

CURIOUS EXPEDIENTS

MAKESHIFTS THAT SERVED USEFUL PURPOSES.

How Water Was Obtained by the Use of Gun Barrels—A Ship Navigated by Means of a Railway Map. Dynamite Used For Driving Piles.

Guns have other uses than that of killing. We all know that hundreds of clocks are set from the 1 o'clock gun fired by electricity from Greenwich observatory, but not everybody is aware that rifles have supplied moisture in desert countries to travelers dying of thirst and thus saved their lives.

In the great Sahara some time ago, says Pearson's Weekly, a globe trotter, who wanted water badly, found it possible to collect a drink out of the mere dampness of the sand. He sunk the barrel of his gun into the ground and it collected enough moisture in the bore to stay his thirst. A timely suck at a gun muzzle has saved many lives in the sun scorched deserts of the tropics.

Water ran short on a merchant vessel in mid-Atlantic not long ago, and the crew did not know what to do to obtain a drink. The captain, however, hit upon a brilliant idea.

He had a number of sporting guns in his cabin, and, taking them on deck, he plugged up the breech ends, filled the bores with sea water and set them then end up among the coals of the galley fire.

As the steam gathered he ran it through other gun barrels until it cooled. The steam collected in the shape of excellent fresh water, and in this way the crew were supplied with sufficient moisture until the vessel touched port.

If you were to drop into the houses of the French peasants you would be struck with the fact that practically every man and woman poked his or her fire with a bayonet.

Some 100,000 bayonets—condemned stores of the French army and used in the Franco-Prussian war—have found their way into the homes of poor peasants, who use them as fire irons.

The bark Ruth, bound from Demerara to Oban with sugar, neglected to procure a chart of the Scottish coast when setting sail. The captain had never been to Oban before, and, not wishing to return to Demerara to get a chart, he looked about the vessel for a substitute.

He discovered a Caledonian railway time table, with the railway map attached. This helped him out of his difficulty, for it acted splendidly as a sea guide. The Ruth cut across the Atlantic and after sailing up the west coast of Scotland dropped her anchor safely in Oban bay.

Without this railway map the captain would never have got his vessel safely through the intricate channels.

Good steel wasn't obtainable when the Germans wished to manufacture some new rifles for their army, so they purchased tons of horseshoe nails which had been kicked about the roads of the world by horses innumerable.

The gunmakers found them a perfect substance for the manufacture of rifle barrels, for the nails, made originally of the best metal obtainable, had received from the constant pounding of the horses' feet on hard roads a peculiar annealing and toughening.

It is quite possible that you are wearing on your hands today drawn up lawyers' briefs or ancient title deeds.

When kid leather was at a premium the French glove-makers hunted high and low for a substitute. One firm, more ingenious than the rest, bought up old parchments of all descriptions. They carefully removed the ink marks and eventually turned the cleaned parchment into gloves.

Ever since that particular firm has supplied Britain with finest French kid gloves made of parchment. The vellum clippings left over when the gloves are made are boiled down and turned into letter cases and purses.

The British forces were about to cross the Elands river during the late Boer war when it was discovered that it was impossible to construct a trestle bridge across it, for the bed of the river was nothing but quicksand. Piles had to be driven, but no pile driver was handy.

The officers of the engineers, however, overcame the difficulty in a way that startled the general in command of the troops. The sappers waded into the water, set up the piles and laid iron plates on each one. On these small charges of dynamite were placed and fired.

After the explosion the piles were as firm as if they had been driven in by a steam hammer. Dynamite explodes downward with a terrific force, and anything below it is pounded deeply into the earth.

Mr. Fosdyke, engineer in charge of the Asaka dam on the Nile, scuttled a ship to save his cherished earthworks from ruin. The dam partly burst, and the great rush of water was forcing the banks from below.

Something had to be done to stop the flow, for a terrible disaster was im-

minent. Mr. Fosdyke boarded a cargo steamer tied to the bank some distance away and, getting up steam, steered her down the rapid stream.

When she was abreast of the trembling dam the engineer had her scuttled, and as she sank in the rushing waters Mr. Fosdyke and his men cheered themselves hoarse. The scuttled cargo steamer had saved the dam. This remarkable makeshift for a break-water cost nearly £7,000.

They who depend on the merits of ancestors search in the roots of the tree for the fruits which the branches ought to produce.—Barrow.

A RUSTIC LANDMARK.

The Birthplace of Horace Greeley Is Still Preserved.

Scarcely fifty miles from Boston, isolated and alone, in a delightful rural community among New Hampshire's hills, sheltered by protecting oaks and elms, decorated with fruitful orchards and fertile gardens, surrounded by dense thickets of pine forests, homelike and cozy, with all its woeful lack of paint, is a quaint old fashioned farmhouse.

It is not the roomy old domicile of colonial days nor the rough, unfinished and uncouth shack of a frontier farmer, rather a small, real, homelike New Hampshire farmhouse. Six rooms measure the size of the house, with wood shed and cattle barns nearby.

The exact date when the old house was built is unknown, but it is a production of the colonial period of architecture, for before the Revolution a band of counterfeiters occupied it and here manufactured until captured by the authorities their spurious coin.

A broad drive leads to the front door. The exterior is black with age, except for a few decorated patches of recently applied clapboards to keep out the wind. No blinds guard the windows, and the sunshine sparkles through the small window panes without hindrance.

A front door and a side one are the means of egress and entrance. A large strip of lawn fronts the house, and besides the efforts of nature man has unknowingly aided in the beautifying by an adornment in the shape of a huge pile of pine and birch logs, the winter's supply of fuel. Giant shade trees shelter the roadway leading to the house; the blue peaks of the nearby hills look down upon the fifty acres of fertile farm land, where good crops of oats, potatoes and Indian corn are grown; the sharp ledges which jut from the hillsides and the rocks which rise promiscuously here and there among the cornfields convincingly prove that the fertility of these lands was the result of much labor and trouble on the part of the pioneer New England farmer.

Such is the exterior picture of Amherst's most noted landmark—the birthplace of Horace Greeley.—Boston and Maine Messenger.

Old Pine Trees.

Six large pine trees have recently been sawed into lumber at Bradbury Bros.' mill that made 14,619 feet of sawed lumber. They were hauled to the mill in logs from twelve to eighteen feet in length, and nineteen of these logs averaged over 500 each. They were very straight, pretty sticks, and a good portion of the lumber was of the grade known as "clear," and the market price for the whole lot was \$30 per thousand.

These trees had been standing on the land near the Notch, owned in recent years by M. L. Parsons, for many generations. Five of them were on an area of less than a quarter of an acre and the sixth at no great distance. They were recently bought standing for \$100 for the lot of six trees by C. P. Whittemore.

There are very few such trees left in Somerset county and, in fact, in any part of Maine. It takes from 200 to 300 years for them to attain such a size.—Somerset (Me.) Reporter.

MODES OF THE MOMENT.

Some of the checks are trimmed with dots.

Checks are very much in evidence, and pastel checks are new.

A silk that is as charming as it is quaint is white striped with hair lines of pink one way and pale blue the other.

Some pongee coats, unlined and trimmed only with tucks, have a dash of color given them by red silk cuffs and collars.

Voiles have come out in blue and green checks, strong shades of both colors, which the open mesh of the stuff softens to just the right degree. "Tartan checks" is the name they go by.

Growing Clover.

If the western farmers who are having trouble in growing clover will stop sowing it on their poorest land and will sow it on a firm soil which is not loose or light, treat it to a light application of stable manure and keep the cattle off for the first year they are quite likely to be convinced that they are in a first class clover country.—Farmer

He Asked No More.

Mr. Oldboy (tentatively)—If a man were, say, fifty, and the woman of his choice about twenty, do you think that would lead to an unhappy marriage? Miss Young—I think it would be more likely to lead to a rejected proposal.—Catholic Standard and Times.

Unselfish.

Hester—You ought to have stayed last night, so as to prevent those gossips talking about you.

Esther—And deprive you of the pleasure of listening to them? You dear thing, what a self denying creature you are!—Boston Transcript.

Just an Average Girl.

"Does she run after the men, as has been reported?"

"No-o, hardly that bad, but she doesn't run away from them, either."—Houston Post.

Auto Owners Increasing.

According to reliable reports there are something like 20,000 automobiles in use on the roads of New York state, while the records on file at the office of the secretary of state show 5,000 professional motorists registered under the requirements of the motor vehicle law. This indicates a tremendous growth of automobilism in the Empire State, for in 1901, which is the first year that automobiles required registration, there were only 1,200 machines owned and operated in the state.

Although not all registered machines are owned by persons residing in New York, at least 75 per cent of them can be so rated. Of course some motorists own two and three machines. Colonel John Jacob Astor heads the list of individuals with twenty-two of various styles and horsepower under his name at Albany.

Next to him comes W. K. Vanderbilt, Jr., who is credited with fourteen. The largest owners are the great department stores and mercantile establishments, which operate their delivery system by this means.

row County: The Weekly Oregonian—the news and thought of the world. Both at a special price. Inquire or address The Gazette, Heppner, Or.

They maze in Scotland, too, only there they call it "ragging." A recent exploit of certain St. Andrews university students was to shave the head of an unpopular man and cover it with red paint. Then their vengeance fell upon one who had refused to join in their frolics. With great solemnity he was tried and found guilty of publishing libels against their supreme highnesses the king of Siam and the dey of Algiers and for a punishment was forcibly carried to the Swilcan burn, a stream running through the famous links, and there ducked.

No Compromise.

"I'm very sorry my people have given offense," said the savage ruler, "and I'm ready to apologize."

"Apologize?" said the European envoy indignantly. "But my country will accept no apology. This insult can be wiped out only in real estate."—New York Press.

More Than Beauty Needed.

"You are beautiful enough to be wooed by an emperor."

"Am I beautiful enough to be wooed by a duke?"

"Yes, indeed; but not rich enough."—Houston Post.

Every duty which we omit obscures some truth which we should have known.—Ruskin.

Terrific Race With Death

"Death was fast approaching," writes Ralph E. Fernandez, of Tampa, Fla., describing his fearful race with death.

"As a result of liver trouble and heart disease, which had robbed me of sleep and of all interest in life. I had tried many different doctors and several medicines, but got no benefit, until I began to use Electric Bitters. So wonderful was their effect, that in three days I felt like a new man, and today I am cured of all my troubles." Guaranteed at Slocum Drug Co.'s drug store; price 50c.

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