

### HIS TIME ALL TOO SHORT

Dying Profiteer Could Not Make Complete Confession of Iniquity in One Brief Day.

Armin W. Riley, head of the "flying squadron" that hunts down profiteers for the department of justice, told a profiteer story at a Washington reception.

"A sick profiteer," he said, "was told by his physician that he had only a short time to live. Accordingly, he expressed a desire to confess his sins, and a divine was sent for.

"The divine entered the dying profiteer's chamber and the door was closed. An hour, two hours, three hours passed. Nothing was to be heard by the attendant nurses and physicians outside in the corridor save the steady, monotonous flow of the profiteer's confession, punctuated at brief intervals by exclamations of horror and indignation on the part of the divine.

"Lunch was sent into the sickroom, and the confession went on. The afternoon waned. The sun set. Night fell. The divine's dinner was carried to him. And still the profiteer continued to confess.

"Haggard and unstrung, the divine at last tottered forth at daybreak.

"Our unfortunate friend," he said, "is no more. He worked very, very hard; but at the time he passed away he had only carried his confession through the first year of the war."

### COQUETTE SET NEW FASHION

Favorite of French Monarch Responsible for Coiffure Which Became a Universal Style.

Styles have had queer origins, and none more unique than the fontagne, a style of hair-dressing popular in the early part of the eighteenth century. The dressing consisted largely of doing the hair high and binding it in place with a jeweled fillet or ribbon. At one time it was worn by every lady in the court of Louis XIV, and from there it spread to all parts of the civilized world where fashion reigned. The manner of its origin is this:

The king went for a ride one morning with Mile. de Fontagne, a lovely girl with whom the king was madly in love, and who was not cold to his advances. In fact she shortly took her place as his favorite. As they rode, her hair came tumbling down, and there is reason to believe the little comedy that followed had been staged in advance, even to the loosening of the pins that allowed her beautiful tresses to escape. At any rate, the

lady slipped from her horse, and with a laugh lifted her skirts and took off a jeweled garter which she bound around her hastily repined hair. The king was delighted with the by-play, and upon arriving at the palace announced the mode the most becoming in the world. Within 24 hours every coquette and matron in the court had adopted the fashion.

### Learn From Lazy Man.

At last some use has been found for a lazy man. The secret was revealed by F. B. Gilbreth, an efficiency expert, in a recent lecture before the polytechnic section of the American Institute.

"When we go to investigate a factory," he said, "and wish to find the swiftest worker, we naturally ask to see the men or girls who have the fattest pay envelopes.

"But when we want to see the man who accomplishes a task with the least amount of lost motion, we hunt out the laziest man in the factory. By instinct, he learns to do things without loss of motion, otherwise he could not hold his job.

"We study that man's movements and take motion pictures of him in action. Then we show these pictures to the rapid, energetic worker, and by studying them he learns shorter methods and becomes much more efficient at his own work.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

### Playing at Soldiering.

Some Australian Wellington will probably trace a modern Waterloo to the playing fields of Melbourne or Sydney. Australia has recognized as the result of her war lessons that intelligence, not monotony, is an invaluable test of the soldier. The old weary drill-ground system of training cadets is fast giving way to the new plan which makes a play of work. While the boys are taught discipline and drill they are mainly shown how to play basket ball and to compete in jumping, tug war and swimming. Those entrusted with the making of a new Australian army are confident that the best soldier will be the happy, well-trained sportsman, who has learned to play for his side, to keep his temper and to think intelligently. There can be little doubt that the change is keenly appreciated by young Australia.—Christian Science Monitor.

In spite of all the reports of inflation, at times we wonder if the paper shortage isn't having a tendency to make federal reserve notes scarce.

The unearthing of laws believed to have been in existence before 2100 B. C. aids greatly one's research into how long there have been lobbyists.

### WON BY APPEAL TO VANITY

How Willy Diplomat Saved Lord Beaconsfield From Bad "Break" He Had Contemplated.

Curiously, says a London correspondent of the Christian Science Monitor, is frequently expressed as to how the prime minister gets along in his conferences with foreign ministers. It is understood that, though he can make out the purport of a printed passage in the French language, he never had the opportunity of acquiring facility in the spoken tongue. In this respect he finds a precedent in the case of Lord Beaconsfield. When he went to the Berlin congress in 1878 he made known to his faithful secretary his intention of addressing the conference in French. Monty Cory, having suffered scraps of his chief's colloquial French, was aghast. In despair he applied to the British minister at Berlin for assistance. Odo Russell lived up to the occasion. In casual conversation with Lord Beaconsfield he mentioned that he had heard a rumor that he intended to address the plenipotentiaries on the following day in French. "That would," the wily minister said, "be a grave disappointment. They know that they have here in you the greatest living master of English oratory, and are looking forward to your speech as the intellectual treat of their lives." "Dizzy" immediately saw the reasonableness of this objection and all his speeches during the sittings of the congress were in English.

### COULDN'T LEAVE EMILY OUT

Peculiar Reason Why Elderly Spinster Just Had to Attend the Funeral.

Word has come to the mid-Victorian lady that an old friend of her mother's had died suddenly in her home in Maine. It was her duty to break the sad news to two elderly spinsters, cousins of the dear departed "auntie." She found Miss Susan at home, tending to her pet canary. Miss Susan is 78, but spry and alert, ready for any emergency. Miss Emily, five years older, was out motoring with a kindly benefactress. The slow tears of old age trickled down Miss Susan's cheeks at the word that another of her generation had passed away. And then, with a quick transition, she began excited plans for attending the funeral, which involved a trip by boat to Portland and a long and arduous ride in a day coach. But the thought of all this, coupled with midsummer heat, did not daunt the little lady. She would go.

"But, at least, Miss Susan," urged the messenger, "you'll not take Miss Emily with you."

"And, my dear," said the lady to the woman, when she told her story over a cold lunch, "what do you suppose Miss Susan said? Seriously, in her slow drawl, she replied: 'Oh, I couldn't leave Emily behind. You see she has so little fun in her life.'"

### Scraping the Ballot.

The woman who had charge of the voting machine placed in one of the downtown stores for use in the instruction of women first voters, met a number of unusual and amusing situations. A few days ago, a well-dressed woman who had all the appearances of being well informed on matters political, entered the section where instructions were being given, and after making the usual preliminary apologies, asked the young woman in charge to demonstrate the operation of the machine. She was shown what she should do in case she wished to vote a straight ticket, but this failed to satisfy her craving for instructions, and the climax was reached when she innocently requested: "And now would you mind showing me how I should work the machine if I wish to 'scrape' my ballot?"

### Furs All Her Fortune.

"Alaska produces a large variety of beautiful and valuable furs upon land," says Andrew J. Stone in the Century. "It has 13 varieties of bears, six species of fox—black, blue, cross, red, silver and white—and all common land furs. The skins of its foxes are of the highest quality and are larger than those produced in any other country. The Alaska moose is the largest land animal found on the western hemisphere. The meat is as choice as the best of beef and the skin makes excellent footwear and is much worn during the winter months.

The caribou, like the reindeer, lives almost exclusively upon mosses, and inhabits nearly all parts of the country except the southern coast country. They are found in large herds and supply man with millions of pounds of meat.

### Helium From Natural Gas.

Up to a little more than a year ago helium was a laboratory product made at a cost of from \$1,500 to \$2,000 per cubic foot, but toward the close of the war its production had been simplified to the point that 8,000 cubic feet per day was produced in Texas alone.

The commercial production of helium has been stimulated by the need of a substitute for hydrogen, which is so highly inflammable that its value for military purposes in dirigibles and

air balloons is gravely impaired. Although the substitution of helium for this purpose entails a loss of 7 per cent in lifting power, this is more than compensated for by the elimination of all risk of fire and explosion. Helium suffers less loss by diffusion than hydrogen and cannot be made to burn or explode under any conditions.

The unspeakable Turk is breaking out afresh. No sooner is he released from apprehension of being kept in subjection by the allies than he begins to run true to form.

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