

### LEARN FEW FACTS

Writer Criticizes Modern Teaching of History.

Important Happenings Recorded With-out the Events Leading Up to Them Being Set Forth—Makes Heads Spin.

Take English history as it is taught in an English school. It begins with Celtic Britain. Later Caesar and a Roman host. From there? We never learn, H. G. Wells writes in the Sunday Evening Post. Who is this Caesar and why did he come? Why did he go? Why did the Romans not come again for the better part of a century? Evidently something much more important was going on elsewhere.

A little way on in the story certain Angles, Jutes and Saxons rush in—un-expectedly. Whence? Why? Later come the Danes. The history of Eng-land has the effect of something going on upon a doormat in a passage outside a room full of events, with several other doors. The door opens, the Nor-man kings rush out of the room, con-quer the country hastily, say some-thing about some novelty of which we have learned nothing hitherto, the Cru-sades, and exit to room again.

From which presently King Richard returns dejected. He has been fight-ing the Saracens. Who are the Saracens? We never learn. What be-comes of them? We are never told. So it goes on. The broad back of his-tory is turned to England throughout. Its face and hands are hidden, and we make what we can of the wriggling of its heels.

The American story is still more in-comprehensible. An innocent continent is suddenly invaded by Spanish, Por-tuguese, French, Dutch and British, who proceed at once to pick up the thread of various conflicts—initiated elsewhere. Someone called the pope is seen to be dividing the new continent among the European powers. Colonies are formed. What are colonies? These colonies, in what is apparently a strenuous attempt to simplify history, break off from their unknown coun-tries of origin. A stream of immigra-tion begins from west and east. The American mind establishes a sort of intellectual Monroe doctrine and declares that America has no past, only a fu-ture. From which sublime dream it is presently roused to find something of unknown origin called European im-perialism wrecking the world. What is this imperialism? How did it begin?

The teaching of history in most other countries is after the same fashion. Everywhere the teachers present more or less similar histories of passages and doormats. Great events—the Cru-sades, the Reformation, the industrial revolution—come in with a bang and go out with a slam, leaving no clew, leaving our poor heads spinning. Is it any wonder if history falls back for a little human touch upon childish anec-dotes about Alfred and the cakes, the peerless beauty of Mary Queen of Scots, and King Charles and his pen-cils?

6,000 John Smiths. The claims and record office of the ministry of labor at Kew, England, which is now dealing with millions of forms in connection with unemploy-ment pay, has electrically driven ac-counting and tabulating machinery. Figures are transferred to special cards by holes punched in certain po-sitions and the cards are sorted by machine into groups. These groups then pass through a machine which prints the details from each card on rolls of paper, at the same time accumu-lating the figures and producing a total at any given point.

Eye Drill for Flyers. The royal air force of England has instituted an eye drill that has made many splendid pilots out of men who would otherwise have been useless. It was discovered that a large percentage of men only use one eye at a time, and in the early days pilots were not test-ed for eye balance. Many men were then passed into the air service who could never land correctly. When these deficiencies were discovered a school was formed and under an eye spec-ialist twice a day airmen undergoing the cure were paraded for eye drill and taught how to use both their eyes at the same time. The result was that 95 per cent of the men who would have been bad pilots became good ones in a little while.

Immigration Statistics. Between 1790 and 1830 the estimat-ed number of immigrants was 386,585, while the increase in population from other sources was 5,322,254; 1830-40, immigrants 694,125, others 2,992,598; 1840-50, immigrants 1,814,237, others 4,308,190; 1850-60, immigrants 2,598,214, others 5,032,411; 1860-70, im-migrants 2,718,824, others 4,793,235; 1870-80, immigrants 2,812,161, others 8,285,221; 1880-90, immigrants 5,246,612, others 7,230,851; 1890-1900, im-migrants 3,844,450, others 9,827,962; 1900-10, immigrants 3,806,398, others 1,171,498. Until 1850 all alien pas-sengers entering the United States were classed as immigrants, hence the fig-ures until this date do not take into account travelers and are in conse-quence inaccurate.

### SCRIPT CAME BACK

Librettist Writes Humorous of His First Play.

Producer Seemingly Had Forgotten All About Work He Persevered "Great" and It Was Finally Returned to Composer.

"I never shall forget," said Ede Dudley, author, "the first time I tried to write for the stage. It came about like this: J. J. Rosenthal was stag-ing a musical show with the intention of taking it West. Jake and I had come into contact often, as I liked his brand of cigars. At this particular time he needed a lyric for his show. We met on Broadway and he gave me a cigar.

"Hide," he said, 'can you write me a song?' "No," I replied. "Good!" Jake almost yelled. 'You're the very guy I'm looking for. All the others say they can write me dozens of songs. That's the trouble with them. They're too cocksure. When you get home tonight write me a lyric on 'Love.' Do I get it tomorrow?' "Well, you know, Jake," I replied, "origi-nally I was a telegraph operator and then a grain buyer out in Kansas. However, if you want to take a chance, I'm game. I'll write the lyric."

"This night I fixed up a couple of verses and the next day I handed the finished product to Jake and ran. He phoned me later to say it was great and that it would go into the show im-mediately. It did. The show went broke on the second stop out.

"Jake didn't put all the blame on the song—that is, he said it might have been something else that explod-ed the show. At any rate, he didn't lose faith in me. Three months later he lured me an old mother-in-law comedy script and suggested that I make it a musical play. I demurred, but he gave me a cigar, and so I went to work. A widely-known composer called in to do the score, and we labored together a month. Then we submitted the new musical comedy to Jake.

"It's great," he said. Then he threw the script in his desk and we went forth expectantly. For a whole year I inspected the billboards closely, but saw nothing that would indicate that Jake had produced the piece. At the end of six months more I received the script in the mail. A man had bought the desk at an auction and found the play in the drawer. All he asked of me was that I return him the price of the postage. I thought that reason-able enough, so he got his stamps back."

Sunlight Not Good Germicide. Sunlight as a germicide proves to be less efficient and reliable—at least in temperate regions—than has been com-monly supposed. In his experiments in Algiers, M. de Laroquette has found that only prolonged or direct expo-sure to sunlight destroys bacteria, and that its action is chiefly confined to dry surfaces where the bacteria are

fully de-acted. Bacteria in liquids are affected only by very intense light and this only at slight depth. White light is more effective than colored, blue being slightly more powerful than other colors. Bacteria are chief-ly killed by luminous rays, and ultraviolet rays have failed to show the bacteri-cidal action so generally credited them, the ultra-red rays being ineffec-tual. At best, sunlight acts only at the surface, while layers of fat or muscle prevent even the slight ultra-violet penetration.

By Naval Precedent. It is a curious anomaly of the senior service, says the London Daily News, that an officer who attains, as Lord Jellicoe and Sir David Beatty have just attained, the rank of admiral of the fleet, is required by precedent to retire from active command. The rule may have been designed to eliminate old seadogs who had become too ancient to bite, but it seems singularly foolish to permit its application to men like Jellicoe and Beatty. By the unprece-dented rapidity of his promotion, Sir David has finished his sea career at the age of forty-eight—in the prime of his life. The army is free from this senseless precedent, for the rank of field marshal—which is the military equivalent to the rank of admiral of the fleet—was, of course, held during the war by both Lord French and Sir Douglas Haig.

Someone Is Lying. Excerpt of a conversation between Jim Nell and his brother "Juicer." Pike Ewing of the C. R. yard. "The fool kid didn't have sense enough to let go of the bar he had on his shoul-der when he felt the floor dropping away from his feet and, of course, when the old magnet added the bar to the under side of the plate it was carrying down the shop, the kid went with it. The worst of it was the crane-man couldn't turn off the juice and release the kid without dropping the plate on top of him at the same time, so—"

"I s'pose they had to let the kid hang there and starve, huh?"—Heave Together.

Swinging the Ax. Uncle Joe Cannon was commenting on a certain governmental bureau. "It's a mighty polite bureau," he said thoughtfully. "Why, they never fire a man in that department. They ask him to tender his resignation. And ten-dering, you know," said Uncle Joe smiling, "tendering makes it less tough."

EMISSARY OF SATAN SPEAKS Sworn Foe of Industrial Content, the Rumor Monger, Glories in Fe-menting Social Unrest. I am the Rumor Monger. Borne on the winds of Hades from the halls of his Satanic Majesty, I wander among you credulous mortals and spread dissension. Suspicion and envy are my body-guards, and I am the sworn enemy of industrial content. From North to South, and from East to West, I carry my whisperings to the ears of the workers, and I revel

in hellish delight in the social unrest that I bring about. I am the devoted follower of An-anias, and oh, how I hate the Truth! I delight in fanning the hot flames of Anarchy with the seeds of Mal-content. My propaganda is conceived in ree-fer's minds and given shape and life by fertile imaginations. Vexatious and facts are strangers to me, and I seek only the ears of the impressionable sons of Adam. Sometimes I almost blush at the ease with which I arouse their suspicions through my airy whisperings, and I am forced to admit that a thrill of pride runs through me from the lips of my pointed ears to the end of my tail.

Whenever I begin operations pro-duction immediately slackens, for my lips are indefatigable in their efforts to obstruct. After the first injection of my sa-ram willing muscles lose their pep, and a frown replaces the smile of con-tentment. My campaign thus far in the world has been fairly successful, and if the workers who are possessed with com-mon sense and wisdom do not expose my methods I expect to be decorated upon my return with the Medal of Dissension and Legion of Untruth by His Satanic Majesty, the King of Hades, the last ruling survivor of the House of Beelzebub.—Speed Up, the magazine of the Submarine Boat cor-poration, Newark shipyard.

To Prevent Beriberi. Two thousand physicians assembled at the Imperial university in Kyoto recently to hear Dr. Shimazono lec-ture on beriberi, the cause of which is much disputed among medical author-ities. The disease is not contagious, and its chief cause is eating poor rice, although the doctor disbelieves the theory that rice ever causes blood poi-soning.

The speaker said that if rice is taken into the body along with other foods there is less danger of beriberi. He cited the cases of peddlars, fac-tory hands, Buddhist monks and oth-ers, who ate much wheat mixed with rice. Buddhist monks eat ten or twenty times as much other food as rice, and rarely suffer from the dis-ease. Among the factory hands of the Keicho iron foundry of the Mit-subishi company 450 of the 2,000 Ja-panese suffered from beriberi because they ate pure rice, while only 9 of 3,000 Koreans suffered from the dis-ease presumably because they ate mil-let and beans.

Doctor Shimazono advised the eat-ing of wheat with rice, in the ratio of six parts of rice to four parts of wheat. This will create a market for the ship-ment to Japan or larger quantities of wheat from Oregon and Washington.—East and West.

Sufficient unto Themselves. United States marines who have hob-nobbed with Filipino headhunters and have long been friendly with the Chamorro of Guam, met their Waterloo when they tried to establish the ep-istole cordiale with the Chu-Chus of the Virgin Islands. According to the marines the Chu-

Chus are "loose thinkers." They live on the west side of the harbor of Chu-Chu-Analis, decline to mingle or intermarry with the negroes, and re-sent any outside interference with their affairs. They are the hardest drink-ers and best workers on the island, their industry bringing them a good living as fishermen and growers of straw hats. The tribe is said to have come originally from the Dutch and French Leeward Islands.

"So far, the marines have taken only long distance observations of the Chu-Chus. For while the tribe is not hostile, its members indicate that they want to be left alone.

"H. C. of L." for Nelson's Day. The returned soldier, who is discon-solable to find how horribly dear every-thing is, will enjoy this story of Horra-tio Nelson. The admiral was dining with Beck-ford, the author of "Vathek," and a very rich man. Owing to the great scarcity of wheat, even such folk often denied themselves bread at dinner. Lord Nelson asked for bread, and when told by a servant that bread was not served at Mr. Beckford's table, he looked angry, drew from his pocket a shil-ling, and sent his own servant to buy a loaf, observing that, having fought for his bread, he was not going to be denied it by his fellow countrymen.

Death of Queen Bees in England. Beekeeping in England was badly hit by the war, for the scarcity of sug-ar made it impossible to supply the hives with syrup for winter feeding. It is estimated that owing to this and other war causes, the bee population of England has been reduced by 75 per cent. Last year, in spite of the war, England paid nearly fourteen million dollars for imported honey, so now the food production depart-ment of the government has decided to import queen bees from Italy and in other ways help to restore the in-dustry.

Beware First False Sleep. Honor is like an island, rugged and without a landing place; we can never more re-enter when we are once out-side of it.—Silver Threads.

### BELIEVED IN EVIL SPIRITS

Queer Story of Superstition Existing in England Comparatively Only Few Years Ago.

In these days of education it is rather difficult to understand the men-tality of the people of sixty or eighty years ago, but from the following it will be clear that they had not en-tirely overcome the idea of evil spirits entering animals, things, remarks the London Times. A tradition has been current in the village of Millbrook, Bedfordshire, that sixty or seventy years ago the life-sized effigies were removed from the altar tomb in the church, owing to the strange noises they were heard to make, and removed to the cellar at the rectory, where owing to their con-tinuous rattling noises they so dis-turbed the residents in the building that in self-defense they were interred in the consecrated ground of the church-yard.

Local archaeologists recently decided to test the truth of the story, and after three days' digging recovered the statues. The figures were decaying, set and the man had lost his legs, but the head of a woman was recovered and the man's head is in the posses-sion of a resident of the village. The church records show that early in the last century there was a hand-some man, with full-length fig-ures, of William Inett and Mary, his wife, in the church and these figures agree with the records. The figures are recumbent and the hands rest upon embroidered cushions hung with tassels carved in stone. They represent a man clad in plate armor and a woman wearing the head-dress of the Elizabethan period. The tomb and effigies are carved out of Titterton-stone and the traces of heavy gilding and the superior workmanship show that the monument must have been a very handsome one, the approx-imate date of erection being about 1500.

## LAXATIVE for Aged People



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