

JEFF'S IDEA OF DITTO

—BY BUD FISHER



WAR SLANG.

Some of the New Words Grafted Into Our Language.

As a result of invention, official communication and the humorous nick-naming tendency which has always distinguished the race, the war has brought into common use many words that were unknown five years ago, and has given words that had a limited technical meaning world-wide currency and an expanded application. How many of them are destined to take a permanent place in the language? Probably not many, because their original and specific meaning is soon lost, as frequent handling removes the inscription of a coin, and their piquancy is destroyed. We see a notable example in the word "camouflage," which is probably the most marked case of a French word finding its way into our ordinary speech. Originally it meant the practice in French theatres of burning paper and causing a smoke in order to heighten an illusion and baffle the audience. It was mobilized on the outbreak of war to describe the various means by which an army concealed its guns, its headquarters and other objects that enemy aviators would be on the watch for. As we hear it commonly used, it is a word that stands for any one or all of half a dozen things. A politician will call a falsehood camouflage, or he may apply the term to hypocrisy. Another will use it as a synonym for concealment, for deceit, for deception, for reticence. Which one of these words is it to displace, for it would appear that it must displace one of them if it is to survive unless it is restored by general usage to its original and proper sense, in which case it will cease to be a popular term.

Another much misused French word is that of "ace," originally meaning the aviator who had five enemy aircraft to his credit. Now it is meant to describe a man who distinguishes himself in any way. It seems most popular with baseball pitchers; a first-class pitcher being called an ace without any regard to the number of his victories. Presently we shall hear of football aces and then of hockey aces, meaning no more than expert players. "Barrage" was made familiar to us early in the war, meaning no more than a barrier. As "poison gas" we describe political and other vituperation. As long as this generation shall last we may expect to hear the word "blighty" hold in affectionate remembrance. It is derived from a Hindu word, "bhat," meaning home, and was given currency by the great number of British soldiers of the original who had seen service in India. To them it meant not only home itself, but the thought of longing for home when one was sick and wounded in a foreign land, and because of this poignant meaning it seems destined to survive. One may expect the slang of the war to have the fate of other slang, not one percent of the new words of any generation having sufficient vitality to perpetuate themselves into the next. —J. V. McAree, in the Mail and Empire.

How to Color Meerschaum.

To color a meerschaum pipe fill it and smoke down to about half of or to the height to which you wish the color. Leave the remainder of the tobacco in the pipe and do not disturb it for several weeks, or until the desired color is obtained. When smoking put fresh tobacco in the bowl and smoke to the same level for several times. A meerschaum pipe should never be smoked in a very cold place. At first, a new meerschaum pipe should be smoked very slowly, and should be allowed to cool off before a second bowl is lighted, otherwise the pipe will become dry and raw.

To repair meerschaum pipe make a glue of finely powdered china and the white of an egg. Put a little of this mixture on the parts to be repaired and hold them pressed together for a few minutes.

To distinguish true meerschaum from the imitation rub the supposed meerschaum with a silver object. The silver leaves lead pencil-like marks on the meerschaum if artificial, but if no marks result, it is genuine.—Illustrated World.

Vancouver Island.

Vancouver Island in acreage is just under 18,000,000, including the adjacent smaller islands. But no more than one-third of this has been developed in any extent, and much of it has been entirely unexplored. It is said that the island is unsurpassed anywhere on the globe in point of existing sources of gold.

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