

## ENGLAND'S INCOME TAX.

## Bears Most Heavily Upon Man of Average Income.

An effort made recently by several enterprising members of Parliament to induce the House of Commons to pass a graduated income tax failed.

It is held that the present uniform income tax, which is levied upon all incomes above \$500 a year, is unscientific, because its burden is unequal. The present tax of thirteen pence on each pound of income, approximating twenty-six cents on each \$5 of income.

All persons earning under \$800 a year are exempt. This exemption relieves the masses of the people from income tax. The effort now is to obtain a scientifically graded tax. Mr. Channing, M.P., wants to amend the law so that incomes exceeding \$800 and not exceeding \$1,000 shall be taxed at the rate of four cents on each \$5; incomes above \$1,000 and below \$2,000 eight cents, and incomes between \$4,000 and \$5,000 twenty cents.

Mr. Lewis, M.P., also wants a graduated income tax, while Mr. Trevelyan, M.P., favors a graduated tax that will compel the rich to pay in proportion to their wealth. Mr. Trevelyan believes every person with an income exceeding \$25,000 shall pay, in addition to the present tax of twenty-six cents on each \$5, two cents on each \$5 of income above \$25,000 and up to \$50,000, and four cents on each \$5 of income above \$50,000.

Under the law as at present administered the income tax bears more heavily upon the man of average income than upon the very wealthy. Nobody living in England can evade the income tax, whether Englishmen or foreigners. Even the London correspondents of American newspapers are not exempt and have to pay income tax at the same rate as William Waldorf Astor, although their incomes in many cases are not quite as large.—N.Y. Journal.

## GUARDING AGAINST FLOODS.

## Warning Given Twenty-Eight Days in Advance.

One of the most remarkable cases of flood prediction on record was the warning of the disastrous floods of 1902. Twenty-eight days in advance of its coming the forecaster at Washington announced the exact time when the crest of a flood would reach New Orleans, and said that the height of the flood would be twenty-one feet. Punctually to the hour the flood came, and its crest was 20 feet and 7 inches, only five inches less than the height predicted. The immense ocean of water had started one thousand miles away. It had dropped from the skies over a territory six times larger than the State of New York (over 300,000 square miles); but the weather man knew its rate of march as surely as the engineer, with his eye on the indicator, knows the speed of his locomotive. Thousands of men were set to work to raise and strengthen the levees and embankments, to clear the wharves and river banks, to remove women and children, to drive the cattle to places of safety. When the flood arrived the people were ready for it. Comparatively few lives were lost, and the damage to property, while terrible, was millions and millions of dollars less than it would have been if the people had had no sentinel to cry out the march of the waters.—Century.

**Standard Oil in Roumania.**  
Charles Wood, Bert Graham, C. E. Dettler, Joseph McCauley, and two other Muncie oil workers recently signed contracts to go to Roumania in the employ of the Standard Oil Company, where the Standard has come into virtual control of the immense Roumanian field. One stipulation in their agreement with the Standard is that on finishing their day's work the men shall don evening clothes because, it is set forth, there are but two classes of people in Roumania—the peasants and the rich—and the Standard desires to keep up its prestige by having its employees well dressed.—Indianapolis News.

**Royalty's Many Residences.**  
The Czar of Russia and the Emperor of Germany might, if they please, dispute with each other as to which of the two owns the greater number of palaces. Each might sleep in a different house every night for a month and not exhaust the number of his various dwelling-places. The Czar is said to own many country seats—which are kept up in every detail, furnished and furnished and crowded with servants—into which he has never set foot. King Edward of England, while regularly occupying only four has a dozen or more houses which are ready for him at all times.—Chicago Journal.

**Locomotives as Fog-Makers.**  
An engineer asserts that the London fogs are caused largely by the discharge of steam into the air from the 300 or more locomotives operating in London area. One steam plant of 2,000 horse-power, the engineer figures, will discharge into the air twenty tons of steam per hour, or sufficient to produce a fog twenty feet thick and one mile square; and what plants with a capacity of 65,000 horse-power can do in the way of fog production may, therefore, be easily estimated. The proposed remedy is to convert this waste steam into electric power.—Railway Age.

## THE BREAKER OF HEARTS

By RICHARD RODGERS.

Those who met Margaret Lowry in the busy whirl of society said she was a coquette. Those who had boasted of her friendship for many years and who knew her kind heart and spirit of good will said she was not appreciated. They said that she liked society for the amusement it afforded and that if hearts were broken and hopes were shattered by those big brown eyes it was not intentional. And so the two sides argued and raged over the matter. For Margaret Lowry was as much admired as she was disliked. The young women of the circle in which she moved took great pains to impress on their men friends the fact that Margaret was a heartbreaker—of the ruthless kind that leads you up to the very threshold of love and just as you are about to make the leap slams the door of her heart before you and shuts you out. Yet Margaret had the largest following of admirers of any young woman in town. The society leaders knew this, and so did the society editors of the newspapers. And whenever there was a social function it was "Miss Lowry who poured," and the newspapers seemed to take particular pride in printing pictures of Margaret in her finest gowns.

As for Margaret—well, she enjoyed the distinction of society's favor and she revelled truly in the hearts which were hung about her. It was her delight to think of the lovers she could count.

But it changed. When Henry Thorpe came on the scene society noticed a change in Margaret Lowry. The heartbreaker seemed to pause in her mad career of breaking hearts. Everybody liked Henry Thorpe. Not only because when his father died and left him to support his mother and two sisters he had gone out into the world and had carved a place for himself in the rock of fortune, but because he was manly and true.

"Don't you suppose you will ever fall in love?" asked Margaret of Thorpe one night as they were sitting out a dance apart from the swinging, swaying crowd in the ballroom.

"Yes, I fully expect to fall in love," was the candid answer. "But not until I find my heart's equal."

"What do you call your heart's equal?"

"A woman who is constant in her affections; whose love must be pure and holy; who will come to me because she loves me from the heart and not from the social side of her character."

And then Margaret Lowry had "an ambition."

Society wondered at the change in her. Margaret herself found it was a hard struggle. It was the battle of the true emotions against the superficial feelings which society builds up. Henry Thorpe worked his way through the social field for two years. The lionizing of society amused him, but did not change him. Then Thorpe and Margaret Lowry sat again apart from the gay music of the dance.

"I have had an ambition and I have worked two years trying to realize it," she said.

"Have you succeeded?" he asked.

"I don't know," she replied, and the red glow on her cheeks bespoke more to the young man than worlds of words.

"Margaret, will you be my wife?" he asked abruptly. Everybody knew that Henry Thorpe was business-like in everything he did, but no one thought he would carry it into his love affairs.

"Are you sure you have found your heart's equal?" she asked.

"The heart true and constant beats within your breast, and the love pure and holy is that which I feel is within you," was the reply, and then it was the old story of two souls with but one thought.

## THE ALLIGATOR PEAR.

## It Is Both Food and Medicine, Say Its Enthusiastic Admirers.

Many advocates of the use of the alligator pear, that lustrous green stranger with the tough skin, say that it has the merits of both food and medicine and is remarkably nutritious, besides having that quality of flavor that seems nicer the more you know about it.

It can be eaten one morning plain, the next with pepper and salt, like a salad, the next with lemon juice and sugar, and the partaker cannot tell in which guise it is most delicious, being so satisfactory in all.

Then it can be served with maderia or sherry as a dessert and made into a pie if need be; only connoisseurs do not especially recommend pie, except for those pie enthusiasts who can be taught to know and love a strange fruit only through that familiar medium. It gains in popularity in New York yearly.

It is said the oil in the alligator pear has superior nutritive value to the olive oil or to that yielded by peanuts, and that it is almost equal to a fresh egg in food value. It is in reality one of the laurel family, not the pear.

Few people of the tropical cities would willingly do without it, and it is valued and beloved both in Mexico and in China. A small orchard of this fruit is bearing down by Palm Beach, Fla. It was founded by French growers who anticipate great success. California now has several orchards of it. The Brazilian variety is pronounced finer than either the Chinese or Mexican.

He who knows not that he is victimized and knows not that he knows not, needs a guardian.—Adapted.

## WHERE CHILDREN ABOUND.

## Bounty Paid a Heavy Drain in Provincial Resources.

In the province of Quebec there are no less than 12,000 heads of French-Canadian families each of whom possesses a family of twelve children or more. Under a provincial enactment these families are entitled to a grant of 100 acres of land from the provincial public domain, and this law is now causing much concern to the provincial authorities.

When the law was passed providing for this grant of crown lands to productive married couples it was never calculated that the number of large families would prove so very great. It has turned out that the matter is proving a serious incubus upon the local government on account of the many thousands that have applied for the right of a grant of land and the thousands that are yet to be satisfied. The French-Canadian farmers marry young, and they are a strong, hardy race of people.

The fathers of these families invariably choose the land, to which they are entitled, as near as possible to their own homes, lands that are held under lease from the government by lumbermen to cut their timber thereon, but the lumbermen are bound by the terms of their leases to relinquish such portion of the lands as may be claimed for settlement, notwithstanding that the limit-holders have paid the price of their holdings to the government.

Lumbermen are therefore much exercised over the present situation. The tax on the timber limit-holders, who are called upon to surrender large portions of their timber areas, has become so great that they are in a quandary how to protect their interests.

Applications for land grants became so numerous last year that the lumber merchants waited in a body upon the Quebec Government, demanding relief from the wholesale spoliation of their timber holdings. As a consequence, the law was amended so as to provide a bonus of \$50 in lieu of the land grant, and as many prefer the cash to the land, it may serve to relieve the situation somewhat.

## BULL FIGHTING IN SPAIN.

## Attended With Appalling Disaster and Loss of Life.

Disasters succeed each other with astonishing rapidity in the bull rings of Spain.

On Easter Sunday eight matadors in the various cities where bull fights were being held, met with serious accidents. On Mayday, during a charity performance at Seville, an amateur matador belonging to a distinguished family was gored through the throat and died in the bull ring, a priest being hastily summoned to administer the last sacraments.

Nor does the list of troubles end there. As three magnificent bulls were being conveyed to the ring from the train in which they had arrived from the country, the most powerful of the beasts knocked out the side of the cage with a blow of his head, and the animals on gaining their freedom charged the crowd which had gathered to watch their arrival. A panic ensued, the people taking refuge in the stores lining the streets and scrambling into the tramcars, many taking refuge in the trees.

One man was impaled on a bull's horns and died in agony. A woman was tossed a dozen yards, and three cab horses were gored. The gendarmerie arrived with rifles, and armed guards belonging to the bull ring also appeared. Shots were fired at the bulls, much lead lodging in the neighboring fences and breaking the windows of the houses.

## Land of Twins and Triplets.

Scotland is the land of twins and triplets, holding a long lead over her sister countries in this matter. In twelve months no fewer than 1,625 mothers gave birth to twins and twenty-five presented triplets. Scotland is among the few countries of Europe where the proportion of male babies is greater than of females. Striking an average, it is found that there are about 104 males to every 100 females, but the surplus of grown-up girls is nevertheless large, as so many men travel south and apparently neglect to take the precaution to obtain return tickets to the land of cakes.

There is yet another interesting fact about Scotland. It is the land of hale old age. Recent returns show that during one year 673 people died between the ages of ninety and one hundred.—Chicago Journal

## Heavy Fine for Smuggling.

A smuggling case which is probably unique, even in the strange annals of contraband, has just been before the Customs Court of Marseilles. Besides its novelty, the case has a deeper interest as indicating a new danger with which the West is threatened by the insidious East. On board the French steamer Touraine there was found a large quantity of opium smuggled, not by any individual in particular, but by the whole ship's company, and the strange spectacle was witnessed of the heavy fine of \$2,000 being levied on all, every man in the vessel being mulcted in his proportion, assessed according to the wages scale. The incident of an entire crew turned opium smokers is the more startling, as among French ships trading regularly to the East it is not by any means so rare as might be supposed.—London Globe.

## CALIFORNIA FRUIT ROT.

## Disease Baffles Plant Doctors—Government to Assist.

A dreadful plant disease has arisen to trouble California fruit growers, and Professor R. E. Smith, assistant professor in plant pathology, has been asked to cure the ill. He has announced that the Government at Washington would co-operate with the Agriculture College here in an attempt to wipe out the lemon brown rot, a disease which is threatening the destruction of the entire lemon growing industry of California.

The brown rot in lemons constitutes a new problem for plant pathologists, its character differing radically from any fungus or parasitic growth known to those who make the expert study of such diseases a specialty. Its effects thus far have been to partly paralyze the lemon growing business, nearly 50 per cent of the crop last year having been spoiled by the brown rot. The disease spreads a brown mold on the surface of the fruit, which eventually shrivels the lemon, making it unfit for use.

Three years ago the first sign of the brown rot appeared in the lemon orchards of Southern California. It spread and attacked nearly every orchard in the State. It is a pest not known in other countries.

Professor Smith and his assistants have four plant diseases to which they are devoting special attention these being the walnut blight, which is receiving study at the hands of A. M. West, Government expert, at Whittier, in Southern California; pear blight, lemon brown rot and sweet potato blight. The Legislature has appropriated \$30,000 for this purpose.

## NEGROES AS FIGHTERS.

## Many Champions, but No Winner of World's Heavyweight Title.

Whatever may be the final decision on the color line in pugilism—the fact remains that no negro heavyweight ever held the championship of the world. Probably the only fighter of his race who came near to such a distinction was Peter Jackson. But John L. Sullivan, who then wore the crown, blocked Jackson's ambition by refusing to give him a battle. There have been instances where colored scrappers have fought for the championship of England. This happened many years ago, though. Of late whatever glories the negro has attained in the prize ring, were won in America.

Among the smaller brigade the negroes may be said to have been very conspicuous. Three have held the world's title at their various weights. George Dixon was the bantam and featherweight champion of the world for nearly ten years, and only relinquished his laurels to Terry McGovern when it was evident that the noted negro was on the decline. Joe Gans, has been on top for a number of years and Joe Walcott has never been directly beaten for his belt of welterweight champion. Walcott may now be considered out of the hunt because of an injury to one of his hands, which he received in a shooting scrape about a year ago. Walcott felt very proud of his feat and some facetious sporting writer dubbed him "Joe the Giant Killer."—N. Y. Times.

## Laziness in Holland.

The man who is too lazy to work keeps out of Holland if he is wise, or makes his escape as soon as he discovers that there at least a means has been found to make him work. When a prisoner or pauper refuses to work he is lowered into a cistern, which is provided with a pump at the bottom. A stream of water is turned on and the idler is left to his own devices. The capacity of the pump is but slightly in excess of the stream flowing into the tank, and to keep his head above water he must keep pumping.

As a rule, he spends some little time before he finds that the water is slowly creeping upon him. He is not urged to go to work, but presently he takes his place at the handle and begins the task. By working quickly he is able to clear out the water after a short time, but he has to keep at work if he wishes to keep dry feet. There have been occasions when a stubborn offender has refused to pump and has quietly floated upon the water until fished out by the keeper, but this simply doubles his task, and he is not taken from the water until he is able to keep afloat no longer.

## Fate of Men Who Shot a Spy.

"While with the British army in South Africa," said Major Barchard, an attaché of the British Consulate, "I was allotted on one occasion the stern task of commanding a firing party of ten men who executed a Boer officer who had broken his parole and afterward been condemned as a spy. He had assumed the uniform of an English soldier and penetrated our lines after having leapt when on his parole.

"Every member of that firing party has come to fatal or serious grief since that Friday morning when in the gray dawn we shot the spy. Sudden death or a bad accident has befallen each one.

"My turn has come, as you see," and the soldier who had fought in a half-dozen campaigns pointed to his left arm, which was in splints, having been fractured in a street car accident.

## WHAT THE SIMPLON MEANS.

## The New Tunnel Has Effaced a Romantic and Historical Path.

The piercing of the Simplon has unhappily brought with it the final effacement of one of the most romantic and grandly historical paths in human expedition—the closing curtain in the most picturesque drama Europe has afforded. The Napoleonic spectacle was full of surprises; its argument narrates the complications of society and war; its complexities detail the enthrallment of personal magnetism and force.

The superbly built road over the Alps has remained one of the most fascinating diversions for the thoughtful tourist, and has been fraught with memorable experiences. From the moment of embarkation in the yellow diligence, when the whip was cracked over the heads of the post horses at Brieg, until the arrival in the gorge of the Gondo at Iselle, it was a continuously unfolding tableau of grandeur and charm. The overture had begun back in the Rhone Valley with the castles of Sion and Sierré, the towers of Louche and Marigny, at the foot of the Great St. Bernard. But when the ascension of the Simplon began it became a long series of windings through fortified defiles leading around terrifying abysses and through the wildest of mountain recesses. One was awed by the splendor and stirred by conflicting emotions. It was indeed a refuge—the hospice of the Augustine monks. Who that has experienced it will ever forget the welcoming hospitality of the four secluded brethren in the desolate spot?—Century.

## Diamonds for Drawing Wire.

Diamonds are used quite extensively as dies for drawing wire of the smallest sizes; for instance, the sizes less than, say, .025 inch diameter.

The hardest steel dies are not suitable for this work, for the reason that the wear upon them so enlarges the die that the diameter of the wire is not uniform within the required percentage of variation at the beginning and end of a drawing. Sapphires are used sometimes for this work. Copper, silver and platinum are the metals usually drawn to the very small sizes.

With diamond dies it is practicable to draw platinum to a diameter of five ten-thousandths of an inch. An idea of the fineness of a copper wire drawn to only three one-thousandths of an inch in diameter may be gathered from the fact that in one pound of the metal there are over six miles of such wire.

The weight of the diamond used for this work is from four to five carats, and they are uncut except as to the die. The value of these dies, which, of course, are not of the first water, varies from \$15 to \$20 a carat, and several hundred thousand dollars' worth of diamonds are utilized as dies in the various wire factories of this country alone.

Skilful, however, as must be the artisans who sink these small dies, and attenuated as the wires drawn through them may be, yet neither will stand comparison with the output of the spinner of the common spider, which ejects a single thread of silk so fine that 18,000 threads are required to equal in thickness an ordinary single strand of sewing silk.—Electrical Review.

## The South Becoming Active.

There is noticeable activity in the development of railroads in the South, and more especially toward the south Atlantic and gulf ports. Much of this is, no doubt, due to the prospects of the Panama Canal, which should be completed within a decade at most. The great systems of the middle west are striking for outlets to the ocean highways, and the short water route to the Orient is especially engaging their attention. The eastern systems are preparing to conserve their own interests in the great developments that will come from this immense work. The increasing product of the coal mines of the South in Tennessee and Alabama and southern Ohio and Kentucky also justify the establishment of depots at the southern coast points for fuel for the ships of commerce, which are coming in fleets to the South for the splendid trade that is growing almost beyond measure in this section.—Charleston (S. C.) Post.

## House of Paul Revere.

The house of Paul Revere, in North Square, near the old North Church, in Boston, from which he started on his night ride to arouse the countryside way up to Concord and Lexington, April 19, 1775, was to be torn down, but has been rescued by a number of citizens, among whom are Governor Douglas and Mayor Collins. The sum of \$17,000 is to be raised to buy the property and put it in good condition, restoring it to its colonial dignity, and making it a reliquary of the past.

## A Drain on India's Population.

Few probably realize the constant drain on life in India by the plague since it and the famine scorched the whole country. Even during the seven days ended on May 6, 52,252 deaths were returned, showing a decline of 4,478 on the previous week. The mortality in the Punjab, however, increased by over 15,000 in the same period.—N. Y. Sun.

## COMMODORE PEARY'S NEW SHIP

## Specific Points of Difference From Other Arctic Ships.

First and foremost, she will be a powerful steamer, carrying all the engine power which the shafts of her hull will contain. All previous arctic ships have been sailing ships, with only accessory or auxiliary steam power. The sail power of the new steamer will be auxiliary only.

Second, she is the first purely fore-and-aft-rigged vessel yet built for arctic work. None of the others have been able to get away entirely from the old-time square-rig. Her rig will be three-masted schooner, and her sail area about three-fourths of the sail area of the typical Maine schooner of the same size of hull. In hull model the ship differs from other arctic ships in several points.

The rake of her stem is much more pronounced than in any previous ship of her class. Her fore-foot is more rounding, and her bows are more wedge-shaped. This increase in the rake of the stem not only makes her effective as an ice breaker, but is necessitated by her unusual engine power, the incline of the stem acting as a buffer to her impact against the ice.

The pronounced wedge shape has been given to her bows because the greater portion of her work will be that of slowly and laboriously squeezing her way through and between fields and fragments of heavy ice, and the sharper her bow the more effective will be her engine power.—Harper's Weekly.

## EARTH RISES LIKE DOUGH.

## Action of Moisture on Mineral Matter Nearly Wrecks School.

A natural phenomenon recently caused considerable damage to the State Normal School Building of Los Angeles, and there was also great apprehension until the real cause of the disturbance was learned.

For some time past the centre of the building has been slowly rising, being thrust upward by some mysterious agency. It has caused the floors to bulge, doors and windows to be racked to a degree to prevent opening and shutting, and finally the walls of the building began to crack. The building frequently quivered as though from light earthquake shocks, and pupils and teachers were in a chronic state of nervousness.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Kirk investigated the trouble, and digging down underneath the centre of the building he found great masses of swelling earth, caused by the crystallization of ferrous sulphate.

The building stands over a great body of mineral matter—gypsum, iron aluminum salt, sulphur and other minerals. The chemical combinations brought about by moisture, penetrating the mass are what has caused the disturbance. Many tons of the earth have been taken out, and iron and stone supports introduced.

## Resting the Heart.

"Rest your heart now and then during the day," said an instructor in gymnastics.

"But the heart can't be rested," a pupil objected. "It works incessantly from birth to death."

"It rests the heart to lie down," said the instructor. "Every night's sleep of nine hours saves the heart the lifting of 32,400 ounces of blood. Considerable rest there, eh?"

"When we lie down, you see, the heart's action becomes slower—slower by ten strokes a minute. Thus in an hour 600 strokes are saved, and in nine hours 5,400 strokes. Each stroke pumps six ounces of blood, and therefore, in nine hours the heart is saved the labor of pumping 32,400 ounces.

"The heart often requires a rest."—Philadelphia Bulletin.

## Money Hotel Cashiers Dislike.

"It is a curious habit the great American public has of wanting the kind of money that hotel cashiers dislike and have the least of," said one of those useful functionaries.

"Many are the times each day that I am called upon, by ladies especially, for 50 cent pieces. Quarters won't answer, they want half dollars, though why that particular coin I've never been able to understand. No cashier cares to keep halves on hand, but always maintains a good stock of quarters and dimes for the reason of their greater convenience. Many of the guests also beg for 2 cent notes, despite the fact that of all forms of currency they are the most objectionable. We never take them voluntarily, and pay them out as fast as they come in."

## Modern Financial Banking.

The newer plan of using deposited funds not so much for the discounting of the regular commercial paper of customers as for the promotion of more or less speculative enterprises has come into use in answer to a natural demand and is doubtless capable of being employed to the great advantage of general business as well as that of individuals. But the greater profits possible in this kind of banking business necessarily involve greater risks, and these should not be incurred without the provision of extreme precautions. These precautions are to be sought primarily in the integrity and exceptional ability of those who secondarily in a proper system of governmental examination and control.—Providence (R. I.) Journal.