

The Germans control almost the entire trade of the Central American republics with England and California.

Anybody who thinks the nation is out of the woods is invited to reflect upon the 117,000,000,000 feet of lumber standing in the State of Washington alone.

The Washington Star remarks that the idea of shirtwaists for men would assuredly gain more headway as a sensible suggestion if people would quit calling them "shirtwaists."

Ireland's recent census shows that her population has decreased at the rate of 5.3 percent since 1891. Scotland's population has increased in the same 10 years over 10 percent.

One of the greatest temptations of Wall street is shown by the number of people who believe they would have been smart enough to get out in time if they had had money invested.

A new military law of Peru makes every citizen liable to compulsory service from 19 to 50 years. The army has five classes—the regular, super numerary, first reserve, second reserve and national guard.

Gerónimo, the noted Apache chief lives at the age of 80, in a frame house near Fort Sill, Okla., with an income of over \$2000 a year. While little in sympathy with modern civilization, the old chief appreciates one of its inventions, the camera. He charges \$5 for his picture.

According to the late Sir Edward Watkin, the English railway magazine the safest place on earth is a railway car. He once declared that he had proved to his own satisfaction that railroad traveling, according to official statistics, was safer than walking driving, going up or down stairs or even eating. He had found, he said that more people choked themselves while eating than were killed on railway lines.

The blind, through the cinematograph, will not enjoy the delight of realizing the beauty of living pictures. The machine passes under the fingers of the blind a series of reliefs representing the same object in different positions—the branch of a tree, a bird or any other object. The blind person has the illusion of moving scenes just as photographs passing over a luminous screen lend the illusion to those with sight.

For some time past the number of deputies in the grand council of Geneva, Switzerland, have chiefly been government employes. This abuse recently became so great that the citizens demanded the introduction of a new article into the Geneva constitution to the effect that no citizen who is an employe of the Canton of Geneva can be nominated a deputy. Conservatives and social democrats united on the question, and the new clause has become law.

A world congress, called for the purpose of fighting the "white death," will meet in London this summer. Medical skill and knowledge of all schools will be brought together with the hope of finding means of combating this most dreaded of all diseases. It is estimated that 60,000 persons perish each year in the United Kingdom from tuberculosis. The United States loses 160,000 persons annually from the disease; still, in this respect, it seems the least afflicted of all the civilized nations. The total number of deaths from tuberculosis in Europe is about 1,000,000 annually. It is now generally agreed that the scourge is not hereditary, and that it is possible to prevent its spread by infection. The problem before the world's congress is to tell how this may be done. If it should solve the problem, it will prove inestimable service to humanity.

A blow is being struck against one of London's picturesque characters. No less than eight of the new municipalities which make up the city have declared against the coster, and the familiar vender with his "pearlies," his "doner" and his "moke" is beginning to feel the hand of the law. There are between 60,000 and 65,000 costers in London who make their living by peddling. They are a guild by themselves, different from the rest of London in speech, customs and manners. Perhaps it is not true to say that their speech differs materially from that of the average cockney, but it is full of vocal and consonantal distortions that do not find their equal anywhere. The complaint against the costers is that they are public nuisances, that they obstruct the streets and interfere with the trade of the shopkeepers. They have a very powerful union and expect to fight the effort which is being made to keep them off the street.

The surgeons think nothing nowadays of taking out a man's stomach. At Santa Ana, Cal., they have relieved a sufferer of one lung, much to his benefit.

A St. Louis man invented a sleeping powder, experimented with it upon himself, which will encourage other inventors of dangerous preparations to run their own risks.

Andrew Carnegie's latest and largest gift is not to little Scotland alone. In re-endowing the Scotch universities he refills the intellectual treasuries of the English-speaking race.

The libraries of the United States now possess about 40,000,000 volumes, and during the past 20 years the number of libraries have nearly doubled. There are now fully 5000 in this country.

The tendency steadily to increase the size of ocean steamers is explained by the fact that the larger the vessel the smaller is the coal consumption—the greatest item of expense—per ton of cargo carried. For a 4000-ton vessel this is more than twice as great as for 9000-ton vessel.

Efforts have been made to effect a saving in the consumption of fuel. Improved fire boxes have done good. New boilers have helped to some extent. There are a score of appliances that make a ton of coal go further today than three tons a half century ago. However, so long as more heat is wasted than utilized scientists have a work before them.

When crossing the ocean in the summer one can send messages almost as regularly to one's friends as when on land. The carrier pigeons used for the transportation very seldom go astray, sometimes flying over 200 miles. The little birds have quite a career before them, somewhat different from their peaceful brethren, whose sole interest in life seems to be to strut and coo on the barn roofs.

The secretary of the Sheffield chamber of commerce, after a careful study of conditions in the United States, awards the heartiest praise to the road transportation system in America, in comparison with the achievements so far made in Great Britain. He is reported as saying that even in small towns Uncle Sam handles his highway traffic as thoroughly and well as John Bull handles his in large cities. Moreover, he frankly admits that the principal steam railroads of Yankeland are more punctual in their train service, and provide more comfort and convenience for passengers than the British roads furnish. He also commends our fast freight trains, which carry enormous loads at high speed in cars of remarkable strength and capacity, drawn by the most powerful locomotive engines in the world.

Preliminary plans for the proposed Carnegie technical school in Pittsburg have been made. They provide for six large buildings grouped around a central courtyard. The course of instruction in the school will extend through nine years. The first four years will be devoted to preparatory work, and the second four to the regular collegiate work of the engineering schools. The ninth year will be the post-graduate course, which all finished engineers desire to take before they enter practical business. The buildings were planned with the long and thorough course in view, and the idea was the result of long study of the conditions and their success in the best technical schools of the old world. Facilities are to be offered for obtaining the mastery of any chosen trade or the grouping of all for thorough training of engineering as a science. All of this is to be coupled with practice.

Italy is suffering from what criminologists called "a wave of crime" of most virulent description. The total number of persons arrested last year was nearly twice as large as in the year before, the numbers being, respectively, 530,000 and 280,000. These figures include offenses of all kinds from minor misdemeanors to murders and assassinations. The greatest increase is noted in the latter class, and the police seem unable to check them. The cause is found chiefly in the impoverished state of the country, which has given rise to much labor agitation with the accompanying strikes and violence while hunger and a general spread of neurotic ailments are mentioned as subsidiary causes. The Italian authorities, however, point out, for the benefit of foreigners, that this wave of crime is, so to say, quite local, and, therefore, we take it, tourists need have little fear of being the victims of any but the usual legitimate robberies and extortions.

## AN INDIAN FAKIR'S TRICK.

An officer of the British army, who served in India with the Seventh and the Fourteenth Hussars was spending a few weeks in New York. Some friends were talking with him about India and his experiences there, and the conversation turned to Indian fakirs and their wonderful performances.

"These fellows do perform some extraordinary tricks," said the British officer, "but extraordinary as they are, the tricks are not so fearfully wonderful as some of the stories of them which are brought away from India by the tourists who learn all about India and its people in the course of a few weeks' sojourn in some of the coast towns.

"As a matter of fact, the greatest of the fakirs are never seen in the towns and cities. Their religion and superstition will not permit them to wander from their native haunts, and only those who have traveled or lived in the wildest and most remote parts of India have witnessed the performances of the really great tricks of the fakirs.

"You must remember at the outset that the real thing, to use an Americanism, in the way of a Hindoo fakir is a man of secrets and of strange habits. He loves, or affects to love, solitude, and he works upon the superstitions of his fellows in performing what are regarded by the other Hindoos as surging miracles. He lives in comparative seclusion, existing on heaven knows what.

"Of course, at every opportunity, he extorts whatever he may from his fellows, but that is not much. And, shunning as he does the cities, it is only for a venturesome foreign hunter that he may now and then perform and get any considerable cash. In his native state he is the fittest human being I ever clapped my eyes on, and by long habit he has fallen into a chronic state of weirdness, so to speak.

"Report travels much more rapidly than one would suppose in the mountains of India, and once a party of foreign sportsmen or travelers appears in the up country, a fakir is not long in striking the spoor and he keeps to it until he comes up with the strangers. At such times the fakir usually travels with a small boy and a dirty bag filled with a promiscuous jumble of nuts, shells, trick paraphernalia and what not.

"The first time I ever met a no-discount fakir was in a wild, unfrequented part of India, where two other officers of the regiment, an army surgeon and myself, had gone on a hunting trip. We had spent the day beating for a tiger, which got away, and had returned to camp tired and out of sorts. Taking an early dinner, for we were horribly hungry, we sat down outside the tent to smoke our cheroots.

"Suddenly, just before sundown, we noticed an uncanny looking person coming toward us, grinning like a black devil, salaaming at every step, and mulling something which none of us could understand. We knew, of course, that our visitor was one of the mountain fakirs, and we calmly waited for him to proceed to business.

"As he put down his bag with great deliberation, the boy accompanying him curled himself on the ground and seemed to be paying attention to nothing in particular. After a little the old codger produced, seemingly from nowhere, a ball of ordinary cotton string, which had once been white, such string as shopkeepers ordinarily use to tie up light parcels with.

"The man's hair was gray, and his nose was as black as Erebus. He wore a dirty turban and loin cloth, which two articles constituted his apparel. The boy's outfit was no less elaborate.

"After tossing the ball of string about for a while—it was about the size of a billiard ball—he threw it high into the air, retaining the free end of the string in his hand. Up and up and up went the ball, growing smaller and smaller the higher it traveled, until it disappeared from sight altogether. To all appearances it had sailed up until it reached the nearest stratum of clouds and disappeared behind it. It was the mightiest ball throwing we had ever seen and was quite sufficient to attract our attention to anything that the old boy might subsequently do—and that was just what he wanted.

"As soon as the ball had disappeared, the fakir let go the free end of the string and there we had a line of cotton twine extending from about five feet from the ground up to the Lord knew where. When the old man found that the ball remained up in the air, refusing absolutely to come down, no matter how wildly he gesticulated or how loudly he yelled at it, he was apparently much annoyed.

"He tugged and tugged at the cord, but he couldn't pull the ball out of space, and as an evident last resort, he called the boy, told him to climb the cord and bring the ball down. Then we saw the spectacle of a boy 12 or 14 years old, climbing hand over hand up a line of cotton twine about the size of a large pin.

Up and up, higher and higher, the urchin went, climbing as a sailor climbs a rope, until he, too, had disappeared behind the clouds which hid the ball. When last we saw him, he looked to be just about as big as the ball did when it disappeared.

"As soon as the urchin disappeared there was more trouble for the fakir. The boy appeared very well satisfied with the roosting place he had found and the old man was no more successful in getting him back to earth than he had been with the ball of twine. Then we did have a sample of splendid rage.

trunks, whereas he didn't do anything of the kind."

"Maybe Englishmen in India can become thus mentally twisted," said the first inquirer, "but I'm blamed if I believe anybody else can. Either you saw a miracle performed or the whole blessed lot of you were jagged."—New York Sun.

## A MODERN CUSTOM.

European Discussion of Finger-glass Etiquette.

The use of finger glasses after dinner is quite a modern innovation in Germany, introduced from England. Until about 10 years ago glasses were indeed brought round at dessert at the very end of the meal, but this was for the purpose of rinsing the mouth, and a very comical sight it was indeed to see gentlemen and ladies in plain dress, or en grande tenue, washing their mouths at a sumptuously furnished table—or for the matter of that, in any private or public assembly room—instead of retiring to some private chamber for this purpose. In Bavaria it often happens that persons of talent, but without much knowledge of the manners of what is called polite society, are invited to dine with royalty, and not seldom has the mistake above referred to been made there. The following little anecdote, however, contains the details of a practical joke played by a number of artists on a colleague still living who had for the first time received an invitation to dine with the prince regent at the Schloss at Munich.

Several masters of the brush had received similar invitations, and as the painter in question was somewhat elated and excited by the honor conferred upon him, and at the same time singularly nervous and inquiring as to the way he would be expected to behave at the royal table, his conferees put their heads together and determined to play a practical joke upon him. He was accordingly told: "The first time anybody is invited to dine at court a special drink is handed round in glass bowls, and the newly invited guest is expected, according to strict etiquette, to take one of these bowls in his hand and to rise and exclaim, 'I drink to the health of his royal highness,' and then to quaff the contents of the bowl at a draught, make a profound bow toward the prince regent and so resume his seat." The gentleman in question acted to the letter according to the instruction given him. To the manners of the court must be attributed the suppression of all suspicion of a giggle, and it is stated that the royal host did not appear in the least disconcerted, but afterward over the beer the merriment was unrestricted.

## QUAINT AND CURIOUS.

The secretary bird at the London zoo has been cinematographed while in the act of seizing, killing and carrying off a rat.

A hotel landlord in St. Louis, Mo. has established curfew regulations in his house. Promptly at 10 o'clock at night the curfew rings, and guests are expected to turn out the lights and go to bed.

A little church in Pennsylvania was entirely built by the pastor, who is 60 years old. He made the excavations, put in the foundations, erected the walls, did the plastering, painting, tin work, etc., and paid out of his own pocket all the money for materials—about \$1000.

There is living in Paris today a man blind from his birth, who claims to be able to see through his nose. The severest tests have been applied. The result that the most skeptical are convinced that the man's eyes are absolutely sightless and that he can distinguish objects by some means inexplicable on any other hypothesis than the one claimed. There are recorded instances of a similarly unaccountable gift of sight.

The perfunctory manner in which witnesses are sworn in English courts was illustrated recently in a London court after some 20 witnesses had given their evidence. It was then discovered that all had solemnly sworn on and had kissed a guide to the law of landlord and tenant. The mistake came to light only when a court officer saw the supposed Bible was much more clean than usual, and as a consequence, looked more closely at the book.

A remarkable instance of length of service is reported from Lancaster, England. William Barrow, the time-keeper at Gillow's cabinet works, has been in the employ of the firm for 66 years. Although over 80 years of age, he is still active, being invariably the first on the premises every morning and the last to leave every night. His father held the keys before him, having joined the house of Gillow's in 1801, so that the present year crowns "a century of service" by father and son.

Bermuda is remarkable for the scarcity of land vertebrate animals. It possesses only one species of reptile, a lizard, and until 15 or 20 years ago there were no amphibians. At that time some of the huge Guiana toads were imported from Demarara by the owner of a Bermudian garden, who thought these animals would clear his plants of insects. The toads thrived on the insects and spread over the islands, and now they are regarded with disfavour because they get into the cisterns which hold the rain water that is universally used for drinking purposes in Bermuda.

## THE GREAT DESTROYER

SOME STARTLING FACTS ABOUT THE VICE OF INTEMPERANCE.

The Worst Drink of All Is Absinthe—It Will Produce the Same Evils as Alcohol and in Addition Will Kill Man's Conscience.

It is a great folly which induces man today to be indifferent to the healthy drinks which nature supplies. He turns his attention to manufacturing alcoholic drinks. He has thought to find alcohol a source of joy, a source of vigor. He has only found in it unhappiness, ruin, decrepitude and illness. It is not enough for man to lose his reason through alcohol. He wanted still further to do something to satisfy his worst instincts. He must have a sovereign liquor that would not only produce all the above results, but would also deprive him of his conscience. So he invented absinthe.

Working people in the great towns, women of the people, the idle peasantry, seduced by this dreadful liquor. They are not aware that a Satanic poison they are imposing on their delicate brains. The moment they create such an appetite is a dark hour.

Who could possibly remember the acts of barbarism, the acts of fury created by the magic green liquor, which is filling the asylums? See, there, a man whose body is in a perpetual trembling condition. He has a good foot, a good eye, and he is enraged that he can no longer work. He is a drinker of absinthe.

See, again, another! Suddenly his face pales, he is covered with perspiration, he wears a frightened look. He has had a momentary unconsciousness and a sudden dizziness. In a moment he has lost consciousness of his surroundings. That man is an absinthe drinker. See a poor bricklayer lying on a stretcher. They are taking him to the hospital, where he quickly will die leaving forever his wife and children.

Has fallen from a scaffolding, and unconsciousness caused him to lose equilibrium. He is killed, caused thro absinthe drinking.

Another instance! The people are terrified to see an unhappy man beating the earth, a victim of a violent attack. I tongue is bitten, and the blood foam runs out of his mouth. His features are all distorted. He is an epileptic, and it is the work of absinthe.

See below in the court where there are a number of insensible persons. A man is seized with an insensible attack. One Saturday in his holiday hour he had drunk frequent little sips of absinthe. On returning to his lodgings he was suddenly seized with a violent rage. He killed his wife and two children without having the least consciousness of what he was doing. He energetically denies that he did the deed to persons who know him. He knows nothing about it. The absinthe drinking made of this man a dangerous automaton.

See, again, this woman! She rocks the child in the cradle. Suddenly she is seized by the most terrible convulsions and ill treats the child. Ask the cause of this cruel treatment and we shall point to the fatal absinthe! It is a murderer. Don't in supposing the terrors he described do not know anything more terrible than this—Banner of Gold.

## King Baeuchus and His Prime Minister.

Sir Wilfrid Lawson at a Band of Hope meeting said "Baeuchus was the king of this country (Great Britain) and the brewer was his Prime Minister, and they had a lot of fellow government ministers down the streets roaring 'Britons never shall be slaves,' though they are the slaves of the liquor power and send to Parliament anybody whom the liquor power tells them to send there. Well, after all these temperance work it was rather a surprise, no doubt, but they all knew it was to twist and turn people who had grown up on one line. There was a saying that there was no fool like an old fool; he felt the truth of that as he got on. (Laughter.) But what did the Band of Hope do? They realized the difficulty and it left the older people to be looked after by other organizations, and said it would do what it could to train up the children so that when they grew up they would set themselves and their country free from the curse. He remembered an incident in the days of the French Revolution in one of the French towns a lot of children used to go about waving a revolutionary banner and saying, 'Tremble, tyrants; we are growing up!' That was what they wanted the children to say; 'Tremble, brewers. We are growing up. Ah, ah! they were from being already. What did one of their great men say at a meeting not long since? Speaking of the bill to prevent children being served with liquor in the public houses he said: 'This will never do. They are destroying our future customers.' Ah! he often thought how much better the liquor men understood the temperance question than we do. The liquor men were right, for the Band of Hope wanted to teach the children to boycott the public cans. They were not to be deceived of that sort, for the publicans would not go on strike on their own accord. They heard of all kinds of strikes, but they never heard of a strike of the liquor men. If they would only go on strike for a month there would be a sort of temporary millennium."

## "Just What We Thought."

An exchange devoted to the liquor business quotes a prohibition paper as saying: "We are opposed to the free and unlimited use. And so is every decent, self-respecting liquor dealer." As every liquor dealer gives his whole time and energy to the making of drunks it must follow that there is not a "decent, self-respecting" man among them. Well, that is just what we thought.—Pittsburg Christian Advocate.

## "Teetotal Fanatics."

Meeting the charge that those who earnestly oppose the liquor traffic are "teetotal fanatics," Dr. Farrar, Dean of Canterbury, asks: "Is infanticide to loathe a system which under its present conditions brings deeper ruin and misery than war, famine and pestilence combined?"

## Very Significant.

The London Daily Mail, in a recent article on the beer poisoning at Manchester, relating to a party of workmen at Nottinghamshire who were supplied with beer from the Manchester district, says: "The only man who escaped was a total abstainer."

## The Crusade in Brief.

Beer is one of the most successful drunkard-makers among all the drinks. Camden, N. Y., has given no license by seventy-two majorities for the most exciting contest in the history of the town.

It is influence of bad example, lack of courage, false idea of manliness, or some defect in character or misfortune in environment which leads to the first steps in drunkenness.

In navies the world over the trend has been distinctly away from serving liquor to the crews, as used to be the custom in our own fleet.

The worst enemies we temperance people have to fight are those inside and not outside of ourselves. Outside the walls of Troy the Greeks could do no harm to the city, and outside our bodies there is but little harm which alcohol can do.

For some purposes, indeed, of art and manufacture, alcohol is very useful, but inside the body it is mischievous, only mischievous and always mischievous. What a good thing it is that it cannot force its way into our bodies without our own consent, that it cannot storm the walls of our casile.