increased, the shipbuilders built his ships more and more for speed, until, in the days of the third George, the transports could make their way across, with a fair wind, inside of a month. So matters stood at the time that the great revolution in the way of the introduction of steam.

It was not a complete revolution, of course, for not only did the sailing ship valiantly hold her own, even in the matter of speed, for the first few years, but such famous clippers as the Great Eastern and the Red Jacket rivaled in their day, the fastest steamer afloat. Built for speed, with an almost unbelievable spread of canvas, they could and did make the voyage between New York and Liverpool in little over thirteen days. Indeed, in the early days, the steamers never ventured to sea in its own strength alone. Steam engines it had, and the best that could be devised, but it was always a full-rigged ship as well. Thus the Savannah, which is generally recorded as the first steamer to cross the Atlantic, used steam only eighteen days out of the twenty-five occupied in the voyage. That was in 1819, and it was not until fourteen years later that a steamship, the Royal William, crossed the Atlantic entirely under her own steam. She sailed from Quebec, and reached London in seventeen days. Curiously enough, although this is a well-established fact, and a tablet recording this crossing is to be found in the Parliamentary Library at Ottawa, the place of honor as the first steamer to cross the Atlantic, under her own steam, is frequently given to the Sirius. To be sure, the Sirius had a much better press at the time than the Royal William. Even in those days the inspired paragraph was not utterly unknown. And so in the London Times eighty years ago there appeared one day, a kind of advance notice telling of how "the experiment of steam voyage from England to America" had commenced; and how, a few days before, the St. George Steam Packet Co.'s powerful steamship Sirius, Lieut. Roberts, R.N., commander, had sailed off East Lane stairs on route for Cork and New York. "The Sirius," the paragraph continued, "is a vessel of 700 tons, with engines of 320 horsepower; and has been fitted up in a most splendid manner. It is expected to complete the voyage in fifteen days, and so confident are her owners of this that they have already announced her setting out from New York for the return voyage on the 1st of May. She carries out from London twenty-two first-class passengers, but this number will be considerably augmented at Cork. She does not take out any goods, being intended for a passenger ship only."

As a matter of fact, the good ship actually sailed from Cork with a complement of only six first-class passengers. All the others were rendered so doubtful as to the expediency of prosecuting the adventure further, by their experiences during the run down the Channel, that they forfeited their passage money and decided to trust to the winds. The Sirius, however, duly arrived in the Hudson, although not without adventure. In spite of the fact that she carried 450 tons of coal, a great quantity in those days, being loaded down almost to the water's edge, she ran so short of fuel before she sighted Sandy Hook that she had to burn every spare yard and spar, and even resin, of which she carried a considerable quantity. But she reached New York, under her own steam, and set out on her return voyage, as per schedule, on May 1. The attempt and achievements of these early pioneers were, of course, the one great subject of conversation and debate on both sides of the Atlantic. And so history, today, is but repeating itself, only, today, days have become hours. Indeed, the passage of the Atlantic, during the 400 years or so that men have been making it, has been steadily changing, as far as the method of reckoning is concerned, from months to weeks, from weeks to days, and now to hours.

Flowers in Arctic Regions.
Flowers grow profusely in many parts of the Arctic regions. The most frequently met with is the cotton plant. The miners of the north of the American continent have a saying that wherever cotton blooms, ice is not far below.
One may walk for miles, between the month of June and August, through fields of cotton plants in flower, the white, silky tops awaying in the Arctic breeze. At present little use is made of it, from an industrial point of view, except where the down is gathered for filling pillows.
Throughout the cotton fields flowers bloom in luxuriance, as is only to be expected in a country where the sun shines continuously during the summer months. Among others, the flower-hunter may gather purple inkspur, bluebells, monk's-hood, primroses, saxifrage, lilacs of the valley, and even a kind of Arctic geranium, pink or white in color.—Fit-Bits.

A warship goes on a whaling voyage when it starts out to whip somebody.
It's useless to call up the cat when you spill the milk of human kindness.

OUR COFFEE.
We Drink It But Are Not Authorities on Elavor.

In part the high price of coffee is attributed to a frost in parts of Brazil, but various causes have contributed. Puerto Rico, for example, which never is touched by frost, had last year a small crop, and the price of coffee in the island has increased 100 per cent. This has been ascribed sometimes to prohibition, but it is doubtful whether Puerto Rico could drink much more coffee than it is drinking before prohibition went into effect; its consumption of alcohol was extremely moderate and its consumption of coffee large, as is apt to be the case in the island.

It is noteworthy in this country that many of the plans for a substitute for the saloon call for the provision of coffee as a substitute for alcoholic drinks. In the cafes of Europe the two go side by side, on an equal footing; at the same table one person may be drinking coffee and another beer. It might almost be said that European drink wine or beer with their meals and take their coffee in public, while Canadians drink coffee with their meals and take their alcohol in secret. This materially affects the position of coffee as a substitute.
If the coffee house is to be restored to the position it once had, considerable changes will need to be made in national habits and tastes. Used in moderation, coffee is a relatively harmless stimulant, but it cannot be consumed so freely as beer, and most coffee drinkers take already quite as much as is good for them. To make coffee available as a social substitute for alcohol, therefore, the Canadian public would need to cut down its home drinking, so that the proposed establishment of coffee houses might not involve so great an increase in national consumption as has been predicted.
It is perhaps a more serious difficulty that the Canadian public, despite its enormous consumption of it, has not an educated taste in coffee. The market in Canada for the higher grades is relatively small, and there has been little appreciation for the excellent and full-flavored product. To the average Canadian coffee is a pale, watery concoction, brewed in griddle-cakes, crushers and pie; it would never occur to him to take it as a separate luxury, nor as served with a separate coffee service. Premier Clemenceau is said to have abandoned America because the people of the United States would not give him a good coffee. It is to be feared he would like our coffee no better.
If the reformers can bring coffee up to the standard of countries where it is sipped as a delectable luxury, and can persuade people to like it, they will have accomplished a great deal, but neither undertaking is very easy. To be good, coffee must be made with great pains, and quite freshly; the arom quickly goes and stalesness is fatal. Our long-established negligence in such matters will not be easily overcome. To be an interesting beverage, too, coffee needs an extra roast which at first most Canadians do not like. When they learn to relish it they begin to see how in Turkey and other countries coffee may be an end in itself and not a mere accompaniment to doughnuts, but many an enterprising reformer has come to grief in trying to educate the Canadian palate to the standard of New Orleans and of Latin Europe. It remains to be seen whether the numerous projects for serving superior coffee as a substitute for alcohol will fare better, but at all events the experiments will be of interest.

Preserving Chilkat.

The phonograph has been requisitioned to preserve the tribal language and folk songs of the Chilkat Indians of Alaska. Louis Shotridge, a member of that tribe, has recently returned to the United States after an absence of four years in Alaska, in the interests of the University Museum at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He has devoted his time to studying the language, traditions and customs of his people, as well as to collecting their folk songs. Shotridge is the first Indian sent on such an enterprise. He has brought back many phonograph records of the Chilkat folk songs and ceremonial chants. Some of these will be transcribed into musical scores. The Chilkats are rapidly taking on the ways of civilization, and but for the work of Shotridge, their native folk songs might have completely disappeared in time. The Chilkats are fortunate people. What would many give to hear a phonographic record of English as spoken in the days of Chaucer, or the French of Moliere's time.

Chemistry.

The interest in chemistry and chemical products has greatly increased in Canada owing to the fact that this country has been moved by the war to depend upon its own resources in this direction. The following uses are ascribed to these chemical products: In making soap and paper pulp, mercerizing cotton and purifying mineral oils, caustic soda is used; soda ash is necessary in the manufacture of soap and glass; silicate of soda (better known as water glass) is utilized in the manufacture of soap and in dyeing and printing calico, finishing cotton goods, preventing wood rot, bleaching jute and preserving eggs.

The War Toronto.

Something sentimental attaches to the good ship, War Toronto, which has just sailed down the St. Lawrence. She is the last wooden ship to be built for the Imperial Munitions Board in Canada, since vessels of her type are no longer needed to transport munitions to the war zone. She carries a cargo of about 1,500,000 feet of lumber which she will discharge at a British port. Her type is a type of a bygone day, but it is a type to which all honor is due, and no record of the war would be complete unless her name were inscribed upon the honor roll.

Instead of trying to kill two birds with one stone, use a shotgun.
No man need hope to reach heaven by walking over his neighbors.
A skeptic is a man who doubts his own lies stories.

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF.
Trouble in Winnipeg Recalls Fort Garry In 1869.

How history repeats itself! Just about fifty years ago Winnipeg, as it then existed, was in the throes of civil strife, and the powers that were, had throttled its press, quelled its pioneer newspaper, the "Norwester." There was then no Thief River Falls within train ride of the stricken town, where reporters could file telegraph copy. Yet two enterprising Toronto papers sent representatives hundreds of miles across the winter prairie, braving the dangers of cold and leaden bullets to get the news—and they got it.
Half a century ago Torontonians were anxiously scanning the papers for news of the troubles in Winnipeg. Greybeards remember the wave of excitement which passed over the Toronto of 55,000 inhabitants, when in December, 1869, word came through that Louis Riel, chief-tain of the rebels, had taken Fort Garry (now Winnipeg), imprisoned the Canadian Government representative and the Hudson Bay Co.'s officials and set up his own government in the Northwest Territories.
It was a far cry from Toronto to the Winnipeg of 1869—Fort Garry, the little outpost of civilization away off in the Great Lone Land. The Riel was the scarcely thought of and spoken of by sound business men as a "mad enterprise." Twelve hundred miles of wilderness stretched between Toronto and the prairie trading post. The most feasible route to the west in those days lay through the Red River valley, and that the late John Ross Robertson, afterwards proprietor of the Evening Telegram, Toronto, and at that time on the staff of the now long-defunct Daily Telegraph, of Toronto, set out to visit the scene of the troubles in the fall of his paper. The Globe sent the late Mr. Robertson, afterwards proprietor of the Evening Telegram, Toronto, and at that time on the staff of the now long-defunct Daily Telegraph, of Toronto, set out to visit the scene of the troubles in the fall of his paper. The Globe sent the late Mr. Robertson, afterwards proprietor of the Evening Telegram, Toronto, and at that time on the staff of the now long-defunct Daily Telegraph, of Toronto, set out to visit the scene of the troubles in the fall of his paper.

The travellers eventually reached the little frontier town of St. Cloud, Minnesota—the end of the steel rail, and prepared to start off on the 400-mile trail across the prairies to Fort Garry. While waiting there, John Ross Robertson got an important story of what was happening in isolated Fort Garry, from the officer commanding the American troops at St. Cloud. The Toronto Telegraph's representative sat up all night, wrapped in a buffalo robe, writing the story which his rival had not secured and ere dawn came the despatch was in charge of the United States Government mail carrier, speeding over the snow in a dog train, eastward. He secured a big boost for his paper and the first comprehensive news to reach Toronto.

Securing a farmer's sleigh and team and a French half-breed guide the travellers set out for Fort Garry, following the Red River valley and camping nightly in the woods along the bank. The weather was bitter, ranging from zero to 40 below zero, and during a blizzard one of the horses almost died of colic. But the strenuous journey of ten days over the trail the newspapermen drove in through the famous gateway of Fort Garry. They were immediately placed under arrest and taken before the self-styled President of the Northwest, Louis Riel. Riel frankly asked them how they dared to venture into his country and shut them up in a section of the fort. However, he relented to the extent of allowing them out daily for exercise, when under the escort of a half-breed with a big rifle they were allowed to go about the town seeing friends.

During this time they frequently dropped into the office of the pioneer newspaper, the "Norwester," which was located in a log cabin. Like the Winnipeg papers of to-day, it had been ordered to be printed in public. But the two Toronto men, sitting down amid the familiar smell of printer's ink, had long and interesting chats with the editor and the printers, picking up much news which came in handy later.
At the end of a week of this sort of thing, during which time the Torontonians had, of course, been unable to get out a single line to their papers, Riel sent for them. The rebel leader said that he had provided an armed escort to take them across the border into Minnesota and warned them that if he again caught them in the Northwest he would shoot them without more ado. So back they went for Pembina, Minnesota, in 40 below weather, after a brief but worthwhile visit to the storm centre of the Red River rebellion, which passed out when Wolsey and the troops went west after the murder of Scott, the Dominion Government agent.

Perfume.

Flowers are said to have a remarkable effect on the voice. One famous singer never cared to smell a rose; he said the perfume of a bouquet of flowers made his throat "off singing for a week." In several cases well-known singers have suffered from the odor of tuberoses, and a famous opera singer declares that the odor from a bunch of violets makes his voice quite husky.

In Memory of "Flu" Victims.

Plans have been completed in Brantford for a 40-bed isolation hospital, to cost \$125,000, and the building will be erected in the form of a memorial to the nurses and orderlies who gave their lives in services in the influenza epidemic here last November. Both City and County Councils will be asked to provide the necessary funds.

During the last year British trade tonnage has increased over 200,000.
A man thinks that his neighbor has no right to hold wrong views.
Almost anybody would rather have a steady job than steady work.
A skeptic is a man who doubts his own lies stories.

A PLUCKY OPERATOR.
He Prevented Supply of Coal Reaching German Ship.

Behind the curt references, made in legal formality, in the British law courts recently lies a story of the sea that would have fired the imagination and speeded the pen of Jules Verne or Clark Russell. The central figure is a young Englishman.
From the first there must have been something sinister attaching to the fate of the American steamship Edna, also known at times as Jason and Masetlan.
On a certain voyage she was fitted with a wireless installation, and carried an operator a young Britisher, Guy Duncan Smith, who was in the employ of the American Marconi Co. of New York.
In the guise of a Mexican vessel the ship, just after war had been declared between Russia and Germany, made San Francisco and took on board a great cargo of coal. Young Smith was suspicious, and before leaving port discovered that the coal aboard the German-Mexican vessel was intended for the German corsair Leipzig.

Smith was astounded to learn that a German wireless operator was to be taken on board, and that information that if he refused duty the steamer would take his place. It was then that Smith found that the German did not understand the Marconi system, but was acquainted only with the German "Telefunken" brand. Young Smith, with what was but no message of his should assist his country's enemies. He shortened the length of the sound waves and "hounded the enemy into the belief that he was sending out calls for the Leipzig when he was doing actually nothing at all."
But one day the captain ordered him to get into direct touch with the raider and gave him the code word "Dana." Smith knew that to refuse might bring the reward of a bullet. Nevertheless he refused. The German operator was sent for, but before he could arrive Smith short-circuited the "tone" of the wireless and the wave-length was altered. Sparks were seen in the wireless room but nothing radiated from the aerial!

The Telefunken operator was puzzled. For the sake of calling up the Leipzig he called her for hours on end, but he took equal care to get his messages "cross purposed." It was only when the vessel reached Le Pas that Smith found he could use the instrument.
Some Old Postage Stamps.
Imagine a postage stamp which, though actually used for franking letters, was yet never sold! This is the curious story attached to the original Egyptian Expeditionary Force (commonly called the Palestine) stamp.
As a precaution against speculation, it was not placed on public sale in the usual way, but was affixed by the postal authorities themselves to letters upon which postage had already been paid.
In some war collections, too, may be found a type of stamp, headed "G.R.I.—Long Island," and of the face value of one shilling. This unique production was "issued" by the British Civil Administration of Chuatus, Long Island, in the Gulf of Suwayra, during its occupation in 1914.
The most singular feature of the stamp is that it was absolutely superfluous as such, because the correspondence of the British forces did not require prepayment and the natives could not be allowed, in the circumstances, to communicate with the outer world.
Many London firms preserve Russian stamps which were designated to serve as currency and then be used for postage. Printed during a temporary scarcity of small change and of three values—ten, fifteen and twenty kopecks—these stamps bear on the back this inscription: "Having circulation on a par with silver subsidiary coins."
Just as remarkable is the British Honduras stamp of 1916. When a consignment of stamps was ready for despatch from London to British Honduras, a number of German raiders were at large on the Atlantic, and there was a risk that it might fall into the hands of the enemy and be used to rob the British revenue.
So the stamps were overprinted with a wavy design, that they might be easily identified. The Germans, however, did not capture the stamps and they were sold in the usual way.

An Anzac Memorial.

The Anzacs who helped Great Britain to defend Egypt during the war are to have a memorial in the shape of a huge equestrian monument on the banks of the Suez Canal. The placing of the monument on such a site, with associations going back to the dawn of time, will be a striking footnote to history, so to speak, as the Anzacs literally came from the ends of the earth to the land of the ancient Pharaohs, and the monument to their valor and loyalty will almost be within sight of monuments which Herodotus saw, and not very far from scenes connected with the Mosaic account of events in the earliest years of recorded time.

The Jacana.

On some of the islands of the Pacific, in tropical South America, is the beautiful bird known as the Jacana. It is famous for its so-called love dances, which appear to be executed by the males to excite the admiration of the female birds. When the mating season approaches the Jacana will single out its favorite lady and try to win her admiration with all its bewitching manoeuvres. In the dance the wings are spread and worked in such a manner that the beautiful colored feathers produce a brilliant effect.
Every cloud has a silver lining. That is where clouds have the bulge on trousers pockets.
It is a good thing for some people that the necessities of life do not include brains.

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Saturday, July 19th
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