

TRADE WITH EASTERN ASIA.

Growth of Commerce Between Pacific States and Markets of the Orient.

The great changes are taking place in the currents of Pacific ocean commerce, followed fast by still greater changes...

Everything favors the growth of this commerce to very large proportions. There is promise of development of an international commerce on the Pacific...

ADVANCE IN GLASSWARE.

American Products That Can Be Put on Market in Competition with Imported Ware.

Four years ago Americans were making but little effort to compete with imported Bohemian glassware...

The principal advantage of the Bohemian manufacturers over us is their cheaper labor. Glassblowers and workers in this country receive high wages...

No, we did not go to Bohemia to learn their secrets, for coloring and decorating glass. We just worked them out ourselves...

WORKERS FOR MORMONISM.

Over Two Thousand Young Men Constantly in the Field as Missionaries.

According to the Mormon authorities, upward of two thousand missionaries are constantly in the field, most of them young men...

Taxes in China.

An Englishman residing in North China writes: "There is much complaint here also against heavy taxes, especially the taxes on business houses..."

REGION IS LITTLE KNOWN.

Portion of Tibet with Which Geographers and Writers Had But Little to Do

The Chumbi valley, which has been described as the Enigmine of the Himalayas and is generally supposed to be the conventional Arcadia of these highlands...

This is of course the barest and most comfortless month in the year. Every allowance must be made for the moment at which the advance has been made...

Two races only flourished in this valley before the advance of the mission, lamas and brigands. It is difficult now to make any estimate of the real value of the property owned by the lamaseries here...

The zhumar and marmes or shrine lamps, often beautifully worked and jeweled, are in almost all cases gone altogether or replaced by a commoner substitute...

The appearance of the lamas themselves, fat and well-clothed, belies the aspect of their striped gompas. The brigands of Bhutan, who have hitherto levied a heavy blackmail upon Sikimese and Chinese traders using the valley...

Picturesque the valley is at all times. Even now, when the first hard pellets of the long-delayed snow are rattling among the frozen willow shoots...

But the Chumbi valley, narrow, tortuous, wind swept, priest ridden, and beset by a foreign country on either hand, has not had the chance of justifying the eulogy of injudicious travelers...

Neighbors—Your little boy has been crying for the last half hour. What's the trouble? Homer—Oh, his crying is due to his absence of mind!

INDIAN TALE WITH A MORAL.

Description of the Treatment of the Reds by the United States Government.

Charles Gibson, the Indian writer, tells this story: "There was a certain young man, an Indian, who was 'enough' which in English is 'wanting fresh meat'...

"About this time the older hogs were coming dangerously near, so without disturbing the peace of the pigs the wolf quietly eased away from the older ones of the family. This time he stretched himself out on the ground so the pigs would imagine they had come upon a dead wolf...

The moral is that Indians should keep an eye on their land!"

SOCIAL LIFE IN BURMAH.

When a Native Gets a Little Money Ahead He Proceeds to Have an Enjoyable Time.

There are many interesting things to be noted in Burma. William E. Curtis, who has been visiting it, speaks of Burma as an ideal country in respect to climate and soil. And in a later letter from Mandalay, says the Chicago Record-Herald, he tells much about the life there...

Method of Killing Hawks.

A novel means of destroying chicken hawks is being employed in Warden. In the feed prepared for 40 or 50 chickens is mixed one-half teaspoonful of tincture of nuxvomica. This poison does not affect the chickens, so it is asserted, but in turn does kill the hawk which makes a meal of one. Such food carried by the parent bird to young hawks while in the nest also kills them. Hawks have been causing great havoc among the young chickens in that neighborhood, but are now being materially thinned out by this method—Roseburg (Ore.) Review.

Gophers as Busy Workers.

The gophers seldom cease their labors. I have found the fossor and the monticola active both night and day, excepting during the hottest weather. I have known a continued heat of ninety-odd degrees in the shade to stop all appeal for several days. They are most industrious, however, at dawn and sunset—From Ernest Thompson Seton's "The Master Plowman of the West," in Century.

WHEN SUMMER IS AT HAND.

Read by Signs Which to This Observer Are to Be Relied Upon in Every Particular.

"Now," said Prof. von Jorgieby, according to the New York Sun, "I see in the range of back yards in view from my study window many signs of the season. The various trees and shrubs in the several yards are now well advanced in leaf and the one peach tree here to be seen is blossoming."

"Now all the house plants have been brought out of doors for the summer, some to be left in their pots standing in the borders along the walks and some to be transplanted into the ground, and their owners go out and inspect them there with evident pleasure, glad to see the plants thriving in the fresher outdoor air and glad to be out in it themselves."

"And now the people begin to bring out their winter clothing and their comfortable blankets and hang them on the lines to be dusted and brushed preparatory to putting them away for the summer. And rugs and cushions are likewise brought out and beaten and left now to air in the bright warm sun. And the children are permitted now to play in the yards and the smoke drifts lazily and the cats are growing languid."

"The windows now are open, and I can hear clearly the rattling of coal sliding down the chutes from cart to coalhole, a sound that was muffled in winter when the windows were closed. And with the windows open I hear now the hum of the street cars and the sounds of various vehicles and the voices of vendors, and with no window glass intervening, more clearly the notes of the hand organ."

And just at this moment I hear, at a distance, the sound of hammering, or somebody mending a fence. I can hear the ring of the hammer on the nail-head, its note varying as the nail, under repeated strokes, sinks deeper and deeper into the wood, ending finally with a totally different note, when the nail dries home, the hammer head strikes nail and wood together."

"And finally I saw yesterday fluttering past my window, always close together, but frequently crossing in their paths, two yellow butterflies zigzagging through the air at play; and from all these many signs I realize not only that the spring that was so backward is now well advanced, but that now, indeed, it is nearly over, and that summer is at hand."

DRAWBACKS OF RURAL LIFE.

In It There Are Beauties Innumerable, But Loneliness Is Often Depressing.

It is the transplanted urbanite who feels most deeply that while the country has delights, it has also its drawbacks. The very silence, for instance, gets on his nerves—the so-called peaceful silence of which poets who could not be persuaded to live beyond the hearing of street gongs write so sentimentally. The zephyrs, says the Indianapolis Journal, that waft the scent of clover across the fields become a different thing when they waft and mean about the lonely house at night or ash the trees angrily. Bird songs are delightful, but the blood-curdling screech of the owl at midnight is another thing entirely. The "waterdog's honest bark" may be cheering, but the melancholy howl of a dog baying the moon produces a different effect as it is borne across the fields. Sensitive persons have been known to contemplate suicide after hearing the chorus of the frogs on a spring night. The elements are not always conducive to joy, whatever the environment, but in the city one may forget that it is raining outside or even look out at it with interest. In the country not even the contemplation of possible agricultural benefits can make the world other than sodden and depressing when the moon is not at the full or when clouds are in the sky, and in the gloom objects familiar by day loom large and strange. The air becomes full of stealthy sounds; the shrilling of insects here and there accentuates the stillness. The very spirit of loneliness is abroad, and he is a nature lover indeed who in the night watches does not long for the flare of the electric lights, for the clanging of the street-car gong, for the echo of passing footsteps or the sound of cheery whistling. In daytime, too, the contemplation of earth and sky and far horizon becomes oppressive to the simple human soul not attuned to nature's vastness and he will wish for the companionship of his kind.

It is well to live in the country; the country has beauties innumerable; joy and inspiration are there—but it sometimes happens that it affords more inspiration to the one who admires it from afar than to him who is on the ground.

Smallest Bible in the World.

Many stories of big things are told in California, but there is a little thing at the missionary exhibit in the chamber of commerce that is attracting much attention. It is the smallest Bible in the world. Displayed in the center of the exhibition hall is a collection of Bibles of divers sizes and styles, but there is one so small that it is kept under glass for obvious reasons. This is a complete, gilt-edged, morocco bound Bible, containing the full text, and it measures one-half inch in thickness and three-fourths of an inch in length. Some of the words in capital letters may be read with the naked eye, and with a glass the entire text is clear and distinct.—Los Angeles (Cal.) Times.

Possibly the Reason.

"She's the valetictorian of her class, isn't she?" "Yes." "Wonder why they give it that sort of a farwell name?" "Oh, she's saying farwell to the idealities of life as a preliminary to bumping up against the realities"—Chicago Post.

DRAW DRAFT ON THE SHAH.

One Way to Even Up a Bank Account When Called Upon to Make Good Overdraft.

"Just to edify" a depositor the cashier of a bank in a western town allowed him to overdraw his account \$1,000, relates the Chicago Tribune. A few days later the cashier learned there was to be an examination of the bank's account. He sent at once to the depositor, told him of the impending examination, and asked him to make his account good.

"I can't do it," replied the depositor. "I haven't the money and I can't possibly raise it inside of three weeks. What can I do about it?" The cashier was in sore straits. He did not have money enough of his own to make good the deficit, and for a long time he couldn't think of any way of bridging the trouble. Suddenly a bright idea dawned on him.

"I'll tell you what we'll do," he said to the depositor. "You draw a draft on the shah of Persia for \$1,000 and deposit it in your account. It will be at least six weeks before we'll have it returned protested. Meanwhile you can skim-mish up the money to make good the overdraft."

The depositor laughed at the idea, but made out the draft on the shah and put it in for collection.

"There'll be a hot time in Persia when the shah gets that," the depositor said to the cashier, and the cashier agreed with him.

Within three weeks the depositor made some collections through his regular business and straightened out his bank account.

About six weeks after the draft was made on the shah the cashier received a check from Teheran for \$1,000 from the query of the shah. On the back of the voucher which accompanied it and above the indorsement of the query, this statement was written:

"The shah of Persia requests that hereafter all bills from the United States of America shall be itemized."

A STRANGE FLOWERING BULB.

Plant from Asia That Blossoms Without the Aid of Earth or Water.

Central Asia now puts in a claim for the most remarkable of all the bulbous plants, states the New York Times. It bears the imperial title of "Mouarch of the East." In color and appearance the bulb resembles a large potato, and its extraordinary property is that it flowers without the aid of earth, sand, stones, water or anything else. The discoverer of this phenomenon says: "The flower already sometimes reaches a length of nearly two feet, is of a reddish-brown color, topped with red and yellow, while the inner parts of the flower are equally brilliant." He also adds that the bulb of this extraordinary plant needs only to be placed in a saucer, without water, in a warm room, when, without showing either leaves or roots, the flower makes its appearance, usually early in the year, thriving entirely upon the nourishment contained within the bulb.

As soon as the flower has faded away and a growth appears to be coming from the bulb, it should be potted up in good soil and freely watered. Later on an umbrella-shaped leaf is formed on a stout stalk resembling brown granite in color and sometimes reaching a height of three feet. In autumn this leaf fades, and as soon as it has died off the bulb is lifted out of the soil, cleaned up and placed in a dry condition in a warm room, when the previous year's display will be repeated.

COSSACKS DENOUNCE WAR.

Rough Riders of Russia See No Glory in the Present Struggle with Japan.

The province of the Don Cossacks in southern Russia has a well-earned reputation for the excellence in horsemanship and the martial qualities generally of its inhabitants. The Don Cossacks form the pick of the Russian cavalry and they were ever ready to shed their blood for the czar in return for the privileges granted to them. It is therefore all the more remarkable, says a London paper, that the present war in the far east is very unpopular in the district of the Don. Instead of hallooing with delight war for war's sake, the Cossack officers can be heard from time to time exclaiming: "What do we want with this war and this Manchuria? For us there is neither glory or profit in it."

The reason for this radical change of feeling comes to be the economical situation of the Cossacks. Their privileges are no longer what they were. They possess a problematical autonomy, but the common land at their disposal has shrunk to insignificance. The Russian government has kept their schools closed since 1833. Despite the decline in material welfare the Cossacks are bound to furnish at their own expense for war a horse and a complete set of equipment. The spirit of discontent is now, for the first time, beginning to manifest itself among the people.

Burmese Were Ingenious.

After conquering Burma the British undertook to carry the great Rangoon bell, the third largest in the world, to Calcutta as a trophy, but dropped it overboard in the Rangoon river, where it defied all the efforts of the engineers to raise it. Some years later the Burmese, who had not ceased to mourn its loss, begged to be allowed to recover it. Their petition was granted and by attaching to it an incredible number of bamboo floats the unwieldy mass of metal was finally lifted from its muddy bed and triumphantly restored to its place.—Chicago Chronicle.

DESTRUCTIVE FILIPINO ANT.

Insect Devours Seeds of American Vegetables Before They Can Germinate.

The efforts of the Philippine bureau of agriculture to introduce American farm products into the Philippines have not proved very satisfactory. The American officials supposed that the rich earth and sunny climate of the Philippines would produce all kinds of vegetables and fruits, but in their calculations they forgot the insects that swarm over the island, devouring vegetation below as well as above the surface. The locusts that devastated vast tracts of land last year were a temporary pest, but the ant and mealy bug are constant sources of annoyance and disaster, says the New York Sun.

To encourage the raising of American vegetables, the Philippine officials followed the custom of the department of agriculture of the United States and distributed nearly 25,000 packages of seeds, which went into almost every province. In all these were 137 varieties of American grown fruit and garden seeds.

Each package contained instructions printed in English and Spanish; but the reports received showed that the Filipino would require more care full teaching before he could learn to raise water-melons, cantaloupes, cucumbers and tomatoes. In fact, the feature of the work proved so unsatisfactory that W. S. Lyon, in charge of the division of plant industry, has recommended that there be no more distribution of seed except to genuine farmers.

He complains that school teachers, provincial officers, commandants of military or constabulary posts and merchants or traders having small lots in the towns have constituted a considerable portion of the people supplied with seeds, and he is of the opinion that they take less interest in the subject of agriculture than in the immediate necessity of supplying their table with fresh vegetables.

Some satisfactory results are recorded. In one of the provinces promising results were secured with imported American field corn, but reports received from other parts of the archipelago have been disappointing, showing a tendency in the plants to dwarf and abort close to the ground.

In Hainan province the stalks reached a good size and yielded two or three large well formed and well filled ears to each stalk. The production in sheltered grain was one-third more than was secured from a similar adjoining area planted in native seed. Mr. Lyon, in a report to the Philippine commission, says that the use of corn is extending into the provinces where formerly it was not cultivated, and that where it is largely grown it probably produces a profit which formerly was used for such foolish or farcical purposes. He thinks that much of the use of unimproved American seed will increase the yield one-fourth or more over that which can be secured for native seed.

The failures with American garden seeds were not confined to the native and soldier farmers. One of the ideas of the bureau of agriculture was the establishment of agricultural experimental stations in different parts of the archipelago, which are conducted by experienced agricultural experts.

The reports of these men are interesting as showing the difficulties in the way of the Filipino gardener. It is a matter of common knowledge that nearly all of the fresh vegetables raised in Manila are imported from China, where the system of supplying the soil is such as to make the use of the vegetables undesirable from a sanitary standpoint. During the period of the plague in Manila the authorities prohibited the importation of these vegetables, and for a time the people suffered from a lack of green food.

The obstacle in the way of the Filipino gardener is the Filipino ant, which devours anything from the foundation of a house to a postage stamp. The most valuable libraries in the Philippines have been ruined by these insects, which eat their way through paper, pasteboard, leather, wood, and even tin.

The experimental station workers say the ants destroyed seed in the ground before it had time to germinate, and repeated attempts to start lettuce, onions and beets in plant beds resulted in failure on this account.

Platforms high above the earth were erected and the supporting poles covered with poison. Plant boxes were then placed on the platforms where the seed could germinate. In one instance an entire corn field of several acres was completely destroyed by the ants eating the corn off just beneath the surface of the ground. In addition to the ants, aphids and mealy bugs were also troublesome. They injured lima and string beans, tomatoes and egg plants. Cabbage and cauliflower were a failure, and the officials say that the results do not justify repeating experiments with rhubarb, spinach or cauliflower. Irish potatoes made a fair showing, but several plantings of water-melons, cucumbers, and musk melons resulted in failure.

Squashes and cucumbers made a good growth and bloomed freely, but set very little fruit. A difficulty with cabbage was that it would not head. Great interest is also taken in efforts to produce a disease immune coffee plant and to train the Philippine in better methods of growing tobacco. A stock farm has also been established, and American horses and cows have been purchased for breeding purposes.