

DECORATING A CHINAMAN.

Tiny Miss on Railway Train Plays Funny Little Joke on Mongolian Passenger.

Among the several family parties on route to the Pacific coast in a "tourist" car not long ago was one consisting of father, mother and three children. The youngest child, writes Frank B. Welch in the Chicago Record Herald Sunday Magazine, was a bright-eyed, restless little girl of five, who soon made herself thoroughly at home with everybody in the car, going from one section to another at her own pleasure and contributing largely to the entertainment of the train-weary travelers. "Little Miss Busy" they called her, and she certainly was the busiest wee woman that ever kept a careful of all kinds of people on the move.

Through New Mexico and Arizona a number of cowboys and Indians came into the car and sat apart from the through passengers, in seats given up to their kind. As soon as settled in their seats, each in turn was visited and closely inspected by Miss Busy. Fearlessly she shook hands with the forbidding-looking redmen and perched contentedly on the knee of one and then another of the big cattle men.

At one of the first stations on entering California four Chinamen entered the car and took up quarters as possible, where they swapped witticisms among themselves, after their own peculiar manner, to the presence of others in the car. Not long were they left to themselves. Little Miss Busy soon was in their midst, round-eyed with wonder over their talk and queer dress.

"Hallo, littee baby?" greeted one of the orientals, with an expansive Mongolian smile and a friendly nod. "You likee look see Chinaman? Heap good Chinaman! Likee littee baby allee same Melican man papa. My gottee two, littee littee baby gal, all name likee you, China side."

All this appeared to be perfectly understandable to the tiny woman. At any rate, she proceeded with utmost composure to learn all possible concerning the "two, littee littee baby gals" ever in China. She came and went among the passengers with preoccupied manner, something of great import engaging her mind. Quietly she slipped about, escaping the attention of everybody, and not until the Chinaman left the car did the secret of her sly missions come out.

Filling out singly, as is their manner of traveling in company, the Chinamen, with the papa of the "littee gal, China side," in the rear, left the car at one of the principal stations along the line. When they reached the platform there arose a tumult of mirth in which everyone in sight soon joined. Papa Chinaman was the perplexed center of the commotion, when one of his companions with a laugh seized the bewildered "chink" queue, which he had neglected to rearrange when he left the car, and threw it over his shoulder. Catching it in his hand, Papa John held the "pigtail" aloft, and a good-natured grin broke over his face.

"Hi-yah!" he gurgled, catching sight of little Miss Busy's laughing face at the car window. "Littee baby gal makee Chinaman all same foolie! Me ketchee you, takee you China side way off."

All the way down his long queue at intervals of a few inches there were knots of doll ribbons of every hue and color, surreptitiously tied there by the busy little girl as the neatly braided appendage hung down over the back of the car seat.

DRIVE OUT SALMON.

PULP MILLS ON THE PENOBSCOT RIVER SPOIL FISHING.

Contamination of the Water by Refuse—Weirs and Black Bass Aid in the Rout of This Royal Fish.

Twenty years ago salmon swarmed in the Penobscot river and a man could go up to the pools below Treat's Falls dam within the city limits of Bangor, and hook a fine, big fish before breakfast. Hundreds of salmon were taken with the fly from these pools, and thousands were taken in the weirs along the river below Bangor.

Now the salmon is so rare in these waters, says a Bangor report, that the taking of a single fish is an event of such interest as to call for mention in the newspapers. The open season for salmon began on April 1, and in the first three weeks this year just three fish were taken. One was caught with a fly in Bangor pools, one was hooked and then shot, and the third was caught in a downriver weir.

Two principal causes are assigned for the disappearance of the sea salmon once so plentiful in the Penobscot—the pulp mills and the weirs. When, about 15 years ago, the pulp mills began to rise along the river above Bangor, the effects of the contamination of the water by acids and other waste from the mills were at once apparent in the diminished run of salmon. As the mills multiplied and the volume of acids used in the bleaching process increased, the salmon became fewer and fewer, until now the big, silver sided fishes have come to shun the river and not many of them, on their return from sea, come further than the upper bay.

The Penobscot salmon, big and strong as he is, is the daintiest of fishes, very particular about his food and shunning all polluted waters. Thomas F. Allen, the most expert of all Penobscot salmon fishermen, says that notwithstanding its strong homing instinct the salmon will not ascend to the spawning beds through waters poisoned by pulp mill waste, while they are also discouraged by the dams and other obstacles erected in the Penobscot and other Maine rivers.

It was so on the Kennebec, which once was a salmon river before pulp mill acids and dams drove the salmon away. New York hotels still have on their dinner bills "Kennebec salmon," although there have been no Kennebec salmon since ever so long ago. The fishes served are from the Penobscot or the St. John, or, perhaps, from the Columbia—cold storage fish.

Another destructive enemy of the Penobscot salmon is the black bass. Many years ago some misguided sportsman caused Pushaw lake, near Bangor, to be stocked with black bass. These piratical fishes killed off all the perch and pickerel in the lake, and then, seeking new worlds to conquer, ascended through brooks and streams to the upper Penobscot waters, where, every spring since then, they have feasted upon the salmon fry planted by the state and United States governments. Many thousands of dollars have been expended in stocking the Penobscot with young salmon, but most of the sweet little fishes have gone to feed the voracious black bass, which multiply like locusts and fight like the Japanese.

Still another enemy has the salmon—the lawless dynamiter. When, in early summer, a few of the returning salmon have reached the spawning waters—far up the Penobscot, these poachers kill scores and hundreds of the fishes by exploding dynamite cartridges in the water.

Fishermen here blame the weirs down the river for the destruction of the fishing. They say that all sorts of illegal devices are employed to make a big catch for market, that the weirs have killed the golden goose in their greed for money. Sawmill waste, black bass, dams and dynamites all have done their share toward driving away the salmon, but the pulp mill acids probably have been most destructive.

FEED HIGH ON MUSKRATS.

Hundreds of the Animals Consumed at a Banquet in Michigan Town Lately.

Two thousand eight hundred muskrats were eaten by 1,500 guests at the great muskrat feast recently held at Monroe, Mich., relates Wray to East Statesmen, lawyers, doctors and men of all professions were included in the list of attendants and the relish with which the rodents were devoured should forever set at rest the claim that the muskrat should not be numbered among the things that are good to eat. Former Lieut. Gov. John Strong was present and should have been awarded the prize for eating the greatest number of roasted rats. He said he never ate anything that tasted better and it is partially at his suggestion that the feast is to be repeated at Monroe next year. All the officials of the town honored the occasion with their presence and dignitaries were there from towns and cities as far away as Toledo, Ohio. From the latter city came Frank Wade, the boom friend of the late "Golden Rule" Jones, who, he says, taught him to eat muskrats. No kind of meat was served excepting muskrat, and aside from the eating the principal diversion consisted in speechmaking and listening to orations in praise of the toothsome "ondatra zibethicus."

While the guests were principally professional men, most of them were more or less interested in yachting, and it was yachtsmen who devised and successfully carried out the novel feast. The occasion was under the auspices of the Monroe Yacht club, which boasts among its members some of the most noted of Michigan's lawyers and doctors. W. B. Sterling, commodore of the club; H. A. Conant, Charles Greening and Edward Wilder constituted the committee that had direct supervision over the festivities.

Preparations for the great "rat carnival" were begun weeks in advance. Three thousand rats were advertised for, but the number obtained lacked 200 of reaching that figure. The feast began at ten o'clock, but in order to have the rats ready for the diners it was necessary to begin the cooking at noon of the festive day. The preparation of the rodents for food was in charge of C. B. Southworth, a caterer of renown. The noted chefs Davis and Look did the cooking. The rats were cooked in bread sauce.

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Grownome Parlor Ornaments. In New England 100 years ago it was by no means uncommon for people to provide their coffins long before their death and keep the same in their houses, where they could see them every day. Another queer custom that prevailed in this section of Maine down to comparatively recent date was that of removing the plate from the coffin after the funeral and just before the body was lowered into the grave, and keeping it in the best room in the house among the ornaments and bric-a-brac. The writer saw one of these grownome exhibits on the mantel of a Lincolnville parlor not more than 25 years ago.—Bangor (Me.) News.

FIGHTING COYOTES.

THOUSANDS KILLED EACH YEAR ON WESTERN PLAINS.

Predatory Frowlers Destroy Live Stock and Game—Department of Agriculture to Help Exterminate Them.

The coyote problem is such a serious one in the western states that the government has come to the front with suggestions regarding the best means of getting rid of the pest. Some interesting facts connected with the habits of these animals are given, along with the plans for wiping them out. David E. Lantz, of the biological survey of the department of agriculture, is the author of the work.

Mr. Lantz finds that the coyote is still abundant in many sections of the west. Advancing civilization has had little effect on the animal, save in thickly settled regions. In other places it is increasing in numbers, its sly and cunning habits enabling it to baffle most of the pitfalls prepared by cattle men and farmers. A good idea of the abundance of the coyote may be gathered from the fact that 20,000 of them were killed last year in Kansas, without apparently thinning out the pack.

The coyotes are noted for their peculiar, prolonged howling. A single animal is capable of a performance which impresses the uninformed hearer as the concert of a dozen, and when several join in the melody the resulting noise is indescribable. They are silent during the day. Investigations made by the biological survey indicate that the food of the coyote covers a wide range.

They eat fruit, vegetables, melons and berries. They feed most greedily on animal food, and this fact makes them highly objectionable to cattle raisers. However, their effect some good by destroying injurious pests. They industriously hunt jack rabbits and also feed on smaller rabbits. The coyotes usually catch rabbits by lying in wait behind bushes and bunches of grass near their paths and pouncing upon them as they pass. While a single coyote would not be able to run down a jack rabbit, by hunting together, taking turns at the drive, and by taking advantage of the tendency of the hare to run in a circle, they are able to capture it.

Coyotes destroy considerable game. Birds that roost and nest on the ground are frequent victims. Quail, grouse and wild ducks are caught on the nest, and both birds and eggs are eaten. Like the larger wolves, the prairie wolf—the coyote is sometimes called—kills deer and antelope. In hunting these larger animals they always go in packs of two or more, and take turns in the chase.

They know that their prey runs in large circles, and at intervals individuals drop out of the pursuit and, crossing a chord of the circle, lie in wait until the quarry passes near them again. In this way the wolves keep fresh until the pursued animal is exhausted, but all of them are "in at the death." The coyote makes regular raids on farm animals, and kills calves, pigs, lambs and goats.

Calves are taken only when the mother cow, feeding at a distance or has gone for water. The coyotes at times like this lie waiting in the grass until the proper opportunity comes. Sometimes they will separate a grown cow from the herd, surround the animal and keep up a constant nipping at its legs until it falls from weakness and loss of blood. Sheep-growers in the southwest states estimate their losses from wild animals chiefly coyotes, as equal to 20 per cent of their flocks.

Mr. Lantz says that none of the methods devised for killing off coyotes has proved entirely successful. All of them combined have resulted in a partial check on the increase of the birds in most parts of the west. Poison has probably killed the greatest number of adult wolves, strychnine inserted into the carcasses of dead animals being the favorite method of poisoning. But the modern coyote is too shrewd to bite at this bait unless it is most carefully prepared.

An Oklahoma farmer butchered some hogs a year or two ago and poisoned a hogskin and left it with other offal for a coyote that nightly prowled about his premises. In the morning everything but the poisoned skin had been cleared away. He left it two more nights, but it remained untouched. Thinking that the animal would not eat poisoned bait, the farmer buried it. That night the coyote dug up the pizskin and ate it, falling a victim to its deadly contents. Since then the farmer has never failed to poison coyotes when he buries the bait.

HYPNOTIC PIANO PLAYING.

Phenomenal Performances of Untrained Persons Used as Musical Mediums.

Paris is very much concerned a present over a new phenomenon, which is called, for lack of a better name musical mediumship. In the same way that a few years ago the attention of the French scientists was largely occupied with thought transference, now many investigators in the French capital are carefully following the experiments which are being conducted with the musical mediums, states Public Opinion.

In the last number of the Journal des Debats M. Henri de Parville carefully goes over the whole ground, and the facts presented are well worth considering. M. de Parville first takes up the case of a subject by the name of Aubert. "This man, although he had but a rudimentary knowledge of music, performs on the piano, in a semi-hypnotic state, compositions which recall the musical style of Mozart, Chopin, Beethoven, Schubert and others. A second and far more remarkable case, however, is that of Mlle. Nydia. This woman, in a hypnotic state, and with her eyes carefully bandaged, is able to play on the piano any piece of music which may be given her. Thus, at a sitting recently held at the Theater de la Monnaie, in Brussels, Mlle. Nydia was led to M. Silvain Dupuy, chief of the orchestra of the theater, who gave her a piece of music composed by himself, which had never been published. M. Dupuy saw that the bandage had been tightly placed over the girl's eyes. Mlle. Nydia then sat down, held the paper in her hands for a few moments, and then to the great astonishment of every one, played the piece without hesitation.

Two physicians examined the young woman and found her to be in a real hypnotic state, absolutely insensible to the exterior world. There were then placed over her eyes a succession of bandages, alternating white and black, and she was led to the piano. One of the spectators offered a new opera which was placed on the piano. The hypnotizer looked at his subject, and immediately the girl played the piece with the greatest cleverness. Another spectator, who had just arrived from New Zealand, offered a piece which had never been performed in Europe. Mlle. Nydia, however, executed it at once, and she played with the same skill a piece which had just been composed by M. G. Germain. At public request she played a piece of Paderewski, which was unknown to her, and, finally, a lady wrote the title of a piece of music on a slip of paper, put it into an envelope, which was afterward sealed, and gave it to the girl. She placed it on her forehead for a moment, and the next instant was playing Beethoven's "Clair du Lune" Sonata.

RESULTS FROM FILTRATION. Evidence of Its Value Shown in the Water System of One Big City.

Recent statistics of typhoid fever in Philadelphia furnish evidence of the value of the filtration of the water supply, which amounts to positive demonstration, says the Philadelphia Ledger. In a portion of West Philadelphia still supplied in part with unfiltered water there were, during four months of the present year, 273 cases of typhoid fever in a population of 14,517, or one in 53. In the Belmont filtering plant there were but seven cases in a population of 41,424, or one in 5,917.

A similar contrast is shown in the northwestern portion of the city. The Germantown and Roxborough districts are supplied with filtered water from the Roxborough beds. In this district, with a population of 111,750, there were 27 cases of typhoid fever, or one in 3,974. In two neighboring wards receiving unfiltered water, in a population of 83,142, there were 122 cases of typhoid or one in every 675. In the northeastern section, supplied with unfiltered water from the Delaware, 1,925 cases of typhoid fever occurred in a population of 144,906—the appalling proportion of one in 140. The difference between the two extremes of ratio shown by these figures represent in the whole population, the difference between 9,240 cases of typhoid fever and only 220 cases—or exactly 42 to 1. If we leave the worst results from the unfiltered Delaware out of consideration, we have still the contrast that among 567 people drinking the ordinary water from the Schuylkill there has occurred this year one case of typhoid fever, while there was but one case among 3,526 persons using the same water filtered. In other words, the filtration of water has reduced the liability to typhoid fever 33 per cent.

Tridacna Shells. Tridacna shells are very commonly used in churches in Europe for holy water basins and even fonts. The largest, perhaps, are those in use at St. Peter's, Rome. These shells attain a weight of 500 pounds (the two valves together), the animal itself sometimes being 20 pounds in weight. The word "Tridacna" is from the Greek "tridacnos," eaten at three bites; but who could eat a 20-pound animal at three bites!—St. Nicholas.

Got Cold Feet Early. Mrs. Chips—Why, you're home early to-night, dear. Mr. Chips—Yes. "How cold your feet are." "Yes, I wouldn't have been home so early if it hadn't been for that."—Yonkers Statesman.

COUNTRY RUNS FARM.

GOVERNMENT RESTORING 500 ACRES BY NOVAL METHOD.

Worn-Out Soil on Tract Near Washington Being Fertilized by United States Authorities—Bye and Cow Pans Used.

Washington.—Restoring a worn-out soil to a fertile condition without the aid of animal manures or commercial fertilizer is the task the United States department of agriculture has set for itself on its Arlington farm, just across the Potomac from Washington. This farm, originally a part of the Gen. Robert E. Lee estate, consists of 300 acres of rolling upland and 200 acres of Potomac river bottom. The latter is covered by water at high tide. Stones were hauled off, gullies partly filled by plowing in soil, and tim laid where needed. The real work of restoring the soil then began. The system adopted is sometimes spoken of as "green manuring." That is, crops are grown especially to be plowed under. Nearly all soils have enough plant food in them to enable plants to make good growth, provided this food is in available form. With worn-out soils the soluble plant food has been used up. To restore such soils to productive conditions, either plant food must be supplied in manure or fertilizers, or the insoluble plant food rendered soluble. It is now known that when we have decaying vegetable matter in a soil, humic acid is formed, which acts as a solvent on plant food insoluble in water.

Hence, while plowing under a crop grown on the land may add nothing new to the soil, it does put it into a condition more suitable to growing plants.

The principal crops used on the Arlington farm as manure crops are rye and cow peas. Rye is sown in the early fall and allowed to grow till about May 1. It is then plowed under and cow peas sown. As the latter plant is a legume, it gathers nitrogen from the soil and air, hence to this extent adds to the soil. After treatment in this way till the soil is thoroughly filled with humus that is decaying organic matter, it is ready to grow good crops, and the Arlington farm is now reaching that condition. Some very good crops of hay have been produced, and fruit trees planted out on the farm are making fine growth. This farm is to be used entirely for experimental work, especially in horticulture and plant breeding. All varieties of fruits and garden plants that will grow in that section, as well as all new plants, are to be thoroughly tested here.

STAR BOARDER IS A BITER.

Attacks Landlady and a Rival with His Teeth—Can Explain at Trial.

New York.—"You're a very queer man to try to lure your way into the affections of a widow," said Magistrate Brown to Edizio Runtshite, who was arraigned before him in the Harlem police court on a charge of felonious assault for having bitten Mrs. Louise Rose, a pretty widow of two months, an outcast of her "star" boarder, M. K. "Why did you do it, any way?" asked the magistrate through the interpreter.

"I bit the woman because I loved her and I bit the man because he interrupted my lovemaking," replied the prisoner.

"Well, it's \$1,500 bail and a chance to tell all about it at the trial," said the magistrate.

Mrs. Rose keeps a boarding house at One Hundred and Eighty-fourth street and Fulham avenue in the Italian colony of Washington Heights. Runtshite is known to the other boarders as "Star No. 1" and Focul as "Star No. 2."

CASH FOR LOSS OF HAIR.

Court Decides Commissioner Had No Right to Enforce Order for Cropping of Locks.

Riverside, Cal.—Judge Noyes in the superior court awarded the Yuma Indian, Hot Water, \$5 damages for the forcible cropping of his hair under the hair cut order of the Indian bureau. Hot Water sued for \$2,500 alleging that the wearing of long hair was a part of his religion.

The court says the government possesses no right to punish an Indian except upon conviction of crime or misdemeanor, and then only through the judicial instrumentality provided by law. The hair cut order was promulgated by Commissioner Jones in 1902, and has been a subject of bitter contention.

The case decided was a civil action against Indian Agent J. S. Spear. Hair cutting has been general and suits aggregating \$1,000,000 have been awaiting this decision.

Ceased to Be a Joke.

It seems that the anti-garett law in Indiana was intended as a joke. The senate passed it as a joke on the house, then the house passed it as a joke on the senate, and finally the governor signed it as a joke on both houses. All this was great fun, but those who are being sued under the act are not so hilarious.

Lock of Washington's Hair.

Mrs. William McGarrett, of Harrison, N. J., has in her possession a lock of hair said to be from the head of George Washington. The hair, with a medalion portrait of Washington, was found in a cedar box among Mrs. McGarrett's family possessions.