

DROPPING FROM THE CLOUDS

Australian Aeronaut Describes How It Feels to Descend with a Parachute.

How it feels to drop from the clouds in a parachute is thrillingly described in Popular Mechanics by Capt. Penfold, famous Australian aeronaut. He says: "Glancing up at your parachute to see if the cords are disentangled you grasp your trapeze rope by one hand, your cutaway line with the other, cross your legs around your trapeze bar, collect your thoughts, and pull the knife. At once the wind rushes past you the trapeze seems not to hold your weight, you fall as if pushed, unprepared, from a high stage into the water at the baths. You look overhead to see the parachute open, the parachute cloth is dropping in a bundle to reach you as it were, but before it does, your weight tells and pulls the cords straight, the wind catches under the cloth of your canopy, you have a few anxious moments as it slowly unfolds like a huge umbrella and with a slight tug as if a fish were running away with your fishing line you are supported like a feather, and you experience a feeling of satisfaction and safety. Down you float to terra firma like a bird on outstretched wings, and if it is a calm day, your descent is almost vertical at the rate of eight to ten feet a second. When nearing the ground the earth seems to rush up to meet you, and what at a height of 1,000 feet seemed a small box in an allotment, turns out now to be a good-sized house. You reach the ground as if in a free drop from a height of about four feet."

WOULDN'T TAKE MUCH SPACE

Johnny Poe's Fifty-four Pieces of Luggage Could Easily Be Stowed Away.

From a friend of Johnnie Poe, one of the greatest half backs that Princeton ever boasted, the state department has learned that the adventurous collegian had undergone a strenuous time in Honduras, but had been rescued by an American gunboat. The friend wrote that Poe, who was a general in command of a one-gun battery, struck for the coast when things began to look black with peace and there was little to do. He found the American war vessel and promptly asked for transportation home.

"Sure," said the commander. "We'll be glad to have you. Come aboard when you want. We'll probably lay up here for two or three days." "Thank you, old man," said the former football star, warmly, "I'll be aboard before you sail."

"Bring your luggage," said the captain, warmly. "If it isn't too elaborate, I'll be glad to give it room." "Thank you again," said Poe. "I'll sure do that. I have only 54 pieces." "What?" exclaimed the commander, springing from his chair. "I'm not running a freighter!"

"Oh, well, don't get excited," purred Poe; "my 54 pieces consist of one pair of socks and a pack of playing cards."

The state department learns that the football star reached New York in safety.

How to Get a Coonskin Coat. Coonskin overcoats are within the reach of Minnesotans who will spend a few days in the woods with a coal oil barrel and some parsnips, according to J. L. Ferguson, a trapper who lives in the vicinity of Cass Lake.

"If you'll go to a timbered district," he said, "sink a coal oil barrel two-thirds of its length in the ground, suspend a parsnip over it about a foot from the top and leave it over night, you should catch at least one coon, and possibly three. The head of the barrel must be removed and there must still be traces of coal oil in the inside, so the staves will be slick. The coon will be attracted by the smell of the parsnip (there is nothing a coon likes better); he will climb the outside of the barrel and in trying to stand on the rim and reach the suspended parsnip will fall in. There is no possibility of his climbing out."

"Plague" Bothers Engineers. The "red water plague" is a matter which is receiving attention from engineers in different parts of the country, and while they have shed considerable light on the matter, there is much yet to learn about it. The trouble consists of a discoloration of the hot water with a rusty sediment, the cold water at the same time being much less affected, although not entirely unaffected. Under the hot water faucets marble bowls become reddened and the first rush of hot water from the faucet after it has been shut off for a few hours has a distinct rusty appearance. Copper flush tanks and metal balcocks are affected seriously where the discoloration of the water is more marked.

Eagle Carried Trap 300 Miles. A few days ago an eagle was killed at the Ellison ranch near Edgewood in the upper part of Bliskiyou county. On one of its feet was attached a No. 3 steel trap which had apparently been on the big bird's talon about two weeks.

LITTLE WILLIE'S BRIGHT IDEA

He Caught Santa, All Right, But Probably Santa Had His Innings Afterward.

A. B. Walkley, the dramatic critic of the London Times, refused, at a dinner at the Union club, to criticize adversely the New theater of New York. "To criticize you adversely, at a moment when you are giving a feast in my honor, would surely be impolitic on my part," Mr. Walkley said. "I should be putting my foot in it, like the Santa Claus of Chelsea." "A Chelsea artist—you know all, London artists live in Chelsea—rose, in the middle of the night on Christmas eve, and, in pajamas and bare feet, proceeded to the coal black room of his little sons. He had in his arms, sweets and picture books, and his wife with a glad heart watched him depart.

TOO CONSPICUOUS IN COLOR

United States Will No Longer Have Grey Horses in Its Cavalry Regiments.

The gray charger, long an inspiration for the poets of chivalry, is now passe. So say the high officials of the war department who look after the purchase of horses for the United States cavalry. He may be just as vigorous, intelligent and faithful as his brothers of another color, but he's too conspicuous, they tell us, too apt to get his \$200 hide filled with lead. So he has to go. Horsemen of the National stock yards can no longer sell grays to the government, which they maintain is bad business all round.

Home Moving Pictures.

In being adapted for the home moving pictures have entered a new and very promising stage. A simple apparatus recently patented is described as only three feet long by one foot deep. It is provided with a ground glass at one end, on which a picture 8x10 inches in size can be thrown. But if a larger view is required, the ground glass can be removed, when the image will be projected upon a white sheet or other surface provided, and will be enlarged more or less, according to the distance from the machine of this new screen. Any convenient light, such as an acetylene bicycle lamp—will serve for an illumination. It is expected that the apparatus will be made in a variety of styles, from a cost of a dollar or two to quite expensive outfits, and the spoils of film, lasting two to three minutes, are to be furnished at prices comparable to those of phonograph records. Freedom from risk of fire is claimed, as the film is heated much less than by the powerful lights necessary for the larger machines.

Wildcat Meat for Fighters.

Wildcat meat is at a premium in the Chinese quarters of San Francisco as a result of the strife between the Yee family and the On Tick Tong—which has brought about six murders in or near San Francisco since November. There is a superstitious belief among the Chinese that if their warriors are fed on the flesh of the wildcat they will acquire the ferocity of the beast and their fighting efficiency will be much improved. The butchers of the quarter are driving a thriving trade in wildcat among the two clans now at war.—Fur News.

Sir John's Business Methods.

Sir John Fisher, who as an admiral has a great many demands upon him from people who come on pretense of talking business, uses, and is said to be the inventor of the following method of warning them off: A slip of paper is handed to the caller before he is brought into the outer office. It says: "When you go to see a business man, go on business and state your business in a businesslike manner. When you have concluded your business go about your business and leave him to finish his business and mind your own business."

The Reason.

First Strap Hanger (in a whisper)—Why did you give that woman your seat? She isn't bundle laden, tired or pretty, or even polite.

Second S. H.—Well—er—you—see she is my wife.—Harvard Lampoon.

No Trouble.

"Do you have any troubles in collecting your bills?" "Not a bit," answered the dentist. "My patients are always relieved when they find that my notices are not reminders of an appointment."

WAR ON STOCKINGS

Russian Prima Donna Would Have Women Go Barefoot.

Woman is Greatly Hampered in Her Physical Development by Many Unnecessary Articles of Clothing She Wears.

Boston.—Lydia Lipkowska, the Russian songbird of the Boston opera house has amplified her declaration that stockings as an article of constant wear should be relegated to the scrap heap. The fair prima donna declares woman is greatly hampered in her physical development by the many unnecessary articles of clothing she is called upon to use in her toilette.

"Relaxation is known to be the great cure-all for many human ills," she says, "but woman has still to learn that her body and her muscles need relaxation if she herself is to be physically fit."

"I do not know how you look upon it in America, but we in Russia are rather more outspoken in such matters, and the discussion of woman's apparel is not considered an exclusive matter for star chamber sessions. "Now stockings are a necessity when one is out walking, or visiting, or on the stage, but worn constantly through the day they are to my mind a source of evil. Give the legs a chance! Don't hem them in as if they were prisoners that are to be punished. Let the blood circulate freely through the veins! Put the stocking in the same class with the corset—a necessity that the sooner rid of the better for the wearer."

"When at home I confess that most of the time I am stockingless. I have high boots for the winter, trimmed with fur, that offer real comfort and which do not exact the penalty the stockings do."

"Talk about ease and pleasure! Women whose legs are encased in stockings the whole day long know not what real ease is. In the summer let women go about barefooted!"

"Oh, I do not mean when visitors are around. That would be somewhat shocking. But, as much as one possibly can without breaking any of the conventions, a woman should go about stockingless."

"Just imagine a woman wearing her gloves constantly! If mankind insists that bare feet do not occupy the same plane as bare hands, good and well, but in the quietude and solitude of one's own boudoir a woman wearing stockings simply inflicts a punishment upon herself, and the pity of it is that the punishment may be wholly undeserved."

"I do not pose as a physical culture expert, but common sense would teach every woman that stockings may be looked upon as an article of wear that, constantly used, may become a source of harm."

"Women, generally, wear too many clothes. Some Russian writer once said that the average woman may be likened to a huge volume with skirts instead of leaves. Is not that so in many cases? Why do women wear them? This must be classed among the world's unanswerable questions. A woman's reason—because—may be the best answer."

"I am not an advocate of mannishness in dress," wrote the contrary. I admire pretty gowns and would like to see every woman dressed in exquisite style. But why should superfluous clothes be considered an essential of womanliness?"

Mme. Lipkowska is an ardent suffragist, and her ideas on the subject of woman's equal rights are as striking as her own personality.

"Woman is man's successful competitor in nearly every walk of life; then why deprive her of any rights that man enjoys?" she queries.

WEALTHY MAN'S SON FARMER

Ambitious Michigan Boy Earned Money to Buy Farm as Laborer in Father's Factory.

Kalamazoo, Mich.—Out in the wilderness of Idaho, 40 miles from the nearest railway station, Boone Thompson, son of ex-Mayor Thompson, has taken up a claim and is now living on the 160 acres, miles and miles from the nearest settler.

Notwithstanding the fact that his father is president and manager of the Kalamazoo Stove Company and one of the few millionaires of this city, the son has gone to raising potatoes, wheat and other farm products, the money necessary for him to invest in the farming project having been earned by the son while working for his father as a laborer in the stove factory.

Young Thompson writes from the west that his crop of potatoes this year will net him several hundred dollars, although the cost in marketing the product will cut a considerable hole in the returns.

Nothing besides rattlesnakes and sagebrush grew on the claim before Thompson went west.

Teachers Sell Peanuts.

West Orange, N. J.—The humble peanut is the agency through which the teachers of St. Mark's public school here have secured a new piano. When their request for this was refused a few weeks ago by the board of education they purchased a quantity of raw peanuts, roasted them in approved style and sold them at a good profit to the pupils and their friends. They now have the piano.

RAISES FENCE POST TREES

Former Governor of New Mexico Has Only Farm of Its Kind—Catalpa Grows Rapidly.

Roswell, N. M.—There is only one "fence-post farm" in the United States, so far as known, and it is conducted near this little Pecos Valley city by a former governor of the territory.

Ten miles east of Roswell is the Hagerman estate, and on a large acreage of this vast tract of land Herbert J. Hagerman, former chief executive of this territory and heir to the founder of the estate, has a farm devoted to the exclusive purpose of raising fence posts.

The trees are planted for the especial purpose of being grown to the necessary size and utilized to support the barbed wire that surrounds the picturesque irrigated estate and incloses the vast apple orchards and alfalfa fields. The trees are not grown for telephone posts, for cordwood, nor for any other purpose than fence posts.

The trees are set out in rows about a foot apart, and are irrigated and cultivated as carefully as the apple orchards. They are allowed to grow to a height of 15 or 18 feet before they are cut, unless there is a pressing need for fence posts before the trees reach that height. Then they can be cut into from two to three posts. One tree will grow to a height sufficient for three posts much quicker than two trees can be grown to sufficient size to make one post each, one planted after the other is cut, of course, so that the trees are therefore allowed to grow to a height sufficient to make three posts, where this is possible, and it generally is.

A peculiarity about the tree is that it grows very fast until it reaches a height of 15 or 20 feet, and then it is slow of growth. This makes it just as undesirable as a material for telephone posts as it is desirable for fence post growths, hence it appears to be intended just for the purpose for which this young ex-governor has selected it.

The Hagerman fence post farm is one of the curiosities of the Pecos Valley and will remain so.

MONEY FOR REPAIR OF SHIP

\$667,000 to Be Expended for Improvements on Battleship Illinois at Boston Navy Yard.

Washington.—Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Winthrop has issued orders to the navy yard authorities in Boston to begin immediately extensive repairs to the battleship Illinois. Expenditures aggregating \$200,000 have been authorized.

Of this sum \$160,000 will be expended under the bureau of construction and repair, and \$40,000 under the bureau of steam engineering. This is only a part of the total expenditure contemplated, however. The sum of \$667,000 is available for repairs to the Illinois and this money will be spent in Boston.

It is a sum sufficient to put the battleship in first-class condition and to equip it with all necessary new machinery and boilers.

Incidentally, this expensive overhauling of the Illinois will afford the navy department a first test on a comprehensive scale of the new cost-keeping system. It will give a basis for the comparison of cost in doing such work in government and private yards.

Something will depend on the outcome in the amount of such work to be assigned to the Boston yard in the future.

Representative Ernest W. Roberts of Massachusetts, a member of the house naval affairs committee, interested himself in having orders for the work rushed. The order was issued after he had had a conference with Mr. Winthrop.

NEW JERSEY FISHERIES RICH

Federal Census Bulletin Shows Valuation Runs Up Into Millions of Dollars—Oysters Help.

Atlantic City, N. J.—The valuation of New Jersey fisheries runs up into millions of dollars, according to a bulletin issued by the United States census bureau showing that 7,100 men derived a livelihood from the industry last year. There are 123 fishing vessels, valued at \$590,444, with equipment worth \$119,117, and 3,850 boats valued at \$390,416.

The total value of the fish caught in New Jersey is placed at \$3,068,590. Oysters alone, of which 2,500,000 bushels were taken, according to the bulletin, sold for \$1,120,000, while 305,800 bushels of clams netted the baymen the neat sum of \$336,500. Other catches included 115,300 pounds of lobsters, which sold for \$16,000.

Annual Farm Show.

Hartford, Conn.—Articles of incorporation have been filed with the secretary of state of Delaware by Hartford parties and a charter has been granted to the United States Agricultural and Industrial Exposition Company, capitalized at \$1,000,000. The corporation proposes to hold a permanent annual American industrial exposition in one of the western or southwestern states for the purpose of promoting the improvement of and education in the arts, manufactures and products of the United States. F. Alexis Taylor is director general. The board of directors is made up of prominent agriculturists and 40 governors have accepted vice-presidencies.

WINE CROP FAILURE

Product in France Is Less Than Home Consumption.

Yield Is Only About One-Tenth of Normal Amount—Will Not Create Demand for American Article—Weather Is Blamed.

Paris.—The wine production of France this year will be only about one-tenth of the normal amount. The French vineyards yield an average of 13,000,000,000 gallons of taxed wine a year, and this year they will not yield more than 1,400,000,000 gallons at most. The taxed wine is that put on the market and sold. That consumed by the producers is not taxed.

There are 1,200,000 wine producers, and their annual consumption of wine is about 265,000,000 gallons. The normal consumption of persons in France who buy their wine is 1,272,000,000 gallons. This, with the 265,000,000 gallons used by the wine producers, makes the total consumption of French wines in France about 1,537,000,000 gallons.

Not only will the production this year fall far short of that amount, but even if all the old stock of wine is added to it there will still be a large shortage. The stock on hand ought to be from 250,000,000 to 300,000,000 gallons. It is, in fact, only about 200,000,000 gallons.

The sales of wine in bulk which mark the fetes with which the vintage season closes have already indicated an augmentation of prices over last year. The shortage of something like 137,000,000 gallons as regards French consumers will, it is expected, be filled by importations from Algeria, Spain and Italy.

At the same time, however, it is recognized that in those countries also the production this year is far below the average. The cheerful view is based on the fact that Spain, Italy and Algeria normally produce, relative to their own consumption, a much larger surplus of wines than France.

A leading writer on wine production, asked whether the shortage of supply in France would cause a demand here for American wines, answered emphatically in the negative. The reason, he said, was that American wines could not be sold cheap enough to the French wholesaler to leave him a suitable profit on his own subsequent sales.

He admitted, in making this statement, that large quantities of American wines are brought to France, matured and treated here in accordance with the practices of the trade, and then put on the market under labels which do not distinguish them from the regular French product.

But most of these wines, he said, go back to America. Incidentally it may be remarked that any one can note in Paris and also in London that wherever American wines are found on the menus of restaurants the prices affixed are much higher than those of the corresponding grades of European wines.

The vintage fetes this year have been as gay as usual. It is pretended in some of the wine districts that the quality of the vintage is above the average. But this is by no means proved, and is doubted by experts. It is too early yet to know positively whether it is true or not.

The prices obtained for the fine wines in Burgundy at the vintage sales are not so high as they were in 1904, when the yield was not only extremely abundant, but the quality was far better than that of ordinary years.

It is evident that unless there are large importations, France must begin the next season with its great wine cellars virtually empty, and that for months to come exports of wines must be at a minimum. Just to what degree this state of things will increase the prices of the finer wines in Great Britain and America it is impossible to say.

But what makes the situation less gloomy in France than it would appear to be at first sight is the fact that the partial failure of the grape crop has been wholly due to the abnormal summer and autumn. In every district the vines are reported to be strong and free from disease, and in all parts of France where wine is produced the deficit is proportionately the same, uniform results having followed an identical cause.

The low temperature and frequent rains of the summer delayed the growth of the vines and stunted the development of the grapes. It was hoped that in the early autumn the grapes would gain rapidly in size, but the weather has continued to be for the most part unseasonable. There has been half as well as many chilly rains.

Fearing they might lose the whole crop if they delayed, a great many vinticulturists gathered their grapes early, while they were too green to yield an abundant amount of juice of the quality suitable for making good wine. Besides this, great quantities of grapes were gathered in the rain, and they softened, and soured more or less before they were put under the press.

No alarm about the future of the wine-producing industry because of this temporary failure has been manifested by those engaged in it. They expect that next year's yield will be normal, as they can hardly conceive that nature would inflict upon the country two summers in succession like the last.

BIRDS RAVAGE GRAIN CROPS

Interesting Facts Concerning Capacity of Their Crops—Little Robin Is Champion.

Edinburgh, Scotland.—Much attention has recently been given by Scottish farmers to the ravages of their grain crops by certain kinds of birds. Some interesting facts about the appetite of birds have come out in the course of their inquiries. The wood pigeon in its association with agriculture has always had a bad name, though our Scottish poets have taken it under their wing. It is certainly a great eater, especially of succulent, new grain, growing or in stock. Packed in the crop of one, it is said, were found no fewer than 800 grains of wheat, while the meal taken by another was 600 peas. It is recorded of another that its menu consisted of 180 beech nuts and 60 acorns, while one shot on an estate in Banffshire had managed to stow away 968 grains of barley and 20 grit stones. Large as this appetite and capacity for food may seem, it is eclipsed by the little robin redbreast. For three weeks one was caged and weighed at the same hour every morning. It was found to weigh about one ounce and in order to keep it up to this weight it required 2 1/2 ounces of food per day. When its feed for the day consisted of earth worms the little gourmand dispatched as many as extended on end for 14 feet. There is an instance of a pheasant which on being killed had no fewer than 1,225 "leather jackets"—a most destructive larvae—in its crop. Though the heron is a bulky bird, its average weight is not over four pounds. Yet one was found to have swallowed two trout, one weighing two pounds and the other one and three-quarters pounds. Another heron had dined on seven small trout, a mouse and a thrush.

BABY IS CHAMPION TRAVELER

Has Sailed Over 60,000 Miles and Visited Nearly All Principal Eastern Seaports.

Boston.—Little Sarah Clarkson, daughter of the captain of the steamship Inverness, which came to Boston not long ago, may be called the champion baby traveler.

She has already sailed over 60,000 miles and visited nearly all the principal eastern seaports.

The Inverness, on her last voyage docked at Boston and New York a great cargo of oriental port, crude drugs, rubber, citron oil, citron, etc., and on board was baby Sarah.

The little girl was born not quite two years ago, while the steamship was trading between Calcutta and Bombay. She had a native Indian nurse to minister to her wants. On her arrival at Boston she had her first view of her home city, as Capt. Clarkson claims Boston for his sailing port.

Little Sarah's playthings were bought in Colombo. Her doll house and pretty beads came from Singapore, while from Yokohama came the silks for the tiny dresses, as she grew older. The little girl's playhouse is the chartroom of the Inverness, with its furnishings of charts, barometers, sextants and other implements required by navigators.

Playmates she never knew, but as all the members of the ship's crew are willing to act as such, she is one of the happiest babies to be found anywhere.

Two tiny kittens, born on the voyage from Calcutta, and now cats full grown, were her pets.

THIRD-RAIL CAR KILLS OWL

First Night Bird to Be Fatally Dazzled by Brilliant Searchlight of Electric Car.

Hazleton, Pa.—Cars of the third-rail system running between this city and Wilkesbarre have struck and killed all kinds of animals and birds that infest the woods surrounding the line on Nescopeck mountain and which are generally caught on the tracks in the dead of night.

Recently, however, a bird that is supposed to have its best vision in pitch darkness, an owl, fell a victim to the exceptionally bright headlights with which the big coaches are equipped.

The owl became confused, just as other members of the bird and animal families have been, by the brilliant illumination of the tracks as the car hove in sight. The crew stopped and brought back the owl to this city to have it mounted. It was the first owl killed on the road in this way, and Conductor White will keep it as a trophy.

Butter and Eggs High.

New York.—Butter and eggs have soared to a record notch in the New York holiday market. The best butter is quoted at 42 cents to 45 cents retail, while 55 cents a dozen was the price for the freshest eggs. The housewife found consolation, however, in the fact that cranberries are ten cents a quart, which is lower than they had been for several years. This seems to be the only Christmas dainty that has become cheaper.

Baffles Death at 101.

Newark, N. J.—Although she has passed the century mark by more than a year and is suffering from a fractured hip sustained by a fall a week ago, Miss Martina White of Ralph street, Belleville, is in no immediate danger of death.

L'ABELLE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLEANS

Produced in the United States by the... Price of the... 1910