

BANDON RECORDER.

ROAD 5,000 YEARS OLD.

Scenes Along One of the Most Ancient Highways in the World. The road from Homs to Lanna runs almost due north, a straight white line cutting across the green fields. It is one of the oldest routes in the world. Caravans have been passing along it for at least 5,000 years, just as we saw them—long strings of slow-moving camels with their bright colored bags of wheat.

One could almost imagine that Elarrah was again cutting down the corn of Hamath to fill his granaries against the seven years of famine. But even here the old things are passing. Just beyond the long line of camels was a longer line of fellah women, their dirty blue robes kilted above their knees, carrying upon their shoulders baskets of earth and stone for the roadbed of the new French railway.

The carriage road is French, too, and a very good road it is. Some men were repairing it with a most ingenious roller. It was a great round stone, drawn by two oxen and having its axle prolonged by a twenty foot pole, at the end of which a barelegged Arab was fastened to balance the whole affair. If the stone had toppled over the picture of the Arab dangling at the top of the slender flagstaff would have been worth watching.

All along the ride we were reminded of the past. It is a fertile soil, but the very wheatfields are different from ours. Only a few yards in width, they are often of tremendous length. I hesitate to commit myself to figures, but it is certain that the thin, green fields would stretch away in the distance until lost over some little elevation. At one place the road was cut through a hill honeycombed with rock tombs which the lay said were Jewish.

Every now and then we passed a tall, or great hemispherical mound, built up of the rubbish of a dozen ruined towns for even as late as Roman times this was a well cultivated and populous country. There is now no lumber available for building purposes, and in a number of villages the houses are all built with conical roofs of stone. Where the rock happens to be of a reddish tinge the houses remind one of nothing so much as a collection of Indian wigwags. Where the stone is white, as at Tell el-Rish, it glitters and sparkles like a fairy city cut out of loaf sugar.—Scribner's Magazine.

STRANGE CHECKS.

The Odd Assortment Collected by One Bank Clerk. A torn linen collar, a piece of lath, a cuff and a half dozen other odd objects hung above the bank clerk's desk. "My collection of queer checks," the young man said. "Each of those things is a check. Each was duly honored. Each has a story."

"I have been collecting queer checks for three years. That piece of lath started me. A western bank honored the lath for \$250. It was made out by a check by the owner of a sawmill, who was out at the plant with his son, thirty miles from any house, and totally without paper, let alone a check book. The money was needed to pay off the hands. The sawmiller wrote on the lath just what a check correctly drawn on it, and he sent his son in to the bank to get the money and to explain. The lath check had never been called for ten days. Thus the cuff check may be said to have saved a man from prison."

"The check written on that linen collar was a bet of \$5. A man bet a woman that a check made on a collar would be cashed, and of course he won his bet."

"Your bank, if you carry a good account, will honor the most freaky checks you can draw up. In such a money business, though, it won't encourage you."—Chicago Chronicle.

A TALE OF THE COMMUNE.

One Little Chap Who Escaped the Bullets of the Soldiers. A writer in the Cornhill tells of a Charles Austin, a witness when the Versaille army entered Paris. He saw one day roaming about Paris—a not uncommon sight—a group of men and women put against a wall to be shot. Their hands were supposed to be blackened with powder.

Among them was a lad of twelve or fourteen, who, before the order to shoot could be given, stepped forward and begged to be allowed to take back the watch his mother had lent him. He produced a huge turban of a watch and begged faithfully to return.

Mr. Austin said it was a moment of anguish. None could be sure that the child was telling the truth, but the officer commanding, giving him a kick, said, "Be off with you!" The child ran away, the order to shoot rang out, but the horrid business was hardly over before the clatter of feet was heard, and the boy reappeared round a corner and, putting himself against the wall, prepared for death.

It was impossible to kill that heroic little soul.

"It renews one's faith in human nature," said Mr. Austin.

IVAN THE TERRIBLE.

Barbaric Case Who Lived to Burn. Torture and Torment His Subjects.

Some of the reasons why Ivan, czar of Russia, was called "the Terrible" have been related by K. Wallisewski in his book. Persons who displeased him he would see asunder by the constant rubbing of a rope around their waists or a splinkle alternately with ice cold and boiling water. He marked his sense of a bad jest by deluging the perpetrator with boiling soup and then running him through with a knife. He rebuked an unmanly envoy by summoning a carpenter and ordering him to nail the man's hat on his head. There were also wholesale orgies, as at the punishment of Novgorod, when he had a hundred persons roasted over a slow fire by a new and ingenious process and then run down on sledges into the river to be drowned. At Moscow the czar had a great execution of 300 victims who had already been tortured to the last extremity, and loyal subjects had been summoned to the function. "To Ivan's astonishment the great square was empty. The instruments of torture that stood ready—the staves and red-hot pliers—were until this woman went into the box, and then a scene highly dramatic occurred in her cross examination. After getting an admission that the will was signed in the bed, with the prisoner near by, the woman was asked:

"Did he put the pen into her hand?" "Yes."

"And assist her while she signed the will?" "Yes."

"How did he assist her?" "By raising her in the bed and supporting her when he had raised her."

"Did he guide her hand?" "No."

"Did he touch her hand at all?" "I think he did just touch her hand."

"When he did touch her hand was she dead?"

"At this last question the woman turned terribly pale, was seen to falter and fell in a swoon on the ground and so revealed the truth, which she had come to deny."—London Mail.

CARE OF A RAZOR.

Some Things That the Man Who Shaves Himself Should Know. "The average man who shaves himself doesn't know how to take care of his razor despite all the advice that has been given to him in the public prints from time to time," says an expert barber.

"He will get a good razor and use it day after day, then wonder why at the end of a short time it loses its edge, even though he strops most carefully. A razor needs brief intervals of rest or it will grow dull, no matter what efforts are made to keep it sharp. If you have a good razor and it appears to be losing its edge just try it first for it instead of having it sharpened up again. The chances are that when you put it into use again at the expiration of three or four days it will prove as sharp as if it had been carefully honed."

"A man who shaves himself ought to have at least two razors and use these on alternate mornings; then, if his razors are all right, he will have but little trouble with them. It is also possible to strop a razor too much. It should not be stropped for more than half a minute before shaving, and care should be taken never to bear heavily on the strop while doing this. Let the razor rest lightly on the leather, and the best results will be gained. After finishing a shave, strop the razor once more for a few seconds, and this will insure a much better condition for it."

FLAGS IN BIG HOTELS.

Colors of All Nations as a Rule Are Kept in Stock. "No first class metropolitan hotel is thoroughly equipped until it possesses an assortment of flags almost as complete as that of an admiral's flagship," remarked the manager of a prominent caravansary.

"The leading hotels in the great cities have use for flags of all nations some time or other. Hotels are pretty nearly as punctilious in observing certain little ceremonies when distinguished visitors arrive as are naval fleets. If some high official of a foreign country is staying in the house it is the proper thing to display his nation's colors. As all big hotels are likely to entertain at home and foreign diplomats, army or navy officers, or even members of royal families, you can see where there is a necessity for an assortment of flags."

"The hotel may not possess a complete outfit to begin with, but as time rolls along and distinguished men of all lands are entertained the collection of hunting is continually added. Then there are the many fraternal organizations which make one hotel or another their headquarters on the occasion of annual celebrations. They usually have some flag or device which is swung to the breeze over the house on the days of the jollifications."—Philadelphia Record.

ENGLISH CRIMINAL LAW.

The Difference Between Hard Labor and Penal Servitude. The difference in Great Britain between hard labor and penal servitude is one of period and treatment. Hard labor varies as to period from a few days to two years, and however well a prisoner behaves himself the sentence is never shortened. There are two classes of hard labor.

In the first class the punishment administered consists of six to ten hours' work at the treadmill, the crank or the capstan, or at stonebreaking or shot drill. In the second class the hard labor really consists of such punishments as may be decided by the justices in session.

Penal servitude is the modern substitute for transportation beyond the seas. A term of penal servitude begins with nine months' hard labor in a probationary prison, and after that the convict is employed on public works in a penal settlement. The work is comparatively light, and in most prisons a well behaved man gets off pretty easily. In addition to this, by virtue of a system of marks for good behavior, he has always before him the possibility of reducing his sentence by at most about one year in five.

REVEALED THE TRUTH.

How the Facts in a Will Forgery Case Were Brought Out.

In his capacity as judge Lord Brampton always insisted on the imperative demand that every case should be investigated in its minutest details. Upon small points the great issue of a case depends. As exemplifying this Lord Brampton cites a curious case that came before him on the western circuit:

"A solicitor was charged with forging the will of a lady, which devised to him a considerable amount of her property, but as the case proceeded it became clear to me that the will was signed after the lady's death and then with a dry pen held in the hand of the deceased, the accused himself while he guided it over a signature which he had craftily forged. A woman was present when this was done, and as she had attested the execution of the will she was a necessary witness for the prisoner, and in examination in chief she was very clear indeed that it was by the hand of the deceased that the will was signed and that she herself had seen the deceased sign it. Suspicion only existed as to what the real facts were until this woman went into the box, and then a scene highly dramatic occurred in her cross examination. After getting an admission that the will was signed in the bed, with the prisoner near by, the woman was asked:

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WASHINGTON LETTER

[Special Correspondence.]

Discussion has been going on among all classes of people in Washington for some days as to the opinion of the District court of appeals holding that Saturday afternoon is a legal half holiday "for all purposes."

Much speculation has been indulged in as to what the effect of the opinion will be on the operations of the government departments and the transactions of business ordinarily suspended on Sundays. The consensus of opinion among the lawyers seems to be that the departments will be in no wise embarrassed or hampered by the opinion in the matter of keeping open Saturday afternoons. The question has been considered at length by the office of the corporation counsel, and the attorneys who express the opinion that, despite the fact that there is no controversy about Saturday being a legal half holiday, the government employees can be lawfully required to work that day until the usual closing hour.

Dead Letter Sale. In Uncle Sam's dead letter sale, which takes place annually, there were this year 6,272 pieces, exclusive of books and jewelry, of which there were 1,968 lots of the former and 487 of the latter.

The articles which are sold at auction have accumulated in the dead letter office of the postoffice department within the past twelve months. They were either held for postage, incorrectly addressed or seized because in transit through the mails in violation of the postal laws and regulations.

Cortelyou to Remain Chairman. When George B. Cortelyou becomes postmaster general in the next cabinet it is not considered likely that he will resign his position as chairman of the Republican national committee. On the other hand, it is thought to be perfectly proper that he hold this position, notwithstanding his cabinet office. The late Henry G. Payne was vice chairman of the Republican national committee and frequently advised with the president as to appointments, especially in the postal service. Headquarters of the national committee will be in Washington, and Elmer Dyer, the secretary of the committee, will be in charge of affairs, as in the past.

The Cigarette Habit. The report of the commissioner of internal revenue shows that the cigarette habit is steadily growing, and during the present year 200,000,000 more were smoked than during 1903. It also shows that New York leads in the manufacture of cigarettes, while the cigar habit is apparently decreasing, and this is indicated by a decrease of 80,000,000 in the output of cigars.

Colored Foods. The secretary of agriculture has issued an order that all staple articles of food that have been colored artificially must be branded as such. This action follows a thorough investigation by Dr. Wiley, the chief of the chemical laboratory of the department, into the methods of coloring foods.

War-time Rationing. An effort is being made by several old time telegraphers to have added to the interesting exhibits in the National museum a genuine curiosity and relic of the stirring war times in the vicinity of Washington in the sixties. The relic in question is the original old Morse register, one of the first of the telegraph instruments, which was used at Manassas, Va., by the Confederate army officials to transmit the news of the first battle of Manassas, or first Bull Run, as it is called in the north, to the Confederate capital at Richmond. The venerable instrument was similarly used for reporting the second battle of Bull Run.

In Interest of Mail Clerks. Postmaster General Wynne in his annual report recommends the provision of adequate punishment for those who recklessly endanger the lives of mail clerks by transmitting snakes, live tarantulas, scorpions, loaded revolvers and other explosives. The sending of inflammable matter and poisonous animals through the mails is prohibited by law, but there is no penalty provided.

Potomac Water. The District commissioners have sent to the speaker of the house a report of an investigation made as to the amount of Potomac water used by departments and offices of the United States. The average daily consumption of the capitol building during a session of congress is shown to be the enormous amount of 1,051,321 gallons. The government printing office uses 1,250,855 gallons, the library of congress 125,700, White House and fountain 314,500 gallons, treasury department 393,295 and the navy yard 2,614,185 gallons of water a day.

The total amount of water consumed in all the departments daily is 8,880,108. The report shows that the water connection was found at the state department nor at the botanic gardens.

Congressional Library. According to the annual report of Herbert Putnam, librarian of congress, transmitted to both houses of congress, the total number of printed books and pamphlets in the library is 1,179,713, a gain of 78,791 for the last fiscal year. In addition there were 95,954 books in the law branch of the library, 121,299 manuscript pieces, 75,861 charts, 284,418 pieces of music and 158,451 prints. During the year there were 103,130 copyright entries.

During the thirty-four years since the copyright law became a business of the library of congress the total number of entries has been 1,518,905. There is discussion of the methods of disposing of copyright articles not available for the library, and the librarian urges that a means be found for their disposition.

CARL SCHIFFELD. Skillful Porto Ricans. The natives of Porto Rico fashion a variety of useful and ornamental articles by hand from the palm leaves, gourds, coconuts and other products of the island. They are skillful in weaving hammocks, hats similar to panama hats, and a great variety of baskets. Canes, paper knives and other articles are carved out of the native woods, some of which show curious and strikingly ornamental markings. The senoras and senoritas of Porto Rico are especially skilled with the needle and produce a considerable quantity of fine drawn work and laces.

HUMOR OF THE HOUR

Using His Opportunity.

Charles Dickens used to tell the following story about a Methodist preacher: "This preacher had been called to officiate at the funeral of a relative of a Conservative editor, and as the preacher himself aimed to be a Liberal leader in the district and the editor had often crossed swords, the time the chance came to deliver a home thrust without a chance for either party or reply. At the coffin of the deceased, beside which the editor and other mourners knelt together, the preacher made this appeal: 'Lord, overlook this affliction to the welfare of all assembled, including the reptile now sprawling in thy presence, who has frequently abused thy servant in the columns of his beastly publication.'"—Birmingham (England) Post.

Heard Simultaneously. Downstairs—if those people in the flat upstairs don't quit banging that piano all the time I am going to complain. They are absolutely the most selfish people I ever saw. Baby simply cannot sleep.

Upstairs—if that howling brat down in the flat below doesn't quit its infernal yawning I'll climb down the fire escape and strangle it some night! See if I don't!—Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

Overheard in the Coop. "Life is such a futile dream," remarked the pessimistic chicken, "it hardly seems worth living. Sooner or later the end's the same."

"That's so," replied the other. "It really doesn't much matter whether one winds up as an omelet or a chicken salad."—Detroit Tribune.

She Hoped He Would. "Good night," said Mr. Staylate, finally breaking away. "I've enjoyed myself immensely. Now, next Sunday night—er—expect to pass your house and—"

"That will be nice. Good night," said she and shut the door.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Rough on the Smart Set.

She—it does seem as if we should never get into good society.

He—Well, I'm afraid your right. We seem to be so hopelessly mixed up with the smart set.

The Professor. "How does that shoe feel?" asked the merchant.

"I don't know," said the professor, wincing, as he stood up and bore his weight on the foot, "but I know how my corn feels about it. I'll try a size larger, if you please."—Chicago Tribune.

No Danger. Doctor—Madam, you needn't dread the disease. There is only about one chance in a hundred that you will get it.

Mrs. Hiechurch (relieved)—I'm! Something on the order of a church fair chance, eh?—Judge.

In Disguise. Aunt Prudence—Do Mary and James act as if they thought their married life was a blessing?

Uncle Bach—Well, no, not exactly a blessing, unless it might be a blessing in disguise.—Woman's Home Companion.

The Worst. Bly—I hear you were in a street car smashup the other day. That was hard luck!

Shy—I should say so. I wasn't even shaken up enough to sue for damages.—Detroit Free Press.

The Dear Girl's Taste. Jack—And so you have been married a year. How do you like the ties of wedlock?

Jim—I like the ties all right, but I have to hank at the cigars sometimes.—Collier's Weekly.

The Retort Proper. "Ah, you poor devils of bachelors! Now, when a married man gets a little rent in his clothes?"

"It's got to pay it to the landlord, I see!"—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

Do you always keep an appointment or just claim to?

A woman always thinks her dress-maker keeps half the goods.

Nine-tenths of the things people quarrel over do not make any difference one way or the other.

When the doctor says to you, "Old man, I'm sorry, but you can't live an hour," how will you take it?

A boy is old enough to be welcome in the neighbor girl's parlor long before his sister thinks he is old enough to sit in the parlor at home.

Had the old fashioned children acted like the present generation their parents would have beaten them to death.

Every one has his vanity card to play. The preacher gets a man into the fold by telling him of the "great influence" he has upon others.—Atchison Globe.

Miserable Creatures. "Talking of matrimony," said the sage, "there are two sorts of men who are equally miserable specimens."

"And they are?"

"The fellow who says he's sorry he never married and the fellow who says he's glad he never did."—Philadelphia Press.

FACTS IN FEW LINES

An automobile horse is the latest in the line of adapting the gasoline motor to everyday uses.

A "black fly" new to science, has been discovered at Nueva Caceres, in the Philippines.

A model coal mine, the first of its kind in England, is to be included in the scientific equipment of Birmingham university.

The exports of palm seeds from the Netherlands amounted to 50,452,000 pounds, 52,408,000 pounds and 57,943,800 pounds in 1901, 1902 and 1903 respectively.

The art treasures at Windsor castle are said to be worth over \$60,000,000. The king has had them rearranged, but has not been able to insure them as yet owing to their great value.

A bill to prohibit juvenile cigarette smoking has passed its second reading in the South Australian legislature and will probably become law. The age below which smoking is prohibited is fixed at sixteen years.

In view of the notorious laziness of the Russian peasant, writes a St. Petersburg correspondent, it will be interesting to watch the effect of the new law permitting labor on Sundays and festivals.

An association in Manchester, England, known as the Minnehaha Amateur minstrels has made a business for the past twenty-five years of giving performances for charity. In that time it has raised \$97,130.

An attempt is to be made by the British war department to raise a second battalion of the Irish guards. It is expected to be successful, as the first battalion now has several companies in excess of the establishment.

Swedish doctors having found minute pieces of enamel from "granite" ware in cases of appendicitis, it is surmised that the common use of this ware may have something to do with the prevalence of appendicitis.

Of the 4,000 white settlers scattered among the total population of 200,000 in German Southwest Africa not many more than 2,000 are at present German, and these are very largely composed of the military and official element.

There is more smoking of pipes done in cold weather than at any other time, and, excluding the vacation season, there are more pipes and smoking tobacco sold during the cold weather than during the temperate and heated spells.

Canada is pushing for sales in Japan. Consuls are being appointed with authority to pay for early statistical information. Sample rooms will be attached to the consulates. Japanese products will be exhibited in commercial museums in Canada.

For several years the Santa Fe company has been filling in China basin, in south San Francisco, to make solid ground on the bay front there for freight yards. The work is done at last, having cost the company \$3,655,000. It now owns a fine site of fifty-three acres.

In one of the London public schools a teacher asked her class what turf was. Nobody could tell. She next asked what grass was. There was a long pause, and then the smartest scholar raised a hand. "Well?" asked the teacher. "Please, ma'am, it's what you get to keep off of," was the reply.

A man brought up at St. Albans as an incurable rogue was proved to have married his aunt. His children are therefore his first cousins, and he is his own uncle. His grandmother and his mother-in-law are the same person. Apparently the judge sympathized with him, for he was discharged.

A number of Philadelphia business men have organized what is to be known as the Downtown club, each member of which is pledged to war on tipping. They have become tired of feeling waiters at noon in order to secure reasonably quick service, and the Downtown club is their way of overcoming the nuisance.

A lawyers' club of California has been formed, with a branch club in every county and headquarters in San Francisco. Its declared objects are the reduction of expense to litigants, the elimination of delay in reaching a final settlement of cases and the securing of uniform rules of practice in the various counties of the state.

Along the international boundary of the Canadian northwest twenty years ago was an acreage of 250,000 under crop, yielding 1,200,000 bushels of wheat. Now the acreage is over 4,000,000 and the annual yields 110,000,000 bushels, while population, acreage and output are augmented at a rate no other country can approach.

By direction of the secretary of war orders have been issued carrying into effect the recommendations of the general staff making changes in the uniforms of the army. It is also prescribed that no decoration received from foreign governments shall be worn by officers and men while on duty with the United States troops.

Thirty thousand Socialists demonstrated against Howard Lueger, mayor of Vienna, on the eve of his sixtieth birthday. The burgomaster recently described the Socialists as a lot of ragamuffins. On Oct. 22 they gathered in the ringstrasse opposite the Rathaus, shaking their fists and waving sticks and red handkerchiefs. A charge of 1,000 police finally dispersed them.

The value of real estate in California is officially estimated to be worth \$882,104,550. The improvements on real estate \$314,238,122, the value of personal property \$239,623,282, the money and solvent credits \$42,900,248, and the total value of property as returned by auditors is \$1,480,842,105, exclusive of the railroads, which are assessed at \$69,020,596 by the state board of equalization.

Lovers' Hearts. How old is the emblem of a lover's heart? In the days before metals were used weapons made of stone were formed by prehistoric men. Among the most notable of such ancient weapons are a number of beautifully chipped arrowheads which have been taken to be the work of fairies and have therefore been used as charms from very remote times. In Scotland they are called "elf bolts," and they are so shaped that when the central projection is broken off the semblance of a lover's heart remains.—London Answers.

The Town Stood the Loss. While the engine was taking water the passenger with the imposing watch chain and eyeglasses strolled out on the platform and looked with interest about him.

"By Jove!" he said to the solitary native who was sitting on a flour barrel. "This village looks just exactly as it did twenty years ago, when I moved away from here. I don't believe it has changed a particle in all that time."

"I reckon not, mister," said the solitary native, biting off a chew of tobacco. "Your gony' away don't seem to have made much difference in the old town."—Chicago Tribune.

CHOICE MISCELLANY

The New Army Chevron.

"Army men generally," remarked a veteran officer, "are pleased at the action of Secretary Taft in providing for the manufacture and issue of a new chevron. Under previous regulations such of the various kinds of coats required a different kind of chevron, the bars of which were of the high colored facing cloth, conforming to the various arms of the service.

"The colors used in dyeing this cloth are very fugitive. Experiments were made to obtain a chevron that would stand washing when attached to the white summer and cotton khaki coats, and finally the color of the olive drab shirting flannel was selected as the best. Bars made of cloth of this shade, sewed on a groundwork of olive drab serge, will harmonize with the service coats and at the same time are sufficiently distinctive. Bars of the same cloth sewed on a groundwork of either cotton khaki or white duck will harmonize with the khaki service and white summer coats.

"While the distinctive colors of the various arms of the service have been disregarded in the new chevrons, it will not lead to confusion, because the hat cords show the color of the arm of the service, and the ornaments on the coat collars show the organization to which an enlisted man belongs."—Washington Star.

His Dead Soldiers.

This grim story of the war is quoted from a Siberian paper: A Russian regiment was surprised by Japanese ambuscade and lost 2,000