

CAPITAL OF EUROPE'S WINTER PLAYGROUND

Nice Is Meeting Place for Pleasure Seekers.

Washington.—Local weather conditions in Europe seldom get into American news. Recently, however, millions of Americans read with interest over their breakfast coffee that it had rained at Nice. Why a rain made cable news is explained in a bulletin from the Washington headquarters of the National Geographical Society.

"The unusual downpour had come day after day during carnival week—the red-letter period of pleasure in the gay winter capital of the world," says the bulletin, "spilling tens of thousands of dollars' worth of bunting and no one knows how many millions of francs' worth of gaiety."

Gaiety at Carnival. "Nice is often caviled at as too hot, too crowded, and too noisy," the bulletin goes on, "but it continues despite all that to be the capital of Europe's winter playground. The Riviera, Cannes draws to its villas and hotels those of quieter tastes. Mentone lures its invalids, while all the other scores of resorts along this sun-bathed Mediterranean coast draw to themselves appropriate groups of those in search of pleasure, rest, or health. But Nice is the meeting place for all as well as the place of temporary residence for thousands who find this bustling city and well-equipped resort, rolled into one, exactly to their liking."

"Nice's gaiety rises in crescendo to the carnival which takes place just before the beginning of Lent each spring. This more or less historic celebration, a type for numerous festivals around the world, began as a modest festa many years ago. It became an organized celebration in 1871 and has drawn increasing crowds since. It must be admitted, too, that it has grown in rowdiness. There are quiet-loving souls who leave Nice for the carnival just as there are those who seek there for it. The celebration centers about the battle of flowers in the Promenade des Anglais. There are parades that feature the ludicrous as well as the beautiful, and the inevitable dominoes, masques, street songs, street dances, horns and confetti."

"There is a considerable English colony at Nice. It dates back many years as one might surmise when he learns that the Promenade des Anglais has borne its name since 1821. Some of the earliest of the seekers of winter sunshine from the British Isles were in the modest Riviera town that year when a unusual cold snap rained the orange crop. They clumped together and gave the unemployed natives work by building a road along the seashore—the Promenade des Anglais. A wag has said that this roadway was built by the unemployed and has been used by the unemployed ever since. The chief boulevard and shopping street in Nice is the Avenue de la Victoire. With its smart shops and smartly dressed shoppers, it is a typical Parisian boulevard in miniature."

"New Nice, with its wide streets and bright buildings, has grown over a large area, almost obscuring quaint old Nice. One finds the old town in a seemingly compressed quarter across a little torrent from the newer city, between the stream and a blufflike promontory. Castle hill, which was the acropolis of the earliest settlement. On one side of the stream are narrow, crooked streets, houses centuries old and here and there ruined palaces. It is a medieval-looking place, but is inhabited by thoroughly modern mechanics, tram drivers and other less opulent inhabitants of the city. On the other side of the stream lies the new city with its avenues and promenades, theaters and casinos, sweeping uphill inland to a zone of hotels, palaces and villas."

Road of Incomparable Views. "Although many criticize Nice for its modernity and its too rapid growth, all agree that its setting on a spacious, sparkling bay enfolded by green and lavender hills, is superb. To see the city and its surroundings at their best one should ride over the famous Grande Corniche road. From Nice it climbs to a high shelf (the name means 'great cornice or shelf') on the inland hills overlooking the entire region both seaward and off to the snow-capped Alps. Napoleon built the road between 1806 and 1812 to facilitate military expeditions toward Italy. Now it is given over almost entirely to pleasure traffic. Over it 'during the season' whiz char-a-bancs and motor buses and private cars. After warm weather brings an end to the season this road of incomparable views is almost deserted."

Amsterdam to Keep Its 650th Anniversary

Amsterdam.—Great preparations are afoot to celebrate the 650th anniversary this year of Amsterdam's status as a city.

It was in the year 1275 that the municipality received its first charter as such from Floris V, count of Holland. The center of attraction is to be an exhibition in the famous Ryks museum and the city museum of all painting, prints, sculptures and other works of art having relation to Amsterdam during the last six and a half centuries.

In addition to such famous Rembrandts as "The Night Watch" and the "Stalmeesters," many others by the same master will be brought from Paris, Berlin and other European capitals, having been temporarily loaned for the occasion.

TRAIN YOUTH IN PEAK CLIMBING

Austrians Move to Curtail Casualties in Alps.

Vienna.—Reared in a country whose mountain ranges rival the peaks of Switzerland, the youth of Austria, both boys and girls, are enthusiastic mountain climbers. But this is often a dangerous pastime, and each year the Alps take heavy toll of young and valuable lives.

To protect these venturesome youngsters there has been organized a mountain-climbing school, with facilities for 400 students. The instruction is to embrace theoretical lectures and practical training. The lectures will treat of meteorology and weather predictions, and will further deal with the comparative value of various textures for articles of wear and equipment for mountaineering. Then first aid and transportation up and down gradients in case of accident, methods of sheltering from wind, avalanches, rain and snow, and lastly, nutrition and physical endurance, will likewise receive attention.

The practical training will be equally diversified. It will demonstrate the best ways of conquering the many hindrances which place themselves in the climbers' path, methods and utility of roping and the harnessing of rocks in rescue work and ascending and descending the sheer face of precipices. Lastly comes the correct handling of picks, axes and alpenstocks. A second course will deal with the uses of skis and snowshoes in Alpine tours.

One Word Bady Written Puts Realtor Out \$1,000

Kalamazoo, Mich.—Bert Cook, a real estate dealer, is out \$1,000 because a jury in Circuit court decided he wrote the word "net" into a contract. He says he wrote the word "with" instead.

The suit filed by Cook against Cassius Rockwell was one of the few word-construction cases ever called in Circuit court here since the advent of the typewriter.

One sentence of the contract, which was written in long hand, reads, according to Cook, that the farm he disposed of for Rockwell was to be "sold for \$10,000, with no commission to Mr. Cook." According to Rockwell, the contract read "sold for \$10,000 net, no commission to Mr. Cook." Under the plaintiff's construction Cook would have been entitled to all the money he received for the farm over and above \$10,000, which was \$1,000. Under the defendant's construction Cook was not entitled to any commission if he sold the farm for less than \$13,200, that being the amount of Rockwell's \$3,200 mortgage plus the \$10,000 net. The jurors decided a dot placed above the word was a cross for the "r" in "net," instead of a dot for the "i" in "with."

Father Gives Son, 12, \$10,000,000 Building

New York.—A. E. Lefcourt, garment manufacturer, realty operator and builder, announced the gift to his twelve-year-old son of \$10,000,000 in the form of a deed to a 30-story building he intends to erect. Lefcourt, who at the age of twelve—a little more than thirty years ago—was shining shoes and selling papers on the East side streets, said his purpose was to inculcate in his son, Allen, a sense of thrift and responsibility and "the necessity of observing the future of this wonderful city."

"I want my son to have all the advantages which I was denied as a boy," Mr. Lefcourt explained. "I want to instill in him now the ideals I have fostered for many years, and train him so that when he reaches his majority he will be ready to take hold where I leave off."

Biggest Ranch in World Is Owned by Woman, 93

Kingsville, Texas.—In a palace ranch house, 150 miles from her front gate, lives Mrs. Henrietta M. King, owner of the largest ranch in the world.

For three hours, by train, one rides across her ranch. And still a two-hour journey is ahead before the last fence post of her vast estate is reached.

The ranch comprises 1,250,000 acres and stretches through seven Texas counties. A grazing ground for 350,000 head of cattle, the estate is conservatively estimated as worth \$50,000,000.

This great ranch was acquired within the space of one lifetime. Quite as remarkable is Mrs. King's city—Kingsville—known in those parts as the Garden of Eden, a thriving place, where 5,500 persons live, located in the head center of this great ranch.

Stealing of Sawmill Charged Against Six

Boulder, Colo.—Stealing a sawmill is the unique charge against six men who have been jailed in Boulder and Longmont.

The six men, alleged to have been led by Ernest Hertzke, a farmhand, are said by sheriff's officers to have purloined the lumber mill from the farm of C. W. Pace, west of Lyons.

The officers said they found various parts of the mill about the homes of the arrested men in Allenspark, Longmont and Lyons, and having been dismantled and scattered. The mill was valued at \$385.

INDIANS INCLINE TO BUREAU RULE

Feel Their Status More Secure Under Uncle Sam.

Washington.—The little lad who has a weakness for war paint, feathers and Indian tales may take heart at the Indian bureau's announcement that there are still 345,000 of these primeval Americans in the land.

The attention of the Sixty-ninth congress will be called to the fact that, unless the nation's lawmakers make other provisions, the period of government wardship in the five civilized tribes will expire in 1931. There are about 17,000 Indians under federal supervision in the five civilized tribes, and elsewhere in the country the bureau of Indian affairs has 200,000 "restricted" Indians who are supervised.

The Indians themselves, Indian bureau officials say, are anxious to have the restriction extended, as they desire government guardianship to conserve their lands.

Under the June, 1924, law, all native-born Indians are now citizens of the United States. There are 190 tribes, many of them being small groups.

The number of Indian children in schools, the health appropriations by congress, Indian hospitals and the value of farm products raised by those citizens have materially increased in the last decade.

Farming and stock raising have developed appreciably among the Indians, and large sums of money are being spent by the government on irrigation projects on their lands, the Indians being the country's first irrigators. The Navajo Indians in particular are great sheep raisers, their women being noted weavers of blankets.

Red Swears by Emblems: Hammer, Sickle and Cork

Paris.—"I will only consent to be sworn on the symbols of my religion," declared Raffin Dugena, former Communist deputy, when he appeared before the parliamentary committee, which is investigating election campaign funds.

Chairman Mistral said he was afraid he could not oblige the witness with the necessary symbols, but M. Dugena said he was prepared for that. From a portfolio he drew forth a hammer and sickle, the point of the blade guarded by a cork, crossed them on the table, raised his hand and declared in a loud voice:

"I swear, on this emblem of the union of the workers of the city and of the fields, to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth." The members of the committee held their sides in laughter.

Dugena, who was recently expelled from the Communist party, first came to public notice as one of the Kienthal pilgrims during the war, going to that Swiss village to meet representatives of the German Socialists. He now is accused by his political opponents of having accepted a check for 5,000 francs toward his expenses in the last elections from an advertising agent.

He readily admitted the fact to the committee, declaring:

"To fight Mistral's gang I would have accepted money from the devil."

Ankles to Be Seen in Next Courts in England

London.—If dresses designed for the next courts at Buckingham palace, now on view at the shops of various modistes, are followed, there will be less material seen than usual, and more of the wearers' ankles.

Most of the models on view have the extremely short skirts which have come into vogue since the last court was held, and against which there is at present no official regulations. The cut of the neck is very discreet, while the length of train and the veil is also restricted as at previous courts.

One dress on view is of silver and lace finished with ostrich feathers. Another is of pale pink brocade with a girde of brilliants and a train of gold lace, while a third is of silver and pale mauve.

Find Petrified Forest Near Tonopah, Nev.

Tonopah, Nev.—That there is a petrified forest, one of the most beautiful in the country, within 40 miles of Tonopah, is a fact not generally known. More than 100 petrified trees are still standing, just as they grew originally. Little has been written about this forest on account of its inaccessibility.

The forest covers several hundred acres. The ground is strewn with the fossilized bones of animals and here and there are small caves.

The entrance to the forest is through a small canyon which widens into a river bed, which, in design, reminds one somewhat of the Grand canyon.

William Gomm of Tonopah, with a party, recently visited the scene and brought back several sacks of bones and teeth of enormous size. He said the trunk of one of the petrified standing trees was fully fifty feet high and fifteen feet in circumference.

Gomm has written the secretary of the interior suggesting that the forest be made a national park.

FINGER PRINT DATA ON 7,000,000 MEN

Army Can Locate Any Regular in 20 Minutes.

Washington.—Finger-print identification has been developed by the army to the point of efficiency where its application at times vies with the thrills of detective fiction.

Any unidentified man who has served in the regular army can be located in from ten to twenty minutes, and his full record laid bare. In that short time a searcher finds him among the more than 7,000,000 men who have been in the army since 1906, when the finger-print system was introduced. He may have been one of the 50,328 Smiths, the 40,101 Johnsons, 28,902 Browns, or one of the 27,938 named Williams. All the army needs is his finger print to find his record.

Index System Thorough. Walter S. Kaye, in charge of the bureau, says the indexing has been worked out so efficiently that even a new clerk, one never before having had knowledge of the system, can begin work as a searcher with little preliminary instruction.

The science of finger-print reading is based on the study of the curious, circling network of all but invisible lines on the ball of the thumb and each finger. Examination of millions of specimens shows that the normal formation is the whorl, or the scroll which winds these lines from the outer edge in a gradually reducing circle to their inner termination at the core of the network. A majority of human beings are marked with this scroll, but there are others whose finger-print lines run in flattened figures or in complications of figures far removed from the simple, easily-read whorls. The first step in identification has to do with determining the broad general division in which the prints under examination are to be sought.

There are but four main groups or classifications of prints, arches, loops, whorls and composites. Each type has its gradations. Each type has 1,024 values or combinations and the loops, arches and composites have each their respective values to simplify segregation for filing and to make them easily located when identifications are sought. The evaluation of prints thus made has overcome all difficulty of dealing with large collections of finger markings, such as are in the army files.

Finger prints, since their adoption in 1906, have exposed frauds, protected innocent men from injustice, kept undesirable of the criminal type out of the service, protected the government from unscrupulous claimants and uncovered the guilty. Many interesting accounts of such instances are contained in official papers of the War department during the last 15 years.

Never a Mistake. Those who have worked in the identification bureau since its establishment are authority for the statement, that never has a mistake been made. They have made more than 200,000 identifications.

"The finger-print system," Mr. Kaye says, "is superior to any other system so far devised, in that it permits of no error. This may seem a strong statement, but the finger print, when clearly made, allows of no misrepresentation; it is an actual presentation and does not permit the personal equation of error to enter. Other systems allowed errors of measurement and errors in location of marks."

In the more than 70,000,000 digit photographs in the identification bureau's files, Mr. Kaye says, there are no two of them alike. "There is just as much chance of finding two prints alike as there would be in going into the fields and finding two flowers exactly alike."

Finds Old Indian Cave at Grand Tower, Ill.

Grand Tower, Ill.—High over the Mississippi river, commanding a broad view of the opposite shore and the river for miles, a cave has been discovered near the top of Big hill, or Mountain bluff, near here, whose walls are marked with hieroglyphics, indicating early Indian occupation and probably Indian religious worship.

Remoteness of the cave and condition of markings, when discovered by Frank Solomon, sole inhabitant of the hill, indicate the marks are very old. When found they were covered with a sort of moss or mold, and there were no evidences the hidden recess had been altered since the early occupants left.

Chief of the markings, giving a clear picture of the bend in the river as it curves south from Chester, twenty miles away, is a hollowed-out half sphere, about a yard across. Most of the marks in it are now obscured by the erosive effect of changes in climate, but four are discernible.

Ship Plans to Extract Bromine From Sea Water

New York.—The steamship Ethyl, will sail April 15 from Wilmington, Del., to extract bromine from the ocean. A world shortage of bromine, which is said to threaten both industry and science, caused the Ethyl to be fitted out as a factory for recovering bromine from sea water, the American Chemical society announces. The Ethyl will call at no port, but will roam the ocean and extract from the waters her cargo of bromine, which is regarded as essential to medicine, motion pictures and to the ethyl field of motor fuel.

FRENCH WORLD WAR TOTAL IS 3,501,045

Compilation of Man Power Raised by Republic.

Paris.—The army committee of the last chamber of deputies undertook, in response to a resolution by the chamber to prepare a statement showing the losses in dead and wounded suffered in the great war of all the belligerent nations. The army committee of the present chamber has continued this work.

The first installment of the report, covering the French military effort, has been compiled and appears in a document written by Deputy Louis Marin. As a preliminary to the loss tabulations, it presents a picture of the entire French mobilization effort and the enormous French contribution to allied victory.

Lucien Chassaing has given in an article in Le Journal a highly interesting summary of the findings. He says:

"In 1914 France had under the colors the classes of 1914, 1913 and 1912, representing 902,905 men—817,000 Europeans, 53,706 native Africans and 52,200 native colonials.

"During the war there were enlisted in the military service (outside the regular classes) 702,500 Europeans, 240,051 Africans and 223,080 colonials. Including the 34 classes subject to service, the total of men mobilized reached 3,501,045.

"The number of officers in the active and supplementary services rose to 90,000.

"From the 1st to the 15th of August, 1914, the mobilization brought 288,000 men from the complementary lists into the active army. In the following ten months the effort continued, and 2,740,000 men were recruited from the old classes, dating back to 1887, and from the classes of 1914 to 1916.

"The picture of the contribution of these classes is a curious one, and proves the robustness of our race. The class of 1887 had 244,000 men living at the time of the original mobilization. Of these, 54,000 served actively during the war. The proportion increased very rapidly. The class of 1897 gave a contribution of 81 per cent. As for the younger men, they served in the proportion of 89 per cent.

"The writer of the report follows step by step the efforts at recuperation (the return of the incapacitated) and the figures pay a striking tribute to our sanitary service. For the years 1916, 1917 and 1918 the proportions of wounded cured and returned to service was 79 per cent. This recuperation procured 650,000 men for the non-combatant arms.

Volunteers Total 229,037. "Voluntary enlistments reached a total of 229,037, of which 2,480 were made by men more than forty-six years old. The foreign volunteers numbered 24,700, the Italians taking the lead with 7,325.

"Here is an important point. On December 1, 1918, the list of shirkers contained only 42,227 names. As to the deserters, 74,399 were caught in the interior or abroad and 7,228 at the front.

"Either at the time when the classes were incorporated or in the course of hostilities, 1,029,881 men were discharged for physical disability.

"The natives mobilized consisted of 173,919 Algerians, 80,339 Tunisians, 40,298 Moroccans, 181,512 Senegalese, 41,355 Malagaches (natives of Madagascar), 48,922 Indo-Chinese and 3,500 Somalis. On November 1, 1918, 2,840,000 men were in the armies, 1,207,000 in the interior, 1,387,000 in factories or in reserve and 25,000 on leave. On the same date 2,619,000 men were on the fighting lines in northern France and 227,000 were in the army of the Orient.

"The distribution of the troops shows the broadening of the scope of the fighting. On May 1, 1915 the infantry comprised 1,526,000 combatants; in April, 1918, 1,030,000, and on October 1, 1918, only 351,000. The combatants in the artillery showed a movement in the opposite direction. In 1915 they numbered 395,000; in 1918, 601,000. As to the air fighters, they increased in the same period from 8,000 to 51,000, while the auto service was expanded from 18,000 to 91,000.

"The number of the non-combatants, by reason of our industrial necessities, increased steadily—from 101,000 in 1915 to 355,000 in 1918."

Strauss Writes Concerto for One-Armed Pianist

Vienna.—Richard Strauss has composed a concerto for piano and orchestra especially for a one-armed Viennese pianist, Paul Wittgenstein. It is entitled "Parergon to the Symphonica Domestica," the latter symphony being one of Strauss' best received musical offerings.

Wittgenstein will give the concerto its premiere next winter at Dresden with Fritz Busch, general musical director of the Dresden opera conducting.

Palestine Population Is Increased 9,814 in Year

Jerusalem.—Official returns show that 11,851 Jews, 4,573 men, 3,836 women and 3,442 children, entered Palestine as immigrants during the twelve months ended December last. During the same period the Jewish emigrants numbered 2,037, so that the net increase of the population through immigration during the year was 9,814. The corresponding increase in 1922 was 5,788.

STOCK SWINDLERS USE MAGNETISM

Hit Upon New Methods to Keep Up With the Times.

New York.—The financial underworld which fringes Wall street steadily hits upon new methods to keep up with the times and ahead of the law. Its jargon is elastic, impromptu and bizarre.

For example, swindlers who fleece the public through sales of fake stocks work by telephone in what is called a boiler-room. Telephone salesmen are said to "hook the suckers." Dynamiters, so-called, "build up" the victims and hoodwink them into switching from standard securities, first held out as bait to attract investment, to worthless stocks which the conspirators are in business to unload.

Gone is the "gold brick," gone the bunco man who struck up acquaintance with prosperous visitors from the interior at metropolitan railway depots in the '90s. The get-rich-quick man of today has imagination. Avoiding the mails as much as possible, he strikes over the telephone and telegraph, often to bring down quarry as much as several states away.

These swindlers operate from offices that usually are obscure, sometimes merely desk room, so customers will find telephone calls hard to trace. In the larger plants there often is a battery of as many as eight telephones. This is the boiler-room, the term being derived from the practice of creating an atmosphere of bustling activity to impress inquisitive suckers who cannot be kept away.

The bustle is not wholly fictitious, the better business bureau investigators have found. Hour in, hour out, salesmen with good voices canvass by wire a list of names selected either from a secret "sucker's list" or the telephone directory.

They hook their man by offering to let him buy some active standard stock guaranteed to advance on a partial-payment plan. He can sell out at the rise and take a profit perhaps equal to as much as he has paid in. The money is duly received, but the stock is never bought.

An attorney in Toledo, Ohio, was reached by long-distance telephone from Philadelphia and New York. He placed \$515 on a curb stock here and won. He was persuaded to switch to a worthless mining stock and agreed to send \$2,500 more. Postal inspectors nabbed one of the swindlers at a telegraph office as he was waiting for the remittance. Later they caught two others.

Tunnels to Save Users \$20,000,000 Yearly

New York.—Traffic experts of New Jersey estimate that the Holland tunnels under the Hudson river will save merchants and others \$20,000,000 a year, because it will shorten distances between this city and Trenton, N. J., and points between, and that the Lincoln highway will afford such an outlet as to prevent congestion and the consequent delays for years to come.

The Lincoln highway runs from Jersey City to Trenton, touching the bigger centers on the way like Newark, Elizabeth, Rahway, Morristown, New Brunswick and Princeton. Fred Lavis, assistant construction engineer of the New Jersey state highway department, made the \$20,000,000 saving estimate. The basis of his figuring was that trips between important points will be made in so much shorter time that at least one dollar will be saved on each trip by vehicles and that the number of these trips will be at least 20,000,000 a year.

He pointed out that this amount, capitalized at 4 per cent, indicates that \$500,000,000 might probably be spent to eliminate present delays to traffic.

Girl, Two, Knows Letters and Quotes From Bible

Fergus Falls, Minn.—Mary Louise, two-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Matson of Fergus Falls, is exciting the curiosity and admiration of residents of this city because of her mentality.

In her second year Mary Louise surprised her mother by walking into the kitchen and naming all the letters on the oven door.

The prodigy not only knows all the letters but also knows all the names of the animals and birds and the names of the plants and trees.

Woman Is Killed by "Face Peeling"

Los Angeles, Cal.—Detectives inquiring into the death of Mrs. Jessie Gilchrist during a "face-peeling" operation in Hollywood, were investigating a report that Mrs. Gilchrist underwent another face modeling operation last June, at the hands of Dr. Gertrude Steele, "beauty doctor," who fled to Germany after she had been charged with manslaughter in connection with the death of a patient.

It was believed possible that Mrs. Gilchrist's death might have been due indirectly to the first operation, as well as to the operation under which she died. Chemical analysis of the woman's brain showed traces of phenol poisoning, and the theory was that the operation last June may have left her particularly sensitive to the effects of the phenol solution commonly used in face-peeling operations.