

EARLY USE OF INK

FINE HAIR BRUSH FIRST METHOD OF APPLICATION.

Still in Use by Chinamen—The Day of the Quill—Steps That Marked Gradual Development of Steel Pen.

If you would like to witness the very oldest method of writing with fluid, you may do so by calling at the laundry. Nine-tenths of all the Chinese laundrymen in this country still mark up their accounts and keep all their books with a fine hair brush. While this is the oldest method of applying ink, the first writing was really done in stone with some sharp instrument. When we consider this primitive way of putting out thoughts and the general happenings of the day into written form, it is not surprising that so much of the history left us by our historic ancestors is incomplete. The rapidity with which we use our writing facilities of this day will mean much to future generations who may seek to know of us.

The longest step from antiquity to the modern was taken when the quill of the goose-quill for pens was discovered. At once the demand became so great for these in most parts of the civilized world that the raising not only of geese but ducks and geese in several of the countries of Europe became in itself a great pursuit. England alone shipped 30,000,000 quills for pens in a single year. The quills after being picked and sorted were given a hot sand bath and scraped to remove the outside skin. The barrels of the quills were afterward hardened in a solution made for the purpose and hung up to dry until they were sufficiently brittle to admit of the silt being made for the pen. Sometimes a pocket-knife was used, and again a small pen-knife was used for this purpose.

About 85 years ago steel pens began to take the place of the quills. They had been invented a number of years before, but one improvement after another was found necessary before they could be brought into general use. At first the holder and pen were made all in one piece, but this, of course, made it necessary to throw away the holder every time the pen wore out. A pen without the holder that we today pay a penny for, cost as high as 50 cents in those days. And yet there is much more care and attention to the small details in the pen we use today than there was in the 50-cent ones of the early days of the industry.—American Boy.

Dark and Threatening.

Two baseball teams, which were made up of negro players, exhibited a great contest of the national game before a large crowd on the open lots at Twelfth and Porter streets, says the Philadelphia Times. The score stood 2 to 2 in the eighth inning. Two men were on bases, two players out, when the pitcher of one of the nine walloped the ball to midcenter. He sprinted around the bases as if in pursuit of a dozen chickens. The center fielder of the opposing team shot the ball with terrific speed toward the fourth station, and as the runner was about to cross the plate the catcher touched him with the horseshoe. The negro umpire shouted at the top of his voice: "De runner am safe," and as the word "safe" died away the many spectators began to crowd around the umpire. "What's dat?" shouted one. "You done be bilin'," yelled another, and a few other remarks followed. The man argued for a while, and when the entire mob was crowded around him the umpire's voice rang out in loud tones: "Game called on account of darkness!"

A Real Easy Boss.

"Well, whatta y' thinka that!" exclaimed the new stenographer, looking dazed. "What's the matter?" "Well, you see, I was out to a dance last night and stayed late. Of course I am horribly tired this morning, and I almost went to sleep over the dictation. I was terribly afraid the boss would notice it, and so he did. When he asked me what was the matter I was so scared that I told him the truth, and then I just knew I would be fired, but whatta y' think! He said, 'Well, just write half a dozen of the most important letters and then go home and take a nap.' I thought he was joking or that it was a new way of firing me, but he said he was in earnest; that he had been young once and that he thought I'd do better work the next day if I had a chance to rest up. You bet I will. But I never heard of a boss like him."

Complaints at Postoffice Window.

The patient clerks at the complaint window in the postoffice have some queer experiences, says the Kansas City Star. Uncle Sam in his benevolent way has given them one weapon of defense, the complaint blank. The wise clerk is polite and asks that the blank containing the grievance and other data for the postal inspectors be filled out. The writing of the complaint usually cools off the anger of the complainant. Not so was the experience of one of the clerks in the Federal building the other day. "I've been waiting for a package of medicine I know was mailed to me a week ago," said a woman who appeared at the window. "Too bad," said the suave clerk. "Please fill out this blank and tell in full the nature of your complaint."

"Well, if you must know, its biliousness," was the woman's reply.

HAYING IN RAINY WEATHER

Not Advisable to Cut Too Much Grass at One Mowing—Will Dry Quickly When Stirred.

It is not advisable to cut much grass at one mowing. If possible wait until the weather settles. Cut in the afternoon of a clear day, the next morning put the horse-drawn mower to work and keep the hay flying and whirling in the air. Keep the hay stirring—the grass will dry out and cure much faster when it is flying in the air than when spread out on the ground. If the grass is heavy—and you have no tedder, let your helper take a fork and turn the half-cured hay over so the bottom will dry; as soon as the hay is partly cured, put in the rake and make small windrows. After the field is forked over commence at the beginning and rake two windrows together by turning the hay over with the rake several times—most of the moisture will evaporate—and all of the hand-labor will be avoided. As soon as it settles bunch it. In case there are indications of rain, haul two or three loads of the half-cured hay into the barn or rack and deposit one load in each mow. Then if rainy weather continues let the hay in the barn be placed on the scaffold over the driveway, where it can get the moist air. Spread one pack of salt over each load of hay. When hay is heavy spread it out thin for a few days. By spreading a layer of straw or old hay between every half load put in the mow most of the moisture will be taken up by the straw. By this means several loads of clover hay may be secured without being damaged by rain. The side delivery rake in connection with the tedder is a great help in the quick curing of hay in showery weather. The clover and mixed grasses and orchard grass should be secured in the best possible condition, as such hay contains just the nutriment required for the making of milk, beef and mutton.

Timothy and red top should be cut before the seeds become hard. The timothy harvest should be delayed until after the grain is cut and hauled in; two weeks delay with the timothy harvest will not injure the hay seriously. Secure the clover and mixed hay and get the grain in the barn; these are the two important crops.

AMERICAN APPLE IN EUROPE

Desirable That European Market for Fruits Grown in United States Be Developed.

That a desirable European market for American-grown fruits may be developed is the opinion of Orlando Harrison of Harrison's nurseries, Berlin, Md., former president of the American Association of Nurserymen, who made an extensive foreign trip last season. In an address before the Pennsylvania Horticultural society, Wilmington, Del., Mr. Harrison made the following statements:

"In recommending the growing of winter apples, I want to assure you that if you will grow and pack only good fruit, it can be sold. While in Europe last season I visited the fruit markets and found the fruit dealers welcomed our fruit. More fruit from America should be sent over. We should form an apple league of some kind and introduce our apples there, putting the price so the people would buy them."

"I was told the demand for bananas was increased many times over when it was some years ago by a man sending a cargo there and selling them at a very low price, and after that he gradually increased the demand and the price as well. The price of apples should be in reach of every working man. By doing this many times the quantity of fruit would be consumed. The Europeans are not fruit eaters like the Americans, and it is up to us to cultivate that trade."

To Get Rid of Ants.

To rid your garden of ants effectually you must find the location of the nests. They can then be easily destroyed by benzola, gasoline, blisphide of carbon or boiling water. The large ants which sometimes make their nests above the surface of the grass on the lawn should be destroyed by blisphide of carbon. Punch a number of holes in the nests and pour a teaspoonful of carbon down each hole. Throw a dark blanket over the holes for a few moments, then remove it and explode the carbon by means of a light at the end of a pole. The slight explosions drive the fumes down through the underground tunnels and destroy the ants.

Success in Rearing Chickens.

We are having splendid success with our chickens, the best we have ever experienced. In fact, the reports from all over the country are more encouraging than I have ever known them to be before, says a writer in Baltimore American. This leads us to conclude that gradually the poultrymen of the country are becoming more thoroughly informed of the principles involved in the successful rearing of chickens.

Bull Thistles.

Bull thistles, common in pastures, cannot always be killed by mowing. Mowing tends to prevent maturity of seed. Cutting off the thistles just below the surface of the ground, two or three times a year, will effectually eradicate them.

The Nest Lawn.

A neat lawn and surroundings attract the attention of every passerby and are infectious in a community.

GENERAL NEWS OF NATIONAL HAPPENINGS

COMMERCE INCREASES.

American Trade With South America of Great Importance.

Washington—That the commerce of the 20 Latin American republics lying south of the United States is increasing with such strides that it is deserving of particular attention is proved by the special report of John Barrett, director of the International bureau of American republics, to the fourth Pan-American conference now in session at Buenos Ayres. After pointing out that the work and correspondence of the bureau have increased 1,000 per cent since the last conference in 1906; that last year it was directly responsible for \$52,000,000 of new trade exchange in the Pan-American field; that it distributes annually 450,000 pieces of printed matter descriptive of Pan-American relations, in contrast to 50,000 four years ago, and that it has been an active and useful factor in numerous ways for the promotion of Pan-American friendship, peace and commerce, the director says:

"The statistics just compiled show that in the year 1909 the 20 republics south of the United States bought and sold in trade with the rest of the world products valued at the surprising total of \$2,127,301,000. Assuming that there are 70,000,000 inhabitants in Latin America, this gives a per capita trade of approximately \$30. The foreign commerce of China and Japan, combined, with a conservative estimate of their population at 350,000,000, was approximately \$1,000,000,000, or only half that of Latin America, giving a per capita of less than \$3 a head, or only one-tenth that of Latin America. This comparison is not in any sense intended as a reflection on Japan or China, but solely to emphasize the remarkable importance and progress of Latin America."

"This grand total represents an almost phenomenal increase in one decade, as over the average foreign trade for the years 1896-7-8, of \$1,203,516,000, or 128 per cent. It must convince the most hard-headed doubter that the 20 nations which reach in unbroken array from Mexico and Cuba south to Argentina and Chile are worthy of the study of the rest of the world and particularly of the United States."

"The total of Latin American foreign commerce for 1909, divided into exports and imports, shows a notable balance of trade in favor of Latin America. The exports were valued at \$1,232,103,000; the imports at \$895,198,000, or a favorable balance of \$336,905,000. Exports, moreover, show an impressive increase in ten years of 143 per cent and imports of 115 per cent."

The United States bought from and sold to Latin America in 1909 products valued at \$589,302,000. Taking this as high-water mark of the trade Latin America and the United States exchanged last year, what becomes of the complaint of the uninformed man that the United States is being outstripped by Germany and France? When the United States buys, as she does, one-fourth of all Latin America sells to the world, and sells to it one-fourth of all it buys, no one can logically say that the United States and Latin America are losing their commerce with each other through the competition of Europe."

Boat to Get New Guns.

Vallejo, Cal.—The cruiser South Dakota, which has just returned from Monterey bay, will go to Mare Island navy yard immediately for extensive battery overhauling. All eight-inch turrets will be remodeled, and heavier, stronger guns with a hydraulic elevating gear for the turrets will be installed. Considerable routine work on the South Dakota has also been authorized.

The cruiser will be in the navy yard for several months, during which time the cruisers West Virginia and Maryland will be undergoing repair. Upon the completion of the work in October, the three ships will leave here for anchorage in San Francisco bay, under sailing orders.

Western Ideas Wanted.

Washington—China is looking for Western ideas for her navy. In September her imperial highness, Prince Tsai Huan, and Admiral Sah, the imperial naval commissioner, will arrive in the United States to study naval affairs. Mr. Calhoun, minister to China, advised the State department that the royal party will sail on the steamer Manchuria, on August 2.

Details for his reception will be arranged soon. A number of American naval officers probably will meet the prince when he lands and escort him to the various naval establishments on his way across the United States.

Retirement of Colonel Stevens.

Washington—After more than thirty-six years of active service, Col. Robert R. Stevens, assistant quartermaster general at San Antonio, Texas, will be placed on the retired list of the army on his own application. Colonel Stevens is a native of Texas and was graduated from the United States military academy in 1877. Recently he was promoted to the grade of assistant quartermaster general with the rank of colonel.

TROOPS TO SAVE TIMBER.

Plan to Station Regulars in Forest Reserves During Summer.

Spokane, Wash.—President Taft, as commander-in-chief of the army, and Secretary of War Dickinson have been requested by the Western Pine Manufacturers' association, of which J. P. McGoldrick of Spokane, is president, acting in behalf of timber owners, lumbermen and settlers in the Northwest, to station government forest reserves troops from May 1, to September 30, of each year, to the end that the timber resources of the United States may be saved from destruction.

"The fire losses in the forests in the Western states during the last 60 days will amount to at least \$150,000,000," said George M. Cornwall, of Portland, Ore., who presented a resolution embodying the foregoing at the semi-annual meeting of the association, "and it is likely that in addition millions of dollars' worth timber will be destroyed during this and next month unless heavy rains come before the end of the dry season."

Statistics compiled by A. W. Cooper, secretary of the Western Pine Manufacturers' association, show that fully 50 per cent of the standing timber in the United States is located in Washington, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and California, where fire patrols are maintained by lumbermen's associations and the state departments. These, however, are inadequate to cope with the fire element.

"There exists a grave menace to standing timber in the national forests on account of fires," Mr. Cornwall said in discussing the use of troops in fighting and prevention, "and this carries with it heavy losses of life and valuable property."

"There are stationed at various posts in the United States thousands of disciplined men, known as government troops, who could be instructed in the methods of fire fighting and patrol duty in the various forests not alone in the Northwestern and Pacific states but throughout the country where forests exist."

"The plan, if carried out, would be to place the troops under the direction of the department of the interior or any other department of the government in the national forests, where they could be instructed in the methods of fighting forest fires, which are usually started as the result of carelessness on the part of hunters, campers, land clearing, lumbermen and railroaders."

"These forests require an adequate patrol, regularly established and maintained during the so-called dry season, from May to September. Forest fire fighting is a science and should be taught to the troops as part of the military tactics. Besides no better employment could be found for the soldiers than to utilize them as protectors of life and property during part of the year when men are most needed in the forests of the country."

"We are hopeful that the president of the United States and the secretary of war will look upon our request as a step in the direction of actual conservation of one of the country's chief resources; also that an order will be issued to send the nearest troops into the national forests, which, in several of the northwestern states, are not unlike furnaces at the present time."

Reports from various parts of Idaho, Washington and Montana received in Spokane show that fires have broken out anew in the various reserves, where in addition to more than 2,000 men now at work with dynamite, axes and mattocks, there is an urgent demand for more than double that number to cope with the flames.

In the Lolo national forest in Western Montana and Eastern Idaho, more than 600,000,000 feet of white and yellow pine timber in the path of fires and other districts in various parts of the Northwest are threatened. Representatives of timber companies returning to Spokane from Montana and Idaho say that the fire lines are from eight to 10 miles in extent in numerous places.

Army Policy is Decided.

Washington—Major General Leonard Wood, chief of staff of the army, came back from Beverly with President Taft's army policy in his portfolio. President Taft and General Wood went over all the War department estimates for the coming year and decided on general expenditures for the maintenance of the army. The president and General Wood, it is understood, are in accord to bring the National guard into closer relation with the regulars.

Who Will Work on Maine.

Washington—Three persons have been named by Acting Secretary of War Oliver as a board to have charge of the raising of the battleship Maine. The board consists of Colonel Black, Lieutenant Colonel Patrick and Captain Ferguson. They will have charge of the engineering problems encountered when it is finally decided to remove the sunken warship from Havana harbor.

Lemon Rate Reduction Postponed.

Washington—The interstate commerce commission ordered a postponement from September 1 to November 1 of the date on which reduced freight rates on California lemon shipments shall become effective. A cut in the rates from \$1.15 to \$1 per 100 pounds applies to shipments to all eastern points. The order seems to make certain that no further postponement will be possible.

REDUCED RATES DEMANDED.

Eastern Men Say Fight Express Companies to Finish.

Chicago—Commercial organizations throughout the country have decided to engage in a finish fight with the express companies with a view to securing greatly reduced rates.

The first gun in the campaign was fired when the Chicago association of commerce and 123 other influential commercial organizations in all parts of the country led a petition to the Interstate Commerce commission asking that body to make an investigation on its own motion into the charges made by express companies and into the revenues they are enjoying. Indirectly the attack on the express companies hits at railroad revenues, for a portion of the complaint is based upon contracts entered into between their lines.

The movement against the express companies was started by the Chicago association of commerce and the New York Merchants' association, the former interesting most of the powerful commercial organizations in the West, and the latter influencing those in the East to join the movement. It is said that sufficient data has been gathered to warrant the commission in reducing express charges by fully 50 per cent.

Among other things the commission is asked to examine closely into the origin and character of the contracts between railroads and the express companies and to make a full disclosure of the names of the stockholders, especially of the railroads holding stock in express companies.

GRAND TRUNK STRIKE WON.

Agreement Reached With Employers for Increase in Wages.

Ottawa, Ont.—The strike of conductors, trainmen and yardmen, which began on the Grand Trunk and Central Vermont systems on July 18, was officially called off.

Under the terms of the agreement signed by President Hays for the railroads and all the union officials, the men will receive, dating back to May 13 this year, an advance of approximately 18 per cent, and beginning January 1, 1912, a rate of wages slightly below the Eastern association schedule, for which they struck, but an advance in many instances of over 30 per cent.

In the case of the Central Vermont, the same settlement applies, with the exception that the standardization to be applied on January 1, 1912, is to be that of the Rutland Railway, a road in the same territory, and not that of the Canadian Pacific, which will only apply to the Grand Trunk system.

Japan's Friendship True.

New York—Speaking from the standpoint of 30 years' experience, the Right Rev. Herriman C. Harris declares that Japanese friendliness toward the people of the United States was a striking characteristic not only of the government, but of the people.

"Japan is bound to Great Britain by the close and definite terms of an alliance, but good feeling toward America is inherent among the people; it is traditional. I would not be going too far in saying that the good will toward this country which you encounter everywhere among the people as well as among those in official life is more than a matter of mere friendly sentiment. It has been in evidence in Japan for 50 years and as I said, is something which young generations of Japanese are taught to accept as a part almost of national feeling."

"Now this may sound strange, but I know it is true."

Operation Big Success.

San Francisco—The delegates to the American Osteopathic convention spent the afternoon in a trolley tour of the city and its suburbs. The condition of the 8-year-old Vera Sternemann, who was made the subject of the famous Lorenz operation for congenital dislocation of the hip by Dr. Harry Forbes, of Los Angeles, is rapidly improving and those in attendance reported to the convention that the affected leg of the patient had been lengthened an inch and a half by the bloodless surgical operation.

Alleged Fraud is Probed.

Springfield, Ill.—Representative Charles Lederer, of Chicago, Sidney Alder, the law partner of Speaker Edward D. Shurtleff, were the witnesses before the grand jury here in the investigation into the alleged use of money in connection with the loan shark bill, the bill amending the child-labor act to permit children to perform in theaters, and the law prohibiting the manufacture or possession of slot machines.

Press Backing Up State.

Madrid—The Liberal press officially denies the insinuations of the Vatican that it only demanded the withdrawal of the bill prohibiting further religious orders until the concordat had been revised, and also points out that the bill in question did not violate the concordat, which recognizes only three orders. El Liberal says Pope Pius X is now sowing a wind to reap a whirlwind in following the advice of two Spanish cardinals.

Estrada Gains Victory.

New York—Pio Bolanos, an Estrada supporter, has received advices confirming the recent abandonment of Acayapa by Madriz forces under the command of General Vasquez. The dispatch to Mr. Bolanos states that after a decisive battle the Estrada forces took Acayapa.

NEW CHINESE PLOT

Substitution of Photographs Procure Fraudulent Entries.

Officers of United States District Clerk in Northern California Involved in Crookedness.

San Francisco—By the arrest of Jew Loy Sing, a wealthy merchant, Immigration Inspector Richard Taylor asserts that he has disclosed a method whereby hundreds of Chinese have obtained fraudulent entry to this country.

According to Taylor, the clerks' office in the United States district court for the northern district of California is badly involved by the disclosures. He said that the arrest of Jew Loy Sing is specially accused of altering and changing a public document by substituting the photograph of an unknown Chinese for that of Gee Jung Kee in the court record of a habeas corpus proceeding which had resulted in the admission of Kee to this country. Taylor declares that substitution has been practiced upon no less than 300 habeas corpus court records in the district clerk's office here. In some cases more than one substitution was made in the same record until it has become practically impossible to trace the original.

The Chinese who posed as Gee Jung Kee with the latter's habeas corpus papers succeeded in securing the entry of three Chinese as his sons and was preparing to have three more pseudo sons and one daughter permitted to land when the plot was uncovered. He then disappeared, but Jew, who is said to have employed him, was caught. Inspector Taylor estimated that the two Chinese expected to make \$10,000 from the use of the substituted papers, as the pretended Gee's adopted family would have paid that sum to land here, and more were planning to come when admission was denied to the three sons and one daughter.

A minimum rate form on for the use of papers was \$500 each and that for women, who could not be sold, \$3,500. FARMERS MAKE FORTUNES.

San Joaquin County, California, Crops Paying Big Profits.

Stockton, Cal.—This season many fortunes will be made by the farmers in San Joaquin county and especially those who put in grain on the rich inland district west of Stockton. The barley is running from 30 to 35 sacks to the acre on thousands of acres, which means large profits to the growers.

Charles Moreing and Lloyd Woods, of Stockton, have commenced harvesting 13,000 acres of barley on the islands, and they will secure 365,000 sacks, which at the present market price will bring them about \$400,000.

They are operating five traction engines, drawing immense harvesters that thresh thousands of sacks daily, yet it will take quite a time to get all of the grain ready for the warehouses. Reports received from many sections of the county indicate an unusually large crop of wheat and barley, and the indications are that the warehouse space will be taxed to cover all of the grain.

ROCKS ROLLED ON JAPS.

Formosans Take Heavy Toll From Brown Invaders.

Victoria, B. C.—Severe fighting, with heavy Japanese losses, is continuing in Formosa, according to advices received by the Sazo Maru.

The Japanese are now engaged in capturing Shinarek Mountain, proposing to mount artillery there to dominate the native strongholds, and have lost many men by the tactics of the head hunters in rolling heavy rocks over cliffs on advancing parties. Rocks weighing tons were arranged with props to be pulled away by natives well hidden. Sniping and ambushes by small parties have cost many lives.

Storm Sweeps Oklahoma.

Oklahoma City—A rain storm, accompanied by a strong wind, swept over Central Oklahoma on Wednesday evening, Aug. 3. The greatest damage reported from the wind was in Shawnee, where several frame dwellings were blown down. The temperature here dropped from 110 to 72 in two hours. Thursday marked the hottest day in Muskogee this season, the thermometer reaching 106. All heat records were broken at Lawton, where the mercury reached 112 in the shade. A sand and dust storm is now raging.

Grain Pool Under Probe.

Chicago—Federal grand jury investigations into the recent corner in July wheat will be started within a few days in an effort to determine whether the alleged manipulators of the deal violated the Sherman anti-trust law. W. S. Kenyon, assistant to Attorney General Wickersham, plans to summon sufficient witnesses before the present body to learn whether there are grounds for a complete inquiry by a succeeding grand jury.

Big War Balloon Works.

Berlin—The dirigible balloon Gross III, which left Gotha at 9 o'clock Monday night, with a military crew aboard made a safe landing at Tegel, at 6 o'clock next morning. The balloon traveled between 170 and 200 miles.