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CARRYING JOKE TOO FAR

English Judge Frowns on "Assistant Husbands and Wives."

"Assistant husbands" are the latest thing in substitutes to be tried in England. These and "substitute wives" are post-war developments of the London lounge lizard and "vamp."

Recent court cases disclose countless cases of wives or husbands "finding it necessary" to acquire half-time soulmates to help while away the time.

There wasn't much said about the little game until a demobilized officer recently asked a judge's assistance in ridding his home and fireside of his former platoon sergeant who had become about as much a permanent fixture about the house as the hatrack or the five-color picture of Earl Haig.

The officer didn't mind the sergeant's presence up to the platonic friendship stage, but he didn't care for theater parties and "long walks and talks" thrown in on the side. The case was aired and ended with the wife choosing the sergeant for her very and only own.

CLAIM RIGHT TO STEAL

Berlin Servants Insist on Privileges Under Bolshevik Order.

The bolshevik idea that the other fellow ought to be compelled to share his property even if one must resort to theft to obtain it seems to actuate some of Berlin's thieves.

Two sisters, servants of a well-to-do family in Hanover, who recently stole \$100,000 worth of valuables from their employers, declared, when arrested, that they felt it was perfectly right, under the new order of things to take a share in the property of those better situated.

Large quantities of jewelry and valuable articles are being stolen in Berlin. Servants are often the offenders and frequently are captured because they are amateurs.

Won't Find Brides for Yanks.

An American soldier who can't find a bride at home, thinks Sir Nevill Maccrendy, chief commissioner of London police, can do the trick for him.

"The only thing is, I cannot bank on the American girls," he writes, "for I have seen too much of them, so if you can find me a nice young woman in the twenties," etc.

The doughboy can't "bank on" the head of Scotland Yard, either. He positively refuses to take up the assignment.

Mining blanks at Courier office.

OLD MAUNA LOA BECOMES CALM

Hawaiian Volcano Ends Its Pyrotechnical Display.

EXHIBITION LASTED A MONTH

Starting Ahead of Scheduled Time, the Performance Was Accompanied by Series of Tidal Waves and Quakes Fully Equal to Anything the Old Mountain Has Ever Done.

"After more than a month of unprecedented activity Mauna Loa is now quite dead," writes Mrs. Shirley Foster Allen in a communication to the National Geographical society.

"It seems that Hawaii, though small, must have just so much attention, and so every so often she explosively projects herself into the arena of the world's happenings. Not content with her share in the 'big show' in Europe, she decided to stage a first-class side show all her own—and the two volcanoes, Mauna Loa and Kilauea, have certainly done their best to make it the 'biggest show on earth.'"

"Although scheduled for performances every nine years Mauna Loa took the volcanologists by surprise and gave her celebration several years too soon. Heralded by earthquakes and accompanied by a series of tidal waves and quakes, she has proceeded to give us the most spectacular exhibition within the memory of the oldest kanaoians (old residents)."

Cloud Warned of Danger.

"The first indication of volcanic activity was the presence of a peculiar cauliflower-shaped cloud hanging over the mountain. Three days later, on September 29, the whole heavens were lit up with an apricot glow, when, from a huge vent in the mountain's side, a flood of molten lava was belched forth. Spreading out into a great shallow stream it came roaring down the mountain slope, burning forests, carrying huge trees and immense boulders on its surface, sweeping everything before it. With a speed varying from one to twenty miles an hour, according to the country it was passing over, it broadened out until it was nearly a mile in width. After wiping out the government belt road, razing telephone poles and destroying a vast amount of property, the red-hot lava tumbled over a high precipice and plunged hissing into the sea.

"This outbreak was on the western slope of Mauna Loa, occurring at the 6,500-foot level, less than half way to the top of the mountain, whose rounded summit rises majestically 13,675 feet above the sea. This flow reached the ocean on the Kona coast of Hawaii, near Alike, the small village for which it has been named. In its downward course it followed the general direction of the 1916 flow, but was much more rapid in its progress, as it was only some twenty-six hours from the time of the outbreak until the first lava poured into the ocean. In the case of the earlier flow a period of more than a day of apparent inactivity intervened between the gas explosion which tore the great hole in the mountain and the actual appearance of the lava.

Glow Visible Many Miles.

"Several excursions were made in October from Honolulu, and in approaching the flow from the sea in the early evening the glow from the lava was visible for many miles before Alike was reached. Drifting within 200 yards of the point where the liquid rock was rushing into the sea, the scene stretching before one was awe-inspiring.

"Slowly the smoky haze from the burning forests, which hung over the source, 20 miles away, lifted and the river of fire stood out in its full glory, holding one speechless and spellbound. Leaping from pall to valley, rushing uphill and roaring down, the fiery flood thundered down the mountain slope, carrying on its bosom rocks as big as houses that were tossed about as if they were mere pebbles.

"As the stream of blazing lava neared the coast line it appeared to gather greater speed, taking the final plunge over a 100-foot cliff at a terrific rate, and looking for all the world like a fiery Niagara. As the red-hot lava came in contact with the water great columns of steam and gas, like huge waterspouts, were forced hundreds of feet into the air. Huge boulders hurled into space, exploded with thunderous reports into auras of red and green lights, while flashes of what looked like lightning added to the chaos.

"Miles up the mountain the lava stream became blocked, forming a great lake, which spread out on each side, seeking a new point of egress. Suddenly, as if a giant hand had tipped the bowl, the lake overflowed. The whole heavens were lit up as the lava, like a great cataract, plunged and boiled over the cliff.

Fires Died Suddenly.

"As days passed by, the aspect of the flow gradually changed. Great banks of cooled and blackened lava were piled up on either side and the stream of pahoehoe (smooth lava) shrunk to a width of about 40 feet. Thus confined in a deep gorge, a river of swiftly moving molten stone sped

silently for ten consecutive days toward the sea, building up the floor of the ocean into new land—and then it stopped. The volcanic fire died as suddenly, as mysteriously, as they had appeared, and standing on the still warm lava, gazing at the great black river bed, one can but marvel.

"This outbreak was followed by several others at slightly higher elevations. The source of the second showed great activity, it was reported, fountains of lava 400 feet high being thrown into the air, while the flow equaled in magnitude that from the Alike crater. This flow became dammed up on the mountain's side and did not succeed in reaching the government road. Considerable pasture land was destroyed, however, and a small herd of cattle was imprisoned on an island between the fresh lava and the still hot Alike flow.

MAKE RICH GERMANS MOAN

Heavy Taxes Cut Deeply Into Fortunes of the Wealthy Huns.

The lot of the multimillionaire in Germany will be a hard one under the new emergency levy and income and inheritance taxes. Dr. Felix Pinner, financial writer of the Berlin Tageblatt, estimates that under these taxes a German industrial fortune of 10,000,000 marks would be reduced by 1925 to 3,114,000 marks. This would mean that the state had taken nearly 7,000,000 marks by various forms of taxation designed to solve the tremendous financial problem which Germany faces.

If the owner of this fortune were to die, say in 1925, and should leave one son, the son would have to pay to the state as inheritance tax 1,289,000 marks.

The Tageblatt's commentator points out that this would be insufficient to continue an industry which in peace times had required a capital of 7,000,000 marks, and that this operation would weaken the productive power of industrial concerns by overtaxing the capital of their wealth. "The best capital taxes will saw off the flub upon which income and industrial taxes should sit," concludes Dr. Pinner.

MADE RECORD AS PATIENT

Chinaman Twenty-Four Years in Los Angeles Hospital Was Well Liked.

Charles Ah How, 86, most famous and oldest patient of the Los Angeles county hospital, has carved his last image from the bones which surgeons spared him from their operations.

Charlie died while fashioning a tiny skeleton with his knife, an exquisite specimen of his workmanship, polished to look like ivory.

The nurse found him reclining in his chair, where he had been every day for 24 years, and the figure was held as though he were presenting it to her.

Charlie came to Los Angeles in 1873 and was employed as cook by the early families. His entry slip, now yellow with age and upon which the ink is faded, relates that he was admitted to the hospital after an injury from which both legs were paralyzed.

The ripe age he achieved is due, the physicians say, to his interest in life and people. He made innumerable friends and was the hospital's most popular patient.

SHAMANS KEEP THEIR POWER

Alaskan Natives Still Believe Implicitly in the Words and Actions of "Medicine Men."

Shamanism, or superstition and sorcery, always has played an important part in the life of the Alaskan native. So implicitly does the Alaskan believe in the words and actions of the shaman that a whole tribe go hungry rather than incur his displeasure by eating foods he has tabooed.

The shaman attained his position and power by unusual methods. By fasting and prayer amid the solitudes of the woods or mountains, where he fed only on grasses and roots, he prepared himself to become a shaman. By this method it was believed the candidate's body became sufficiently purified to become the abiding place of spirits.

Usually the spirit, willing to abide with the shaman, sent the novitiate a land otter which the candidate killed, the otter's tongue to be preserved as a talisman away from human view, for should it be seen it was believed the shaman would go insane or be turned into the animal from which the tongue was taken.

Thus the land otter was regarded as too sacred to be killed by other than shamans.

Beginning of Life Insurance.

Life insurance grew out of marine insurance, for merchants sending goods by sea in early times usually accompanied the ship themselves, and were liable to capture by pirates, especially by the Moorish and Turkish pirates who then infested the Mediterranean sea. In order to provide the necessary ransom for their release, if captured, it became the practice of traveling merchants to pay a premium to certain individuals, called underwriters, who guaranteed the payment of the ransom in the event of the merchants being caught. The practice was gradually extended to insuring the lives, first of mariners and then of other persons, the underwriters agreeing, in return for a certain premium, to pay a fixed amount if the person insured died within a certain time. Out of this was evolved the various forms of contracts of life insurance in use today.

Self-Portraiture.

To take a photograph of oneself it is necessary to have the camera very firmly placed either on a tripod or a table so that it would not move during exposure. A length of thin, strong string should be attached to the shutter trigger. The string should be led down to the floor level, passed under the lower rail of a heavy chair, along the floor, under your boot (between the heel and sole), and held in the hand behind the back. If the string runs freely a slight pull should release the shutter and make the exposure. If it does not, pick the camera up and start again.

Arab First Sugar Refiner.

The process of refining sugar was probably an invention of the Arabs. A Venetian merchant learned the secret from the Saracens of Sicily, and sold the secret of the art for 100,000 crowns.

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