

AH WONG WAS BORN TIRED

By JAMES D. ELLSWORTH
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THE Pacific Mail Steamship Peking, which sailed for Hongkong last month, carried three hundred and forty-seven passengers of various nationalities. In that whole number there was one, a Chinaman, who left no friends behind, and yet he will be missed, from Maine to California.

Ah Wong, the exceptional man among several hundred ocean voyagers, would be exceptional in any community on the face of the globe. He carried with him, in letters of credit, a fortune that will keep him in luxury for the rest of his days, earned without work in a unique profession which he invented himself. He belongs to a race that has long been credited with a peculiar aptitude for ways that are dark and tricks that are vain, but Ah Wong's ways have been so much darker than those of his fellow-countrymen that he is the most cordially hated man that has ever been smuggled over the Canadian border.

Ah Wong is the son of an actor, since dead, who performed in one of the minor theaters of Canton in installment plays that lasted for a month. Ah Wong is also the grandson and great-grandson of actors, and from his earliest youth has shown marked ability in the same line, as he made devil faces at his mother, frightening her half out of her diminutive shoes, before he was a year old. He soon became unpopular with his family, who regarded him as having been born tired, but it was thought that his inherited talents could be counted upon to provide handsomely for his parents in their old age. But disappointment attended their expectations at every step. When the boy was old enough to go to school he began to limp so badly that he had to be carried in the arms of a servant. Soon afterward he appeared to be subject to sudden attacks of blindness, so that all thought of providing him with a regular education had to be indefinitely postponed. Then his father, in his leisure time, undertook to teach him by rote the text of the ancient Celestial tragedies, and would harangue at the top of his voice for hours together. It was all breath wasted, for after the first words Ah Wong's hearing would become blunted, and he would sit in passive somnolence, with a curtain of silence between himself and the noise of talk.

Ah Wong's stomach seemed to be the only part of his anatomy that remained in good working order, and in this the family rejoiced, believing that if his appetite remained good, the time would come when he would outgrow his physical defects.

Many years passed, the actor-father was gathered to his fathers, and Ah Wong, instead of being a prop for the support of his widowed mother, was a troublesome burden. He was now believed to have been born lazy. He was more unpopular than when he made devil faces at her as a baby, so his mother, exercising her right as head of the house, called a family council to sit upon his case. The wise old lady strongly hinted that it might be well to put him out of his misery permanently. Possibly she might have found some one to hold a sword, if he would consent to fall upon it, but the uncles and cousins had another plan. They took up a collection among themselves, and with this money Ah Wong was sent across the ocean to America. Doubtless he would be well cared for there, and in any event he would be unable to return.

It all turned out as they had said. Ah Wong was unloaded in Boston from the "underground railway" like a lump of lead. Taken to some distant relatives, he ate their rice, drank their tea and smoked their tobacco for several years, and earned the title of the laziest man in the world. When told that he must go to work he was too lazy to refuse, but somehow he never did the work. When he was kicked out of one store he quietly settled himself in another, and when his distant relatives said disagreeable things, his hearing became dulled so that he was not disturbed. His needs were few and the burden of his food and tobacco was not a heavy one, but his perpetual idleness was a constant annoyance to his cousins, who at last lost patience and began to talk of sending him back to China.

Then the deafness left Ah Wong. He did not want to hear talk, but in spite of his infirmities he could not help it. With China came thoughts of falling on swords and all that sort of thing, so he promptly told his cousins that he would soon be able to do something for himself, but he did nothing until Sam Chin got caught pounding a neighbor with a flat-iron and was sure to get six months in the house of correction. Sam Chin could not afford to waste so much time, as it would mean the loss of all his laundry customers. While he was out on bail, awaiting trial, he said that he would rather pay a lazy Chinaman five hundred dollars to go to jail than to go himself. With laughs and jeers Ah Wong was advised to apply for the place, and when he gravely nodded his head his cousins laughed till they doubled up like jack-knives. Nevertheless, it was all arranged, though the price was only half of what Sam Chin had jokingly offered.


When the day of the trial came, Ah Wong was in the clothes of the other the painted face of Ah Wong was like the face of Sam Chin and the deception was not discovered. Ah Wong was pleased with his bargain when the money was paid and securely hidden, for six months is not long in a man's life and he was told that in the house of correction a good bed and plenty of food are provided. He had not been told that Sam Chin's sentence demanded hard labor, and for the first time in his life, to his disgust, Ah Wong had to work. From this work came thought, angry thought at first, but calm and satisfying afterward, because before the six months were up he had invented a new profession.

When released, he asked his cousins to write to New York, San Francisco, Denver, and other cities, to say to the leading Chinamen that Ah Wong would go to jail in the place of other men for not less than a thousand dollars and expenses. His cousins laughed again and said that Ah Wong had learned to work, but he said nothing about his secret invention.

In two months he went to Providence, where Yee Get was arrested with smuggled opium in his jacket. The sentence was a year at hard labor, but when it was interpreted to Ah Wong he only smiled broadly. He did not smile at the jail, but when the time came for him to go to work, he was found all doubled up with some strange disability, and both wrists and one shoulder were out of joint. The doctor reduced the dislocations and sent the prisoner to the hospital to recuperate. The food was better in the hospital, the bed was better, and Ah Wong recovered—as slowly as he could. When at last he was sent back to work the strange sickness attacked him again and the joints of his arms were again dislocated. He never left the hospital after that, and, as he had become a burden upon the authorities, he was released in nine months, earning his thousand dollars more easily even than he had expected. This time when he returned to his cousins he found that he was wanted in Philadelphia and San Francisco at the same time, and he kept both men waiting until the price was bid up to three thousand dollars. At the beginning of his professional career he was so thin that he could only take the place of laundries and laborers in the penitentiaries, but with arms out of joint he lived on the fattest of hospital fare, and as he gained weight he took the sentences of rich merchants who were able to pay more. He permitted himself to be tried for any crime, only drawing the line at murder cases, because, as he said, he was now a rich man and could not afford to leave his money.

Last fall he decided that he was rich enough to retire. He had served in twenty jails and as he could not do his contortion specialty in any one of them a second time, his field of usefulness had become restricted to cities where there were but a few, and those generally law-abiding, Chinamen. Therefore he decided to return to the land of his fathers to enjoy the fruits of his laziness, and was planning to reach there in time for the celebration of the Chinese New Year. At the last moment, however, he was summoned to New York by a letter from a man who was about to be deported for being illegally in the country and whose rich friends were willing to pay liberally for a substitute to be sent back to China in his place. The new arrival, then out under heavy bail, was a comparatively thin man, but Ah Wong agreed to take his place for two thousand dollars and reduce his weight till he fitted the other's clothes. So Ah Wong enjoyed the New Year's festival on a starvation diet of rice and water. When, with his snug fortune, he embarked on the Peking, his passage paid by the government of the United States, he was awaited by a patient little almond-eyed bride, secured through the good offices of his repentant family.

George O'Brien



This popular "movie" star has been seen in a number of motion pictures, much to the satisfaction of his many admirers. O'Brien was born in San Francisco. He is five feet, 11 inches tall, weighs 180 pounds and has brown hair and blue eyes.

THE WHY OF SUPERSTITIONS

By H. IRVING KING

DEVIL'S DARNING NEEDLES


Few people realize what a great mass of persistent superstition underlies our modern culture—how, though the temples of Isis and Osiris are crumbling by the banks of the Nile; the stars glimmer through the loops of time in the Roman coliseum, Thor and Odinn reign no longer in the Norseman's heaven and Stonehenge lies druidless upon Salisbury plain, the superstitions evolved in the days when these things belonged to a living present and not to a hoary past remain still with us, descended from all these various sources, apparently indestructible and forming a part of the lives of the people in the present day.

The superstition* regarding the dragon fly or, as it is popularly called, the devil's darning needle, is an inheritance from Norse mythology. In Scandinavia the dragon fly is called the troll's needle, or troll's spindle, and is regarded by Norwegian children as it is by the American child. In our name we have simply substituted "devil" for "troll." Who has not, when a child, brushed away with fear a hovering devil's darning needle lest it should "sew his mouth up," or "sew his ears up"? The superstition differs but it is generally the mouth. The mouth is the original form of the superstition and the reason for this is apparent. The trolls hated noise above all things—it reminded them of the days when they fought with the gods and Thor threw his hammer after them. Children are apt to be noisy and thus awaken unpleasant recollections; wherefore the troll's needles sew up their mouths to keep them quiet. In Icelandic literature the trolls were giants; but in Norse literature they later became dwarfs, which was probably the result of their unsuccessful attack upon the gods. A belief in the trolls still lingers in the Scandinavian peninsula. They are the "hill people," the "little neighbors" who live in the interior of hills and correspond somewhat to the "brownies" of Scotland. They are in general well disposed but easily offended, especially by any noise, and sadly given to petty larceny. In America the devil's darning needle superstition is confined entirely to children, but among them is universal.

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Complimentary?

He—Your cousin refused to recognize me at the hop last night. Think I'm not his equal, I suppose.
She—Ridiculous! Of course, you are. Why, he is nothing but a con-celcted idiot.—Stanford Chaparral.



THE HIGHER THEY GET THE SMALLER THEY LOOK

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DAIRY

ALFALFA HAY BEST FOR DAIRY CATTLE

Alfalfa hay proved superior to sudan hay as a feed for dairy cattle at the Hays (Kans.) experiment station in the third trial comparing the merits of the two feeds, according to the report given by Prof. J. B. Fitch at the annual Kansas roundup.

This trial, conducted during the past year at the Hays station, gave results agreeing with those obtained in the first trial when cows fed alfalfa hay, kafir silage and grain in proportion to milk production produced 13 per cent more milk each day than the same cows when sudan hay was substituted for alfalfa hay.

In the second trial, however, the cows fed sudan hay, kafir silage and a liberal grain ration produced slightly more milk each day than the same cows when alfalfa hay was substituted for the sudan hay.

Eight Holstein cows were used in the third trial. They averaged 575 pounds of milk and 21.5 pounds of butterfat daily while fed alfalfa hay as compared with 511 pounds of milk and 19.7 pounds of butterfat on sudan hay.

"Cows fed alfalfa hay, kafir silage, and a liberal grain ration, produced 8 per cent more milk and 10 per cent more butterfat than the same cows when fed sudan hay," said Professor Fitch in summarizing the results of the third experiment. "The body weights of the cows were practically constant during the three periods. The alfalfa hay was consumed in larger amounts than was the sudan hay."

"In two of the three feeding trials comparing alfalfa hay and sudan for dairy cattle at the Hays station, alfalfa has proved to be better than sudan. In the trial where sudan proved better than alfalfa, the alfalfa hay was of inferior quality. In all three trials the liberal grain ration and the relatively short feeding periods apparently have reduced the difference between alfalfa hay and sudan hay. This statement is made as the result of a large number of feeding trials with dairy cows comparing feeds similar to those used in this experiment. Alfalfa hay and sudan have practically the same amount of digestible protein as has sudan. The quality of the protein in alfalfa is also superior to that from other hay crops and grains that have been compared experimentally to date. As a source of minerals for dairy cows the legume hays, and especially alfalfa, are of special importance. To maintain milk production and body weight over a large period of time when on sudan hay cows must be fed a grain ration containing a protein supplement. In regions where alfalfa cannot be grown and where it is high in price it is desirable to feed three or four pounds of alfalfa daily to dairy cows as an additional source of minerals and for the protein it contains."

Soy Beans Are Superior as Protein Supplement

Cracked soy beans are equal or slightly superior to linseed oilmeal as a protein supplement for dairy cows. After three separate trials with this new feed, investigators at the Iowa experiment station have reached the above conclusion.

Furthermore, they demonstrated that soy beans do not cause scours under the conditions existing in the experiment. The basal ration consisted of corn silage, alfalfa hay, cracked corn and ground oats. Roughage was fed according to the capacity of the cows and the grain mixture according to production.

No tendency in the beans to become unpalatable over long feeding periods was observed so long as a daily allowance of four pounds was not exceeded.

When the price for soy bean seed gets lower and reasonably large acreages are planted, soy beans can be extensively used.

Soy bean oilmeal, which is the product left after oil extraction, was also tested at the Iowa station. Its value was found equal to that of linseed oilmeal. The relative prices of the two feeds will determine which is the better to buy.

Planted with corn for silage, soy beans did not show any value, according to the Iowa tests. Work done so far indicates that corn silage is of practically the same value as corn-bean silage for the production of milk and butterfat. The tonnage per acre showed an increase of 5.69 per cent where the two crops were grown together, compared with corn alone. The costs for seed and seedling largely offset the advantage in tonnage, however, making straight corn silage practically as economical as corn-bean silage.

In the first trial the percentage of beans in the silage was about 3 and the second 25. No advantage was noted in the increased percentage. There was practically no difference in the palatability.

Producing Green Ducks

The Pekin breed of duck is kept almost exclusively by producers of green ducks. It is estimated that the cost of raising a ten-week-old Pekin duck is from 5 to 6 cents a pound. In the market, when marketed from April to November, they bring between 12 and 30 cents a pound. The cost of picking them is placed at from 3 to 6 cents each, but this is practically covered by the value of the feathers, which bring from 40 to 50 cents a pound when cured.

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Argentine Santa Claus.
The American consul general to Argentina says that "they do not have a Santa Claus in this country as we practice it to the United States, but on each 6th of January they dress up to a very limited extent what they call 'Los Reyes' (the Kings), wearing a Santa Claus beard and a red or colored coat, but the performance is very tame and not at all general."

Consume Many Pine Seeds.
Government experiments with the appetites of ground squirrels and chipmunks in an endeavor to determine what damage they do to the seed crop of our conifer trees showed that the ground squirrel averaged 240 pine seeds in 24 hours while the chipmunk got away with 227 over the same period.

Uses for Jetties.
A jetty is an embankment which extends into a lake or ocean for the purpose of controlling the sand drift that would otherwise shoal up a channel or encroach on the shore. Jetties are usually built of large broken stone, or timberwork; concrete blocks, etc., can be used.

Plants and Animals.
The fundamental differences between plants and animals are that as a rule animals can move from place to place, and plants cannot; plants make their own food from sunlight and common chemicals while animals depend on eating other animals or plants.

Practical Idealism.
One should keep one's eyes raised to the mountains, and refuse to lower one's ideals. All the same, one must not ignore the road one is traveling along, or one will trip. Idealism must be translated into the practical terms of everyday life.

Son Was Interested.
Old Richleigh (in lecturing mood) — "I well remember the time when I hadn't shirt of my back." His Son — "That must have been a hot old football game, dad. What posh did you play?" — Boston Transcript.

Scourge of the Seas.
Montbars, a French pirate of the Seventeenth century, was called, on account of his ferocity, the "Exterminator." When eighteen he went with his uncle, a naval officer, to the West Indies, and there joined the buccaniers.

The Call.
Josephine—Mother, I must go home sooner than I expected. I just had a letter from Edward telling me to stay as long as I wanted to!

South Carolina Took Lead.
South Carolina was the leader in advocating and fighting for the doctrine of state's right. It was the first state to secede from the Union, December 20, 1860, and it opened the Civil war, April 12, 1861.

Has Been Held Monster.
Kubla Khan, the grandson of the great Genghis Khan, who completed the subjugation of China begun by his grandfather, has been described by Marco Polo, the Venetian traveler, as an able and enlightened ruler.

Fortunately for Humanity.
There is in the heart of woman such a deep well of love that no age can freeze it.—Balwer Lytton.

Unlike Humanity.
Animals are such agreeable friends; they ask no questions, pass no criticisms.—George Elliot.

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