Boxed His Royal Ears.

The present kaiser in his youth was a frequent visitor at the country home of Sir Hugh and Lady Macdonell. "He was then," writes Lady Macdonell in "Reminiscences of a Diplomatic Life," "a fine young man with a strong sense of fun and fond of teasing.

"He liked our English teas and afterward used to claim me for a game of drafts. In the salon there was a big window with a deep seat that he especially favored. To this a small table was drawn up, and fine battles ensued over the board.

"I shall never forget one occasion when he accused me of cheating. He was so apparently serious that I became infuriated, and, unmindful of his high estate or my duty as hostess, I impulsively leaned across the table and boxed his ears. His sense of humor and the satisfaction of having been so successful in working upon my feelings saved the situation. I received full punishment later, for ever afterward when he met me he used to cry, 'I know a lady who cheats at drafts!'"

Ways of Darkest Africa.

In his book, "Thinking Black," Mr. Dan Crawford, who is held in England to be the successor to Livingstone, gives a curious picture of his missionary experiences in Africa. He helped to establish the mission station at Luanza, built on a cliff overhanging the Great White lake. Here, with unfailing success, he preached the gospel to the uttermost parts of Africa, drawing the natives to him from far distant places. On the woman question he is particularly interesting. He became aware of a secret society which flourishes in Central Africa. It is a sacred institution with hidden rites and ceremonies. Its purpose is to keep husbands in subjection. This is hardly the idea which the civilized world has of the place of woman in Africa, but, as Mr. Crawford says, nearly everything there is reversed, according to white notions.

Right on the Job.

During a flood which swept away several small railroad bridges and quite a stretch of track an operator in a country town along the line saw one of the company's box cars floating down the river. Instantly he sprang to his key and reported the matter to the main office.

"Mr. James," eagerly cried the operator in the main office to a railroad chief, "V. G. reports that a box car is floating down the river at his place!"

"Is it ours?" asked the railroader, still looking over the pile of papers before him.

"He says it is," answered the main office operator after another spasm of telegraphy, "and wants to know what to do."

"All right," smiled the railroad man. "Just tell him to swim out to it and set the brakes."—Exchange.

Without "Padding."

The teacher of the class in English, says the Detroit Free Press, demanded that the pupils all write for their daily exercise a brief account of a baseball game.

One boy sat through the period seemingly wrapped in thought, while the others worked hard and turned in their narratives. After school the teacher approached the desk of the laggard.

"I'll give you five minutes to write that description," he sternly said. "If it is not done by that time I shall punish you."

The boy promptly concentrated all his attention upon the theme as the teacher slowly counted the moments. At last, with joyful eagerness, he scratched a line on his tablet and handed it to his master. It read:

"Rain—no game."

"Home, Sweet Home," Too Pathetic?

"Home, Sweet Home," the song of a homeless American, once moved Robert Louis Stevenson to an outburst of passionate protest. But it was the music rather than the words that roused his indignation. You will find the passage in "Across the Plains:" "I have no idea whether musically this air is to be considered good or bad, but it belongs to that class of art which may best be described as a brutal assault upon the feelings. Pathos must be relieved by dignity of treatment. If you wallow naked in the pathetic, like the author of 'Home, Sweet Home,' you make your hearers weep in an unmanly fashion, and even yet while they are moved they despise themselves and hate the occasion of their weakness."

Watched the Jockeys.

When the Derby was first founded the stewards used to ride along the course to watch the competitors. A separate steward was detailed for each horse, and his duty was to see there was no interference with that horse or his jockey by the other competitors or the public. In a picture of the Derby of 1791 by J. N. Sartorius one of the stewards can be seen riding along gayly some lengths in front of the winner.

Making It Clear.

The mother of five-year-old George had been ill for several days.

"How is your mamma this morning, Georgie?" asked a neighbor.

"Oh, she's better," replied the little fellow, "but she isn't quite so better as she was yesterday."—Chicago News.

Literal.

Servant—It's 'arf past 9, sir. Lodger—Good heavens! Why didn't you tell me before? Servant—Because it wasn't, sir.—London Opinion.

Never trouble another for what you can do yourself.—Thomas Jefferson.

HOW TO USE THE SPLIT LOG DRAG

Best Results Obtained Just After a Rain.

FOUR MILES A DAY'S WORK.

Ordinary Road Drag Is Made With Two Halves of a Log—This Process Forces Water to Drain Off at Either Side, Leaving Bed In Condition.

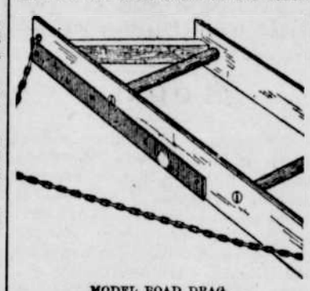
The best results from road dragging come when the roads are dragged directly after a rain. The surface of the road is leveled, the holes and ruts are filled up, and the earth is puddled. A crust forms when the top dries out, making the road much more lasting than it would be if dragged at any other time.

To keep a road smooth and crowned the best method is to drag with an ordinary wood road drag, made easily with two halves of a log which has been split. This log should be about six or eight inches in thickness and six to eight feet long. The halves are set three feet apart with the smooth surfaces forward and upright. They are fastened together with braces set in holes bored through the log.

If they are not heavy enough a board can be placed on top, and the driver stands upon it. This will weight it down sufficiently. In some cases it has been found desirable to attach a piece of metal along the lower edge of the forward piece of the drag. This cuts the surface of the ground better and insures also more efficient work.

The road drag should move forward so that it slants across the road in such a way that a small amount of earth will slide past the smooth face of the log toward the middle of the road, thus forming the crown. In this way the edge of the drag smooths out the ruts and fills up the holes.

The best way to drag is to begin at the side ditch and go up one side of the road and then down on the other.



MODEL ROAD DRAG.

The next trip the drag should be started a little nearer the middle, and the last trip over the road the drag should work close to the middle itself. Small ridges of earth will be thrown in the horse track and smeared by the round side of the log smoothly over the road. The smearing of the earth by the drag is called puddling, and it tends to make the surface smooth and hard and turns off the water, especially after the sun comes out and dries it thoroughly. The road is always dragged after it has rained and not when it is dry. With a good strong pair of horses and a well built drag one man can drag about three or four miles of a road a day. This is the best possible way to maintain good earth roads. In every county some farmer along each four miles of road should own a drag and drag the road when it rains, and he would find the road in good condition when he goes to market.

The necessity for dragging the road comes about from the fact that water stays on the road surface because it cannot drain away into the side ditches. If the road has been properly dragged the water will run off the surface. Then if the ditches are properly taken care of the water will drain away and leave the roadway in splendid condition. The crown of the road should be at least ten inches higher than the outside. Rain on a properly crowned road will run quickly to the sides and not soak into the surface.

NEW ROAD TO YELLOWSTONE.

"The Black and Yellow Trail" to Be Built From Chicago.

South Dakota, Wyoming, Minnesota and Wisconsin are interested in a highway from Chicago to the Yellowstone National park, to be known as the Chicago, Black Hills and Yellowstone Park highway, or "the Black and Yellow Trail."

The tentative route is from Chicago north along the lake shore to Milwaukee, west through Madison to La Crosse, north to Winona, west through Minnesota and South Dakota, following closely the line of the Chicago and Northwestern railway, through the Black Hills and on to Yellowstone park.

Convicts Work on Roads.

In Colorado, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Washington, Utah, California, Wyoming and several other of the northern states experiments have been made with convict labor on the roads, and almost without exception satisfactory results have followed. The men have appreciated the privilege of living in the open air, their health and morals have improved, their work has been good, and very little trouble has been given.

Wonders of Victoria Falls.

Victoria falls is in shape like a huge capital T—the falls represented by the top of the letter and the outlet by the stem. The water pours into a great pool a mile long and escapes by a narrow outlet not more than 150 feet wide in places. The water pours into the pool with a roar that may be heard twenty-eight miles and stirs up a spray that causes constant rain to fall in its immediate territory. This spray is so great that it looks like a cloud against the sky and may be seen before you hear the roar of the falls. Yet the water from this great pool escapes almost as quietly as water from an undisturbed lake. After the water escapes from the great pool below the falls through the stem of the letter T it makes a turn at right angles and sweeps around like the capital letter U. Yet there is no great disturbance in any part of the outlet from the falls. At Niagara the whirlpool rapids is one of the world's wonders. Here the river a few hundred feet below the falls seems to be navigable.—E. W. Howe's Monthly.

Couldn't Be Much Lighter.

At a mock parliament held in Bristol the "honorable member for Stranraer" asked the "right honorable the president of the board of trade" (referring to the merchant shipping act, 1894, prevention of collisions) "whether a lighterman, having two light lighters in tow, would be required to light a lighter light on the lighter lighter, so that the lighter the lighter the lighter the light?" The president replied, "Obviously the answer is in the negative, since the lighter lighter being the lighter and the use of the comparative 'lighter' denoting that the lighter is already 'light' the lighter of the lights would not be required to light a lighter light on the lighter lighter, since the lighter lighter is lighter than the light lighter."—Strand Magazine.

Selenium In Time Recording.

An ingenious application of the peculiar property of selenium of varying its electric resistance with change of illumination has been made in Heidelberg in the electric transmission of pendulum beats to a distance for recording time and comparing clocks. For a long time the beats were electrically transmitted through contacts made by the pendulum itself. This method introduced irregularities of consequence, where hundredths of a second are taken into account, as in astronomical observations. The Heidelberg method causes the swinging pendulum, just as it touches its lowest point, to reflect a beam of light upon a selenium cell, which transmits the message without physical contact with the pendulum.—New York Tribune.

Bede House Feasts.

At Fosdyke, a tiny village in England, there is held every year a most quaint dinner known as the Bede house feast. Some gentleman, many years back, left a sum of money with which half a dozen Bede houses were to be built, and once a year he directed that the occupants were to have a feast. Every year the six old ladies and the six old gentlemen meet the trustees and have dinner. Some of the trustees are county councilors and the like; but, according to the terms of the will, they have to serve the old people first and make them comfortable. The guests always sit in the same order as the number of their houses, and the menu must include a veal pie with plums in it.

When Hanging Was Common.

Edmond Burke said that he could in his time obtain the assent of the house of commons to any bill that carried the death punishment.

A man's life was not very valuable in those strenuous days. If he scratched his name on Westminster bridge, if he wore a wig or false mustache or any other disguise on a public road, if he cut down a young tree, if he stole property worth more than $1.25, if he had been transported for crime and returned a day ahead of the expiration of his term of punishment, if he wrote a threatening letter, if he stole a hide from a tanner's, for any and all of these things and for 200 more than these he was hanged by the neck until he was dead.

Preparing For the Worst.

"I always prepare for the worst, and then if it doesn't happen I am agreeably surprised."

"But what if it does?"

"Well, then, of course, there's nothing left for me to do but kick myself for not having known better."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Proved His Smartness.

Wedderly — I'd hate to have any business dealings with Slyker. He's too smart. Singleton—Do you mean to say that you consider him smarter than yourself? Wedderly—I certainly do. Why, he had a chance to marry my wife, but he didn't.—London Tit-Bits.

Very Refined.

"My young man's a real gent," said Liza of Shoreditch. "He never blows his soup like a common person. He always fans it with his hat."—London Telegraph.

Weak Points.

He—Why does an actor, to portray deep emotion, clutch at his head and an actress at her heart? She—Each feels it most in the weakest point.—Judge.

Winning Wives.

Mrs. Exe—Some husbands win their wives by sheer audacity. Mrs. Wye—Yes, and many others by sheer mendacity.—Boston Transcript.

Have you paid the printer?

Seven Wonders of the World.

We have no indication of the existence of a cycle of seven wonders until about the end of the second century B. C. Then appears in an epigram of Antipater of Sidon an enumeration of seven great works, which prove to be the very ones later appearing as the seven wonders. They are (1) the walls of Babylon, (2) the statue of Zeus at Olympia, (3) the hanging gardens of Semiramis at Babylon, (4) the Colossus of Rhodes, (5) the pyramids of Memphis, (6) the mausoleum of Halicarnassus, (7) the temple of Diana (Artemis) at Ephesus. Within the next century Varro, by his leisurely allusion to the septem opera, betrays that the saying had already assumed current proverbial form. Diodorus, in the second half of the same century (first B. C.), speaks, too, of "the so called seven works," and Strabo, a little later, uses the very phrase, "the seven wonders." From this time on, at least, the septem miracula have an assured place in all the common lore of Rome.

Writers of Historic Songs.

Most of the songs that have made history were written by men who had no other claim to immortality. The "Marseillaise" is the only production of Rouget de Lisle which has survived, and "The Wearing of the Green" was the work of an anonymous purveyor of ballads for the street hawkers of Dublin. Max Schneckenburger, an obscure Swabian merchant, who never published anything else, composed in 1840 some verses of which the burden was thus translated:

Dear fatherland, no danger thine,
Firm stand thy sons to watch the Rhine.

Little was heard of these until thirty years later, when the Franco-German war gave them an enormous vogue. They were then adopted as the national anthem of United Germany, and a yearly pension of 3,000 marks was conferred on the composer of the tune to which they were set.—London Chronicle.

Magnetism of the Horse.

"There is a side to the value of the pony which I believe is not fully understood," writes George H. Dacy in Suburban Life. "There is about the horse a magnetism, a strong physical presence, that is imparted to one coming intimately in contact with him, as in riding. As is well known, the horse is immune to many diseases to which mankind is susceptible. I believe that the horse, being immune to such diseases as diphtheria, intestinal disorders such as typhoid, cholera and dysentery, as well as scarlet fever, smallpox and measles, and being full to the bubbling over point of vital force, animal spirit or magnetism, imparts more or less of this to his rider or companion and more particularly to little ones who are not in robust health. Repeatedly delicate children have been known to obtain rugged health and to develop rapidly when given a pony."

Chinese Inns Ideal In Theory.

At the better class Chinese inns the proprietor receives his guests at the outer gate, ushers them into the court yard and shows them to their apartments. Then he retires and leaves them to their own devices. The traveler is attended by his own servants; his cook buys and prepares his food of the same quality and cookery as he would enjoy at his own home table; the boy unpacks his master's bed, the iron frame, mattresses and all, even to the mosquito netting. The master's own linen is spread, having been washed by his own servants. Folding chairs, table—in fact, everything which one may wish—is arranged and all without a word. At a tenth the cost of European inns one lives like a lord and sleeps like a child and is a thousand miles from the tipping zone.—Roman Herald.

A Model.

A witty professional man was chatting with some women about a friend of theirs who was notoriously henpecked. His better half makes him walk a chalked line, and woe be unto him if he deviates from it.

"He is a model husband!" exclaimed one woman in the party.

"Nay, not model, but modeled," interrupted the professional man, "but whether in clay or putty deponent sayeth not."

A Means of Display.

"So your daughter is studying the violin."

"Yes," replied Mrs. Ciyminwell.

"Has she unusual talent?"

"I haven't observed. But there's no question about her possessing a remarkably beautiful forearm."—Washington Star.

Cheeky.

Landlady (to lodger)—Come into the kitchen, sir, and see the grand procession as it starts.

"I can see it well enough from my own room window."

"Of course, but I've let that."—Fliegende Blatter.

How a Bill Mounts Up.

Traveler (to waiter of hotel)—I have slit one of my boots. Send it to the shoemaker.

Errand Boy (to boots an hour later)—Mended boot for No. 6. I had to pay threepence. Give me the money.

Boots (to waiter)—Boot for No. 6 I've given him sixpence. You must pay me.

Waiter (to traveler)—Here's the mended boot, sir. It cost a shilling. I paid.

Some time after—

Traveler (to shoemaker)—I say, how much did you charge for mending the boot?

Shoemaker—Nothing!—London Mail.