

UNCLE SAM STUDIES FEET OF THE WORLD

Commerce Department Finds Shoe Leather Used the Same in Brazil as at Thebes—American Shoes Supreme.

In his efforts to build up the foreign trade of the United States Uncle Sam is making a thorough study of the feet of the world. He is finding out which nations have long narrow feet, which have short, broad feet, which have thick feet and which have thin.

Incidentally he is learning things about the foot customs of the globe that throw a bright light on the habits of the ancient Assyrians and Egyptians and which make the characters of Babylonian dancers and Roman emperors seem familiar ones.

Through the Bureau of Domestic and Foreign Commerce at Washington, linking the activities of consuls in all quarters of the world, he is finding out social tendencies and pedestrian requirements purely for the benefit of American manufacturers of shoe leather. In his own precise language, he is making a world survey of the foot and shoe industry, but it is really more than that. Uncle Sam is resurrecting the ghosts of the past and determining the shape of footprints that the future will leave behind them on the sands of time.

The Shoe and Leather Manufacturers Division of the Bureau is in charge of the survey, which has been under way for some time and which will be concluded in the near future. It has numerous reports from consuls in the various districts of Germany, France, Italy, Greece, Mexico, Jamaica, Peru, Bolivia, Holland, Brazil, Venezuela and other countries. They give

very definite facts for the guidance of American manufacturers in conquering world trade. They also hold a great deal of romance and historical charm for those who care to study them analytically.

The manufacturer is delighted because they show beyond argument that American styles and the American built shoe are in the ascendancy in every corner of the globe.

Invading Europe. They are invading Europe. Since the war, Uncle Sam has learned, the German shoe has changed from the long, square appearance that U. S. shoes scorned formerly to a shape that is making and wearing the pointed toe and long "vamp" that distinguish the American one.

The French, who lean toward short shoes with high heels, brief vamps and rounded toes, still cling fondly to this style; but the American contour is making big inroads even here, according to the reports of consuls. The short vamp and high heels were originally adopted for the purpose of shortening perspective and leading to deception as to the size of the foot. They are a sort of secret diplomacy. That they are giving place to the frank American confession of actual size seems to indicate that in shoes the doctrine of "open covenants openly arrived at" is attaining success.

Leather Most Used The only American departure that is not being taken up to any extent is that of the substitution of other materials for leather. The majority of the world has always trod on leather and apparently is determined to continue doing so.

In some of the older sections of Europe wooden clogs, often with leather uppers and leather insoles, are used. In the backward sections of South America sandals of rope are used when the people do not go entirely barefoot. Some French housewives used felt sandals in the house. These customs are still firmly entrenched, just as firmly as the use of leather for the majority of purposes. They give one of the evidences the bureau is uncovering of the essentially unchanging character of human nature.

Shoes Classified With "Valuables" This is further exemplified by a custom of Jamaica, where shoes are considered by the natives to be a considerable luxury. It is not uncommon on that island to see natives on their way to church or to a social gathering carrying their shoes in their hands. When they arrive at their destination they ceremoniously put them on and enter into the business of the occasion. An identical custom was observed in early Egypt. Men of rank in going from place to place were followed by servants who carried sandals. When occasion warranted the sandals were gravely placed on the aristocratic feet of their owners.

Brazil brings a parallel to Biblical times and to those of the Roman Empire. Brightly colored shoes, such as these mentioned in Exodus of "ram's hide dyed red," are dear to the Brazilian heart. And Brazilian dancers follow the custom of Julius Caesar, descendant of the Albanian Kings, who was the only Roman entitled to wear red shoes seven days a week.

Even the New York girl would recently have considered it a hardship if she had to obey the rule that even the noblest Roman in Caesar's time observed on pain of death. That was to wear red shoes on no more than one day a week.



The persistence of the sandal and of the low shoe that approximates the sandal in the warmer countries of South America and even in southern France adds its testimony, too, to the perfection with which the earliest men in history solved the best use of shoe leather.

Leather Sandals Persist In La Guaira, Venezuela, about nine-tenths of the inhabitants wear, according to the consul there, "sandals consisting of a heelless sole leather sole and a cloth top which covers the fore part of the foot. A cloth heel-strap holds the sandal in place." These sandals, or "alpargatas," if they were found beside his bed on arising by the earliest Egyptian of them all, would not amaze him. Egyptian shoes were made just that way.

of colored leather. They are for the "chola" women and as with all Bolivian shoes have very high insteps.

The consul at Callao, Lima, Peru, reports the shoes made for men are broad, short, high heeled, flashily finished and with many differently colored uppers.

"Quality," he writes, "is not the ruling factor in purchase, since five or six pairs of fancy shoes register higher socially than two or three pairs of plain quality shoes."

Rome reports that in Italian shoes the style and cut are extremely varied. Short, broad lasts seem most popular, while patent leathers, odd colors and fancy tops appeal to most buyers.

Returning to South America there is found an interesting survey of shoes in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the Paris of that continent. The heat results in most men's shoes being oxfords, very few high shoes being made. Most of the women's shoes are pumps. Special style shoes, which sell for only a short time and are replaced by new designs are the rule here as in other mercantile countries.

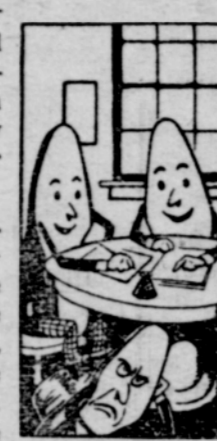
in varied designs are usually made to order. Congress boots are produced in moderate quantities for sale in the interior of the country."

From France came the following reports, among others. The consul at Bordeaux writes: "Formerly French boots and shoes had a very short vamp, and such shoes are still sold to a great extent. However, the present tendency is toward the American style with its long vamp, and the best manufactured shoes in France today are identical with the American styles."

The consul general at Havre reports that style is the dominant factor in trade and that quality and comfort are of only secondary importance. "The outstanding features of all French styles," he reports, "are round toes, short vamps and extremely high heels."

Reports from Germany are typified by that from the consul at Dresden. "The shoes manufactured in Germany," he states, "can scarcely, if at all, be differentiated from the American product. This is in marked contrast to the situation which existed until the outbreak of the war, when German shoes still had a long, square appearance and could be readily distinguished from the American product."

Our Beautiful Feet It is likely that as a result of Uncle Sam's present study the beauty of the world's feet will be improved. From various places in South America particularly, come reports of a short, broad, thick foot that is far from the standards of beauty he believes in. It is probably due to the style of shoes that have been used. That the American foot seems more beautiful even to the possessor of the aforesaid stubby feet, seems proved by the universal liking the peoples of the earth are showing, both by purchase and imitation, for the American way of shaping shoe leather.



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Thirst quenchers for hot weather should comprise such drinks as lemonade, limeade, carbonated water and the like, rather than sweet drinks, says an eminent eastern doctor.

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ADDITION TO ART TREASURES

Finding of Portrait of Stradivarius, Great Violin Maker, Has Stirred Collectors Everywhere.

A portrait of Stradivarius has been found. No picture of the great master had ever been identified and his face has remained a mystery for nearly 200 years. The portrait, which the experts who have so far examined it declare genuine, has come into the possession of a Cremona piano maker, who has always had the greatest interest in Stradivarius. He found the portrait in the possession of a certain professor, who had bought it from the painter Gladisi, bears the name of the maestro and the date 1691. Stradivarius is portrayed as a stern Cromwellian type, with flashing dark eyes and flowing hair. He is shown holding one of his famous violins against his breast. The interior evidence of the painting all corresponds to the contemporary descriptions of Stradivarius, none of which have been in harmony with various paintings which have wrongly been thought to represent the great violin maker.

"Before I Die." To endow "before I die" some sort of green place where little street urchins could play cricket, all accessories provided, was one of the dreams of Herbert Jenkins, London publisher. He began life at fifteen in a bookseller's shop. He and another boy used to sit up half the night devouring books. That boy was the poet, John Massfield. Walking to save a penny omnibus fare, refusing an invitation to a river picnic because of a sixpenny railroad fare, lunching on a bun—this is the picture of his early twenties, as he many times described it. In 1911, when he was about 36, his "Life of George Borrow" first brought him into public view. He has just died after building up a great publishing business.

"Oil Birds" of Peru. A band of outlaws have their home on the Huallaga river in Peru. There are no laws and no taxes, and most of the inhabitants are fugitive murderers. In this domain is the cave of the "oil birds." The cave is mammoth and as beautiful as those in fairy tales, much like a cathedral on the inside. Hundreds of thousands of birds have their home here. The young of the species are exceptionally fat, and the natives squeeze them and make something much like oil from them. The oil is used for everything from curing rheumatism to eating.



Miss Oldguri—The lieutenant has captured my heart.
The Colonel—I will see to it, madam, that he is cited for bravery at the next review.

Returns from Trip

Karl Rose returned Sunday from Washington where he visited his brother Leslie Rose and also attended the State Fair in Salem.

It has been decided in a court that a frog is an animal and not a fish and that it is a cruelty to animals to remove its legs without first cutting off its head. This is the first time judicial notice has been taken of just how a frog should croak.—Detroit News.

Reformers are persons who think the rising generation isn't.—Jacksonville Journal.

Above all the other crying needs of the 20th century, we learn, is a place to picnic that the owner of a new sedan can reach without scratching the body any to speak of.—Grand Rapids Press.

"We have no protest against literature, provided we are not asked to photograph it," says a movie producer. In behalf of literature, humble thanks are herewith returned.—Cincinnati Times Star.

Well, a prima donna wants a seat in the house of commons, and we are for it. Anything that will give one of the a voice.—Detroit News.

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