

The Four Sections That Divide the United States.

Every nation has its own time standard, but the United States has four. These time sections, as they are called, were introduced in the year 1883, chiefly for the benefit of the railroads, and are known as the eastern, central, mountain and Pacific. The eastern section extends from the Atlantic coast to an irregular line drawn from Detroit to Charleston, S. C.; the central includes all between this line and another extending from Bismarck, N. D., to the mouth of the Rio Grande river; the mountain extends from here to the western boundary of Montana, Idaho, Utah and Arizona, and the Pacific includes all the remainder of the country to the Pacific coast.

WINNING A COAT.

The Clever Scheme That Was Worked by a French Thief.

A Frenchman had been attending the Comedie Francaise, and after the performance he took a gloomy by-way in order to make a short cut to the Boulevard Montmartre. He noticed as he hastened through the dark a slight tug on his coat, but to this he paid no attention. When he reached the bright boulevard, however, he found, to his great mortification, that one tail of his clawhammer coat had been cut off. He notified a journalist of his loss, and the next morning an account of the odd theft appeared in the Figaro. That afternoon a man in a blue uniform called on him.

Who Knows?

Alice toiled slowly up the stairs, paper and pencil in hand, ready to ask questions of the first person she encountered. Being just six, she was at the inquiring age and endeavored to make everybody's life a burden to them. The first person she encountered was Bridget, the upstairs girl.

The Colonies—in English Eyes.

The average Englishman, and it is surprising in what numbers he exists, has a vague conception of colonies generally. He has some hazy notions of Virginian plantations and transportation settlements and crown colonies where a peppery military man of the old school takes up the white man's burden by holding autocratic sway over unclad barbarians. The conceptions are more often than not fifty years behind the times.—Sydney Lone Hand.

The Oldest Jury.

The oldest Greek poet has left us a picture of what the jury was in his time. The primitive court is sitting, and the question is "guilty" or "not guilty." The old men of the community give their opinions in turn. The adjudicating democracy, the commons, standing round about, applaud the opinions which strike them most, and the applause determines the decision. Such was probably the earliest form of jury.

The British Drama.

It is absolutely true that the British public goes to the theater to be amused, not to be instructed. It considers that it pays its money to be amused, and it sullenly resents the presence of any powder in the jam. It is when this attitude changes that the great renaissance of the British drama will arrive.—London Graphic.

Hospitality.

"Use one teaspoonful of this cocoa in hot water every day. The can will last thirty days." "But suppose there's company, missis?" "Why, then, of course, use more hot water."—Fliegende Blatter.

Advantage of Position.

"Where have you been all afternoon?" "Music hall—piano recital." "Infernally tiresome, wasn't it?" "Not at all. I was the pianist!"—Chicago Tribune.

A WILD RACE.

When the First Pony Express Was Nearing Sacramento.

Cornelius Cole, ex-senator from California, tells in his memoirs how the first "pony express" reached Sacramento, Cal., long before the first transcontinental railroad was surveyed: "Those who were there to witness it will never forget the arrival of the first of these express messengers at Sacramento. It was an occasion of great rejoicing, and everybody, big and little, old and young, turned out to see the fun. All business for the time was suspended. Even the courts adjourned for the event. A large number of the citizens of all classes, grave and gay, mounted on fast horses, rode out some miles on the line to meet the incoming wonder.

"The waiting was not long. The little rider upon his blooded charger, under whip and spur, came down upon them like a meteor, but made not the slightest halt to greet his many visitors. Then began a race of all that waiting through over the stretch back to the city, the like of which has never been seen. It may have been rivaled in speed and confusion by some of the cavalry disasters during the war that presently followed, but the peaceful people of Sacramento, I am sure, never beheld anything of the kind before or afterward.

A ROMANCE IN TIN.

One Man's Fortune From the Price of a Pair of Shoes.

Some years ago a man who had started in business in Tasmania found that he could not meet his engagements and was compelled to call a meeting of his creditors. Among his assets were a number of Mount Birschoff tin mine shares, which were regarded as worthless. It was the first tin mine discovered in Tasmania, and the output was not as heavy as the prospectus declared it would be. The shares dropped in value, and when the debtor offered them to his creditors the latter refused to touch them.

Among the creditors was a poor shoemaker who had supplied the man with a pair of shoes. He offered to take the shares in payment of his debt. No one raised any objection, and he took the shares, saying, "They may turn out well some day." Five years later, under proper management, the mine developed into a valuable property. It was a veritable mountain of tin, and the shares sprang up to an astonishing point.

Eventually the metal was "cornered" by a French syndicate, and the shares reaching a fabulous price, the once indigent shoemaker sold out and realized a fortune.

Absolute Obesity.

There is a member of the faculty of a certain university who, to use the words of a colleague, "is as rotund physically as he is profound metaphysically." One day the professor chanced to come upon his children, of whom he has a number, all of whom were, to his astonishment, engaged in an earnest discussion of the meaning of the word "absolute."

Making Hubby Appreciative.

A doctor tells of a note he received from a woman saying that her husband, who was about to make him a professional call, found constant fault with the dinner she prepared for him. She appealed to the physician for aid. The doctor examined his patient, who had a slight attack of indigestion, and told him to cut out liches, to eat nothing but a slice of toast and a cup of tea. The scheme worked excellently. Of course hubby returns home in the evening, eats everything in sight and votes his wife's cooking even better than mother used to make.—Boston Record.

Property Rights.

Private property, in the shape in which we know it today, was chiefly formed by the gradual disentanglement of the separate rights of individuals from the blended rights of a community. There is every reason for believing that property once belonged not to individuals or even the isolated families, but to the patriarchal society as a whole. In other words, property was at first communistic rather than personal.—New York American.

Needed Airing.

"What's the matter with you?" demanded Borem hotly. "I've got a right to air my opinions, haven't I?" "Oh, of course," replied Brightly. "They're so stale and musty they certainly need something of that sort."—Philadelphia Press.

Practice not your art and 'twill soon depart.—German Proverb.

Woodlots in Japan.

In these times of great drains on the timber supply, caused by the heavy demand for forest products of all kinds, Americans may see in Japan an example of what can be done in growing wood on small plots.

This country contains 21,000,000 woodlots, about three fourths of which belong to private persons and one fourth to communes.

The average size of the plots is less than nine tenths of an acre. They usually occupy the steepest, roughest, poorest ground. In this way land is put to use which would otherwise go to waste, and if unwooded would lose its soil by the wash of the dashing rains.

From Japan's woodlots the yearly yield of lumber is about eighty-eight feet, board measure, per acre, and three fourths of a cord of firewood. In many cases the yield is much higher. More than half a billion trees are planted yearly to make up what is cut for lumber and fuel. Assessment for taxation is low, averaging for the 21,000,000 lots less than a dollar an acre.

With all the care in cutting, and the industry in replanting, it is by no means certain that Japan's forests are holding their own. If the preservation of the forests is doubtful there, it is evident that depletion must be alarmingly rapid in other countries which cut unsparingly and plant very little. On the other hand, it is encouraging to see what can be done with rough, steep and poor land. The United States has enough of that kind, without touching the rich agricultural acres, to grow billions of feet of lumber.—Advocate.

A New England clergyman was taking breakfast one Sunday morning in a hotel in a little western town, says Appleton's Monthly. A rough old fellow came to the table called over to him: "Goin' to the races, stranger?" The clergyman replied: "I don't expect to." "Goin' to the ball game?" "No." "Well, where are you goin'?" "I'm going to church." "Where do you come from?" "New England." "Oh, that explains it! That's where they keep the Sabbath and every other blamed thing they can lay their hands on."

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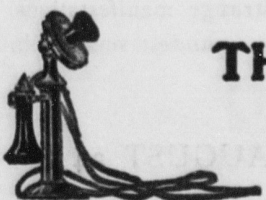
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