

FACTS IN FEW LINES

Alaska's foreign commerce in 1909 was over \$60,000,000.

All the luxuries of railroading have been introduced into China.

A single cocoon frequently will yield more than two miles of silk.

Canada's imports of garden seeds and bulbs have quadrupled in nine years.

The government of Brazil proposes colonizing the Indians on public lands and furnishing them with farm implements.

The government of Chile has ordered 55,150,000 centennial anniversary postage stamps from an American house for use during 1910.

Immigration regulations do not admit paupers, and the immigrants bring on an average \$1,500,000 to the port of New York each month.

Though New York theater managers give their customers plenty of foreign plays, they give two from home authors where they give one that is imported.

While Canada has large forest areas, its supply of woods is not diversified, consequently it must continue to draw considerable supplies from the United States.

Burglars who broke into the house of a police inspector in Paris were so terrified by the sight of a pair of handcuffs on a table that they hung down their booty and fled.

Since the discovery was made in Canada a year or so ago that the muskrat could be treated and dyed to imitate seal so nearly as to avoid detection the price of its pelts has doubled.

The United States leads the world as an exporter of tobacco, having supplied over \$41,000,000 worth of tobacco and manufactures of tobacco which entered international markets last year.

A model electric engine built by Thomas Davenport, a poor blacksmith of Brandon, Vt., and operated on a small circular track in 1834 probably was the first electric railway in the world.

Over 4,000 potato diggers are used in the state of Maine alone to harvest the crop. If these were all hooked together with a team of horses to each it would make a procession fifteen miles long.

The Suez canal has proved to be one of the most profitable commercial undertakings in the history of the world, and the Manchester ship canal is now accomplishing all and more than was promised at first.

A committee of the New Zealand legislature has just recommended that telegrapher's cramp be added to the list of diseases for which the employer must compensate the workman who suffers it in his employ.

Honduras and Salvador are on a silver basis, while Nicaragua and Guatemala have a mixed silver-paper system. As their paper is not convertible it results that they have in circulation only fractional silver coins.

Anti-spitting ordinances, laws and regulations in more than five-eighths of the cities and towns of the country are not enforced as they should be, alleges the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis in a recent report.

During the last three years there has been a fairly steady increase in the quantity of natural gas used in this country for domestic purposes, a decrease in the quantity used for manufacturing purposes and an increase in the average price.

England is endeavoring to stimulate egg production, and a missionary egg train is to be dispatched through western England and Wales, where it is said that the egg industry is at a low ebb. The United Kingdom now imports nearly one-half the eggs consumed.

Here is a fish story of the 1910 crop published by the St. James' Budget: "While Mr. McTorie, an angler visiting Loch Hay, was fishing in the Killin waters with two rods two salmon took the baits simultaneously and both were secured. The salmon weighed seventeen pounds each."

Industrial insurance against loss by strikes has taken root in Germany. The bureau of statistics reports forty-eight companies organized, thirteen strike indemnity insurance companies, twenty-six employers' associations for strike insurance and nine in which indemnity is from occasion to occasion granted.

In Italy the supply of machine guns is still in its infancy. By the end of the year, however, every infantry regiment and every Alpine battalion is to have one gun for training the men.

In the fall of 1910 a beginning is to be made to give every infantry and cavalry regiment one battery of four and every Alpine battalion one battery of two such guns.

In Germany there are seven special schools devoted to the sole purpose of training locksmiths and blacksmiths. They are in the cities of Hurgstadt, Grossenhain, Frankenberg, Meissen, Glauchau, Rosswels and Zittau. Only graduates of public schools are admitted. The course of instruction in three of the schools lasts three years. In three of the others it is shorter.

M. Charles Vaggoni, a newspaper man of Marseilles, was walking in the streets of that city recently when three revolver shots rang out. He felt a bullet strike him and shouted for assistance. Taken to a chemist's shop it was found that the ball, deflected by his clothing, had opened a boil from which he had been suffering. He expressed himself as happy that the bullet had saved him a surgical operation.

The Making of Lenses.

The essential part of any device for the study of the starry millions—the suns, planets, comets and the nebulae that are perhaps new worlds in the making—is the lens or the optical train that consists of a series of lenses. It is this that makes the modern science of astronomy possible. There is absolutely no other human occupation that requires the accuracy of observation and the delicacy of touch that are requisite for the making of the finest lenses. These are the most perfect products of human hands. It may convey some idea of the labor required in the making of a large lens to say that at least one year's time is required for the grinding and polishing of a thirty inch object glass. A little lens two inches in diameter requires the unremitting care and attention of a skilled workman for two or three days. It is easy, then, to see why it is that even lenses of high class photographic work are costly. A forty inch object glass for a large telescope cannot be made in much less than four years' time, and if everything does not go just right it may require much longer than that.—Kansas City Star.

Persian Jests.

An exceedingly ugly man, says the Persian Joe Miller, was once in the mosque, asking pardon of Allah for his sins and praying to be delivered from the fires of hell. One who overheard his prayers said to him: "Wherefore, O friend, wouldst thou cheat hell of such a countenance? Art thou reluctant to burn up a face like that?"

Another story the Persian jester tells is that a certain person with a hideous nose was once on a time wooing a woman. Describing himself to her and trying to make an attractive picture, he said, "I am a man devoid of lightness and frivolity, and I am patient in bearing afflictions!"

"Aye," said the woman, "Wert thou not patient in bearing afflictions thou hadst never endured thy nose these forty years!"

All of which is more witty than kind.—Harper's.

Bohemians and Wedding Rings.

"Here are two wedding rings that I have just made over," said the jeweler. "They are for Bohemian women. They lost their own rings, so they had their husbands' rings cut down to fit. That is a custom in their country. Both husband and wife wear wedding rings there. If the man loses his ring he has to buy a new one, but if the woman loses hers she wears her husband's. I do a good deal of that kind of work. Other women who lose wedding rings just buy another one and say nothing about it, but these women are too conscientious for that. Usually I have to make the man's ring smaller, but once in awhile it has to be spliced to make it fit. The women are always considerably chagrined over the splicing and offer all kinds of explanations to account for their big fingers."—New York Sun.

The Roulette Ball.

That capricious little ball that decides our fortunes at the ever fascinating game of roulette at Monte Carlo occasionally flies from the skillful croupier's hand, though not often. One afternoon it slipped from its manipulator's fingers and found its way into an Englishman's coat pocket. So impressed was the Englishman that he promptly lost a couple of hundred pounds. But the little ball once found a far stranger destination than that. Escaping from the croupier's hand, it flew straight into the mouth of a German onlooker, and he was so impressed that he promptly swallowed it.—London Bystander.

Tea in Paraguay.

When the natives of Paraguay drink tea they do not pour it from a teapot into a cup, but fill a gobbet made out of a pumpkin or gourd and then suck up the hot liquid through a long reed. Moreover, the tea which they use is altogether different from that which comes from China, being made out of dried and roasted leaves of a palm-like plant which grows in Paraguay and southern Brazil. The natives say that this tea is an excellent remedy for fever and rheumatism.

Sparrowgrass.

It is stated that a well known riddle was written by a costermonger. The riddle in question is a charade and runs as follows:

My first's a little bird as 'tops;
My second's needful in 'ay crops;
My 'ole is good with mutton chops.

The answer, of course, is "sparrowgrass," which the learned Dr. Parr always insisted on using in preference to the politer "asparagus."—London Notes and Queries.

A Real Poet.

"Poetry," said the literary girl, "is the art of expressing intense feeling in figurative speech."
"In that case," replied Miss Cayenne, "the man who writes baseball news is sure a poet."—Washington Star.

She Wanted to Know.

Bridegroom—Now that we are married, darling, we must have no more secrets from each other. Bride—Then tell me truly, Jack, how much did you really pay for that engagement ring?—Illustrated Bits.

She Was Numerous.

"I want a license to marry the best girl in the world," said the young man. "Fanny, isn't it?" commented the clerk. "That makes 1,200 licenses for that girl this season."—Philadelphia Telegraph.

I do not know of any way so sure of making others happy as of being so oneself.—Sir Arthur Helps.

His Winning Trick.

He couldn't talk a little bit on music or on art. When seen bronched high browed topics you could see the sweat beads start. But before they had him silenced and in storage for the night. He would flash a roll of money, and of course that put him right.

He was crude and most unlettered, and his grammar was a sin. But he knew the little secret of successful talking in. He could change a cold demeanor and could break down staves of prose. When he flashed his roll of money with a yellow back outside.

By Different Roads.

A prominent New Hampshire farmer of the old type has two grown-up sons. One is a preacher of the gospel, with the other is a liquor dealer.

A New Yorker, in company with several other friends, was talking at the old man's home about his family. At last one of the company proposed: asked the old man what his sons he for a living.

The old man replied: "One is serving the Lord and the other the devil, and both are doing well."—Lippincott's.

Keeping Him at a Distance.

A fat noble Myrtle's best in phase; Another holds her nose; A dozen bits of dainty lace; Are pinned upon the goddess.

Her hat is held, as well you know, By lances and not pointed; I would not dare to tug her, though; 'Less I were triple jointed.

Then and Now.

"Ten years ago," said the self-made man, "I was earning my bread by the sweat of my brow. But it's different now."

Time to Jump.

Haven't got the time to wait for trouble to commence. For when we see him at the gate we jump the other fence.

Would Be Wasting Time.

"Dad," said Rivers' little boy, "is there such a thing as a central sun?" "I suppose so," answered Rivers, who was occupied with his papers and didn't fully comprehend the question, "but there's no use in calling 'em up. Line's probably busy."—Chicago Tribune.

Kept Apart.

"If women would only be bolder," declared the suffragette. "And just stand shoulder to shoulder we'd win the ballot yet."

Cause for Commotion.

"Great excitement out in our subdivision." "What about?" "One of my early tomato vines has produced a small knob which is said to be a tomato by experts that we have called in."—Kansas City Journal.

A Terrible Infant.

I recollect a nurse called Ann. Who carried me about the grass, And one fine day a fine young man Came up and kissed the pretty lass. She did not make the least objection. Thinks I: "Ain't I tell mamma." And that's my earliest recollection. —New York Times.

His Worst Fault.

He—Like most men, I have my shortcomings, I suppose, but— She—Oh, it isn't your shortcomings father objects to. It's your long stayings.—Spokane Spokesman-Review.

English Pronunciation.

There was a young lady named Hough, Whose father had plenty of dough, But his breeding was low, And his neighbors allow That he ate like a pig in a trough. —Chicago Record-Herald.

Evidence.

"What reason have you to think that your boss thinks so much of you?" "He refused to let me have my vacation during horse-leaping time."—Houston Post.

Leading Question.

Now, don't you think yo' faith would fail If you should take yo' stan An' try'er rick at comin' a tail inter do promissed lan? —Atlanta Constitution.

Conjugal.

"That's a swell suit of clothes you're wearing, old man. Does your wife pick your clothes?" "Only the pockets!"—Browning's Magazine.

Diamond Genius.

The pitcher is a mighty man, And well and skillfully he throws. He loves applause from every fan, But it's the umpire's word that goes. —Buffalo Express.

Just Like a Bird.

"Our new dairymaid is a bird." "Why do you call her that?" "She dips and skims so gracefully." —St. Louis Star.

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