

Puzzle Fans Swamp the Dead Letter Office



A typical view in the dead letter office in Washington these days with a great deluge of undelivered cross-word puzzle mail pouring in daily. Folks who just must have that missing word have written to unknown bureaus of the government to seek the information.

Island Paradise in Mediterranean

Spain's Beauty Spot Not Well Known to Tourists.

Washington.—Europe's most recent tornado, coming hard on the heels of that in the Mississippi valley, struck the Spanish island of Majorca, a hundred miles south of Barcelona in the Mediterranean, demolishing several villages.

"Majorca is an island paradise not very well known even to Spaniards, and almost wholly missed by the stream of outside tourists that courses through other parts of the Mediterranean, Italy, and to a less extent through the Spanish mainland," says a bulletin from the Washington headquarters of the National Geographic society. "But the beauties and delights of the island are beloved of its own people who have an intense local patriotism."

Gleaming Marble Peaks.
"The island is almost square, about forty miles along each side, and lies as though hanging by a cord from the eastern end of the Pyrenees by one corner. Thus a corner points in each of the cardinal directions, while the sides are exposed to the northeast, the northwest, the southwest and the southeast."

"Along the northwest side which faces Spain is a high mountain range whose loftiest peaks, nearly a mile high, bear patches of snow in winter. But even in the summer their tops are gleaming white, for they are of marble and the crests of many are devoid of vegetation. The lesser peaks and shoulders are clad in a mantle of dark green pines, while lower are groves of ilex and flowering shrubs. On the gentler slopes of this northern coast and in its valleys, man has placed vineyards and orange and olive groves. The whole panorama, sweeping from the blue sea through varying greens to the shining-white peaks, makes a picture of incomparable loveliness."

Lowlands a Vast Orchard.
"It is south of the mountains that Majorca's garden spot is found, and the fertile plain that sweeps off from the foot of the range to the hills that rim the southeastern side of the island is called just that, the 'Huerta.' This level region supports many thousands of acres of almond and apricot trees, and in the spring is a vast sea of blossoms."

"Palma, the capital of Majorca, lies in a broad bay that indents the southwestern side of the island just south of the high mountains. A city has existed there probably since the days of Carthage, when colonists from that African empire occupied Majorca; but there is little evidence now of anything but Spanish influence. Scattered about the city are numerous interesting old palaces of the leading island families—one at least for almost every street. The population is about equal to that of Mobile, Ala., or Portland."

"Majorca, like the Spanish mainland, was overrun by the Moors. For 500 years they held the island with Palma (then Mallorca) a flourishing Moorish city. It was a thorn in the side of the Spanish Christian king."

dom, however, for the Majorcan Moors became piratical in the Twelfth century, and no Christian ship was safe. King Jayme I of Aragon organized a strong expedition which sailed from near Barcelona in 1229, and after a siege, captured Palma. Soon the whole island was subdued and divided among Jayme's knights and soldiers.

"The Spanish Majorcans followed in the footsteps of their Moorish predecessors in so far as developing nautical ability was concerned. As traders, they rivaled the Genoese for a time, and once dominated the western Mediterranean, controlling Sicily, Sardinia, Corsica, Malta and the Balearics. Palma had a great dockyard for galleys. In the middle of the Fourteenth century more than 30,000 sailors and 400 vessels were in the Majorcan service. The Majorcan navy constituted one of Christendom's chief bulwarks against the ravages of the Barbary pirates."

Europe's Leading Geographers.
"During their prime as merchant shippers, the Majorcans were famous as the leading geographers of Europe. They invented crude but effective instruments of navigation, and drew the most reliable charts then known. One

of the most valuable old maps in existence is in a museum in Palma. Drawn by a Majorcan in 1439, it was once owned by Amerigo Vesputi. It is a remarkably accurate depiction of the Mediterranean; the Atlantic coast of Europe and Great Britain as far north as Jutland; and the Near-East, including the Persian Gulf and the Red sea.

"One of the interesting sights of Palma is the old exchange building, near the harbor, where great mercantile affairs were conducted in the old days, as they were in the exchanges of Venice and Genoa. The passage of the galleys and the sailing vessel as the chief burden bearers of the world's sea-borne commerce, and the shifting of the world trade center from the Mediterranean, but an end to Majorca's importance as a trading station, and it now finds itself in a sort of eddy of world affairs, thrown on its own resources."

"Near the middle of the southeastern coast line of Majorca are great stalactite caves, among the largest in Europe. They are not, however, so extensive as those of Kentucky and Virginia or the huge Carlsbad caverns of New Mexico."

Wants to Be 105

Point Pleasant, N. J.—Mrs. Katherine Sutphin celebrated her one hundred and second birthday with a prayer that she might live three years longer to reach the age at which her grandfather died.

The centenarian enjoys excellent health and reads the newspapers daily without using glasses.

Prisoners Learn by Mail Course

Larger Percentage Finish Than in Civil Life.

New York.—A larger proportion of inmates of penal institutions complete correspondence courses than in civil life, according to officials of the National Society of Penal Information. William B. Carver, secretary in charge of the educational work among prisoners, recently explained the society's aims as follows:

"We desire to assist prisoners to get on their feet after they complete their terms. Through the agency of the Welfare League association we supply correspondence courses to prisoners in New York state, in order to increase their earning power and develop in them the habit of initiative and continuous effort inseparable from intelligent studies," said Mr. Carver. "Our statistics show that from 80 to 90 per cent of the prisoners taking the courses complete their work, an average far in excess of those people who take correspondence courses in civil life."

"Prison work should be looked upon as an educational matter, aside from the idea of punishment or retribution. Prisoners hate the word 'reform,' so we call it 'social re-education.' We try to develop social tendencies, to encourage unselfish service and manly self-development."

"The fundamental factors we have struck in our employment work are that the prisoners' previous training does not tend to form habits of continuous effort, and that many are poorly prepared to take their part in the life of the community."

"The prison schools are inadequate. They teach men to read and write and give a little arithmetic. Prisoners are not obliged to attend, but many go to avoid the work in the shops. The prison classes are often run by inmate teachers, who give little enthusiasm, and supply no vocational training."

"Our society furnishes courses to a limited number of men. At present we have 47 still taking courses out of 87 who applied, and in most cases completed their work. Most of these men are in New York institutions—Clinton prison at Dannemora, Auburn, Sing Sing, and Great Meadow at Conestock—but we have one federal prisoner at Fort Leavenworth who is taking a course in advanced English."

"Most of the men prefer the courses issued by the Massachusetts state division of university extension, under the department of education, whose courses are chiefly practical, including such crafts as steamfitting, salesmanship and traffic management. How-

ever, ten or twelve of our men are taking courses given by Columbia university. One man is studying journalism; two are studying advanced English; one, a former engineer, is studying technical German. One of our students is taking a course in higher salesmanship from La Salle university, Chicago."

We receive most enthusiastic letters from our students. One student of steamfitting worked his way up from the coal hole to the boiler room at Dannemora. Before he entered he was a common laborer. Another boy, twenty-seven years old, with seven years already spent in various institutions and a term in 1933, is studying the modern gasoline engine. One of our graduates took a course in salesmanship, and just wrote the society that he had secured a job. Another man, confined for ten years, writes that he has memorized every page of his lessons on traffic management."

Limited by Money.

The funds for this work are supplied by the Welfare League association, 25 West Forty-third street, and it was stated that the number of applicants for correspondence courses was limited by the amount of money at their disposal. Every prisoner's application must be endorsed by the head teacher at his prison, and is then forwarded to the Welfare League association for action. According to their funds, they order the course from either Columbia or Massachusetts, and the rest is in the hands of James A. Moyer, director of the Massachusetts extension courses, and of Dr. James C. Egbert of Columbia.

It is hoped to extend this work from New York into neighboring states. Through the work thus arranged the prisoners are becoming part of the educational system; education is overcoming the ignorance which leads to crime. In its work among released prisoners the Welfare League has helped 1,916 men, getting jobs for 504 of them. These men came from 28 states; some wanted advice, some medical assistance, but most of them merely wanted to report progress and obtain encouragement."

The executive committee of the organization includes: Thomas Mott Osborn, former warden of Sing Sing, who sponsored the Mutual Welfare leagues of prisoners at Sing Sing and Auburn prisons, president; Frank Marshall Knight, chairman; Paul W. Garrett, secretary and treasurer; John Jay Schieffelin, George W. Kirchwey, Spencer Miller, Jr., John J. Molloy, employment secretary, and William B. Carver, educational secretary.

Oregonians Get 'Em Fresh From the Streams



Nearly 400 persons, seated at one table 400 feet long, enjoying a fish fry breakfast at Eagle creek, near Portland, Ore., for which game wardens caught more than a thousand mountain trout earlier the same morning.

Industries Unite to Save Forests

Board Is Named to Avert Lumber Waste.

Washington.—A nation-wide movement to conserve the lumber resources of the United States was started by the appointment of a conservation committee, of which Secretary Hoover has agreed to act as chairman. The committee is to make a thorough study of the wood-using industries and report at a conference to be held next fall. One of the big objects sought is to obtain closer co-operation in insuring full use of all timber cut.

The committee comprises representatives of the railways, the paper and pulp industry, purchasing agents of the country, wood-using industries, lumber manufacturers and retailers, architects and contractors, the American Engineering council and the national farmer organizations.

A preliminary conference, called by Secretary Hoover, has been in session here for some time and it was voted that definite action to bring about conservation was essential to the best interests of the nation. At the close of the conference the situation was summed up by John V. W. Reynolds of New York, who represented the American Engineering council.

"The United States," he said, "has been living in a fool's paradise. Foreign governments are studying economics, and unless we take the same step economy measures will be forced upon us. Industry must look at such problems from a national standpoint."

Voluntary Action.

Secretary Hoover explained what the Department of Commerce had been developing during the last three years with industry to eliminate waste. It has been found possible, he said, to obtain practical results by voluntary action, the function of the government being to bring together the industries that they might unite for such action as would serve the common interest.

Secretary Hoover said the fact that timber was being cut at a rate four times faster than it was being replaced, called for immediate and constructive action. The problem for the committee, he added, dealt with the problems faced in making for economy of use after the forest had become a commercial product.

Announcement was made by Mr. Hoover that an anonymous gift of \$25,300 a year for two years had been received.

ceived, to serve as the nucleus for financing the investigations which the committee will undertake. He recommended that the program of the committee take the form of day-to-day operations, with studies being made of specific industries to ascertain the full facts, and then to be considered from the standpoint of their relation with other industries, to the end that the by-products of one industry might be utilized wherever possible by another.

One of the faulty functions of the present-day commercial and industrial fabric, Secretary Hoover contended, was that industries had not been brought together to co-operate in the national interest. Such co-operation, he said, would not only bring economy of operation of industry, but would result in a more efficient use of raw materials.

Paper Industry.

A report on behalf of the American Paper and Pulp association was made by Norman W. Wilson, president of that organization. He said the paper and pulp industry was tackling the

problem from two ends. More and more mills were employing foresters to secure expert treatment of the timber and to reproduce their wood supplies, he said. At the finishing end of the industry increasing attention was being given to research for new uses for by-products.

Hugh I. Baker of New York, secretary of the same organization, said that while the paper and pulp industry consumed 6,000,000 cords of wood annually, this was but 4 per cent of the timber cut in the United States. The value of paper products and paper goods is about \$24,000,000,000.

The industry, he said, has two problems, one technical and the other commercial. In the technical field decay of wood and utilization of decayed woods has been combated by the forest products laboratory. Hardwoods were being used with success where they were not formerly usable and where a decade ago foresters regarded the hardwood trees as a nuisance.

Howard Andrews of Nashville, representing the National Association of Railroad Tie Producers, said that through the use of wood preservative the industry already had reduced the replacement of ties from a rate of 325 per mile in 1920 to 90 per mile in 1924.

Col. W. B. Greeley of the federal forest service, who will act as vice chairman of the new conservation committee, argued for the establishment of some sort of clearing house and guiding agency to aid in the conservation desired.

Heligoland Fort Razed by Blasts

Arsenal Destroyed in Keeping With Peace Terms.

Heligoland.—Inhabitants of this little wind-swept island which has been converted from the status of a fortress and submarine base to that of a peaceful district of fisher folk who follow entertainment of summer visitors as a side line, have been wondering of late how the great change which has taken place here is going to affect their business.

The outer entrance to the harbor has been completely blocked, as part of the scheme of dismantlement, and rendered useless for all but fishing smacks and small pleasure boats bringing summer tourists from the continent.

The work of demolition, carried out

under the peace terms by the inter-allied commission of control, is said to be the largest task of this kind ever attempted, and with the blocking of the harbor entrance against warships of all kinds the job has been brought to a conclusion.

While this work was in progress great numbers of visitors arrived from spring until fall to witness the different phases of transmission, but with the blasting away of the fortifications at an end, the great guns taken down and melted into peace-time implements, the inhabitants feel the public generally will lose interest in this one-time island arsenal which the Germans took 24 years to equip at a cost of approximately \$85,000,000.

Nearly 200,000 cubic yards of concrete and brick work was demolished in the harbor works, 60,000 feet of drilling was carried out and about 300,000 pounds of explosives used in the operations. Demolition of the fortifications was accompanied by cutting up the numerous guns by means of oxy-acetylene and oxy-hydrogen flame, by the burning of holes in the gun turrets as a preliminary to breaking them up by explosives, by drilling and blasting and removal of the concrete gun emplacements, and the destruction of extensive underground chambers which served as an enormous storehouse and where the German gunners lived.

The terms of peace stipulated that the work should be done at the cost of the German government by the aid of German labor. Now that this has all been done the inhabitants say they feel much more happy and contented.

Canada Holds \$14,000,000 Seized German Property

Ottawa.—Cash and Victory bonds totaling \$14,000,000 are in the hands of Secretary of State Clegg, as the proceeds of property and securities seized from German subjects in Canada during the war.

Additional property of an approximate value of \$14,000,000 remains to be obtained. Of the sum already realized, \$5,000,000 was from sale to New York brokers of 37,500 shares of Canadian Pacific railway stock.

Disposition of the proceeds will be determined by parliament. They probably will be used in payment of Canadian indemnity claims.

A patient man is a pattern for a king.

Birds of Omaha Are in Luck



Young lads in the shops of manual training classes in the Omaha public schools have become experts in the building of bird houses, and already they are setting up these homes in the parks for the feathered occupants.