

CONJURED A TREATY.

Houdin, the Magician, Just Awed the Arabs into Submission.

During the French conquest of Algeria (1830-3) negotiations for peace were entered upon with the sheiks of certain Arab tribes, and a meeting for the settlement of terms was arranged to take place at the French headquarters. The French officers received their guests with great hospitality, and after the banquet given in their honor, at which the utmost splendor was employed in order to dazzle their eyes and captivate their simple minds, an adjournment was made to a large hall, where M. Houdin, the celebrated conjurer, who had accompanied the French forces, gave an exhibition of his skill.

They stared in open mouthed wonder at all the tricks that were performed, and a feeling of awe crept over them as they witnessed the mysterious appearance and disappearance of various objects. But what appeared to them most marvelous was the apparent manufacture of cannon balls.

M. Houdin passed round among them a high hat, which they examined very carefully, but without suspecting anything unusual in either its make or its appearance. When the hat was returned to him the conjurer placed it on the floor in the middle of the stage in full view of his audience. He then proceeded to take from the hat cannon balls apparently without number and rolled them across the floor into the wings. With this the performance terminated.

The chiefs then consulted among themselves and came to the conclusion that it was useless to offer any opposition to an army that could turn out its ammunition in so easy a manner. They therefore signed the required treaty and departed to tell their friends in the desert of the wonderful power of the invaders.

Artificial Flowers.

Fashion is responsible for many inventions. This is the case with the manufacture of artificial flowers, for their demand was due to a caprice of fashion. In Italy during festival time it was decreed that flowers should be worn in and out of season and that their color should be retained. Many plans for solving this problem were brought forward and at last one one hit upon the idea of making them of various materials which would resemble the real flowers. Later, in the middle ages, the artificial so far superseded the natural that men and women decked their heads with imitation flowers of cambric, glass, paper, wax and metal. The most beautiful artificial blossoms were made in Paris.—New York Sun.

Yakamiks of Venezuela.

Found wild in the forests of Venezuela, the yakamiks, a kind of crane, are readily tamed, becoming valuable servants to the Indians, who domesticate them. Their power of flight is limited, and they seldom attempt any distance in the air. Not only are they intrusted with the care of the flocks, herds and poultry, but they are left as sole guardians of the babies. Certain species of the tribe found in Brazil farther to the south are protected by law because of their recognized value as snake killers.

The Depreciated Area.

Two old colored women were having dinner together in the cabin. The pot of boiled cabbage was on the floor, and the dog walked into the room and started to drink out of it. Old Aunt Easter drove him out with the broom, and, coming back, she gave the other old woman a spoon.

"Liza," she said, "take dis spoon and dip dem dog laps out o' de cabbage!"—New York Post.

Brunswick's Fame.

The little duchy of Brunswick occupies in more than one respect a unique position in the German empire. It is one of the oldest principalities of the great Teutonic nation, and its inhabitants have a certain right to call themselves the aborigines of the country. They form a part of the Saxon tribes, and their forefathers helped to crush the Roman legions by the battle in the Teutoburg forest.

According to Instructions.

Nervous Old Lady (to druggist)—Are you sure you have mixed that medicine right? Conscientious druggist—No, m'm; I wouldn't go as far as to say that. But I've mixed it the way the doctor ordered it!

Possible Souvenir.

"I had something to say to that matinee idol, but the girls mobbed him, and he was almost torn to pieces."
"Well, did you get his ear?"—Washington Herald.

LICENSED TO MURDER.

Primitive Justice In the Early Days in the Australian Bush.

Near by one Australian town, long ago, a savage tribe had murdered a family of settlers in the night save one lad, who escaped death by opportunely tumbling to the floor between the bed and the wall, himself wounded, unconscious and left for dead. What the provocation was nobody knows. It is probable that there was no specific provocation. It had doubtless been undertaken upon savage impulse and accomplished for nothing more than the momentary pleasure of dealing death to some living creature. This was the inspiration of many similar deeds—neither vengeance nor spoil, but the swift bestial, wanton blood lust, indulged, celebrated, laughed over for the time and forgotten. And therein lies a sufficient explanation of the terrible character of the retaliation. Whatever the case, the boy, having thus narrowly survived, made his way to Brisbane, where he related his story to the authorities, and to such good purpose, as it turned out, that he was given a rifle and free leave to return to the district and shoot as many black fellows as he could manage, being heartily assured that the law would not molest him.

"You see," said our fellow traveler, "he was regularly licensed."
"By the department of game and fisheries?" I scoffed.

"Ah, come now!" he replied. "I am not joking. I do not mean to say," he went on, "that the authorities gave this boy an engraved license, suitable for framing, but I do assert that they commissioned him to kill black fellows and that his commission was not altogether singular, but one of a good many. And he did kill black fellows—hundreds of them, possibly. He killed them where he could find them, running the bush or employed on the stations, not even hesitating in the presence of their white masters. And by and by the thing became a nuisance. It was awkward for the station owners to have their black boys disposed of in this way. There were complaints. I recall that one station owner had his best black servant shot from the saddle on the road. He was very angry, but the boy flourished his commission, and the station owner could do nothing about it."—Norman Duncan in Harper's Magazine.

Fish, Pen and Ink.

"One year I found a lot of cuttlefish that ran into the surf," said a worker on one of the California beaches. "I was riding along the beach, and I got a pole and rode into them and killed about twenty, I guess. Some were eight or ten feet long. I hauled them up and showed them for four or five days in my whale tent; then I sold them to the fishermen, who salted them down for bait, taking out the bills, eyes and pens, which I sold as curios. Each cuttle, besides a sac of indelible ink, had a pen a foot long, a beautiful object, as delicate and fragile as a feather pen. The eyes when hardened looked like pearls, and they are mounted as pins. The bills are chestnut color and look like a parrot's bill."

Pearl Pills.

Scotland still produces pearls, found mainly in the fresh water mussel. Cleopatra was not the only person who swallowed a dissolved pearl. Until comparatively recent times they were used medicinally in Europe and still appear in the materia medica of China. According to one Chinese authority, a pearl, after being treated with pumice stone and honeycomb, mixed with the gall of a serpent, "might be drawn out to the length of three or four feet. Make it into pills and swallow them—henceforth food will be unnecessary." The suggestion is not that the patient would be finished off, but that he would live, foodless, forever.

His Prayer.

O'Connell had got a man off at one time for highway robbery and at another for burglary, but on a third occasion, for stealing a coasting brig, the task of hoodwinking the jury seemed too great for even his powers of cajolery. However, he made out that the crime was committed on the high seas and obtained an acquittal. The prisoner lifted up his hands and eyes to heaven and exclaimed, "May the Lord long spare you, Mr. O'Connell, to me!"

Dignity.

I ought not to allow any man because he has broad lands to feel that he is rich in my presence. I ought to make him feel that I can do without his riches, that I cannot be bought—neither by comfort, neither by pride—and, although I be utterly penniless and receiving bread from him, that he is the poor man beside me.—Emerson.

Registration

If you have not yet registered as a voter this year, please call on me at The News office during week days and evenings. Registration closes April 15. F. K. Hubbard, Registrar

Everybody writes letters. Many letters go astray in the mails because the postoffice people cannot locate the receiver nor the sender. Printed envelopes would help in handling mail. We will print 250 note heads (5x8 1/2) and 250 envelopes, for \$3.00, any wording you wish.

Send The News to Your Friends

Extra copies of The News are printed each week, and will be sent to any address desired, postpaid, for 2 cents per copy.

This offer is made with the hope that our citizens will send these extra copies to people who may be, or who may become interested in Falls City.

'Lend a Hand'

Citizens who wish to help The News give the news of the town can render a good service by sending or phoning any information they may have of local doings, especially of matters that are not likely to come under the personal observation of the editor.

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Manufacturers and Homeseekers who want to know the facts concerning Falls City and its possibilities for future development are requested to read the information given in these two columns. For further and more particular information, address The News.

The Name

The city derives its name from the falls of the Little Luckiamute River, which flows through the city from the West.

The first sale of town lots occurred in 1889, though donation land-claim settlers came here many years before that date. In 1900 the population was 269; in 1910, 969; 1914, about 1,250.

The Location

Falls City is situated in the south central part of Polk County, Oregon, in section 21, township 8, S., range 6, W., Willamette meridian, 27 rail miles southwest of Salem, and 73 rail miles southwest of Portland, in the narrow western end of the Little Luckiamute River valley, surrounded on the north, south, and west by the foothills of the Coast Range mountains. Elevation, 886.38 ft above sea level. Transportation—Salem, Falls City & Western Railroad, which extends from Salem to Black Rock, a rail distance of 30 miles, with E. P. main line connections at Dallas, Gerlinger, and Salem, and with the Oregon Electric at Salem

Falls City is incorporated as a city, contains about 800 acres, valuation for taxation \$252,000. The city administration is composed of mayor, seven council men, auditor and police judge, marshal, treasurer, engineer, health officer. Salaries: Marshal and water superintendent, \$60; auditor, \$25; attorney, \$25.

Water and Wood

The city of Falls City owns the gravity water system. Its first cost was \$30,000. Pure mountain water is piped from springs on Judge Teal's ranch, 3 miles away, at an elevation of about 300 feet above city level.

Oak and fir fire wood is plentiful and cheap.

Lumber, Fruit, Vegetables and Berries

Electric-power planing and saw mill, log pond, dry kiln and lumber yard in the city, lumber flume, logging roads and logging outfits, all owned and operated by the Falls City Lumber Co.

The surrounding bench and hill lands are as well adapted to the production of fruits and berries as any other section of the Pacific Northwest, and development on these lines is going on.

Vegetables and berries of many kinds grow to perfection in and adjoining Falls City, and many acres are planted to strawberries and loganberries. Market conditions are improving steadily, as production is increased.

Schools, Churches, Societies, Clubs

Falls City has a 12-grade school with a four-year high school course, with principal, assistant, and eight grade teachers. Its diplomas are accepted by the higher schools in lieu of examinations. The entire community is justly proud of the school.

The Religious organizations are: Adventist, Catholic, Christian, Free Methodist, Methodist Episcopal, German Lutheran.

The Fraternal societies: Ind. Order of Oddfellows, Rebekahs, Masons, Knights of Pythias, Pythian Sisters, Modern Woodmen of America, Royal Neighbors of America, Woodmen of the World, Women of Woodcraft.

Free reading room: Gem theatre, photoplay.

Hydro-electric light generated by the power of the falls: owned by the Falls City Electric Co., W. B. Stevens president, H. C. Brown vice-president and manager, A. W. Stevens secretary and treasurer.

Telephone system, with long-distance connections. C. J. Pugh local manager.

Business Enterprises

Falls City is well provided with the usual business enterprises. The News contains the announcements of the following business and professional men of the city:

Bakery, D. Toller,
Bank of Falls City, W. F. Nichols cashier,
Barber shops, Wm. Bohle,
Carpenters and Builders, Elle & Elle, S. Ouderkirk,
Clothier, Tailor and gents' furnisher, Chas. Hartung,
Confectionery stores: B. L. Ellis, R. B. Harrington,
Drug store, M. L. Thompson,
Dentist, Dr. A. G. Atwood,
Department store, N. Selig,
Funeral director, R. L. Chapman,
Furniture, J. C. Talbott & Co.,
General stores, N. Selig, F. C. Lumber Co., F. C. Merc. Co.,
Hardware store, J. C. Talbott & Co.,
Hotels: Falls City Hotel, Fritz Droegge, owner and manager;
The Madena, Mrs. Mae Nichols, Mrs. Dennis, managers
Jewelry store, W. A. Persey,
Land company, Falls City Orchards Co.,
Laundry, N. W. Crandell,
Newspaper, the Falls City News, C. W. Lee,
Photoplay theatre, the Gem, C. J. Pugh,
Physicians, Dr. W. B. Officer; Dr. F. M. Hellwarth,
Pressing and cleaning parlor, I. A. Johnson,
Railroads, Salem, Falls City & Western, Southern Pacific,
Real estate agent, F. K. Hubbard Realty Co.,
Restaurant, The Madena; Wm. Finley, owner,
Saloons: The Oregon, C. W. Matthews; The Idaho, Chas. Mix.