

LOCATED THE MISSING SHOES

Passenger Who Had on Wrong Pair
Admitted Thinking That They
Felt "Pretty Tight."

Mr. D. of North Pennsylvania street tells of a near tragedy, or something akin to it, which occurred a few days ago on a morning train coming in from Chicago, relates the Indianapolis News.

He had occupied an upper berth, and when he arose found that his shoes had disappeared. A pair not his own were where his should have been, but they evidently belonged to the occupant of the lower berth.

The porter was called, but his most diligent search failed to locate the missing shoes. The train was rapidly speeding toward Indianapolis, and with visions of arriving stock-footed, Mr. D. was in a most unenviable state of mind.

About that time a portly little man entered down the aisle, stopped and began to assemble his possessions preparatory to detaining. "What's the excitement?" he inquired, becoming interested in the search.

"Why, this man's lost his shoes," said the anxious porter. "You don't suppose you-all might 'a' mistook them for yours, do you?"

Then the portly party took a look at his feet and discovered that he had.

"Well," said he, considerably chagrined, "I thought that the pesky things felt pretty tight."

And then there occurred a hasty exchange of shoes just as the train pulled into the station.

MAKE SKILLFUL AUTO DRIVERS

African Natives Conduct Vehicles
Along Jungle Tracks After Short
Term of Apprenticeship.

It is natural that since automobiles have found their way into every part of the world, the drivers would vary in appearance, and in attire or lack of attire, according to the customs of the countries in which the motor car is called to do service. If you were to walk along the road leading from the west coast of equatorial Africa several hundred miles into the interior, for instance, you might see a motor truck, plowing through the jungle, and in the chauffeur's seat, driving with peculiar and cheerful abandon, would be a west African native. And from the appearance of his driver's uniform, it would be evident that the high cost of clothing would bother him not one whit. These natives become full-fledged chauffeurs within three or four weeks from the time they see their first motor vehicle. The trucks, of which there are about 200, maintain regular schedules as feeders to a large steamship line plying between west African ports and Europe and America. They are loaded with men and supplies on the inland trips, and with cocoa products, palm oil, hides, and rubber bound for the coast.

Parasite Spreads Disease.

A peculiar disease that is still confined chiefly to certain river valleys of Japan, but suggests possibilities of breaking loose as a widespread epidemic, has been a subject of recent investigation. It is known as "tsutsugamushi," and is transmitted by the "akamushi," an insect parasite of certain field mice. It is a fever strikingly similar to typhus and Rocky mountain spotted fever. The investigators have learned that its chief occurrence is in the months of June to October, which is the time of development of the insect carriers, and the season when the peasant victims of the disease are brought into contact with the mice. The mortality, though very variable, sometimes exceeds 50 percent. Under existing conditions, bites by the insects cannot be wholly avoided, and cutting out the bitten part does not prevent the spread of the virus, while such remedies as iodine, mercury, arsenic, quinine and dyes have proven ineffective. The only hope of stamping out the disease seems to rest in the extermination of the field mice.

Repairing U-Boat Damages.

If British shipbuilding has not yet reached pre-war figures the world has done wonderful things in ship production in the last twelve months. The total tonnage launched was 7,144,549, according to Lloyd's Register, and the British share was 1,620,000 tons. The feature of the returns is the expansion of shipbuilding in the United States and in Japan. The former appears at the head of the table with 57 per cent. of the world's output, and more than twice the tonnage built in the United Kingdom. Japan, with 611,500 tons launched, has built more shipping in one year than it did in the 22 years to 1913.

Far-Seeing Woman Reformer.

In noting the fact that Susan B. Anthony was born a hundred years ago, it is interesting also to remember that every considerable reform of which she was an advocate has come to pass, says the New York Sun. She fought for the abolition of slavery, for total abstinence and for equal suffrage. Slavery disappeared when she was still in her most active years. When she died, in 1906, many of the states had agreed with her views on prohibition and votes for women.

A Last Resort.

His Wife—Mercy me, Hank! You shavin'? I thought you was goin' to wear them whiskers for always. Mr. Longbrush—I was goin' to, but we've lost two good table knives an' I've looked every place else for 'em.

UNCLE SAM KNOWS HIS BOYS

System of Finger Print Identification
Makes Errors in the Navy
Impossible.

"King Solomon," said the navy recruiting officer, "was the original identification expert. Remember how, when two women claimed the same child, he threatened to give each of them half the child to carry away? And how the one who didn't wish the child harmed was adjudged the real mother? Well, the navy recruiting service hasn't King Solomon on its staff, but it handles similar problems every day in the week. Twins recently applied for enlistment. Their mother had never been really sure which was Tom and which Harry, and informed the recruiting officer that she never had known whether she were spanking the right one. Five minutes afterward she was assured that her boys would never get mixed again. How? Finger prints.

"Loss of memory (aphasia) and such rare causes of 'loss of identity' are easily handled in the navy. Uncle Sam knows his boys not only by their middle names, but also by the little lines engraved on the tips of their fingers. It's an absolutely up-to-date safeguard for the boys in the service and their families. For the matter of that, the whole navy system of caring for its men has been perfected to the finest point. Diet, exercise, medical and dental attention, all are arranged in accordance with the latest information on the subjects. It takes good men to man good ships."

WOMEN OF WARSAW HID PETS

Cats in Plenty Produced, However,
When Red Cross Supplies Were
Periled by Rats.

A picturesque story of the war comes from Warsaw, where all the cats had disappeared. One went about the city and saw never a cat. So completely had the cats vanished that when the Red Cross warehouse, just outside of Warsaw, became overrun with rats and mice, to the serious damage of food and clothing stored in it, almost every other expedient was thought of and tried before it occurred to anybody that perhaps there might be a cat or two still left somewhere in the community. Then some official of the warehouse mentioned to a Polish workman that if a cat could be found the animal would be a great help in protecting the Red Cross property; and from here, there and everywhere came the wives of the citizens and the citizens themselves, each carefully bearing a treasured cat. As the story goes, there seemed to be as many cats offered for duty in the Red Cross warehouse as there were rats and mice at work in it. The emergency had overcome the unwillingness of the people to admit that they were guarding their pets, and after a guardian had been chosen for the warehouse the cats again disappeared from Warsaw.

End of Coal Troubles.

Campbell Sinton figures out that 4,000,000 horse power from sunlight goes to waste on every square mile.

Which means, writes "Girard" in the Philadelphia Press, that Old Sol sheds upon the surface of Pennsylvania the tidy equivalent of nearly 200,000,000,000 horse power.

Some fine day you will read in your morning paper that Prof. Long Head has found a way to catch that power that now runs loose. Then good-by coal strikes!

Anthracite will be as valueless for fuel as little shells are for money. Sun engines will replace gasoline in your auto, steamships will need no stokers, the railroads no firemen and no coal tenders, the street railways no power house and your cellars will be rid of the dusty furnace.

What high links the stock brokers can have when the promoters list on the exchanges 10,000,000,000 of common stock in Sunlight Consolidated.

His First Pay in 15 Years.

A man who spoke with a pronounced Swedish accent appeared at the income tax office at St. Louis and exhibited two new leather cases which contained \$9,000 in travelers' checks.

He said that he had just had his only pay day in fifteen years and had heard that an income tax was due. It appears that during the fifteen years he was employed on a ranch in Washington under an agreement with his employer for wages, plus board and clothes. During the fifteen years he "went to town" only twice a year and drew no money, he said, because his employer had bought everything for him.

When last month he decided to go to South America to become a rancher in his own name, his employer accompanied him to town and bought the checks for him. He was told that no tax was due from him.

Immigrants' Literary Test.

Immigrants subject to the literary test at Ellis Island now have to read thirty or forty words from the Psalms, in any language they prefer. Immigration inspectors are equipped with cards in all languages, with verses from the Psalms printed on them. All types of script are represented—German, Arabic, Hebrew, Japanese, Russian and so on, except Chinese, for that nationality is not permitted to immigrate. Lest any alien learn parrotlike the verse of the Psalm that a friend in this country had to read, the inspectors have at least forty different verses in each language, one verse to a card.

GET FORECASTS BY WIRELESS

Kansas Agricultural College Makes
Arrangement to Furnish Farmers
With Weather Probabilities.

The Kansas Agricultural college has announced that it will furnish the weather forecasts to every Kansas farmer by wireless telegraph. The farmer will be required to install an amateur wireless set with which to receive the forecast. These sets cost about \$35 each and can be operated by any person. They cannot be used for sending messages for any considerable distances but they will receive the powerful messages of the big plants. The forecasts are to be sent out at 9:55 each morning under a standard code and on the wave length of 375 meters, short enough for any amateur set to take. This wave length is also long enough and the college plant is powerful enough so that the message will reach every point in the state. The forecast will be sent at the rate of 18 words a minute and then repeated at 10 words a minute. The service is to be given free to every farmer, high school, or to any other person or institution having a wireless set. The high schools in the small communities are to distribute the forecast to the banks and stores and to the telephone companies. The knowledge of the probable weather is of considerable importance to farmers during the harvest and haying season, and to stockmen during the winter, for they can make preparations for feeding and sheltering stock upon knowing of an approaching storm.

PLAN MORE OSTRICH PLUMES

South African Raisers of the Birds Be-
lieve They Can Largely Increase
the Supply.

An effort is being made by South African ostrich farmers to increase the plume quills of ostriches, and Professor Deverden believes this can be done by as much as 25 per cent, but W. P. Pyecraft, the great English naturalist, is skeptical.

The number of plumes from each wing averages 36, and occasionally runs as high as 42 in the South African species and 39 in the North African. The latter is the larger bird and its bones are denser. The Grootfontein School of Agriculture is trying by proper mating to breed a race of 42 plume birds.

Professor Pyecraft writes in the Illustrated London News that the ancestor of the ostrich undoubtedly possessed the power of flight, when the wing quills of the hand numbered 16, while the secondary feathers, attached along the forearm, probably did not exceed 26. This was the original inheritance and it can never be increased, especially now that the whole wing has degenerated into a mere wreck of its original self.

There are now about 1,000,000 birds on the African ostrich farms and the value of their exported feathers is about \$15,000,000.

Overcoming Plant Disease.

Announcement by scientists at Cambridge university that it is now possible to breed disease-proof plants, following a long series of immunizing tests applied to grains, potatoes and other growths, ought to shed a ray of light upon the world sorely vexed by food problems.

Potato disease alone has cost this country untold millions of dollars. If this one article of food could be protected against the destructive fungi that attack it so persistently, a solid food basis would be assured. As it is, potatoes, which should be the cheapest and most plentiful food, now fluctuate from moderate prices to prices that are absurdly high.

The checking of plant disease is second only in importance to overcoming the diseases that attack humanity. At this time of food scarcity any progress that can be made toward conserving the world's crops will be doubly a blessing.—New York Tribune.

League Covenant in Esperanto.

In the case of most international conventions a version in one language, customarily French, is taken as the original text. The treaty of Versailles, however, stipulates that the French and English texts shall have equal authority. But a perfectly equivalent translation of anything more complex than the multiplication table is impossible and already controversies have arisen over supposed discrepancies in the two versions. So the Esperantists of Paris have published their "Kontrakto de la Ligo de Nacioj" with the suggestion that by making Esperanto the official language of the league all disputes would be avoided.—Independent, New York.

Electricity in East Prussia.

According to press reports from Königsberg, the provincial board has approved a plan for the uniform supply of electric power for the province of East Prussia. The plants and installations, the completion of which will require ten years, will, through the development of water power, insure East Prussia's electrical supply independently of the coal question.

Airplanes for Sighting Fish.

Airplanes which were used to spot submarines may now be employed to sight schools of fishes. The method has been employed off Toulon, France, with success. An airplane discovered a big bank of fishes and immediately gave the signal to some fishermen, who hastened to the spot and made a great catch.

The Earth's Crust.

The most important scientific investigation of the past year in any country has probably been the attempt to measure the earth's crust. We know very little about the shell on which we live. Scientists have been studying the problem in Hawaii, Tuscany and Salvador, where the opportunities for investigation are especially favorable. Many data new to science have been collected concerning the shell, its composition and probable age. Still other tests have been made in New South Wales, where a great reservoir concentrates an immense weight of water on a limited area, and instruments have been devised to measure the movement of the earth's crust under this weight. New light has thus been thrown on the action of volcanoes.

Hardest Tool-Steel Yet Discovered.

When a tool becomes dull, time is required to sharpen it, and time is a machine shop is expensive. A tool that will cut hard materials and still keep its edge saves both time and money. Eleven years ago Professor J. O. Arnold, of Sheffield, England, invented the alloy of steel in which the metal vanadium was introduced to provide a cutting power greater than that of other steels. As a result very rapid production became possible. He has now produced a steel of even greater cutting power in which the alloy molybdenum replaces the tungsten present in all vanadium-alloy steels, forming six per cent of the steel instead of the eighteen per cent of tungsten. It eclipses the cutting power of all its rivals.—Popular Mechanics Magazine.

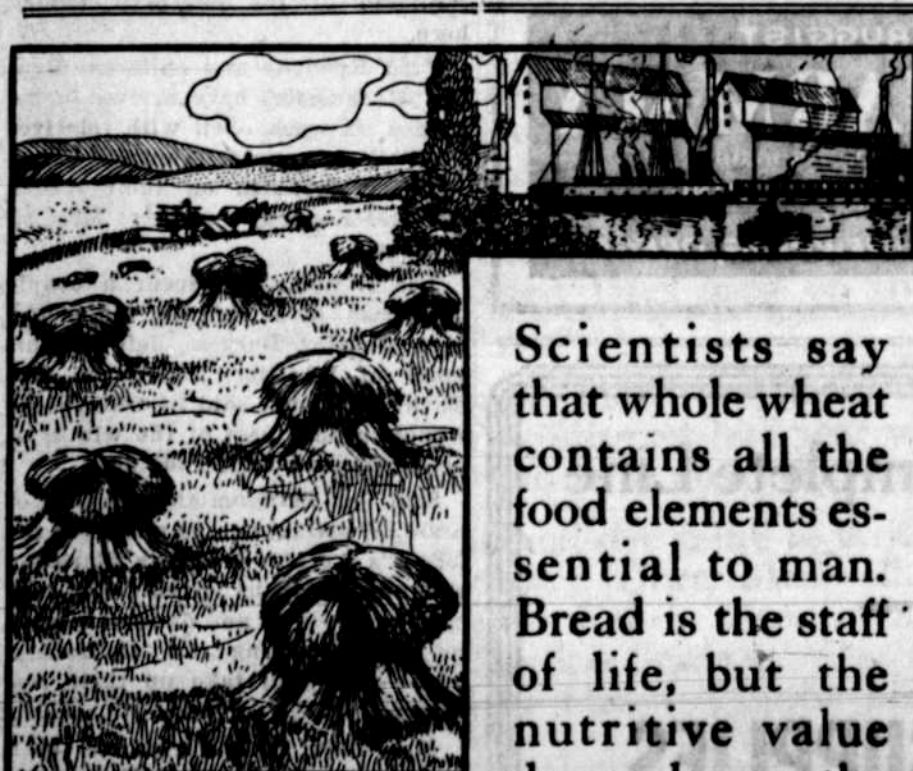


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