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THE BEAUTIES OF THE BORDER

Letters are beginning to arrive from the Mexican border written by the boys in Company M telling of their surroundings and one and all expressing the desire to see green grass once more and to hear the rain patter on any old thing, even their backs, for awhile. It is far from being a picnic along the Mexican border anywhere, but our boys can congratulate themselves on the fact that they have the pleasantest section of the whole 1,800 miles of Mexican border.

Of course they do not think so, for they have not tried the other section, and it is hard to believe there is any more desolate place on earth than where they are. It is related of Dr. Abercrombie, the celebrated English surgeon, that in examining a char-woman's foot that had been injured, he remarked that it was "the dirtiest foot in England." She indignantly replied that "there was a dirtier one right in his office." Then she showed him her other foot. That is the way it is down on the border.

In early days it is said that the old miners in Arizona when they died generally came back and haunted their old camps until they got their blankets, which gives but a faint idea of the heat. To the boys from Oregon where everything is green the year around the change is indeed a great one. There is no grass, no verdure, no trees except the "Jacobs" and these are without leaf or twig and covered with dust. The flora is sage brush and mesquite and everything is a dull dirty gray.

The fauna consists of horned toads, lizards, Gila monsters, rattle snakes, tarantulas, centipedes and a few starved coyotes so poor that as Mark Twain said, "a flea would leave one to take up with a velocipede." There are no running streams and what water is used is generally hauled some distance and is warm enough that the boys would naturally think they had turned the hot water faucet when they try to drink it. Mose of it has to be boiled and like some of the beef you get at the mining camps in that region the more you boil it the tougher it gets. In many places it is so strongly impregnated with alkali that it looks like weak coffee and tastes like some that you get on the border after it is sweetened, for the alkali water is nice and sweet but a trifle slippery. It is a country one appreciates--after having left it. It makes life anywhere else one glad sweet song, by comparison.

Our boys are getting just a taste of this for as was said they are seeing the cream of the country, but it will be a great object lesson to them, enabling them to enjoy any old place after it, and as for Oregon--well they will never, never again leave it, while alive, once they get back.

The latest reports from the census department shows that of some twenty-four cities with a population above 100,000 and below 300,000 that only two kept their expenses within their revenues. If the report was extended to cover the statistics of smaller cities the showing would no doubt be equally as bad. It shows the tendency to spend regardless of consequences, so long as the public will stand for it. Is it any wonder that taxes increase, or that some measure is proposed limiting the amounts that may be levied in the way of taxes? The present proposed law in Oregon would fix the amount of increase permitted in a tax levy at six per cent over the previous year. This is opposed by some on the ground that it would put the state in a position where she would not be able to carry on her affairs. Might it not be possible in such conditions as enemies of the plan point out, that this would compel the curtailing of expenses, which would reach the same result as greater revenues by making ends meet?

When Judge Langguth, in Portland yesterday, declared much of Mrs. Sanger's book on birth control was obscene, and found her guilty of violating the law in selling it, that energetic bit of femininity snapped her fingers and just remarked: "twaddle."

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HELP THE CHAUTAUQUA

The Salem Chautauqua is a worthy institution. It takes some money out of the community, but it gives value in return in the form of entertainment that leaves its impress upon the community for good in many ways. There is nothing low, vulgar or cheap in the program of a chautauqua entertainment. All is high-class, refined and generally instructive as well as entertaining. They are popular-priced and within the reach of all, bringing to the community great public speakers, world-famed musicians and competent instructors in those topics discussed at the daily session. The chautauqua is an elevating, refining influence in any community which may in these respects be measured by the interest the public in general take in seeking to make it a successful annual event.

The Salem chautauqua needs help from all because some of those counted on for assistance having moved away during the past year. It is a success--a growing institution, but still in its infancy. The Western circuit is barely paying its way during its four years of existence because it is pioneering the way in a territory, much of which is sparsely settled, but gradually the receipts are increasing as the people get better acquainted with the Ellison-White management and methods and realize the splendid work they are doing in making the chautauqua a fixture on the Pacific coast. Making the Salem chautauqua a big success helps the whole circuit and means bigger and better attractions as the years go by.

Everybody ought to assist by purchase of tickets or in any other possible way the men and women who have organized the local chautauqua and made its success possible in the face of many discouragements.

Only a few days ago we were all talking about war with Mexico and were telling the boys good bye as they started for the border. Now we are talking of arranging to lend the Mexican government \$100,000,000, so that it can rehabilitate itself and get back into civilized company. Something of this kind will have to be done by some one before the country can be at peace and a stable government established. If Carranza can control his people long enough to get them to hold an election and organize a regular constitutional government this country would gladly put up the money. In fact there are plenty of capitalists who would jump at the chance to advance the coin now but they might want valuable concessions for so doing, and this neither Mexico nor this country should permit.

As a preliminary to any permanent agreement between the United States and Mexico it should be insisted that the fate of Villa be finally and definitely determined and made public. Apparently about the only way to do this is to catch him if he is alive, or dig up his remains if dead, so they can be identified, if possible. It is wearing on a newspaper man's nerves to be day after day recording the fact that Villa is dead in one column, cremated in another, beating the Carranza forces in a third and raising the dickens generally at the same time in half a dozen places.

The Oregonian may have to revise that Wilson cartoon because it looks as if he might be able to keep us out of war with Mexico. Those papers which were opposing war up to a week ago will probably be clamoring for gore in a few days more--just as soon as it would appear that war may be averted. The editor of the Oregonian and all that follow his lead know no policy except to be against the administration, no matter what the administration stands for. Especially in this Mexican matter they have made some mighty funny flops.

Arrangements are said to be underway by which the republicans will hold a love feast and kill the fatted calf to celebrate the return of the prodigals, if they do return. It is proposed to have Hughes, Taft and Roosevelt on the same platform and each to tell how glad he is to be there. Ex-President Taft should enjoy the situation immensely, to be hitched up in double harness with his little "firend."

Uncle Sam is going to conduct another land lottery at Spokane for the purpose of dividing the surplus lands of the Colville Indians. It is against the law, and a private individual would be prosecuted for conducting a lottery, but it is a safe bet no one will try to have your Uncle Samuel punished for violating his own laws.

The dispatches stated that there was a heavy rainfall on the Texas border soon after the American troops reached it. Must have been some of the webfooters or clam-diggers struck that section with a little of the home climate along with them.

A season of drouth is reported in India, followed of course by famine conditions. This is perhaps what caused the unusual rain fall here this summer. Our weather is manufactured, especially the wet part of it, in the Indian ocean.

Those educators are still at it in New York, and so far have come no nearer convincing each other that they are right than they have of making the public take any stock in their fads.

Sixty thousand pounds of wool sold at Silverton for 35 cents a pound is another indication of returning prosperity.

STERLING GUM PRIZE AWARDED TO CANADIAN

George Gill Tells How He Won \$1000--Seventh Point Definitely Announced

New York City, July 8.--George Gill is now the highest paid writer in the world. For a six-word sentence he has just received a crisp, new \$1000 check. This is the outcome of the largest prize contest of its kind which has ever been conducted.

In all, 7777 prizes are being sent by the Sterling Gum company to lucky winners whose suggestions rank highest as solutions to the famous 7-point mystery.



George Gill.

Up until midnight of May 15 the phrase came by thousands from all parts of the United States and Canada. On the morning of the 16th commenced the sifting of replies for possible winners, a task which occupied many days. The judges who made the awards were John A. Sleicher, editor of "Leslie's Weekly"; Edgar Sisson, editor of "Cosmopolitan Magazine"; John M. Siddall, editor of "The American Magazine"; Frederick L. Collins, editor of "McClure's Magazine"; and Robert H. Davis, editor of "Munsey's Magazine." In all, over 314,000 suggestions were received for consideration. Finally after a great deal of comparison and deliberation the judges awarded the first prize of \$1000 to Mr. George Gill of Toronto, Canada.

Mr. Gill is a paper ruler by trade, and he is also a bachelor. His phrase which won this handsome recognition is "The gum the sun brought out."

The judges in making the award commended this phrase particularly for its simplicity and for the ease with which it may be remembered. Mr. Gill does not say whether he will drop his trade of paper ruling to take up the profession of writing. But Rudyard Kipling, Irvin Cobb and the other top-notchers must take off their hats to him as the only man who has ever commanded close to \$170 a word for his literary output.

The story of Mr. Gill's success, however, is no more interesting than the story of the over 314,000 post cards which flooded into the offices of the Sterling Gum company.

When the prize contest was formulated, the bulk of the money spent to announce it was again turned into newspaper advertisements. Reaching out into the most remote villages, the power of the newspapers brought to the Sterling Gum company the over 314,000 replies.

Are Near Great Races But Can't Go to Them

To be within a short distance of horse racing and bull fighting and unable to attend is the portion of Company M as divulged in a letter received by Mrs. H. R. Page of South Commercial street in a letter from her son James, a private under Captain Gehlhar.

The letter says in part: "We are camped at San Ysidro, just across the river from Tia Juana. Every day a train load of people go down to the races and bull fights. We can see them through the glasses but we can't cross the line."

"This is certainly a bare old country but it is not so different as you might think. We have a fine sea breeze here, being only about five miles from the beach. The only thing that causes trouble is the water which is all alkali. We boil it also as an extra precaution although the people who live here do not. There are many pretty little houses here, all one story, and with big cobblestone fireplaces. The gardens are very pretty and the people grow flowers and vegetables right together. "I saw a horned toad today. It looked like an enlarged lizard, with big scales. I must quit now as it is seven-thirty and quite dark."

IN MEMORIAM

Catherine Rex was born March 24, 1842, in Luxemburg and died in her home in West Salem, July 3, 1916, at 8 a. m.

Aged 74 years, 3 months and 9 days. When she was three years of age she with her parents came to this country and settled in the state of Wisconsin.

In the year of 1862 she was joined in holy wedlock with Frederick W. Rex, at Hubbard, Wisconsin, where they lived until 1901 when they migrated to Oregon making their home near Independence and a few years later moved to West Salem, their present home.

She leaves to mourn her departure beloved husband, three daughters and six sons. Interment was made in the City View



AUTO ADVENTURES

When first a fellow learns to drive, he says, "Great Scott and Man Alive! This heedless scorching is a crime; it's 'careful' does it, every time. Because one's car has speed and power, he hits up fifty miles an hour, and in the gloaming he is found, where he has hit the fertile ground; his car, a torn and tangled wreck, its fragments wrapped around his neck. Since I have all the time there is, I don't intend to scorch or whiz. I'll jog along a steady gait, and try to keep my head on straight." At first he travels sanely slow; but after seven weeks or so, he hurries up his choo-choo cart, and tries to tear the roads apart. Then I, and other idle rich, behold him seated in a ditch, the steering gear pushed through his hat, and with a broken leg or slat. We comb the eastings from his hair, and take him to the surgeon's lair. He says, while bones are being set, "I'll get another car, you bet! But no more scorching will you see--six miles an hour will do for me!"



That life is not all a proposition of ding party. The bride and her attendants are wearing the cunning sport jackets with stripes to match the photograph, taken recently at El Paso, Texas. The Buquet Motor company, distributors of Maxwell cars in El Paso were awake to the romance of the month of June. They painted some of their Maxwell touring cars pure white, a real bridal tone, and any happy couples getting married in the little game of hearts in Texas. Business is reported brisker than usual at the wedding festivities. This photograph shows a gay wedding party and politely explained that under the new law the value of the contents of each trunk must be given. After a brief consultation with her daughter, mamma pointed to her own trunk and said: "Please put this one down as containing one thousand dollars' worth of personal belongings. This one," indicating her daughter's trunk, "you may put down for eight hundred."

"How about this little one?" asked the baggagemaster, resting his heel on its top. "Oh, that!" replied the lady, contemptuously. "Ten or twelve dollars will cover that one." "I see," returned the official "Father's going along, too."--Ex.

THE RUSSIAN-JAP TREATY

London, July 8.--England played an important part in the framing of the new Russo-Japanese treaty, the London newspapers stated today, in registering their approval of the pact.

The papers generally refrain from discussion of the effect of the treaty upon American interests.

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* and still growing--read the *
* paper and you guess the reason. *

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