

RISKED LIFE FOR SEEDS

Man Responsible for Starting Rubber Industry in India Now Living on Pension.

Living on a pension in London is W. H. Wickham, the man responsible for the introduction of rubber trees in India at the risk of his life. He is said to have received from the promoters of the enterprise \$5,500 in cash, the remainder being put out at interest to furnish him with a life income.

TAXICAB SERVICE IN PANAMA

Will Run on Regular Schedule Between Colon and Panama and Garry Mail.

Consul General Snyder of Panama learns from the local press that a concession has been granted to Francisco Arias, Sr., for establishing a taxicab automobile service on a regular schedule in the cities of Panama and Colon and neighborhood where the condition of the highways permits.

Europe's Largest Grapevine.

What is said to be the largest grapevine in Europe is to be seen in the great conservatory of Lord Breadalbane, at Killin, Loch Tay, Scotland. Planted in 1832 in a modest conservatory measuring only fifteen feet, its glass house has now grown to large proportions, the outer branches being some eighty feet off the main stem, and both vine and its little crystal palace are still adding to their inches, the latter having been extended twenty-eight years ago.

Hit by His Own Law.

There are worse perils than wild animals in Central Africa, says one who has just returned. Among the natives there are terrible diseases. Some of them are lepers; and sleeping sickness has laid a hold on many of the villages.

Balkan Ballads Are Long.

In the Balkan countries the ballad makers have certainly been at least as important as the makers of laws. Servia's national ballads, commemorating the glories of the Serbian Emperor Dushan, the fatal battle of Kosovo, and the legendary exploits of the hero Marko Kraljevic and his horse Sharats, are of Homeric proportions, and, sung to the accompaniment of a guitar with cords of horsehair tails, have kept national feeling warm for centuries.

Small for Its Size.

An admiring constituent gave Congressman Legare of South Carolina one of those vest pocket edition Lilliputian Mexican dogs to take home to the children. Legare—pronounced Legree, by the way—was leading the dog along by a cotton string, when a South Carolina mountaineer stopped him.

"Are it a reg'lar dog?" the man asked. "Yes, it's a Ch—. Well, I can't pronounce the name of it," said Legare, "but it's some kind of a Mexican dog."

LIVING TOWER IS UNIQUE

Captain Meeker Built it on the Tops of Four Redwood Trees in California.

What is known as the "Living Tower" (says a writer in the Wide World Magazine) stands on the very summit of a hill more than two hundred feet high at Camp Meeker, a summer resort in Sonoma county, California. It was Captain Meeker, an old pioneer, who first conceived the idea of building a tower on the very summit of a high hill near his hotel, and while looking around one day for a suitable site, he found four young redwood trees standing about twelve feet apart, representing a perfect square. The trees were each about one hundred and fifty feet high. Fifty feet of each top was lopped off, and the work of building six stories was then commenced. From top to bottom the Living Tower was one hundred feet high. Each floor is about twelve feet by twelve feet, and rests on strong timbers, the ends of which are securely attached to the four trees by means of steel cables and bolts. So strongly was every part braced that the whole structure does not move as much as one would naturally suppose, even when rocked by heavy winds.

GREAT IS THE BUCKWHEAT!

Only Pumpkin Pie May Be Likened to the Tasteful Cereal Cakes, Says Rhaphodist.

This modest flowering plant makes but a poor showing in our annual crop returns—some 10,000,000 bushels, perhaps. As a grain it figures insignificantly, outside of New York and Pennsylvania. But it is to be noted that the honey bee is aware of its peculiar virtue, preferring alone the white clover to the buckwheat blossoms. Farmers who keep bees know this and plant patches of the grain.

Wise as the bee is the man who awaits the honey from the hive, the flour from the buckwheat; then follows the griddle cake.

Its time is at hand. It goes with sausage or Philadelphia scrapple. There are such distinct American products that one reads with keen sympathy in the latest life of the expatriated genius, Whistler, how he was so devoted to buckwheat cakes that "he insisted almost at the price of friendship that others share his enthusiasm."

Other countries are blessed with special foods, from the caviar of Russia to the macaroni of Italy, but they are beyond the pale, pitifully ignorant of what they miss and of what we are about to enjoy. In America there is nothing sectional about the buckwheat cake; it springeth up as a lowly flower, and, in the common taste for it, is to be likened only to the unpretentious pumpkin pie.—Philadelphia Press.

Interesting Facts About Oysters.

An oyster is wonderfully prolific. A single oyster in a single season will produce 30,000,000 eggs. If these all survive and in turn had normal families, in a few years many great bodies of water, such as Long Island Sound, Peconic, Gardner's, Narragansett, Great South and Chesapeake would become filled up. Navigation would have to be suspended. The oyster shells would form solid land, as do the houses of the coral insects of the South Pacific. But instead of increasing, the destruction of the young oysters by their enemies is so great, together with the depletion of the natural beds by the demand for this delicious food by mankind, that far from increasing, in past years the supply was greatly depleted. In many cases it has threatened to become extinct. This was especially true in Great Britain and some places on the Atlantic coast.

In recent years, however, a vast industry has been established for the artificial propagation and cultivation of oysters. Now hundreds of thousands of acres are employed in oyster farming in the great bays and sounds of the Atlantic seaboard. Here oyster farming under from 30 to 60 feet of water is conducted upon an enormous scale, at great expense and labor.

Good Model.

He was somewhat eaten up with a mistaken consciousness of his own importance, and when he was making his great speech in the Muddelcombe mock parliament, he noted that one of the local pressmen appeared to be sketching him. When the "house" adjourned he buttonholed the artist.

"I believe—you were—sketching me; isn't that so—aw?" he inquired.

NEW WAYS OF EVANGELISTS

Departure From Old Time Methods Has Been Made in Busy New York Streets.

They certainly have speeded up the gospel wagon hereabouts. Every one has seen the old-fashioned noon day evangelist at work. He usually stands upon a soap box, he is sometimes aided by a bunch of singers whose voices need immediate patching, and he is always earnest, but often regrettably greasy. Also, a good many of him have the habit of passing the hat by proxy before the wary audience can make it get-away. The most elaborate old time outfit only ran to a cottage organ in a wagon. The wagon always wheezed and the organist knew only the sad tunes—with a universe full of joyous melodies to pick from. They don't do it that way any more. Street evangelism is on the first speed, along with everything else. Every noon nowdays an up-to-date entertainment committee can be seen from the windows of the Times star office at work on Madison square, says the New York correspondent of that paper. The evangelist rides to his daily task in a taxicab and when it is his task to speak he stands on the front seat and steadies himself by holding to the driver's head. In the cab are from three to five good looking women—good looking; get that—who can and do sing. Sometimes they are accompanied by a cornetist who is a real artist. They sing regular songs, too, with a gospel flavor and at a quickstep. Sometimes they use megaphones pointed upward at the windows of the surrounding skyscrapers. Heads jam those windows the moment the first note is heard. There isn't anything cheap or commonplace or sordid in the outfit. The women are well dressed and have good voices. The speaker is always witty and eloquent—and he is just as earnest, even if his coat does fit and his collar is dandruffless. When the noon hour is over they ride to their homes in the taxi. It is a departure from the accepted rules of street evangelism—but isn't it like New York?

BAR THE FIT FROM COLLEGE

Traditional Requirements Are Unfair to Many Persons Who Should Be Sought and Welcomed.

I suspect we are likely to underestimate the number of naturally fit men, now barred out of college by the traditional requirements, who could readily enough prepare themselves to enter with quite as promising an equipment as that possessed by the regular high school candidates. They are to be found in every walk of life. Some are on farms, many are teaching rural schools, others are clerking in banks and commercial offices or working at the trades. These promising men should not merely be welcomed. They should be sought out. All colleges and especially those connected with state universities should bear torches in the search. It is a phase of conservation which transcends in importance the conservation of the forests, the water powers and the coal. Why should there not be "state surveys" for this higher object, something after the plan proposed by Jefferson for the discovery of gemstones in Virginia?

Not all naturally brilliant youth will desire to enter the professions, and this is well, for they are needed in the other walks of life also and will ever be found in goodly numbers, as now, in business, in the trades, on the farms. Those preferring these occupations ought to prepare for them at the vocational schools or in other effective ways. The college course would be open to them for the purpose, but they would be expected to pursue it under the severe intellectual regimen prescribed for those looking forward to the professions.—Joseph Schafer in the American Review of Reviews.

Long and Honorable Career.

Sir Ralph Williams, who has resigned as governor of Newfoundland, has had a long diplomatic career, during which he has been in many important situations. For a time he was secretary at Barbadoes and saw a quarter of the population swept off the earth by a hurricane. But it was in Africa that he had his largest experience, ruling over blacks and Boers. He first saw the Dark Continent in 1888, during a hunting trip. In 1901 he was made governor of Bechuanaland, with C. M. G. as a decoration of merit. Sir Ralph was appointed governor of Newfoundland about three years ago. He is sixty-four years of age, and in retiring does so to spend the remainder of his life in leisure.

Growing in Kind.

An agricultural expert, who had been invited to address a state grange, expressed opinions with which a local farmer, a plain, uncultured man, found fault. After some discussion, in which the sense of the meeting was clearly with the farmer, the expert lost his temper.

"Sir," he said to his opponent, striving to speak coolly, "do you realize that I have been at two universities, one in this country and one in Germany?"

"What of that?" demanded the farmer, with a faintly flickering smile. "I had a calf that nursed two cows, and the observation I made was, the more he nursed the greater calf he grew."—Youth's Companion.

Buggies.

New Buggies and Carriages

Forrest L. Bullock, the Water street dealer, has just received a carload of fine New Rubber and Steel Tire Buggies and Carriages. They are all the product of the Ligonier Carriage Co., and in workmanship, quality and finish can't be surpassed at the price. If you are thinking of buying a new vehicle this spring you would do well to look this shipment over because he guarantees them and will sell them all at a figure that marks them as bargains.

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