



NATURE never starts anything she can't finish. Tobacco ain't any exception.

VELVET is naturally aged for two years. No artificial methods.

Velvet Joe

UNCLE SAM TURNS DANCING CENSOR

Government May Prohibit Hopi Indians' Snake Dance.

SAVAGES WORSHIP REPTILES

Many of Them Are Bitten by Rattlesnakes, but Seem to Be Immune to Poison. Washington Woman Makes Long Journey to Witness Weird Ceremony at Oraibi, Ariz.

That the United States government, through its Indian agents, is striving to put an end to the weird snake dance held every summer by the Hopi Indians in Arizona...

In order to witness this dance, Miss Wientge traveled on horseback from Holbrook, where she was visiting relatives, to Oraibi, on the Hopi Indian reservation, a distance of 145 miles.

"This is a long way to travel to see a dance," she said, in discussing the trip, "especially when the dance lasts only a half or three-quarters of an hour. But the scenery en route was wonderful; it reminded me of the glorious Grand Canyon. One could see so far and the views of sky and earth were so remarkable.

Tourists' Eyes Guile. "Arrived at Oraibi, we soon realized that the Indian snake dance was well worth traveling many miles to see. There were perhaps 20 tourists, who gathered round the Indians and gazed with bulging eyes at the weird ceremony about to be enacted with rattlesnakes as the chief objects of admiration. As far as I could ascertain, the Hopis gather their snakes from the mountain side, keeping them hidden until the dance begins and after the ceremony return them to their homes, at all times showing them the greatest reverence.

"One theory is that the Hopis believe in the wisdom and power of a 'great snake' somewhere in the moun-

tains, and they wish the little snakes to return to the 'ata' snake and carry glad tidings of how well they were treated. Judging by what we saw at the dance, the 'little' snakes—they are husky looking rattlers quite as long as any one would care to encounter—do not reciprocate in this matter of respect and awe. We saw one of the awful reptiles strike his fangs into the jaw of an Indian boy, who kept right on dancing. One or two of the bucks also were bitten. They did not show any ill effects, and we were told that they have become practically immune to the rattlesnake poison.

Monster Rattler Fights. "I have seen Indian dances in New Mexico, but there is nothing to compare with the savage snake dance and its rattling thrills. At one time we were just a few inches away from a monster rattler that was being chased around by an Indian whose duty it was to pick up the reptile. We passed a bad quarter of a minute waiting for the Indian to take a good hold of the snake. The reptile fought viciously for several seconds, coiling and striking. It was a bloodcurdling performance, but no one dared to interfere, of course, as the Indians would be much annoyed to see a paleface take a shot at one of their sacred snakes. The news of such a 'sacrilege' would undoubtedly reach the 'big snake' in the mountains and he would make the Indians pay dearly for wounding or killing one of his subjects."

Servia's "Death Mask" Stamps. The famous "death mask" stamps of Servia were a special series issued to commemorate King Peter's coronation. He it was who in 1904 ascended the throne left vacant by the assassination of King Alexander and Queen Draga. The central portion of the design consists of two heads, one that of Peter, being placed slightly to the right of the other, that of the founder of the Karageorgevitch dynasty. In such a way as to show the whole of the one and the profile of the other. It is a grim coincidence that when the stamp is inverted a human face can be easily discerned, which is suggested by many to bear a distinct resemblance to that of the murdered king.

Philosophy. "That man's a regular philosopher." "In what way?" "I just told him my troubles, and instead of lending me money he advised me not to worry about them."—Detroit Free Press.

Mining black: at the Courier office.

THE ICEBERG PERIL

How Vessels on the Atlantic Are Warned of Danger.

WORK OF THE PATROL FLEET.

These Cutters, Under International Compact, Scour the Ice Zone Each Spring and Notify the World of Conditions in the Infested Area.

After the loss of the giant White Star liner Titanic in April, 1912, by striking an iceberg there was much discussion in Europe and America as to the possibility of adopting measures to lessen the likelihood of such disasters in future. An "international conference for the saving of life at sea," which was held at London, resulted among other things, in an undertaking by the principal marine powers of the world to maintain an ice patrol on the north Atlantic from February to June in each year.

It was agreed that this ice patrol should be carried out by the United States on behalf of the various countries represented, the cost to be borne by them pro rata. Britain to pay 25 per cent of the total; Germany, France and the United States 15 per cent each and Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Italy, Holland, Norway, Russia and Sweden from 4 to 2 per cent each.

The American authorities inaugurated this patrol service with the naval scout cruisers Birmingham and Chester, but later assigned the revenue cutters Seneca and Miami to this duty, which ships have since continued it. The first season St. John's was chosen for the work, but ultimately it was found more convenient to utilize Halifax, Nova Scotia, because the area patrolled was south of St. John's and extended further south as the season advanced and the number of icebergs became more numerous.

Each cutter patrols the ice region for fifteen days. It is a three day run from Halifax to the ice zone, with a return voyage of about the same duration. The ships arrange their movements by wireless communication, so that the service is absolutely continuous. Daily bulletins of the fogs and bergs seen and of the trend of the fog infested areas are furnished by wireless to the hydrographic offices in the capitals of the countries contributing to the upkeep of this service, and warnings are also sent by wireless telegraph to all steamers plying in the berg strewn sections.

Each season the patrol ships are adding to the stock of knowledge regarding the ice area, and the results of their investigations are published in the official records; but, as is too often the case, the world gets to know very little of them. Among some of the conclusions reached is that under ordinary conditions it is possible to see an iceberg twelve to fifteen miles from the ship's bridge, about an extra mile from the crew's nest, and still another mile from the signal yard on the foremast.

In especially clear weather bergs may be seen from eighteen to twenty miles, but on a cloudy day, with good visibility, a deduction of about two miles must be made. With the searchlight it is possible to see an iceberg about two miles on a dimly moonlit night and about three miles when the moon sets.

Another weighty fact for mariners is that it is possible for lookouts on very large ships to be higher than the top of a small berg, so that on a dark night these observers would have an unbroken view of the horizon over the top of a "growler," or low lying berg, half a mile or a mile away, and thus easily miss seeing the obstruction until too late to avoid it.

A theory expounded by the ice patrol ships is that the proximity of ice is marked by a notable lowering of air temperature. Experiments covering three years have proved that such is not the case and that, as a rule, there is little or no change in the temperature of the air near an iceberg. Equally fallacious is the idea that the presence of a berg is denoted by a lowering of the temperature of the water. As a matter of fact, the very contrary is the case.

Other theories, as that echoes indicate the presence of bergs, that ice discloses itself through what is known as the "ice blink" and that submarine "ears" on ships will reveal the nearness of ice by its peculiar motion through the waves, have been proved equally unfounded. In truth, the testimony of the commanders of these patrol ships is that the only safe way to navigate regions of icebergs is to stop during thick weather and to run very slowly on dark nights.

The outstanding fact, therefore, with regard to this ice patrol service is that it is markedly effective in lessening the danger to ships traversing the ice zone by the warnings which it sends out from day to day, which enable passing vessels to give a wide berth to these obstructions. But the problem of detecting ice in the immediate vicinity of a steamer has not yet been satisfactorily solved.—P. T. McGrath in American Review of Reviews.

A Brush For the Laundry. A great deal of wear on clothes can be saved by the use of a small hand brush. Instead of rubbing the clothes on the washboard, by the soiled spot on the board, rub well with soap and scrub with the brush. This method is easier on the hands as well as on the clothes.

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A rifle ball covers 1,200 yards in two seconds.

Geologists say that Australia is one of the oldest existing lands.

The Sahara desert has an area of about 3,500,000 square miles.

Almost every known variety of iron ore is found in Newfoundland.

All that is human must retrograde if it does not advance.—Gibbon.

Two-thirds of the world's correspondence is in the English language.

An electrically lighted cross revolves on top of a San Francisco accepe.

It's better to be a big man in a little job than a little man in a big job.

Nothing can help a man to do a thing when he thinks he cannot do it.

Whoever makes great presents expects great presents in return.—Martial.

Natives of Algeria bury with their dead all the medicines used in their last illness.

CAPTAIN M'DONALD.

Commands Dreadnaught Arizona, Just Put into Commission.



Photo by America

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A man may be able to argue with a woman, but it never does any good.—Atlanta Journal.

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