

WORLD MAD OVER "DIABOLO"

All Europe Is Crazy Over a Simple Exercise That Has Now Reached America



THE CRAZE IN FRANCE, FAIR AUTOISTS PLAYING WHILE WAITING FOR MEN TO REPAIR MACHINE



THE CRAZE AT THE DAWN OF THE LAST CENTURY, CARICATURES OF 1812, INSPIRED BY "LE DIABLO" READ IN FRANCE



DIABOLO AT FANCY DRESS PARTIES, AN ENGLISH IDEA WHICH AMERICA MAY SOON FOLLOW

DIABOLO has caught the world—fascinated it, hypnotized it. The whirl of the little two-headed top, the twang of the string, the shrieks of delight at success and the unprintable exclamations at failure, have made the people of the earth brethren all.

From Paris the revival of the game spread to London, and the British public, conservative in all things, looked at it with interest. Then King Edward saw some children playing it one day, and so the story goes, he was initiated into its mysteries. He fell under its subtle spell, and the news went forth that the King had introduced the game with his own royal hands.

This explains in part the query as to the reason for the craze, somewhat flippantly made above, so far as England is concerned, for with His Majesty playing Diabolo, all his empire joined in forthwith.

Across the North sea it went next and all over the continent. Bridging the broad Atlantic at a bound it landed on the shores of America, while the great ships that brought the crowds home from the summer rush abroad

away back at the dawn of the last century, to be exact, about 1812, when America and Great Britain were warring on the seas, all France got the Diabolo craze. Some benefactor of the eternally bored had dug up out of the files of the past a game which he called "Le Diabolo." It is said by some to have been played in Europe two hundred years before that, and others who go back still further find that it was known in China even centuries before. At any rate its absolute origin was not considered important enough to call for a monument to the inventor, so history merely brands it as an ancient pastime and lets it go at that.

The Frenchman who started the 1812 craze for Le Diabolo used two sticks, a bit of string connecting the tips of each and a bobbin-like affair which he spun and tossed on the bridge of twine made taut by extending the sticks, which he held one in each hand. France became so infatuated with the game that the craze inspired articles in the papers, and lines were blasted to be found in museums in Paris to this day.

According to C. B. Frye, the great English cricketer, a French engineer, M. Gustav Philippi, came across the ancient implements for "le diablo" a few months ago. He took the old-fashioned bobbin and lines, with a sort of two-headed top, cut with geometrical care to make the game one of precision. Then he gave his discovery to the country and to the world, calling it "Diabolo," and the world today is Diabolo mad.

In England they have rigged up nets and courts and are playing Diabolo along the line of tennis. Two, four, six or eight play it when sociability is desired, but countless thousands make it a game for solitaire. Parlor, back yard, pavement or open field resound with the cries of the players, and youth and age know no distinction where the craze is concerned.

How Cheap Waterways Are Helping Germany

RECOGNIZING the importance of cheap transportation and of an alternative transportation system which would bring with it wholesome competition, Germany has steadily extended, enlarged and improved her natural and artificial waterways and keeps on extending and improving them year by year. If some one were to make the necessary calculations the figures would show that Germany's industrial success is due chiefly to cheap transportation, and especially to the wise development of her waterways.

Between 1871 and 1906 Germany has built 1100 kilometers (683 miles) of inland canals, she has immensely improved all her navigable rivers, and the German-Austrian canals, lately begun, have a length of 2637 kilometers (1628 miles), whilst their cost will be in the neighborhood of \$200,000,000.

people have acquiesced in the side-tracking of our canals as a commercial factor. According to a German authority, certain valuable products and by-products of the German mines and iron works, and the more bulky products of the chemical industries, can be sold in Germany and abroad owing to the cheapness of transport by water, and in many cases the profit is cut and the risk increased on the freight charges by one-fifth of a cent per ton per mile would kill important industries.

way is as eight to three, which gives an idea of the low freight rates which exist on the German railways. It is interesting to note that while the increase of freight on German railways for 30 years has been 20 per cent, on the waterways it has been 400 per cent. Further figures would repeat the story. The effect of the extension and improvement of the German waterways, both natural and artificial, may be grasped from the significant fact that the most prosperous industrial centers in Germany, though they lie far inland, are situated close to the waterways of which they make a most extensive use.

High up the Rhine, and 200 miles inland, lies Strasburg, which formerly could be reached only by the smallest river craft, but is now the stopping place of boats carrying as much as 600 tons. This city has spent an enormous sum of money in creating the most modern facilities for loading and unloading and storing.

Very pleasant is this dope. Angular ones full of hope. New are fitted with new designs; but to stop to think of it. How can this be made to fit? Fashion this Fall's all straight lines.



carried thousands who played the game all the way over. Into every state it has gone, and now it rivals the records made by ping pong and tiddledwinks of blessed memory.

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It is contended by those who favor the game that that it develops the muscles, the lungs and the figure. Athletic women who possess natural strength, but lack something of grace, have seized upon it as being as conducive to suppleness as dancing. Athletes contend that it trains the eye and is particularly beneficial in helping to judge distances.

Incidents That Nearly Changed World's History

HAD Josephine borne Napoleon on her heels, the history of France, and, indeed, all Europe, must have been very different. In the hours of triumph after Wagram Napoleon realized that had the young German fanatic who had come to attempt his life been successful in his mission, one thrust from that vulgar kitchen knife which had concealed would have shattered all the glories whose fashioning had caused such rivers of blood to flow. He resolved upon the divorce of Josephine. He would take as his wife a Princess and found a dynasty. Whom should he marry? Should it be a Princess of the Russian royal house or a Princess of another? He stepped in the palace of the man whom he had but newly reconquered, the Emperor of Austria, and slept, as fate would have it, in the very room in which the heir for whom he prayed was destined to die. Under the roof of the son of the Caesars he resolved to marry that man's daughter. A little while earlier she had heard that the tide of battle had turned against the French, and had written to her father: "We have heard with great joy that Napoleon was present at the battle which was lost. If he would only lose his head as well!" The writer of the words became, ten months after the French troops entered Vienna as

conquerors, the bride of the man for whose head she now wished. She was the granddaughter of Marie Antoinette, and by his marriage to her Napoleon believed it would be the salvation of France. A man wiser in the matter than himself had pointed to the Russian marriage, foreseeing renewed hostilities with either Austria or Russia. Napoleon, he said, knew his way to Vienna, he doubted whether he knew the road to St. Petersburg. Napoleon chose, to find, as he afterward said, that the marriage was but an abyss strewn with flowers. The marriage led inevitably to the calamitous Russian campaign, and to the break-up of his empire. His ruin began with his marriage to the Princess who was to be the mother of his child. All France acclaimed the union with joy, which was eclipsed only by the birth of the heir.

The night before the child was born the great bell of Notre Dame and all the bells of all the other churches summoned the faithful to prayer. They prayed throughout the night for the mother and her child. Napoleon suffered more in those long hours of anxiety than he suffered when he saw his empire crumbling about him. But he was firm with those in attendance upon the Empress. "Come, come," he said to Dr. Dubois, who was greatly agitated, "do not lose your head. Save the mother; think only of her. Imagine that you are attending the wife of a shopkeeper in the Rue St. Denis." At last the danger passed. The child, supposed to be dead, breathed, and 101 guns thundered forth to Paris the news that the Emperor had a son. A daring aeronaut scattered bulletins from her balloon; couriers carried the news far and wide across Europe, and soon France and Austria were one crash of bells and thunder of guns. It was the proudest, happiest day in the life of Napoleon, and the most censorious of historians does not begrudge him that short hour of felicity, and is glad that he could not then pierce the veil to see the grim beyond—St. James Gazette.

THE BEAUTY QUEST. Indianapolis News. If your beauty's on the blink All you have to do's to think On your cogitations till Presently you'll find you fill Out all curvily and plump.

Leper Talk That Is Idle. Indianapolis News. "I am tired," said President Pinkham, of the Board of Health at Honolulu, to a newspaper man recently. "Of all this talk about the martyrdom of those who go to Molokai to work for the lepers there. The superintendent of the settlement, the doctors, nurses, sisters and brothers who live and work there do not look upon it as martyrdom, and there is no reason why any one else should. There has been enough talk of this kind, and it is time it stopped. The magazines don't want to print anything about the settlement unless it is sensational."