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NOTES FURNISHED BY
PORTLAND PRESS CLUB

Bull Run water travels all over the Northwest in refrigerator cars loaded for the Pacific Fruit Express Company by the National Cold Storage & Ice Company of Portland. To handle the latter's enormous business new machinery has recently been installed at a cost of \$35,000. The plant's daily capacity now is 100 tons of ice.

Substitute flours may have gone out of vogue since the war, but the spud product is still holding its own at Gresham, where the Northwest Potato Starch & Milling Company is converting them into potato flour. It is now running its maximum capacity. J. G. Griffith, inventor of the process, expects to line up enough acreage to keep the plant in steady operation after mid-summer and will prepare to increase its production. The factory is using culls, thus doing away with a big waste.

On a six acre tract recently purchased in North Portland by the Sterrett Packing Company a new \$400,000 plant is soon due to rise. The concern has an annual output of a million dollars worth of meats. Plans for the new building have already been approved and construction will begin before July 1.

Veneers shipped all over the United States by the Portland Manufacturing Company at St. Johns are in such demand that the plant is doubling its capacity and making additions to the present building. The company has been in operation about two years.

School teachers in several parts of the state have written the Associated Industries office saying they have found the new business directory issued by the organization handy as a geography text book. It is found useful in illustrating the kind of products from each section of the state.

Preparatory to the building of seven 12,000 ton steel tankers at the yards of the Northwest Bridge & Iron Company, steel plates are now being rolled in the East. The first keel will probably be laid here in 60 days.

Plans are being completed in the East for the factory building and ware house of the American Can Company, to be erected in Portland. A site adjoining the Montgomery Ward property was recently purchased.

OF INTEREST TO
FORMER SERVICE MEN

Former service men are notified by Director R. G. Cholmeley-Jones of the Bureau of War Risk Insurance, that a new official circular of information listed as "LD-9" and entitled "New and Liberal Features of War Risk Insurance" is now issued.

The text of this bulletin is based upon the latest amendment to the War Risk Act which permits payments in one sum on converted insurance in case of death, and enlarges the permitted class of beneficiaries in the case of both War Risk (Term) and converted insurance.

The circular is printed in booklet form, illustrated by charts, and has an index by the use of which any ordinary question about government insurance may be readily answered. A copy of the booklet may be obtained by writing to the Bureau of War Risk Insurance, Washington, D. C., or upon application to organizations of former service men and welfare organizations co-operating with the Bureau of War Risk Insurance.

Former service men whose insurance has lapsed or been canceled, and who wish to reinstate it or convert it, or to effect both these processes at the same time, are advised to secure a copy of the official form described as "LD-8", "Good News for All Ex-Service Men," which is a combination of information sheet and reinstatement and conversion blanks, the latter to be filled out, detached and mailed directly to the Bureau.

Regardless of how long a service man has been discharged or how long his insurance has lapsed or been canceled, he may reinstate his War Risk Insurance at any time before July 1, 1920, or within eighteen months after his discharge, if that be a later date, and upon payment of only two monthly premiums on the amount of insurance he desires to reinstate, with a satisfactory statement of health.

HOW'S THE FIG LEAF MARKET?

The organizers of the overall club are somewhat discouraged now that the price of overalls has shot up from \$2 to \$6 per pair. Some one suggests that the next thing in order is to organize an Adam and Eve club.—Amboy (Illinois) News.

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NO DIVORCES IN PHILIPPINES

Though there is a divorce law in the Philippines there are no divorce cases to bring the law into courts, according to Miss Ramona Tirona, a young Philippine woman who has been sent to the States by the government to study the court system here. She is studying in New York City. In the Islands, according to Miss Tirona, there is a common court to try all cases instead of the separate courts, juvenile, domestic relations and the like, that we have in this country. "It is to decide whether the establishment of separate courts is adaptable and necessary in our country, that I came to study the system," says Miss Tirona. She is one of the women students of New York who form the International Poyer of the Y. W. C. A., a center for foreign students at Columbia University which has women of thirty-three nationalities on its list.

PLEASANT MEMORIES

The spinster waited two or three hours to be admitted to the presence of the man who visited their town once a month to retail good advice and his own proprietary medicine to the come-ons. At last she was admitted. "Yes, yes," said the brusque doctor. "I want to know if influenza can be transmitted by kissing?" "Beyond a doubt, madam." "Well, a man with a pronounced case of influenza kissed me." "So? How long ago was this?" "Well, let's see. I think it was about two months." "Why, madam. No harm can come to you now from the exposure. It is quite too late." "I know it," she sighed, "but I just love to talk about it."—The Argonaut.

HIS VAST WEALTH A CURSE

Sudden Possession of Immense Riches Too Much for Mental Stability of Mexican Indian.

Confined in an asylum for the insane in Mexico is a millionaire who never enjoyed a cent of his fortune, though for a time he had it in his possession in cash. The amazing story of this man to whom wealth proved a curse, is told by G. F. Weeks in the Wide World Magazine.

Juvenilo Robles, a full-blooded Mexican Indian, was born in a palm leaf hut in the little town of Panuco, inland from Tampico. From earliest childhood he was forced to work, his wages amounting to less than 50 cents a week. When arrived at manhood he married and from then on turned his earnings over to his wife as banker. For several years he led a colorless existence, scrambling along day by day and saving little. Then one day some friends inveigled him into a card game. Fortune was with him and he won what was a great sum to them, \$18. This he invested in a small butcher shop. The market thrived and a few years later he was able to buy some land on which to fatten cattle. When oil was discovered at Tampico his ranch was in the heart of the field. He was offered 1,000,000 pesos and yearly royalties for the oil rights on his land. This he accepted, but demanded payment in gold.

The money was delivered to him as he requested, and from then on his sole interest in life consisted in guarding his treasure. He slept on a box filled with coins and refused to eat for fear his family would poison him. At last his mania reached such a stage that that it was necessary to have him confined.

RAIL LINE CROSSES OCEAN

Remarkable Trip That Is Taken by Travelers on Their Way to Key West, Florida.

Thousands of Americans at the vacation time of the year take the only ocean trip which can be made on a railroad train, writes "Niksah" in the Chicago News. They go to Key West by way of the line which runs through the Atlantic ocean on an embankment built from one to another of those tiny islands known as the Florida keys.

As you ride along this remarkable railroad, you look out the window and down into the clear shallow water and see great schools of fish playing near the surface, and deeper down you can glimpse now and then the shadowy form of a small shark. On either side of you reaches away to the horizon a vast expanse of brilliant blue water dotted with islands, which vary in size from a fraction of an acre, to perhaps a quarter of a square mile. They are low and flat, and covered with low-growing mangroves, and other swamp plants. Here and there a group of coconuts or royal palms lifts a feathery silhouette. Occasionally a little shack is glimpsed, and a few sails are seen in the distance, but for the most part the region is a wilderness of blue water, white sand and low-growing jungle—a wilderness that you would love to explore in a small boat.

Of life you see little. Now and then white flocks of ibises rise from the islands; a tree duck spatters clumsily away from the train, or a great blue heron trails his legs in lonely dignity across the sky. For the most part silence and sunlight own the place.

Chinese Mail Up to Date. The Chinese mail bag is now a popular institution throughout the whole of the ancient empire. Established 23 years ago, active development of the department only began after the Boxer revolution. In 1918 6,000 miles of overland routes were added to the service. And now a new continuous overland courier route of roughly 3,375 miles, the longest in the world, connects Kaigai by way of Mongolia with Tihwatu, capital of the Sinkiang (Chinese Turkestan) following in part the old trade routes from China to Persia. The townspeople of a flourishing manufacturing district were so enraged recently by the delay of mail that they appealed to the court, and the party responsible was ordered to be decapitated if he offended again. Probably they had missed their copies of the Family Herald!

With the Children. Gene Stratton Porter, age two and one-half, daughter of Dr. E. A. Porter, Hartsville, Ind., has difficulty finding proper words to express herself, as most children at that age do. Personal pronouns are particularly difficult. One of her friends asked Gene to go home with her recently. "I want to go home with Hazel, mother, can me? I want to go down there with she." One morning she came downstairs with her shoes on the wrong feet and looking at them with a puzzled expression said: "Mother, me got my shoes on wrong side out."—Indianapolis News.

Strong Caps of Paper. Astonishing strong paper caps, capable of withstanding powerful blows, though extremely light in weight, have been invented by a shipyard employee, and are intended to be worn by workmen whose duties expose them to danger from falling objects, says Popular Mechanics' Magazine.

The process by which the novel head gear is produced has not been divulged, but it is known that chemicals are employed to harden the material, without adding to its weight. Several styles have been made, the lightest weighing about seven ounces, and others slightly more. In a recent test, a 1-pound bolt was dropped on one of them from a height of forty feet, with the result that a barely perceptible dent was made in the paper. The novel head coverings are proof against water and acids, and are nonconductors of electricity.

High Living. He was an Englishman, and it was his first introduction to the American Sunday-night supper, with all sorts of good things on the table at the same time. With an air of bewilderment he helped himself to everything that was passed him and then valiantly attacked his loaded plate. Picking up a fish ball in his fingers, he applied a generous smear of honey to it and bit into the new combination. A look of horror overspread his features, and he turned to his neighbor and put a warning hand on his arm.

"I say, steady on old chap!" he whispered, after a copious drink of water, "there's something dead in this bun! Don't try it, whatever you do!"—Youth's Companion.

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