

Democratic Watchman

Belleville, Pa., April 20, 1923.

A TALE OF TOBACCO.

By L. A. Miller.

Why do people smoke? Because they want to. This is probably as satisfactory an answer as can be given to this oft repeated question. Why did they ever begin to smoke? It would be more interesting to trace—the habit to its origin, but unfortunately there are no very reliable records from which to gather the desired information. Will they ever quit? No fellow can find out. However, the strong, very strong, probabilities are that men will smoke as long as tobacco grows on the face of the earth, or until something better has been discovered. Tobacco is a queer sort of weed anyway. The first account given of it was in 1560, when Jean Nicot found it in Portugal and sent seeds to France. He described it as possessing wonderful medicinal properties. The active principle of the plant was called nicotine, from the name of the discoverer. His researches showed that it had been known and used in Portugal for about forty years, to promote relaxation of the muscles and to soothe pain. The fumes of it were used for these purposes as well as decoctions and applications of the leaf. At the time Nicot discovered it the Portuguese were becoming quite fond of it and almost every house contained a tobacco— a reed pipe—in which the dried leaf was smoked. The natives called it a so-lace and resorted to it for relief from every form of ill. If a man ate too much he smoked, if he was hungry he smoked, if in pain he smoked, smoked when he was glad, and smoked when he was sad.

Catherine de Medici got a whiff of it in 1572. It had such a quelling effect on her conscience that she clung to it, calling it herb de la reine. Soothing as it was it could not drown the recollections of the part she played in the St. Bartholomew massacre, or in the removal of her husband and son when they stood between her and the throne.

The culture of tobacco spread so rapidly over Europe and Asia that it was only a few years after its discovery until it was known and used in all parts of the civilized world. It is so easily acclimated that there is no difficulty in raising it anywhere, from Canada to the Equator. In 1660 a law was passed in England restricting its production to a very small quantity for medical purposes only. This law still remains in force. The early settlers of Virginia devoted their attention so exclusively to raising it that as early as 1616 a law was enacted providing that food crops should not be neglected in its favor. The active principle of tobacco, a volatile alkaloid, was first obtained and described by Vanquelin in 1809.

Its vapor is so powerful that one drop of the alkaloid evaporated in a room will render the atmosphere deadly poisonous. It is indeed a most potent poison, one drop of it being sufficient to kill a dog almost instantly. It has frequently been used in criminal poisoning, the case of Barcome being one of the most noted.

Orfilo, a chemist of high standing, found that it preserves animal tissues from decomposition, but it is so much more expensive than arsenic and has such an offensive odor that it will never be used very extensively for this purpose. He fixes the proportion of alkaloid in Havana tobacco at two per cent.; Maryland from 2 to 3, and Virginia from 6 to 9.

A peculiarity about tobacco is that its quality depends almost entirely on the character of the ground in which it grows. That grown on the western portion of the Island of Cuba is far superior to that grown in the eastern section. There is a marked difference in that raised on different plantations in the same section and even in different parts of the same plantation. Havana seed planted in the Connecticut valley produces an entirely different quality, the leaf being remarkably thin and silky and almost devoid of the aroma peculiar to the Cuban product.

In Virginia the seed produces a leaf so rich in nicotine that it is entirely unfit for cigars, but especially well adapted for chewing and smoking tobacco. Maryland, Ohio and Kentucky each produce very different qualities, all of which find special uses.

The Connecticut leaf makes the finest wrappers for cigars, and is shipped in large quantities to Havana for that purpose. Cigars were not known until about 1815. Previous to that time pipes were used exclusively. Chewing had then been in vogue to a limited extent for some time, while snuffing dates back almost as far as smoking.

The first package sent to Catherine de Medici was in a fine powder. She found that in smelling it, in the box, affected her similarly to smoking, which led her to filling one of her smelling bottles with the dust. Her courtiers adopted the habit of snuffing small portions of it up their nostril. As the precious stuff became more plentiful the snuffing habit became more general, until at last a man or woman was not considered as being in proper form unless he or she snuffed.

The custom became so common in England that a snuff-box was no longer an insignia of rank. Then it was that the law prohibiting the culture of the plant, except for medicine, was passed. About the same time a heavy tariff was placed on the important article, thereby practically placing it beyond the reach of the common herd and giving royalty a complete monopoly. Since it first began to be used as a luxury, there have been conflicting opinions in regard to its effects. The Romish church once forbade its use, and the Church of England declaimed against it. The Wesleys opposed it hotly, and at one time it was considered so unclean as to unfit men for membership in the Methodist church. Baptists and Presbyterian ministers preached against it, and societies were organized to oppose the spread of the habit, but all to no purpose. Parents disinherited and disinherited

their children because they used it, and husbands divorced their wives on account of their having contracted the habit of smoking. It is singular that when women get into the habit of smoking a pipe, they prefer a strong one. There are few men who have nerve enough to smoke a pipe such as a woman likes when she has become a confirmed smoker. When they first begin puffing cigars they prefer them very mild, but it is not long until they want them black and strong, and lots of them.

The first chew or first cigar, is always long remembered, for they almost invariably produce a sickness only parallel to that of the sea-sickness, and, like the latter, the victim is not at all frightened, but wants to die, or at least does not care whether he lives or not. As soon as the attack is over, however, he is ready to try it again. By patience and persistence the nauseating effects are overcome, and the deadly sickness gives place to delightful sensations.

The pipe is less popular among ladies in this country now than it was fifty years ago. In the southern States, however, the women of the middle and lower classes nearly all either smoke or rub snuff, and not a few do both. Storekeepers in many parts of the south buy snuff by the barrel, and keep it under the counter with their stock of sugar and coffee.

The excessive use of tobacco in any form cannot help being more or less harmful. That it deranges the stomach is evident from the number of well defined cases of delirium tremens caused by it, to say nothing of various other nervous phenomena.

The moderate use of it, while rarely ever beneficial, may not be positively harmful. The most that can be said in its favor is that it affords a great deal of satisfaction to those who have become used to it. On the other hand, smoking fouls the breath, injures the sense of taste, vitiates the atmosphere of a room, and entails unnecessary expense. Chewing is more filthy than smoking, but not as expensive. Physicians are not agreed as to which is the more harmful.

Sure to Succeed.

Original men are not content to be governed by tradition; they think for themselves, and the result is often that they succeed where others fail.

Now a certain photographer never says to a woman customer, "Look pleasant, madam, if you please." He knows a formula infinitely better than that.

In the most natural manner in the world he remarks: "It is unnecessary to ask you to look pleasant; I am sure you could not look otherwise."

Then click goes the camera and the result is never in doubt.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Ask for 590,000 Seedlings.

More than 590,000 forest tree seedlings were applied for through the Johnstown office of the forestry department for planting this spring.

This number is 150,000 more than were requested in 1922 and greatly exceeding the number for any year since 1916.

Tempting Fruit Blossoms.

"Consider the farmer," is a message to the town and city dwellers of Centre county, coming from the county Farm Bureau office. Hundreds of dollars of damage is caused each spring through unintentional acts of autoists and hikers who like to get out into the country on a day's outing in the spring of the year.

A spray of apple, peach or cherry blossoms, to be used as a house decoration in the city home, is a great temptation to a motorist passing a tree in full bloom and out of sight of the farm house. Those tempted are likely to overlook the fact that hundreds of others on the same day might be struck with the same fancy.

The Farm Bureau office points out that the farmer has a hard enough time these days making ends meet with his pruning and spraying of fruit trees, picking and packing the fruit and marketing it. The armful of blossoms carried off by an auto party may mean a bushel or two of apples lost to the grower; a group of boys can thoughtlessly lose him a bushel of peaches, and a crate of cherries may be represented in the armfuls of blossoms that cannot be resisted by a group of young men and women hikers. Spring time in the country is a good time to observe the "Golden Rule," says the State College agricultural extension representative.

Honey Crop Could be Increased Ten-Fold.

"It is conservative to estimate that the honey crop of Pennsylvania could be increased ten-fold. The State has too many bee-keepers and too few honey producers," says Professor N. E. Phillips, extension bee specialist at The Pennsylvania State College.

Through too frequent instances of poor management, he claims that the true value of honey production on a commercial scale has not been realized. A survey of the State shows that the honey crop is greatly lessened each year, chiefly due to bee diseases, inadequate winter protection, no attempt at swarm control and the use of scrub stock of bees or those of inferior breeding.

Proper care and management of bees now owned by Pennsylvania bee-keepers would do much to improve conditions. The State College extension program for bee culture aims at the bee man's problems and also to interest more bee-keepers in commercial honey production. Professor Phillips makes his headquarters at State College, Pa., and between visits to the various counties for demonstration work, answers bee questions for the many who seek this information.

Man's Best Friends.

PROTECT the birds
That eat the insects
That destroy the forests
That preserve the waters
That fill the reservoirs
That irrigate the lands

That produce the crops
That supply the markets
That provide the foods
That nourish the people
Who make the laws.
—Our Dumb Animals.

Real Estate Transfers.

W. Frank Weaver, et ux, to Hugh G. Crumlish, et ux, tract in Spring township; \$3,100.

W. C. Krader, trustee, to Wm. W. Vonada, tract in Gregg township; \$75. Sarah Sprankle's heirs to Emma Garbrick, tract in Spring township; \$1.

Cambria Steel Co. to Johnstown Realty Co., tract in State of Pa.; \$100. Adam Grenoble's Exrs. to G. B. Bitner, tract in Gregg township; \$900. D. B. Brisbin, et al, to Warren A. Homan, tract in Centre Hall; \$3,750. W. R. Gardner's Exrs. to Lloyd W. Bechdel, tract in Howard; \$5,250.

Darius W. Cole, et ux, to Emma Garbrick, tract in Spring township; \$1.

Esther M. Sheiffer to Miles I. Bressler, tract in Gregg township; \$1,500.

George W. Miller to William C. Martin, tract in Spring township; \$1,800.

Arthur B. Lee, et ux, to Arthur M. Grove, tract in Gregg township; \$4,200.

T. A. Womelsdorf, Atty., to Emma M. Buckwalter, tract in Rush township; \$150.

Sadie Myrtle Kennedy, et bar, to John H. Garland, et ux, tract in Rush township; \$3,000.

A. A. Frank, et ux, to C. G. Hassinger, tract in Millheim; \$790.

J. D. Irish, et al, to Michael McCartney, tract in Rush township; \$30.

Flora Roach to Wm. Roach, tract in Rush township; \$10.

Rebecca Smith, et al, to John C. Smith, tract in Gregg township; \$1.

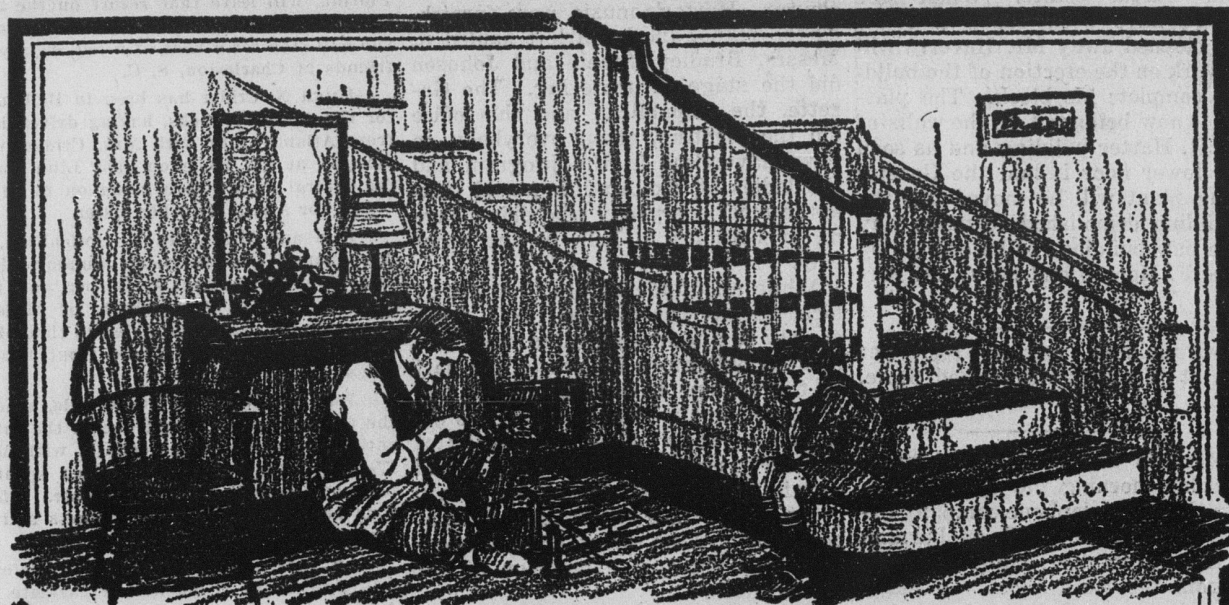
Esther M. Sheiffer to Harry A. Corman, tract in Gregg township; \$110.

But We Have to Have It.

From the Kansas City Star.

The Irish people are reported to be disturbed over the prospect that the Free State government will cost about 30 per cent. more than government as part of the United Kingdom. They may be disturbed. But there is no reason for them to be surprised. The rest of the world long ago discovered that governments come high. A suspicion is arising that they come a good deal higher than they are worth.

—Get your job work done here.



SEVENTY THOUSAND NEW TELEPHONES WILL BE ADDED TO THE BELL SYSTEM IN PENNSYLVANIA THIS YEAR

At the beginning of the year there were more than three-quarters of a million Bell telephones in the state.

Every new telephone added requires new wire, new central office equipment, new switchboard facilities.

And new efforts on the part of the twenty thousand Bell Telephone people, who build, maintain, and operate the system.

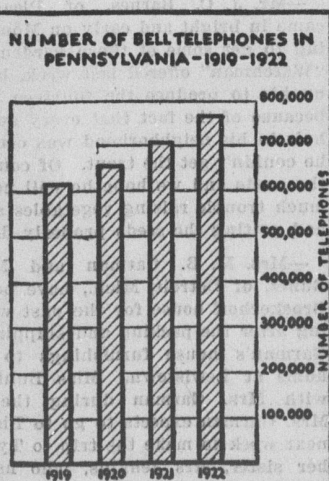
Seventy thousand new telephones in one year is the essential part of our program to keep pace with Pennsylvania's telephone needs.

THE BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY OF PENNSYLVANIA

C. W. Heilhecker



Local Manager



Shoes.

Shoes.



Large Size Shoes for Large Women

We can fit the very largest foot with Stylish Shoes and give comfort.

Yeager's Shoe Store

THE SHOE STORE FOR THE POOR MAN

Bush Arcade Building 58-27 BELLEFONTE, PA.

Come to the "Watchman" office for High Class Job work.

Lyon & Co. Lyon & Co.

A visit to our store will convince you that we have on display an array of Spring Styles that will please and delight the Woman or Miss who is in quest of a Spring Coat, Suit, Cape, Dress or Blouse, at attractively low prices.

New Line of Sweaters and Scarfs

just arrived—a beautiful combination of colorings in Silk and Wool.

Hosiery

Attention, Kiddies—The new hot weather Socks are now on display—all colors, all lengths, in plain and fancy. Ladies Silk Hose in all colors.

Carpets and Draperies

Make your Spring house-cleaning easy and your home attractive by buying your Carpets, Rugs, Draperies and Curtains here. Prices to suit all economical buyers.

Shoes

We have Shoes to suit everybody—

Mens Fine Dress Shoes Mens Working Shoes
Ladies Dress Shoes Ladies Oxfords
Ladies 1 and 2-Strap Oxfords Childrens Shoes—in All Colors

Lyon & Co. 64-10 Lyon & Co.