

## ODDITIES OF EXPORTING.

Some of the Things We Send Abroad and What Comes to Us in Return.

We send Dakota seed to Russia from which she raises wheat to compete with our own product in the markets of the world. To plant, cultivate, reap and harvest her crops we send to Russia nearly one-half our total exports of agricultural machinery. This year we have already shipped some 50,000 tons of these implements to the land of the czar. In former years all this passed through the ports of New York and Philadelphia, but a fractional increase in freight rates between the lakes and the east has diverted the trade to southern ports, while exports are being made in direct shipments from Chicago by way of the lakes, the St. Lawrence river and the Atlantic ocean, says Collier's Weekly.

The cotton plant first came to America from Asia; now the greater part of the Central Asian crop is grown from American cottonseed. American cultivators till the soil, which is watered by an American irrigation system. Yankee gins clean the fiber. American compounds press the cotton into bales wrapped with American bands, and finally the cotton finds its way to Moscow over a railroad built with American capital, and is turned into cloth by second-hand machinery from an American cotton factory, to compete abroad with American prints.

Another regular article of export to Central Asia is the Ohio grapevine cutting. The vineyards of Central Asia are all offshoots from American vines, and the fruit is prized above all others in Russia, as proper for its delicacy and flavor. Twenty to 30 tons of American grapes to the acre is a common yield in Central Asia, and as the American vine is free from parasites, it is being introduced everywhere the world over, from South Africa to northern China and Japan. We still export tobacco plants to Russian Asia, so that the Russian tobacco, grape, cotton and wheat crops are all American, once removed.

No oriental fabric is stranger than the accomplishments of the up-to-date Yankee drapper. In Bagdad, the home of Aladdin, he offers new American lamps that burn either Russian or Ohio oil, for the old-fashioned tallow burners of the Bagdad housewife, and as these time-worn oriental lamps find a ready sale in New York,

the enterprising drapper who introduces the American lamp to Bagdad was well repaid for his trouble. Now, however, American lamps are becoming a drug in the Bagdad market, and the supply of old lamps is rapidly giving out, as our lamp trade with Turkey increases.

A Connecticut firm manufactures scarabs for the Egyptian tourist trade. The little charms are carved and even shaped by machinery, colored in blue to simulate age, and shipped in cases to the Moslem dealers at Cairo. The Arabian guides are the chief buyers, many of them being adepts at "sitting" the sands at the base of the pyramids, or about the sacred temples, where they artfully discover these scarabs before the very eyes of the Yankee tourist and sell them for an American dollar, an article manufactured at a cost of less than a cent, perhaps within a stone's throw of his own home. For enterprise it beats wooden nutmegs.

## Badges for Opium Smokers.

A government monopoly and a factory for the preparation of opium has been established at Fukien, China. Hereafter all opium smokers who wish to purchase the drug must obtain from this establishment badges which are of three classes, viz.: First, brass badge, which is for the government officials; second, paper badge, which is for the gentry; and third, wooden badge, which is for the common people. On these badges are written the names of the opium smokers, their ages, their addresses and the quantity of opium they are allowed to buy daily, which is to be decided and limited by the government officials and which cannot be deviated from at any time. The interest of Americans for this news consists in the fact that from the province of Fukien comes most of the Chinese of the Philippines. The Manila Times even thinks such a method of controlling the opium abuse in our new dependency should be adopted by our government.

## The Affectionate Pelican.

"The kindly pelican," said a keeper at the Zoo, "is the most affectionate of all birds. It spares no pains in looking for any one who is kind to it, and will follow its master about like a dog. There are a good many stories about the love that pelicans in captivity have shown for various persons. My bird here gives a very joyful when it sees me approaching, and if I withdraw my offering bird instinct has told her that you should try to do that, so would snap your finger off. When a pelican is ill it is visited by young ones and sickly pouch. Fish is the food that it feeds on, and this is in the pelican's mind, the best of all fish. When at the point of death, when another food would be preferred, the bird will still have ambition to catch a few more. The tail of this bird is very strong. One of our birds was tapped in the stock by a patient four years ago, and the ugly tail was long enough to catch a Philadelphia Record."

## Revised Version.

"Never let me tell you the things you can do to-day," said the man with the heroic quotation book.

"That man's mouth eaten," he joined the up-to-date specimen of bustling humanity. "What's the matter, sir? Are you yesterday and resting today?" Chicago Daily News.

## IT WORKED ALL RIGHT.

A Simple Experiment That Illustrated How Easily Some People Are Led.

Over in the corner of the club room they were discussing that shrewish tendency of most of us to "follow the leader," relates the Philadelphia Press. "Now, it is astonishing," said the young man with a bald spot.

During one of those miserable foggy nights three young men in evening dress were slowly making their course down Chestnut street. It was easy to see that they were accompanied by solemn, dignified "jags." Their clean-shaven, Gibson-like faces were entirely devoid of any expression of emotion, grave or gay. Straight ahead they gazed with stony stare. When they reached one of the theaters they paused in their somber stroll and stood on the curb, facing the entrance to the theater. And all this done without a word from any of them. Despite the penetrating dampness, their overcoats hung open, revealing snowy shirts and collars. Their trousers were turned up at least four inches at the bottoms. Each chap carried a neatly folded umbrella.

It lacked but a few minutes of the close of the performance. The fog was growing denser every moment and the lights in the streets grew dimmer and dimmer. The party of four stood motionless and silent until the usher came out of the theater and opened the swinging doors. At this instant each of the men opened and closed his umbrella. The people coming out of the theater perceived the fog and then the party with raised umbrellas.

"Oh, Jack!" cried a daintily dressed little woman. "Isn't this hard luck? My gown will be ruined. How stupid of us not to bring an umbrella!" And she peered out of the door for a moment, shivering and retreated to the lobby. Jack turned up his coat collar and dashed out for a cab.

Then there was some dreadful grumbling on the part of the unfortunate who had carriages, but could not get to them because there was no awning from the theater to the curb. Many men hoisted their umbrellas and led women under their protection to the carriage doors. One fellow escorted a number of ladies, one at a time, in order the better to protect them from the rain. Lots of men in dress suits, but lacking umbrellas, milled up completely, turned up their trousers and galloped for the street cars at breakneck speed.

Through all this the chaps on the curb maintained their solemn, dignified demeanor.

It hadn't rained a drop.

## THE COURIER MAID.

Young Woman Who Fits Herself for the Position of Traveling Companion.

The courier maid's best time for her trade is the early summer, when people are planning their holidays. But the successful courier maid must be versatile in her accomplishments, says the New York Sun.

Although she may have two or more languages at command and be versed in the ways and customs of several countries besides her own she must write some additional traces to her courier's ability, if she would get good engagements.

If she is a fair miss-usage operator and has some of the professional nurse's knowledge, as a travel hairdresser, as beauty's covenier, besides being an intelligent guide and interpreter, she will be snapped up in a hurry. And to be a good sailor, traveler and packer are qualities absolutely indispensable to her vocation.

Many more courier maids are now employed than formerly. Elderly or mated couples setting out for foreign travel frequently engage a bright maid rather than a man to help them make the trip easy. The maid is a less expensive attendant than a man, is more contented on small pay and, moreover, is more dependable.

Not all courier maids are of foreign origin, and a considerable number are not of the class accustomed to rendering personal service. Some get into the business through being companions and governesses. College girls and daughters of good families whose knowledge of the languages has come through study, and who have a liking for change and adventure, sometimes take this means of acquiring themselves with the world's doings.

One girl from a northwestern university, who has piloted several parties over Europe, got her first linkling of wage-earning service through acting as waitress in a summer hotel during vacation time to help in her student bills. Since she has taken a course in massage treatment and allied subjects.

The courier maid's pay is regulated by the amount of service she bargains to render outside of her legitimate occupation as interpreter and packer, or that she would usually be entitled only to her travelling expenses.

**He Invited Her.**  
He was an awful "goon," and if there was to be a thing more than another that he prided himself on it was the fact of his looks.

"I can never get a dress or a really nice hat," he said to his partner as he gazed down at a pretty little maid, with a large smile of course that she would take no notice of the compliment. "I used to sit in the window.

"Well, this is the 'show-off,'" she said coolly, "but I may not save your money in buying clothes. It is so much cheaper in the long run than hiring," says Stay Stories.

**Not Worth White.**  
Never take the time to count up your rights or wrongs. A chiseler.

## SHOPPING IN CUBA.

Like Their Sisters in Other Countries, the Women Heartily Enjoy a Visit to the Stores.

The average woman is in her glory when she goes shopping. It is an occupation for which nature seems to have peculiarly fitted her and in every country on the face of the globe women are never happier than when exploring the contents of the shops. A Brooklyn woman recently returned from a winter's stay in Havana declares that the women of that city have reduced the art of shopping to a pleasurable science, says the Eagle.

"Shopping has always been my bête noir," she said to a friend the other day. "The hurry and bustle of a big city shop completely exhausts me and I always feel a humiliating sense of my insignificance as one among a crowd of hundreds of determined women who are elbowing and pushing me out of the way. Now in Havana it is quite another thing. Imagine yourself in a huge bazaar, the sky overhead except in the heat of the day, when awnings are frequently stretched across from one store to the store opposite, the narrow streets with their gay little shops stretching in every direction. The shops themselves are for the most part one-story affairs the size of an average room and lighted only by a door and window reaching to the top. These are always open during the day-time and early evening. At night heavy doors and iron shutters bar them. The clerks have plenty of time to be attentive, for there is never a rush of customers; in fact, more often than not a shopper has the place all to herself. Nothing is very cheap, to be sure. In fact, I paid 20 cents one day for a pair of shoes, but then I had the politest of clerks, no distracting crowd of surrounding shoppers and was in the quaintest little shop bearing the romantic name of La Fe—the fairy.

"Nearly all the shops and cafes bear poetical names in large lettering over their fronts. Just think how delightful, instead of going to Smith, Jones & Brown for your shoes, to buy them at La Reina de Flores or La Gran Senora for dry goods, to El Angel or La Perla to buy your flour and potatoes. At La Esperanza Chapel or La Luna (the moon) you may find bacon and similar products."

## ORANGES IN PORTO RICO.

Expert American Growers Who Are Interested There Say the Crop Will Be Fine.

One industry that will certainly prove a money maker in Porto Rico, but which will not begin to yield returns until next year, is the cultivation of oranges, says a report. It takes five years for an orange tree to bear fruit, and the products of the groves which were reported immediately after American occupation will make its first appearance next season. Last year we bought \$2,000 worth of oranges from the island, but all of these grow well. Expert orange growers from Florida and California, who are heavily interested here, claim the Porto Rican product will be exceedingly fine. There is no doubt about the large quantities that will eventually be produced, for over 500 acres have been planted during the last 12 months. Results up to the present time leave no doubt that Porto Rico can produce almost anything that will grow in any other temperate climate. Neither is there any doubt about her being able to dispose of her products, the market is waiting.

However, there is one exception to this statement. Whether it is true that sugar, tobacco, fruit and the smaller products are prospering, the coffee industry, which the best posted merchant claims is the island's best resource, is not in a thriving condition. A combination of circumstances has put the growers of this great staple in a bad way. They met with terrible losses from the hurricane. Right at this critical time, when their condition was such that they were totally unprepared to make a fight against powerful competitors for recognition in a new market, the change of government came. This cut them off from Europe, upon which they had almost entirely depended for centuries, replacing a good market with a very poor one.

## Hawaiian and Shark.

At Hilo, on the western coast of Maui, Joe Kauhi, a native Hawaiian, claims the singular experience of being towed underneath the water by a shark. A party of shark hunters went out in a boat to where a dead horse had been thrown overboard as bait for sharks. They once entered a shark-infested shark about 12 feet long. A shot from a rifle seemed to stun the shark or kill it, and it dropped to the bottom in about three fathoms of water. Kauhi volunteered to take a line over and fasten it to the tail of the shark. He had only partially made fast the line when the shark revolved and started to swim away. Kauhi, however, disengaged, leaped fast to the tail until he finished making fast the line. During this time the shark had passed completely under the boat to a distance of about twenty yards beyond. Kauhi, having made fast the line to the surface and was quickly taken into the boat. The shark was then hauled out on shore and killed, and the flesh, which the natives prize as a delicacy, was cut up and served among them. Chicago Daily News.

## Depth of Gulf Stream.

The gulf stream extends deep off Cape Florida. Near Cape Hatteras the depth is only half as great, the stream appearing to have an uplift, with an ascent of ten inches to the mile. Marine Journal.

## AN AVERTED TRAGEDY.

A Serious Situation That Was Very Happily Turned to a Comedy.

"When my husband and I were traveling in Italy last summer," said the lady in blue, whose suit case was covered with foreign labels, according to the New York Times, "I had an experience which, while it seems laughable now, nothing on earth would induce me to repeat."

"My husband put me into an empty compartment in one of those horrid continental trains and went off to look for our baggage. In some manner, while hurrying back, he got into the wrong compartment himself, the train pulled out, and so he could not join me until the next stop."

"Just as the train started and I was in a fever of worry as to what had become of Harold, a most villainous-looking fellow got into my compartment. He seemed all hair and fleshy eyes. I felt Cheney right away, and was not relieved by the way he kept glaring at me in a highly suspicious manner."

"All of a sudden he took out a clasp knife, opened it and began to cut all the curtain cords and to knot them in my place. I was almost frightened out of my senses. All the horrible stories I had ever read or heard about misadventures with criminals in those nasty compartment trains flashed into my head. I expected nothing better than to be strangled on the spot and began to beg the brigand for I felt sure that he must be one to spare my life." He only laughed a horrible, brutal laugh and jabbered something in Italian, of which I did not understand a word."

"When he threw off his coat and waistcoat I grew nearly frantic with fear and was almost ready to jump out of the window, but just in time to save me from doing something rash he quietly took hold of his broken suspenders and began to mend them with the clasp. Then he put on his coat and vest again and sat down in the corner and quietly went to sleep. When my husband got in at the next station, which was no great distance away, he had his hands full to keep me from going into a fit of hysterics. After that when he had baggage to check I went along with him."

## FURNITURE MADE OF IRON.

Tabular Tables and Bedsteads Have Become Popular in Germany.

"Among the various uses to which iron steel and brass tubing are applied in Germany," says usual General Masons of Berlin, "one of the most useful and important is the manufacture of furniture, especially bedsteads, frames and tables for household, hospital and military purposes.

In a series of experiments begun in the fall of 1890, a new style of furniture was developed in Germany, which is called 'iron furniture' and which is now in great favor in Germany.

"Bedsteads are made either wholly of iron or steel tubing of the same type and decorated with brass and nickel ornaments, or wholly of brass tubing, the latter class being, of course, the most decorative and expensive and adapted to luxurious bedrooms, hotel and private apartments. When intended for hospitals iron bedsteads are covered with a water-proof varnish which protects them from oxidation or injury in cleaning or dusting. Steel-up are the materials and the processes of manufacture that the catalogue prices for the different classes of bedsteads range as follows: Plain single iron bedsteads from \$1 to \$6; iron bedsteads with brass ornaments from \$6 to \$24, and brass bedsteads from \$24 to \$35. These rates include spiral spring or steel wire mattresses."

## GERMAN FINE OIL.

The making of pine-nut oil is an industry of the Thuringen mountains in Germany. The needles and young shoots of various pines, especially of Pinus pinaster, are collected late in May or early in June, and are cut into small pieces and put into a cylindrical still, though which steam is passed. The steam is then liquefied in a condenser, when the volatile oil carried over is skimmed from the surface of the water. The portion of the steam condensed in the cylinder falls through the bottom, carrying resins, albumin and tannic substances, and this extract is concentrated in a special vacuum evaporator, when it is added to the oil to give the necessary perfume. This oil is put up in jars as a remedy for rheumatic and similar complaints. The fibers left in the still are dried and used to make soap.

"And you are now really and truly an Englishman?"

"Yes," he answered, pleasantly, "really and truly."

"I have often thought that I would like to see an Englishman," she went on, and now—"

"And now you are satisfied at last," he put, laughing.

"No, no," replied the truthful little girl, "I'm not satisfied. I'm good deal disappointed." Stay Stories.

## JACKAL WORSE THAN TIGER.

It is not generally known that the jackal is a great destroyer of humanity in India than the tiger. Statistics published by the government of India show that while 25 persons were killed by tigers, more than 30,000 children were carried away by jackals.

## PRIMITIVE FISHING METHODS.

Lines, Hooks and Nets Used in Modern Times Were in Use in the Time of Christ.

The proximity of the shores of Oregon and Washington to a populous coast, settled by a highly progressive and intelligent people, has tended to differentiate them in many ways from other fisheries. No one of the great industries shows in general less departure from the primitive methods of a hundred, or even a thousand, years ago than does fishing, writes Bay Standard Baker in "The Salmon Fisheries" in Century. Lines, baited hooks and nets have been in use from time immemorial; the present-day methods are not far different from those of the time of Christ.

"I don't see how anyone can consider Miss Taft pretty," said another member of the group. "I would never think of looking at her twice."

Then began a discussion of beauty which was decidedly interesting. One man preferred a girl who was ofnette, with a fair complexion, white hair and blue eyes. Another man declared for the sweet girl, who has the amiable expression, moves about softly, and never tires for anything outside of her sphere, although she sheds little effective tears when it suits her purpose.

The plump, buxom lassie came in for approval. One man admired intensely the woman with round red cheeks, a chubby figure, and a blushing manner. The tall, athletic, independent young woman fared rather badly. Most of the men in the group admired her from a distance, but did not desire a closer acquaintance. One of the men expressed the sentiment of the majority when he said: "That type of woman is sure of overpowering. I always feel as if she thought me a little inferior and could get along wonderfully without me."

The same girl with the snub nose and glowing eyes had many advocates. "But she isn't pretty," objected one man, and quickly came the report from two or three: "Well, what of it? She's all sorts of fun and when she laughs and shows her dimples she's pretty, all-right."

She was as distinct as two dots, girls who make up," said one, "and most of these blondes are prettified. If they're not artificial, they're fake, and all they care about is to 'pull off' their legs." Look in the newspapers and you'll find it's always a blonde woman who is getting the man into trouble. They're clever, but they're like cats, you never know when they are going to show their claws." So she ran in defense and in the beginning she made good and dismissed the group.

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