

WEATHER PRANKS

Oddities of Atmosphere, Clouds, Fogs and Lightning.

THIRSTY WINDS OF THE ALPS.

They Drink Up All Moisture So Quick That Everything Becomes as Dry as a Cracker—Andes Lightning and the Ship of the Bay of Chaleur.

Cloud caps form on mountain tops when a current of moist air ascends the slope of the mountain, for the air cools as it rises and the moisture in it condenses.

On the flat top of Table mountain, near Cape Town, a strong southeast wind produces a horizontal sheet of cloud known as the "tablecloth." This cloud often appears to pour over the steep leeward side of the mountain like a mighty cataract. The "spreading of the tablecloth" is a sign of bad weather. At a little distance from the mountain a second cloud often forms.

A similar pair of clouds often seen near Cross fell, in England, are known as the "helm and bar." The helm, or helmet, forms over the mountain when a violent wind known as the "helm wind" is blowing. The bar appears a mile or two to leeward.

At Callao, on the coast of Peru, sailors often encounter a foul smelling fog that deposits a brown slimy coating on white paint and metal and hence is called the "painter."

Another remarkable fog on the Peruvian coast is known as the "garua." It occurs in a region where rain is unknown and supplies sufficient moisture to support vegetation.

Red fogs frequently occur off the northwest coast of Africa, between the Canaries and the Cape Verde islands. They are sometimes so dense as to make navigation difficult. The color is owing to dust that the trade wind brings from the Sahara desert.

Certain valleys in the Alps are of ten visited by a very warm and dry wind known as the "fohn." The effects of this wind are particularly striking in winter. The snow melts and evaporates as if by magic; woodwork becomes as dry as tinder, and great precautions are necessary to prevent the occurrence of the disastrous fires known as "fohn fires" that often destroy whole towns and villages. No cooking is permitted while the fohn is blowing, and not even a pipe or a cigarette may be lighted. Many persons suffer with "fohn sickness" when this wind prevails. The chinook of the western United States is similar in character and origin to the fohn.

Over the waters of the bay of Chaleur, in Canada, a mysterious phenomenon known as the "fire ship" is sometimes seen by night. It is a roughly hemispherical mass of luminosity, with its flat side to the water, but sometimes it rises in slender moving columns that resemble the flaming rigging of a ship. It is supposed to foretell a storm. No satisfactory explanation of this phenomenon has ever been given.

"Andes lightning" is the name given to a very striking luminous discharge of electricity seen over the crest of the Andes, in Chile, in a region where ordinary thunderstorms are almost unknown. The mountains appear to act as gigantic lightning rods, between which and the clouds silent discharges take place on a vast scale. A continuous glow is seen about the summits, with occasional outbursts like the beams of a great searchlight. These displays have been seen by vessels 300 miles from the coast.

Among the snow clad Alps a curious and beautiful phenomenon is sometimes observed at the close of the day. The rosy illumination of the mountain summits passes away, from below upward, as the sun sinks below the opposite horizon, and for a few minutes the peaks, with their rocks and snows, have a livid appearance; then gradually they are lighted up with a second rosy glow, and this may last for as much as an hour after sunset. This is called the "recolonation of the Alps," or, in the case of the giant of the group, the "resurrection of Mont Blanc." The whole series of phenomena is called the "alpenglow."—Youth's Companion.

Honorable.

Marjorie, aged four, was in the library with her father while her mother was superintending the preparation of dinner. The attention of the head of the house was attracted by a scratching sound, and he looked up to find his daughter at work with a pair of scissors on the top of a polished table. "Marjorie," he said sternly, "go tell your mother what you've been doing!" "I won't do it, papa!" she said. "Do you think I'm a tattletale?"—Judge.

Siamese Royal Etiquette.

By a remarkable law of royal etiquette which has existed for a number of years at the court of Siam no person is permitted to sleep in an apartment situated above that occupied by the king. A deliberate breach of this rule has on more than one occasion been punished by death.

Homemade Paste.

Expensive paste is made of one part of starch and one part of flour. Add enough water to make it clear and boiling. This is much better than the usual cornstarch paste for all kinds of pasting.—Woman's Home Companion.

I believe in laughter, in love, in faith, in all distant hopes that lure us on.—Carter.

GERMANS FEEDING BELGIANS.



Photo by American Press Association.

Soldiers distributing food to the hungry in a town in Belgium.

KILLING OF TEN STIRS ARIZONA

Sociologists Interested in Men Doomed to Die.

EXECUTIONS ON DEC. 19.

Five Are Mexicans of Ignorant Type Without Money or Influential Friends. Women Figured in Some of the Tragedies—Two of the Cases Now Up on Appeal.

Lawyers and social students who have considered the personalities of the ten men awaiting execution Dec. 19 in the Arizona state prison say that questions of grave sociological import are suggested.

Five of the convicts are Mexicans, lacking in education, without money or influential friends and reared in an atmosphere of questionable morality. In several instances their victims were of like kind, and their crimes were the culmination of troubles in which women were concerned.

In every instance the penalty of death was stipulated by the jury except in the case of one Mexican, who pleaded guilty before trial.

The cases of two men not included in the ten are before the supreme court on appeal. These two men are Americans, Robert D. Talley and Louis Nelson. The former killed Jesse G. Danner, stepfather of his prospective bride, at the end of a fight caused by Danner's anger at Talley's efforts to correct the alleged waywardness of two sisters of his prospective wife. The homicide took place in Gila county. The other case is that of Louis Nelson, who killed Albert Jones in the Copper City club in Cochise county.

What the Others Did.

The crimes of the ten other men were as follows:

Eduardo Perez shot and killed Felicio Chacon, member of a railway bridge gang, at Congress Junction, Aug. 14, 1910, the trouble starting over a woman.

William Campbell, negro bootblack, killed Ernest Presti, white, known as "Kid Kirby," pugilist, in Prescott on May 9, 1911. A poker game had caused enmity.

Miguel Peralta shot and killed his former wife, who had divorced him. He also killed Juan Delgado, whom he found with her. This crime took place in Jerome, June 29, 1912, in the presence of the Peraltas' several small children.

N. B. Chavez, drunk, sought to "shoot up" his own home in Jerome, Aug. 27, 1910. Patrolman Charles E. King, seeking to end the trouble, was shot and killed.

Francisco Rodriguez of Phoenix was told by his wife on April 2, 1911, that she would leave him. He got drunk. Pleading with her for a reconciliation he led her into the railroad yards and murdered her.

Killed For Refusing Ride. Charles Shaffer, a discharged railroad laborer, killed Edward Giles, who would not let him ride on a construction train on the Arizona Eastern line in Gila county.

W. W. Kermeen and J. T. Harrell of Pearce went hunting together on May 7, 1914. Harrell was killed by a rifle ball. Kermeen took his watch and other effects and fled to El Paso, but was arrested. After conviction he said he had not intended robbery and had no motive for murder, but had been seized with a mad impulse when sitting by the roadside.

A. M. Leonard and John Tomlin, one barely past his majority, stole a bicycle in Mesa City on the evening of Nov. 12, 1913. City Marshal H. S. Peterson pursued. They fled into a field, and when he approached they shot him dead.

Francisco Garcia stabbed and killed Charles Harris, a special policeman, in the railroad yards in Phoenix on the night of July 6, 1913.

Part of Wisdom.

Crawford—You can't reason with a woman. Crabshaw—I never try. It's much easier to jolly her.—Judge.

Correct!

She—A man's wife should be very, very dear to him. He—Dear, but not expensive.

SOME LOUD NOISES CANNOT BE HEARD.

Experimenters in vibration have found that no sound, no matter how loud it may be, can be heard unless it lasts longer than one-fortieth of a second. They have found that both the number of vibrations and the duration of sound influence its audibility, probably the latter more than the former. This means that there are untold numbers of piercing sounds with infinitesimal vibrations and short duration occurring every moment about us. Fortunately we are unable to hear them, else we should be driven crazy in a short time. The ear apparatus is so constructed that it records only those sounds that last one-fortieth of a second or over.—Chicago Tribune.

FIGHTING FROM BEHIND BRUSH.



Photo by American Press Association.

Cremation in Norway.

There is in Norway a law dealing with cremation. According to the act, every person over fifteen years of age can be cremated after death if he or she has made a declaration in the presence of two witnesses. For those under fifteen a declaration on the part of the parents is necessary.—London Standard.

WORRY.

Do not worry; eat three square meals a day; say your prayers; be courteous to your creditors; keep your digestion good; exercise; go slow and go easy. Maybe there are other things that your special case requires to make you happy, but, my friend, these I reckon will give you a good lift.—Abraham Lincoln.

Same as Being Away.

Neighbor's Little Girl—When did you get back, Mrs. Brown? Did you have a nice time?

Neighbor—Why, I haven't been away, my dear.

"Haven't you, really? I'm sure I heard mother say you and Mr. Brown had been at Loggerheads for a week."—National Monthly.

GOOD HABITS.

Good habits bring a personal freedom that it is impossible to obtain otherwise. The man who has the habit of doing anything that he ought to do with clocklike regularity is saved from a galling bondage of uncertainty, hesitation, energy wasting debate with himself, renewed day after day and growing more of a burden as life advances.

Descriptive.

"Is she homely?" "Well, I wouldn't say that exactly. But after taking one look at her no one would ever think of asking why she had never married."—Detroit Free Press.

Curious Laws in India.

Some of the old laws of Nepal, India, were curious. Killing cows ranked with murder as a capital offense, for instance. Every girl at birth was married with great ceremony to a betel fruit, which was then cast into a sacred stream. As the fate of the fruit was uncertain, the girl was supposed never to become a widow. To obtain divorce from a husband a wife had only to place a betel nut under his pillow and depart.

In Nepal the day is considered to begin when it is light enough to count the tiles on the roof or distinguish the hairs on a man's hand against the sky.—Exchange.

WAS EAT STORE STOCK.

August Schmidt was acquitted at Greensburg, Pa., of embezzlement. Blame for the \$2,460 shortage of goods in the store of which he was manager in Monessen, was fixed on the hordes of rats that infest the building, according to a half dozen witnesses. The rodents killed twenty-seven cats and a weasel, bought to exterminate them. Clerks in the store testified that a half crate of eggs would be destroyed in a night and that seven teen barrels of flour had been eaten by the rats in a short time.

President Will Not Take Stump.

President Wilson announces that he will make no speaking tour during the campaign. He believes his duty is at Washington.

More Glaciotrotters Happy Again.

The White Star liner Cedric has arrived from Europe with 1,460 passengers, 848 of whom were Americans.

Family Ate Toadstools.

John Snyder of Sharon, Pa., and family nearly died from eating toad stools in mistake for mushrooms.

Potatoes For England.

New Brunswick has decided to a gift of 160,000 bushels of potatoes to England.

Setting Even.

Susie's grandmother had been scolding her. Susie felt indignant, but had been taught never to "answer back." However, she got even. Taking her kitten in her arms, she thus soliloquized: "Kitty, I wish one of us was dead this minute. Not you, kitty nor me, kitty, but one of us three in this room."—Exchange.

Their Novelty Wearing Off.

Elderly Sister—So Mr. Hembridge said I had teeth like pearls? And what did you say? Young Brother—Oh, nothing; except that you were gradually getting used to them.—London Standard.

Sporting Note.

Speaking of mollycoddle games, how would you like to play cricket on the hearth?—Judge.

Capitals and Armies.

Twice the United States has lost its capital to a foreign foe, but neither time did it produce much effect upon the war. The first time was when Howe's redcoats swept into Philadelphia after the battle of Brandywine. The other occasion was when another British army seized and burned Washington. What Howe needed to end the war in 1777 was not Philadelphia, but Washington's army, and that he didn't get. A country's army is worth a dozen capitals. The British captured America's three largest cities, Boston, New York and Philadelphia, but that availed them little in the long run.—Philadelphia Ledger.

A Phil May Anecdote.

One winter night an old hawker entered the bar of the Old Bell tavern, Fleet street, and offered the customers sets of three studs for a penny. Phil May said to him:

"You are just the man I want!"

He took only one stud and gave the hawker a five shilling piece. The barmaid said to Phil May:

"I believe, Phil, you would give your coat to the first beggar who asked for it!"

"Well, miss," replied the artist, "there would be no harm in that. St. Martin gave his coat to a beggar, and he was a better man than Phil May. I am only a wicked sinner!"—London Tatler.

More Than One Trafalgar Square.

The Scotland Yard examination which would be taxicab drivers have to undergo in the knowledge of London is no mere matter of form. "If," asked the inquisitor recently of a candidate, "a fare hails you in Trafalgar square and asks to be driven to Trafalgar square, what would you do?" "I should drive him around a bit and drop him on the other side of the square," replied the candidate. And he was turned down, for he did not know that London has three Trafalgar squares besides the finest site in Europe—one in Camberwell, another in Chelsea and still another one in Stepney.—London Chronicle.

Fort Sumter.

For four years Fort Sumter, in Charleston harbor, resisted every attempt at its capture. For 280 days the fort was actually under fire. "The duration of the three principal and eight minor bombardments was altogether 157 days and 116 nights. The total weight of metal thrown against the fort from land and sea aggregated 3,500 tons, and of this great mass the fort was actually struck by 2,400 tons. The number of projectiles fired against the fort was 46,058.—Philadelphia Ledger.

TURRET FORT AT ANTWERP.

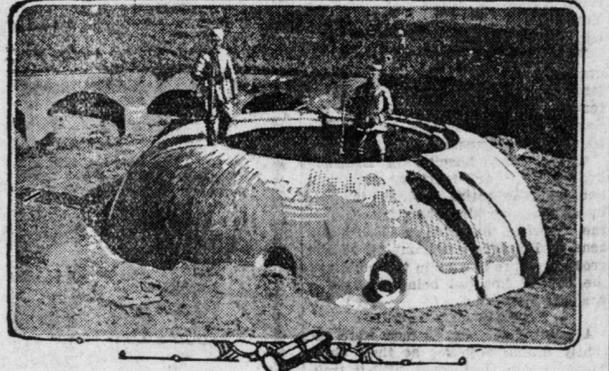


Photo by American Press Association.

This shows the effect of the forty-two centimeter siege guns used by the Germans.

The Drummer.

"I sometimes think," remarked the regular patron, "that the snare drummer should be the best musician in the theater orchestra."

"He usually is," said the drummer.—Chicago Tribune.

Madison and the Constitution.

It is generally understood that James Madison was the chief author of the constitution of the United States. Beyond a doubt the great instrument was the joint product of the entire convention, but from the best accounts Madison was the man who put it into shape as we have it today.—New York American.

Her Mean Brother.

She—Aline's twin brother annoys her dreadfully. He—How? She—You see, everybody knows they are twins, and poor Aline can't pass for only twenty-four because he tells people he's thirty!—Exchange.

Dog Spooks.

The phantom dog specter was one of the hardest of old English superstitions. Almost every county had its black dog which haunted its lonely spots and was the dread of every native. Most of them were regarded as devils, but some were held to be the spirits of human beings, transformed thus as a punishment. Lady Howard, a Devon notable of the days of James I., for instance, was said to be compelled to haunt Okehampton in the form of a dog as a punishment for her cruelty to her daughter.

Austrian Noblewoman In Role of Red Cross Nurse



Photo by American Press Association.

ARCHDUCHESS AUGUSTA.

NO UNDUE DELAY OF SHIPS

England Assures U. S. That Vessels Will Not Be Held Back.

Washington, Dec. 1.—Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, British ambassador, delivered to the state department a note giving assurances that Great Britain does not intend to delay American ships unduly in searching them for

Providence Millionaire Accused by Girl



Photo by American Press Association.

COLONEL CHARLES ALEXANDER.

Miss Jessie E. Cope of Los Angeles, Cal., who brought about the indictment in Chicago of Colonel Charles Alexander of Providence, R. I., under the white slave law, tried to sue him in Rhode Island, but without success. She went to Providence in August, remaining for a month, and laid her allegations before William H. Thornley, a local attorney. He advised her that she had no basis for action. Miss Cope has been arrested on a charge of offering bribes to federal officers if they would assist her in her prosecution of the Providence banker.

Two Puzzles.

Mrs. Bowns—How do you expect me to buy things for you to eat if you don't give me any money? Mr. Bowns—And how do you expect me to earn money for you if I don't get anything to eat?—New York Journal.

USE YOUR STRENGTH.

In the assurance of strength there is strength, and they are the weakest, however strong, who have no faith in themselves or their powers.—Lord Bacon.

BRIDGE OVER THE MAAS.

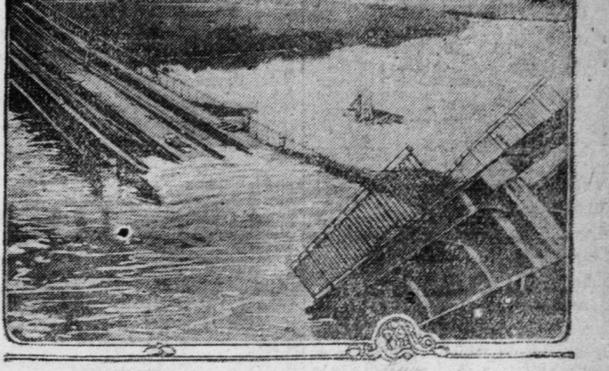


Photo by American Press Association.

This is one of many bridges blown up by the Belgians to hinder the progress of the Germans.