

AMERICAN TRAMPS IN MEXICO

Authorities Are Puzzled Over the Problem of Abating the Hobo Element.

Since Mexico, Cuba, Porto Rico, etc., have come to be known as winter pleasure grounds by the American tramp, the local authorities have been puzzled as to how to deal with this idle and objectionable gentry...

In this warm-hearted Mexico people usually give him something to eat and a shelter for the night; the raggedo Americano is still, in many parts of the republic, something of a novelty; he has the attractiveness of the foreign and unaccustomed. And then, too, the dominant faith tends to unreflecting charity...

SUICIDES IN THE SUMMER.

Hot Weather Has a Tendency to Increase the Mania for Self-Destruction.

Observers of the phenomena attending the suicidal mania have noted that the tendency toward self-destruction in the members of the human race is more pronounced in warm than in cold weather...

Figures bearing upon the suicidal tendency in this country demonstrate the painful fact that suicide has increased during the last 25 years and goes on continually increasing in almost all civilized countries...

At the season of the year when the man is in aphelion the average proportion of suicides reaches its maximum. During this period in June and throughout the summer the physical and moral conditions are so influenced by the variations and conditions in the temperature and humidity that suicides are then greater than at any other time of the year.

There is no use getting angry with a lion," said a well-known tamer to me, "and there is no use in carrying a revolver. If you shoot a lion or injure him with any weapon, it is your loss, for you must buy another lion, and the chances are that he will kill you anyway, if he starts to start."

North Carolina's Odd Prison. A new invention is a prison on wheels. It is the sort of jail used in North Carolina for confining convicts who are employed doing work throughout the state.

TAMING A LION.

A Trick That Calls for Something More Than Courage—The Trainer Uses a Chair, But Not to Sit On.

The wild-beast tamer as generally pictured is a mysterious person who stalks about sternly in high boots and possesses a remarkable power of the eye that makes lions and tigers quail at his look and shrink away.

Such is the story-book lion-tamer, and I may as well say at once that outside of story-books he has small existence. There is scarcely any truth in this theory of hate for hate and conquest by fear.

Of course, a wild-beast tamer should have a quick eye and delicate sense of hearing, so that he may be warned of a sudden spring at him or a rush from behind; and it is important that he be a sober man, for alcohol breaks the nerve or gives a false courage worse than folly; but the quality on which he must chiefly rely and which alone can make him a great tamer—not a second-rate bungler—is a genuine fondness for his animals.

I do not purpose now to present in detail the methods of taming wild beasts, rather what happens after they are tamed; but I may say that a lion-tamer always begins by spending weeks or months in gaining a new animal's confidence.

Days after day he will stand for a long time outside the cage, merely looking at the lion, talking to him, impressing upon the beast a general familiarity with his voice and person. And each time, as he goes away, he is careful to toss a piece of meat as a pleasant memento of his visit.

Later he ventures inside the bars, carrying some simple weapon—a whip, a rod, perhaps a broom, which is more formidable than might be supposed, through the job of his sharp bristles.

Pope's Opinion of Woman's Clothes. The pope has recently manifested a preference in regard to ladies' apparel over and above the strict regulation in regard to ladies who are received by the holy father at the Vatican.

Wheels and Spokes. A philosopher says it is an easy matter to tell what kind of wheels a man has in his head by the spokes that come from his mouth. (Chicago Daily News.)

MONKEY INTELLECT.

Respects in Which They Show Resemblance to Man.

Their Method of Learning Is Superior to That of Any Others of the Brute Creation—Interesting Facts.

A series of careful experiments with monkeys has recently been conducted by Prof. Edward L. Thorndike to ascertain the power and process by which these animals acquire knowledge.

The essentials in an inventory of an animal's mental capacities are its sense powers, the kinds of movements it can make and their delicacy, complexity and number, its instincts or the sum of those tendencies to feel and act which it has apart from experience or learning and its method of learning or of modifying its behavior to suit the multitudinous circumstances of life.

In their motor equipment monkeys possess first of all the muscular coordinations necessary to sustain an upright position and consequently the use of the forelimbs. The movements of these forelimbs are more in number and suited to more complex and varied tasks than are those of lower animals.

Our native tendencies are so metamorphosed by the education of a civilized environment that in adult age they seldom appear in recognizable form.

Even the casual observer, if he has any psychological insight, will be struck by the general, aimless, intrinsically valuable (to the animal's feelings) physical activities of a monkey compared with the specialized, definitely aroused, utilitarian activities of a dog or cat.

Finally, in their method of learning, although monkeys do not reach the human stage of a rich life of ideas, yet they carry the animal method of learning, by the selection of impulses and associations of them with the different sense impressions, to a point beyond that reached by any other of the lower animals.

A Yokohama correspondent sends the following tradesman's card, as showing how the modern Japanese assimilate American methods: "Jewelry-maker. A finest in town. Whisky-joy. No. 17 Aioicho Ichome. Show this card to jiriki-kashaman. Our shop is best and obliging worker that has everybody known and having articles genuine Japanese Crystals and all kinds of Curios. Gold or silver plate electroplate or plain mending. Carving in Laid, work own name or monograms or any design according to orders we can work how much difficult Job with lowest prices insure, please try, once try. Don't forget name Whisky!"

Good Remedy for It. "Just remember," said the man who makes everyone suffer when he is uncomfortable, "that irritability is now said to be a disease." "And also remember," returned the man addressed as he reached for a club, "that some diseases require heroic treatment."

MUD IS FOREVER BOILING.

Marky Springs of Yellowstone Park That Boil Hot Fluid Without Ceasing.

Among the wonders of the Yellowstone national park none excites more interest than what are known as "the paint pots," or boiling mud springs. Into one of these cauldrons two women tourists recently fell and were seriously scalded.

The principal spring is called the Blue Mud Pot and is 35 feet in diameter. It is near the large sulphur spring, and when in a tranquil state looks like a lake of blue mud. The contents of the spring are more like muddy water than thick mud, although at times the mud has a consistency of mortar.

The second group of springs presents every possible variation of color. There are, perhaps, hundreds of the smaller springs, all of them having the raised edges, which are covered with the vari-colored mud. This mud has a temperature of over 180 degrees, and seems to be boiling at all times.

GIVE MACHINERY NO REST.

The Main Reason Why It Does Not Last as Long in America as in England.

A practical railroad man recently returned from England relates that he finds a great difference in the treatment of locomotives there and here, says a trade journal.

Continuing, the official said: "The chairman of the Midland made one impressive statement, namely: 'We tend our engines carefully, rest them, clean them and do everything to make them last.'"

Method in the Friendship. An old bachelor says the friendship of two women is always a plot against a third.

CHINESE TELEPHONE.

Mongolian Merchants of San Francisco Have a System.

For Use Among That Race Only and Extremely Popular Among the Business Men—Great Feats of Memory.

What is said to be the only Chinese telephone system in the world is in operation in the city of San Francisco. There are altogether about 18,000 Chinese citizens, of whom 1,400 are merchants. Of this number 270 are subscribers to the telephone.

The Chinese subscribers can and do use the long distance wires upon payment of the customary charges.

Altogether there are seven Chinese employed in the office, a chief operator and three assistants, besides three messenger boys who are on duty day and night, the office being never closed.

The San Francisco experiment has proved a successful one financially and is extremely popular among a people even as loath to accept new ideas as Chinamen are; and it is believed that one result of the local experiment will be the early introduction of the telephone throughout the whole Chinese Empire as soon as conditions of peace are assured.

CHINESE SET THE PACE.

Proof That They Used the Greenback as Currency Seven Hundred Years Ago.

A financial journal that has been delving into the mysteries of past ages and the histories of other nations quite recently printed a facsimile of a Chinese treasury note of the year 1297, probably the oldest piece of paper money in existence.

Besides being the oldest known piece of paper money this treasury note makes it clear that Gutenberg was not the first user of movable type. The note was clearly printed with movable type at a date over 100 years before Gutenberg began to experiment.

Green Corn Soup. Take six well-filled ears of tender green corn. Run a sharp knife down the rows and split each grain; then with the back of a knife press out the pulp, leaving the hulls on the cob.

MAN WHO WANTS AN ISLAND.

Advertisement Thought to Have Been Suggested by Reports About the Sale of Monte Cristo.

His want forms the introduction to an advertisement issued on behalf of a client by a firm in Munich. The notice proceeds thus: "Would buy an island, situated either in the Atlantic or Pacific ocean, or the Mediterranean. Conditions: Healthy climate, not too warm, luxuriant vegetation."

Recent descriptions of the conversion of the island of Monte Cristo into a rural and marine paradise by an Italian princess may have suggested the desire to set out, but the advertiser's wish to own an island is one which will enlist general sympathy.

The last individual who was presented with an island in his own right was a Turk who won what may be termed the international wrestling contest at Constantinople.

Perhaps the best example of an island estate on the Danish shore. The whole island is the property of a single wealthy Dane, who cultivates its land, sports in its woods, and fishes around its shores much as his ancestors did five centuries ago.

A Fortune Awaits the man who will invent a good substitute for leather. Nobody has yet succeeded in approaching it, unless it be an inventor who has just patented a fabric which he proposes to use in the manufacture of boots, though it may be employed for other purposes.

Nothing to Envy. Tess—Have you seen your brother's fiancée? Jess—No, but I fancy she's very homely. "Why?" "My brother says all her girl friends speak of her in the highest terms." Philadelphia Press.