

LOVE LINKED WITH DEATH.

In Tucoopia Girls Propose Marriage and Meet Die if Rejected.
 In the Pacific ocean between Fiji, New Guinea, New Caledonia and the continent of Anstralia lies the Melanesian group of islands, where head hunters and cannibals abound. Although strange and gruesome are many of the customs of the tribes, there are some that are most romantic. For instance, on the island of Tucoopia the women propose marriage instead of the men.
 When a girl of Tucoopia sees a man whom she thinks she would like to have for her husband she does not rush up to him and ask him to marry her. On the contrary, she gives the subject deep thought and often the man a most careful investigation before she "pops the question." The reason is that his answer spells life or death to her.
 It is a tribal law that any woman who has been refused must forthwith kill herself. Therefore a woman asks a man's hand only when she feels sure that his answer will be the happy one.
 Many are the strange and seemingly inexplicable questions with which the women of Tucoopia ply the stranger, who cannot realize the personal motive back of the solitude of the dusky belles who inquire if he is married or not and the state of his wife's health. Romances are consequently very apt to turn out in happy marriage.
 But there have been innumerable instances when a poor girl, smitten by the newcomer's charms, has been compelled to kill herself because the man with whom she has fallen in love has had to refuse to marry her.
 Baldness with the women of Tucoopia is a sign of beauty, and never until she is bald does a Tucoopia woman become fully convinced that she is really lovely. But bald or not she takes great care whom she asks to marry her, for the tribal law has never been known to fall. If a rejected woman does not kill herself she is executed by the leaders of the tribe.—Pearson's.

OLD JAIL HORRORS

When Imprisonment For Debt Was the Law of the Land.

TORTURE FOR ITS VICTIMS.

Poor Wretches Unable to Pay the Trifle They Owed Were Flung Into Prison to Starve to Death Unless Rescued by Charity or Their Creditors.
 In the early part of the last century there was started an earnest effort to entirely abolish or at least to regulate the old colony law of imprisonment for debt. The movers in this abolishment felt that no class of the community deserved consideration more.
 It had been the inhuman rule that for the smallest debt possible to contract, though it were but a cent in value, the body of the debtor, whether man or woman, would be seized by the creditor and cast into jail.
 Each year poor wretches had been dragged to prison by thousands on what were truly called "spite actions." Once behind the prison walls they were consigned to a fate harder than that which awaited worse criminals.
 Murderers and thieves, forgers and counterfeiters, real criminals of all kinds, were fed, clothed and cared for at the expense of the state, but for the unhappy man whose only offense was his inability to pay a trifling sum of a few cents no such provision was made. The food he ate, the shreds that covered him, the medicine he took—nay, the very rags he wrapped about his sores—were provided, if provided at all, by his friends, by the public or by some humane society.
 The room in which he was confined with scores of other offenders was utterly without furniture of any sort. In it were neither beds, nor tables, nor chairs, nor so much as a bench or stool. He sat on the floor, ate off the floor and at night lay to sleep on it like a dog, and this misery he endured until he died or his debt was paid or his creditor released him.
 Against this at length humanity revolted, and in 1794 a change for the better was ordered. It was stipulated that the inspector should provide fuel and blankets for such debtors as, by reason of their dire property, could not get them and should make an allowance of 7 cents a day for food and charge this against the creditors. If any creditor refused to pay after ten days' notice his debtor was to be discharged.
 For twenty-two years the community seemed to have thought that this mild concession was all that humanity required, for no further change was made until 1814. Then was passed the "bread act," under which each prisoner whose debt did not exceed \$150 was entitled to a discharge after an imprisonment of thirty days.
 From documents presented to the senate of New York in 1817 it appears that the keeper of the debtors' jail in New York city certified that during 1816 1,984 debtors were confined and that upward of 600 were always in the prison. The sheriff of the county certified that 1,129 were imprisoned for debt under \$50, that of these 720 owed less than \$25 and that every one of them would have starved to death but for the assistance of the Humane society.
 One man remained. It was noted, in the New York jail for three years, who was only indebted to the extent of \$50, before death ended his misery and during the entire time was fed by the Humane society. Another unfortunate had been imprisoned six years and was supported by charity. In the face of such striking evidence the legislature of New York state relented and in 1817 forbade the imprisonment of debtors for sums less than \$25. This led the way, and state after state followed.
 When the new states in the west framed their constitutions they ordered that no one should be imprisoned for debt. The old statute was finally stricken from the laws of the eastern states until today none of our states has a law requiring that a debt is punishable by imprisonment, unless it has been contracted under some fraudulent misrepresentation.—Philadelphia Press.

PRONOUNCING WORDS.

A Test and a Flippant Fling at the Critic and His Theory.

Comes now another to trouble us in these days when the wayfarer has already enough bothers to keep him from lingering overlong in his humble repose. It is a man who has discovered that there are 25,000 English words more or less commonly mispronounced and who would show us how to rescue ourselves from the disgrace.
 By way of illustration he challenges all comers to try to pronounce offhand such words as acinthis, archimandrite, batman, beaufin, bourgeois, brevier, blony, demy, fugeleman, fustil, oboe, rowlock, tasseel, vase and velocity. He intimates that anybody who can give them all correctly can qualify as a .300 hitter in the pronunciation league, but still has a long way to go before he reaches perfection.
 But what of it? An oboe sounds as sweet whether one calls it an oh-bow or an oh-boy. If the writer of this article told his printer to set it in boozwah type the printer probably would call a meeting of the chapel and insist on a strike vote. You can call it a vase or vavve, but it takes a dime to get it filled, where it used to cost only 5 cents. As to demy and velleity, most of us have got along very well for a good many years without writing or speaking either of them and hope to struggle along the same way at least until we have a little rest from worry over the high cost of potatoes.
 The hardest thing about it is to determine which of several schools of pronunciation is most desirable—the London, the Melbourne, the Canadian, the Texas, the Massachusetts, the Alabama, the Georgia or the Missouri. Moreover, most of us are democratic enough to let the majority rule and be willing to make it unanimous.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

PRICE OF COAL TO BE LOWERED

Action by Government This Week Is Expected

PRODUCTION POOL IS PLAN

Alleged Profits Ranging From \$1.35 a Ton on Anthracite to \$5 a Ton on Bituminous Too High.
 A reduction of coal prices to consumers is soon promised. It is likely to be general throughout the country and will be a direct result of the passage of the food bill. The first definite move which the administration will make in regard to price fixing will be coal. Action that will reveal clearly the government's policy is looked for this week.
 The food law contains provisions which empower the president through the federal trade commission to:
 "Fix the price of coal wherever sold and to establish rules for its production, shipment and distribution."
 "To take over the plant of any dealer who refuses to conform to such prices and operate it for the government."
 As an alternative plan the president through the trade commission can require all producers of coal in the country or those of any particular areas, if conditions are deemed to warrant it, to sell their product to the government, which through some agency to be designated—probably the trade commission—can then sell the coal to the people at prices fixed by the government. These prices are to be based upon a "fair and just profit over and above the cost of production," as determined by the commission.
 The commission which is conducting an investigation into the coal situation issued a statement as follows:
 "Barring increased wages to mine labor present prices of anthracite at the mines will not increase beyond the normal 10 cents a ton Sept. 1, which will bring prices up to the winter circular level. Any proposed increase in anthracite prices greater than 10 cents a ton on Sept. 1 is, therefore, totally unjust. Present indications are that bituminous prices will be reduced in the future. Further indulgence in high prices and excessive margins on the part of dealers of Washington or of other cities can be regarded only as an open declaration of a policy of 'profiteering' on the part of dealers."
 The statement was issued after a heated session between the commission and representative Washington coal dealers, whose profits, in the opinion of the commission, based on the dealers' own figures, have been excessive in the last few months.
 According to the figures gross profits on bituminous sometimes were as high as \$5 a ton and the net profits on anthracite were \$1.25 to \$1.35 a ton.
 The pooling plan in the food law is largely a result of the trade commission's recent report to congress. In that report it said that equitable distribution and stable prices could only be secured by pooling coal and coke production in the hands of the government.
 "If the producer at each mine were paid his full cost of production, with allowance for depletion, maintenance, upkeep and all the usual items, and to this were added a fixed and uniform net profit per ton, with due regard to quality, the coal thus produced at widely varying costs, if pooled, could be sold through the government at an average and uniform price, quality considered, which would be entirely tolerable to the consuming public and a price much lower than could be fixed if an effort were made to fix a uniform price to the producer."
 The pooling of all coal in this country in the hands of the government, in the opinion of some members of the commission, will be the most acceptable form of price regulation. It is held that it can be put into effect within a few weeks after the commission's investigation into the cost of production is announced. It is contended that it would result in immediately reducing prices to consumers on their winter supply.
 Some members of the administration believe that by securing a reduction in coal prices for the public before the winter sets in through resort to this provision of the food law the president will range public sentiment solidly behind him in whatever he may attempt in other directions along the line of price regulation.

Head of Chautauqua Light Opera Company Famous In Stage World



J. K. MURRAY AS GEOFFREY WILDER.

MR. MURRAY during his long career before the public in opera has been connected with some of the most famous operatic organizations. He has been associated with Francis Wilson, De Wolf Hopper and practically all of the other stars. He starred for a time in Irish drama and played in Hoyt's "A Tin Soldier," "Nanon" and many other pieces. His great fame, as well as that of Mrs. Murray (Clara Lane), lies in the fact that they practically made the noted Castle Square Opera Company of Boston. They were engaged to head the company when it was at its lowest ebb, and through their efforts it was brought to the high standard which it afterward attained.
 For the past two seasons he has sung the leading male part in "Sari" under the management of Henry W. Savage. "Sari" is one of the most popular and successful light operas which has been put on the stage in several years, and Mr. Murray's excellent work contributed in no small part to its success.
 Mr. Murray was born in Liverpool, England, but is a true American in every sense of the word. Both he and Mrs. Murray are delightful people as well as singers of high merit. They are prominent in the cast of the light opera "Dorothy," to be given at the local Chautauqua.

RED MONDAY IN PETROGRAD.

One Scene of the Revolt That Ended the Romanoff Dynasty.

Bullets flew in the streets of Petrograd one Monday during the revolution which overthrew the Romanoffs. A British nurse, telling Londoners of her experiences in the Russian capital on "Red Monday," says of one scene:
 "I saw in the streets a wonderful procession of revolutionists, the vanguard of the brave liberators of Russia. The soldier patriots in their gray coats, on foot and in horse-drawn wagons, were going down the street in a steady, orderly manner, protecting a crowd of starving men, women and children who were walking in the center of the procession. At their head was a band playing the 'Marseillaise' and a large red flag borne aloft.
 "As the procession neared the Hotel Moscow, where the Nevsky begins, there was a sudden outburst of fierce firing from above, and the soldiers and women and children fell to the ground and the street soon became a shambles. The firing was from machine guns controlled by the police, who were in ambush on the roof of the hotel and who tried to bring about a wholesale slaughter of the people.
 "It was astonishing how self-possessed the crowd was in the face of this murderous attack. I saw the soldiers who had not fallen immediately enter the hotel and make their way to the roof, where they shot the cowardly police, captured the machine guns and brought them down to the street."
 Lending Money.
 "And now, my son," said the old man, "I must give you a bit of parting advice."
 "Yes, dad," answered the young man patiently.
 "Never lend money to a friend."
 "What, never?"
 "No, never."
 "But why? Surely some friends are honest?"
 "Undoubtedly. But if you lend money and try to get it back you will be called a tightwad, and if you lend money and don't try to get it back you will be called an easy mark.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

AMERICA AWHEEL.

The Case of Pippkins Will Do Illustrate the Point.

"My neighbor, Pippkins, has changed his manner of vacation," declares Edward Hungerford in Everybody's. "In other years his annual outing was a rather portentous affair. The family began to plan it some months in advance. There were railroad and steamboat and hotel booklets on the library table. When the time came Mrs. Pippkins and the girls went to a huge wooden hotel on the edge of a lake. They dressed three times a day. When Pippkins ran down on one Friday of each fortnight he boarded a hot, dusty, overcrowded train and rode for five uncomfortable hours. They insisted that he don a tuxedo each evening for dinner. He used to wonder if the game was quite worth the candle.
 "Today there are no such doubts in Pippkins' mind. He has a car—so have four-fifths of the families in our quiet street. Pippkins caught the fever early in the game. Today he is a veteran and hardened motorist. He talks earnestly and learnedly of gears and of transmission, and he is superlatively critical of every car except his own. I might write a story upon how that car and its predecessors in the Pippkins family have changed their very soul, but this is not the time nor place. Sufficient it is to say that Pippkins is now a motor expert, and Dr. King down at our corner says that Pippkins has grown ten years younger.
 "Mrs. Pippkins and the girls have all but forgotten when they have been on a railroad train in summer. They live in the family car.
 "Multiply Pippkins all the way across the face of the land, and you begin to have a definite perception of America awheel."
 A Pie Without Flour or Lard.
 Two and one-half cupfuls cold boiled rice, one-half cupful sugar, one-half cupful milk, one egg, one teaspoonful butter, a pinch of salt, grated nutmeg, or flavoring to taste, fruit. Brush a pie plate with butter and spread the rice even on the plate. Beat half the sugar, the egg, milk, salt and flavoring together and pour over the rice. Cover top with halves of canned peaches or stewed dried peaches and sprinkle the rest of sugar over the fruit. Put in moderate oven and bake thirty-five minutes.
 Any fruit can be used, either fresh, canned or dried stewed fruit.—Mrs. Anna B. Scott in Philadelphia North American.

He Liked It.

Jock Russell was a farm servant. One day when Mrs. Brown, the farmer's wife, went into the milk house she found Jock down on his knees before a milk pan, skimming the cream off with his finger and putting it in his mouth.
 "Oh, Jock, Jock," she exclaimed, "I don't like that!"
 "Ah, wumman," replied Jock, "ye dinna ken whit's guld for ye."—Pearson's Weekly.

They Get Busy.

"I suppose a great many ask for information who have no idea of taking a train?"
 "Yes," said the weary official. "When some people spy a free bureau of information there's a strong temptation to stock up."—Kansas City Journal.

Literature.

"Dasher your favorite author? Why, he doesn't average one short story a year."
 "That's why he's my favorite author."—Puck.
 It is better to say, "This one thing I do" than to say, "These forty things I dabble in."

Stepniak as Prophet.

A correspondent of the Manchester Guardian in England records an interesting statement made by Stepniak, the great Russian revolutionary, which is worth quoting. When he first met Stepniak, in 1880, the writer says, he asked what real prospect there was of any revolution in Russia. The reply was: "A great European war will be our chance. It will show the bureaucracy to be quite incapable of managing the affairs of the nation in a crisis."
 Efficiency is no new invention; it is as old as intelligence itself. None realize efficiency so completely as the creative genius—our Darwins, Faradays, Edisons and Fords—and none so completely practice and exemplify working expensively. Genius itself, we are told, is the capability for taking infinite pains.—William H. Smith in Industrial Management.

Good Advice.

"What did the doctor say when Tom shot off some of his digits fooling with a loaded pistol?"
 "He thoughtfully told him he should remember that fingers are good things always to keep on hand."—San Francisco Chronicle.

Making It Worse.

"Did you try counting sheep for your insomnia?"
 "Yes, but it only made matters worse—the sheep reminded me of my butcher's bill."—Boston Transcript.

Imitation Marble.

If by any chance you should happen to be admiring some very fine carved marble it would not strike you that the so called marble might easily be sawdust. Wonderful imitations of valuable woods and marbles have been made from sawdust, and even experts have been deceived at first sight. Spirit, too, can be made from sawdust.

Pretty Close.

Genevieve—Do you carry Fred's picture in your wrist watch?
 Mabelle—Certainly I do.
 "Well, my dear, that comes pretty close to wearing your heart on your sleeve, doesn't it?"—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

It Is Less Pain to Learn in Youth than to Be Ignorant in Age.

NEW PERFECTION
 OIL BURNING
 Let the Long Blue Chimney Do Your Cooking.
 THERE'S no need to burn up your strength over kitchen drudgery. It takes energy to cook meals, but it ought to be heat energy, not human energy.
 You don't do all your own cooking on the New Perfection—the Long Blue Chimney does it for you.
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