

## BUSSES ROUT CARS

### Motor Coaches Driving Out Trolley in Some Towns.

#### Good Roads Throughout the Country May Threaten the Electric Car's Existence.

A town in Vermont has now abandoned its trolley line and is to substitute busses. It is announced that when the change goes into effect the fare will be raised from 8 cents to 10. If the street railway company had put up the price no one would have stood for it, we presume. A street-car fare is one thing, a bus fare another. Such is our unanalytical psychology.

New opportunities are offered for getting more for your money than a ride on a street car, no matter what the rate charged. Yet trolley companies here and there are being driven to the wall or out of business because people "kick" at a legitimate fare, while they are willing to pay more for perhaps inferior, at least irregular service.

Picture the busses in this Vermont town getting proprietor, clerks and patrons down to the store on Main street on the morning after heavy snowfall. They will be good snow buckers if they do it, for they won't have any plowed-out trolley tracks to run in. This promises to be an interesting experiment on this account. Where busses heretofore have been tried either they have not operated where they had to contend with heavy snow or they have run in the tracks of the street railways.

The motor bus is multiplying in New York and in this state would probably have sent the Connecticut company's rails and cars to the junkman had not the public utilities commission intervened.

In the city of London there are no street car lines. Motor busses apparently serve the city and environs dependably. Success of the motor bus in this country will in the end depend on the quality of service rendered. Hereabouts the trolley seems to have certain advantages, in regularity, dependability, cost and upbuilding of suburban territory which it would be a calamity to lose. It was predicted thirty-five years ago, when the trolley was in its infancy, that a superior method of transportation would soon supplant it. The underground cable and various other devices have had their day and disappeared, but the trolley still stops to take us abroad. It has been a faithful servant.

Street improvement, of course, makes the motor bus a possible competitor. Little advantage apparently inheres today in steel rails, as a well surfaced road provides for rubber-tired vehicles good enough traction. Government, state and town appropriation of hundreds of millions yearly for good roads have created a condition that may threaten the trolley's existence. If that time comes there will have to be a lot of new lawmaking.—Hartford (Conn.) Times.

### United States Abounds in Gems.

Practically every known gem is to be found somewhere in the United States. Diamonds are to be found in Arkansas, North Carolina, Kentucky, Georgia, Ohio, Wisconsin, Colorado and California. Montana leads in the production of sapphires and also of rubies, while others of the same family, especially the true emerald, which is often more valuable than diamonds of equal size, is found in North Carolina and New Mexico. While the largest and richest of the blue variety of topaz comes from Russia Colorado has produced a marvelous reddish-brown stone that cannot be excelled, while the clear varieties from New England and Utah are as lovely as a diamond. Many lands have given garnets, but the finest are from New Mexico. Nevada's opals have become important in the commercial world. Fresh-water pearls come from the mussel and are found in the rivers of Arkansas, Indiana and Tennessee.—Detroit News.

### Colors Worn by Jockeys.

There are records to show that King Henry VIII as early as 1530 dressed his jockeys in colors, but nothing to prove that the colors were always the same. In 1762 the Jockey club posted a notice to the effect that several owners of racing horses had selected colors to be worn by their jockeys. Some of the colors chosen then are still in use by the same families.

### Near the Year's End.

The last orchids of the year bloom in September and October. They are the ladies' tresses, probably the most common of the orchid family in eastern North America, says Nature Magazine. All country dwellers know their stiff, upright, slightly twisted blossoms. The two most common are the nodding ladies' tresses and the slender ladies' tresses.

## ADVANCE IN TREE SURGERY

### Millions of Dollars Being Spent Annually to Salvage Things of Beauty.

Tree surgery, as it is practiced today, is less than a quarter of a century old. It was, naturally, crude in its beginnings, and the past ten years have been the era of its greatest development. It may be said that this development has closely paralleled that of the automobile. In both cases the original principle was sound, but it has taken a good many years to bring about the refinements which constitute the efficient gas-driven car and perfected tree surgery of the present day.

Among Americans no line of commercial or professional endeavor can be expected to thrive or even endure for long unless it has a sound economic justification, says E. A. Quarles. We are a practical people and things impractical make a very limited appeal. American home owners spend yearly not less than \$5,000,000 in the care of their trees, exclusive of work done on them by labor in their own employ. Ten years ago it is doubtful if half that sum was spent. These figures speak forcefully in confirming the acceptance of tree surgery as an important and practical application of science to the preservation of a useful material possession of mankind.

Shade trees about the home have both an aesthetic and economic value. With many the first-named would justify any reasonable care for their preservation. Louis Fuertes, the noted painter of birds, said in a recent address that he, for one, was tired of hearing people appealed to for the protection of birds because of their economic value, great as this is. Those of us whose lives are spent with the trees and whose daily endeavors have to do with their preservation sometimes have the same feeling if we must be brutally frank. "Only God can make a tree," in the words of Joyce Kilmer's immortal verse. Do not its majesty, grace, beauty and the suggestion it gives of a link between man and the Creator furnish all the urge that is necessary to give our trees the care they deserve? Short of man himself, few creations of the Almighty so completely fill the eye and satisfy the aesthetic sense as do the trees. In practically all landscaping of any scope trees are the dominating motif. Certainly they deserve better care from man than they receive.—Arts and Decorations.

### New Cadmium-Gallium Lamp.

The production of light sources from which pure monochromatic light of various wave lengths and great intensity may be obtained is from a practical viewpoint of great importance in the field of optics. During the past month, the bureau of standards has constructed an enclosed quartz vacuum lamp using an alloy of gallium and zinc, similar in many respects to the cadmium-gallium lamp previously designed. The design of the new lamp has been so perfected that the lamp operates quite satisfactorily with very little flickering, giving several intense lines, one red and several blue and green.

### Honor Among Chinese.

It appears that there is a very high sense of honor among Chinese, writes Henry Crosby Emery, LL. D. So is there among the merchants of America, England, Germany and other countries. Again the differences between individuals are infinitely greater than those between nations. To all this must be added that, since China is an older country, her merchants developed a sense of honor long before western countries. At a time when European commerce was half trade and half piracy, China had developed this high commercial morality. It is probably the half-buccaneering traders who first brought news of this strange and honorable custom to lands who as yet knew it not. Today Chinese commercial honor and English or American commercial honor differ little except that China had developed it centuries before it was adopted in foreign lands.—Harper's Magazine.

### Henri Aguesseau.

If anyone is inclined to depreciate the importance of a few minutes a day devoted to some task or hobby, let him consider the case of Henri Aguesseau, the great French jurist and statesman (1668-1751). Mene Aguesseau had the blameworthy habit of keeping her husband waiting every evening about fifteen minutes after the dinner bell rang. Aguesseau utilized this quarter of an hour each day to write a work on jurisprudence, which he brought out, after some years, in four large quarto volumes.

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## ETON COLLEGE.

This famous educational institution at Eton, England, was founded by Henry IV (1422-1461) in 1440, under the title of "The College of the Blessed Mary of Eton Beside Windsor." The pupils consist of king's scholars, or collegers who enter college between twelve and fourteen years of age. Until 1851, the education was purely classical, but in that year mathematics was admitted into the curriculum, and in 1869 physical science was added to the course of study. Eton has been, for generations, the favorite school for the sons of the nobility and gentry of England. Among the famous men that have studied at Eton may be named Horace Walpole, Bolingbroke, Porson, Hallam, Gray the poet, Shelley, Wellington, Canning, Fox, Gladstone, Lord Salisbury and Sir John Lubbock.

## The Corso.

The name Corso is given the principal thoroughfare of Rome about a mile in length, extending from the Porta del Popolo to the foot of the Capitoline hill. It is lined with shops, palaces and private houses, and is the scene of the festivities of the carnival, which is annually celebrated at Rome, just before the beginning of Lent. Races of riderless horses along the crowded Corso form one of the principal events of the celebration; while the throwing of flowers and confetti from the windows and balconies upon the occupants of carriages in the street below adds much to the merriment of the occasion.

## Homeric Verse.

The name Homeric verse is sometimes given to hexameter verse—the epic or heroic verse of the Greeks and Romans—because it was adopted by Homer in his two great poems, the Iliad and Odyssey. Hexameter verse, as its name implies, consists of six feet, the first four of which may be either dactyls or spondees, while the fifth must regularly be a dactyl and the sixth a spondee. When, however, the fifth foot is a spondee, the verse is said to be spondaic. A spondee consists of two long syllables, and a dactyl of one long syllable and two short ones. Virgil's Aeneid also is written in hexameter verse.

## Culpable Parents.

Charge the growing up unfit to the parent who breaks the spirit of the child, or coddles it into egotism and temperamental nervous bankruptcy and lies to it and gives it the deadly homemade examples of violent quarreling, lie-a-bed laziness and whining. I have raised Alredale terriers. Anybody will admit an Alredale terrier is not the sensitive organism a child is, and anybody who has raised good Alredales knows that one would ruin a litter by the cruelties under the name of discipline or the petting under the name of devotion which are dealt out to human offspring.—Saturday Evening Post.

## The Channel Islands.

The name Channel Islands is applied to a group of small islands in the English channel, lying off the northwest coast of France. Their total area is about 75 square miles, and their population numbers about 100,000. The principal islands are Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney and Sark. Jersey, Alderney and Guernsey are famous for their cattle. The "Channel Islands" were anciently an appanage of the duchy of Normandy, and have belonged to England since the Conquest. The inhabitants still speak the old Norman-French language.

## Exploding Cornstalks.

Cornstalks being hollow, having no pith, and being divided inside every few inches into sections, are very combustible when dried in the sun, and the air confined within the hollow sections warmed by the external heat explodes with very considerable force, so that a canebrake on fire gives the idea of a continued roar of distant musketry.

## Flatfish.

When the young flatfish hatches, its eyes are on the right and left sides of its head, as in ordinary fishes, but as development proceeds one eye migrates to the opposite side, so that in the adult both eyes are on the same side of the head, says J. V. Leech, in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

## Thistles Edible.

In Scotland, despite the "Wha daur meddle wi' me?" motto, the national emblem is often favoured by hungry youths. The thistle head, having been cut off, is shorn of its down, and the center eaten like cheese, which it somewhat resembles in taste and consistency.

## Saving of Breath.

Wiseman—"To look at that Englishman you'd think he was a tramp, wouldn't you?" Jockey—"Well, I know for a fact that he hasn't a place that he can call home." Wiseman—"Nonsense! why his mansion in London is!" Jockey—"Sumptuous, yes; but he calls it 'ome.'—Catholic Standard Times.

## BILL BOOSTER SAYS

"WHAT IF SOME OF THESE PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS DO INCREASE TAXES A LITTLE? THEY'RE WORTH IT! IF A FELLOW WAS WILLING TO GET ALONG WITH THE BARE NECESSITIES OF LIFE, HE COULD LIVE PRETTY CHEAP, BUT WHO WANTS TO LIVE IN A CAVE?"



## NEW AREA IN FLYING NEAR

### Inexpensive Transportation Fore-shadowed by Remarkable Success Attained by Motor Gliders.

A new era in air flying, that of cheap, safe, popular flying, is foreshadowed by the remarkable success attained by tiny British aircraft called motor gliders. One of these, a small monoplane fitted with a three-horse power engine, recently reached a speed of 53 miles an hour during tests near London. It climbed to 2,350 feet, and although in the air for an hour and 20 minutes, consumed less than a gallon of gasoline.

French aviation experts also are perfecting similar "pocket-planes," intended for use by amateur aviators and sporting enthusiasts. In England a small "car with wings," capable of carrying its owner through the air at the speed of an express train with no more power than is required by a motorcycle, has reached such a practical stage that orders are being booked for it by the public.

Rising out of small fields and being wonderfully controllable in the air, these cheaply-run winged cars are to be made to alight so slowly that the risk of a crash on landing, even under adverse circumstances, will be practically eliminated. Furthermore, such machines will be so handy on the ground, and their wings will fold so neatly, that it will be possible to house them in ordinary motor garages.

It is expected that the owner of one of these machines will be able to make the trip from London to Paris and back, sweeping high over the channel and escaping all the irritations and delays of earth transport, for about \$5. A movement is now on foot to get motor-garage proprietors to set aside smooth-surfaced fields, marked clearly so they can be seen from above. In this way the drivers of little "air cars," when on week-end social rambles, will have points all over the country, where they can descend and replenish their gasoline tanks, or make any necessary repairs or adjustments.

## Seek and Ye Shall Find.

Ask barrels and garbage cans any contain treasures. Many years ago a New York nut named Crawford who was visiting the national capital happened to reduce an extra large peach stone in a garbage can that was standing on the curb, and he wrapped it in a piece of paper and carried it back home with him. He planned it and the seedling that came from that stone was the source of all the excellent Crawford peaches in the world.

## Her Neat Little Scheme.

Wife—Dear, if you'll get a car I can save a lot on clothes during our vacation this summer. Hub—How do you mean? Wife—Well, you see, if we go to one hotel as formerly I'll need seven dresses; whereas if we have a car I can get one dress and we'll go to seven hotels.—Boston Transcript.

## Earrings as Heirlooms.

A New Hampshire woman boasts of a pair of earrings that has been worn in her family for nearly 100 years.—Indianapolis News.

## Example of Melting Pot.

Twenty-nine different nationalities are represented among the pupils attending one public school in Vancouver, B. C.

## Another Version.

All the world's a stage and the scenery is much more satisfactory than the cast.—Boston Transcript.

## ODD SEA ANIMAL

### Soldier Crab and His Habits Described by Writer.

#### Is a Terrible Glutton and Desperate Fighter—Will Battle to the Death for Home.

Of all the queer creatures that live in the sea, there is none stranger than the hermit crab, or the soldier crab, as he is sometimes called, says Mary Dudderidge. The second name is better than the first, for the hermit crab is neither plous nor dignified, as a hermit should be, and he does not live alone, as we shall see later. He is, on the contrary, a terrible glutton and a desperate fighter; for he lives in a world of hungry creatures, all anxious to eat and not to be eaten, and he does not intend to be eaten if he can by any means avoid it.

And in order that he shall not be eaten, it is first of all necessary that he shall get himself a house. Nature has been rather unkind to him, for, while all his cousins of the crab family are clad in coats of mail, and many of his neighbors in the sea are able to build themselves strong and beautiful houses, he has no tools with which to build and no armor except on the front part of his body. So he is obliged to take refuge in a strong tower that some one else has built, and in his search for it, he does not trouble himself much about questions of right and wrong. If no one has a claim on the house that he wants, well and good; but in any case, he must have a safe place to live in.

If, therefore, he finds any one in possession of the coveted stronghold, he does not scruple, if the unfortunate tenant is weaker than himself, to pull him out and make a meal of him. If this tenant happens to be a brother hermit, there is sure to be a royal row. The pair sometimes fight to the death, and the victor may devour the vanquished. In many cases, however, it has been observed that the upshot of the fracas is simply an exchange of shells, the defeated party taking possession of the abandoned fortress of his enemy. And after all the fuss, the victor very likely finds that the new house does not suit him and he must look for another.

The hermit crab has a great fancy for the shell of the whole; but in case of necessity he will take up with anything hollow, even an old pipe or bottle. When shells are plentiful, however, he is as particular as any housekeeper looking for a flat. When he finds an apartment that appears satisfactory, he examines it very carefully, holding it off at arm's length, turning it around and poking his claws inside. Having finally decided that it will do, he comes out of his old shell and darts into the new so quickly that it is almost impossible to see him do it, for he has no mind to expose his soft body to the dangers of the sea. He hangs onto his old shell till he is sure the new one will do, and often changes his abode several times before he is satisfied.—St. Nicholas Magazine.

## Marry or Kill.

Bachelors have often been penalized with a view to encouraging matrimony. In Sparta criminal proceedings might be taken against those who married too late or not at all. Turning to America, the citizens of Eastham, Mass., decreed that every man should kill six blackbirds and three cross years, while he remain a single. In 1756 the assembly of Maryland laid a tax of five shillings a year upon all bachelors over twenty-five worth £100, and twenty shillings on those possessed of £50.

## The Burrowing Owl.

The burrowing owl is a small owl which burrows in the ground in many parts of North and South America. It is about ten inches long, grayish green, profusely spotted with white, with the head smooth, without plumbeous. This is the owl, well known on the western prairies in connection with the prairie dogs, in the deserted burrows of which it makes its nest. These owls are diurnal, and feed upon insects and small mammals and reptiles.

## Criminals Use Tear Gas.

Equipment of a first-class criminal now includes a gas mask and a supply of tear gas, the War department indicates in a report showing that the crooks have not been far behind the police in adapting this war material to the pursuit of "peace."

An example is quoted of a boot-legger who carried tear gas in his rum-laden car and when pursued loosed it through the exhaust pipe. Pursuit ended immediately.

Because the criminal has become a customer of the gas mask manufacturers, many police departments are now considering the use of other than tear gas—something that the ordinary mask will not stop. Such a gas would be far more dangerous and equally as effective.

## Making the Cactus Pay.

Each year our huge fields of cactus on the western plains are made to yield some new form of profit that will eventually make our waste land and its sole product truly valuable. The latest use of the prickly plant has been the turning of it into good cattle food. The thorns would make rough eating, of course, but they may either be burned off by gasoline torch or softened by being chopped with the plant and allowed to steep in the juices, so that cattle can consume the whole in combination with other foods. It has been found that such food increases the supply of milk. The glutinous material obtained from the plant's leaves gives promise of becoming a valuable paper size and the small red fruits are yielding a profitable supply of alcohol and a very excellent vegetable coloring matter for many purposes.

## Madame de la Suze.

Henriette Coligny de la Suze was the daughter of Marshal de Coligny. She was born in 1618 and was one of the most admired poetesses of her day. Nothing, however, could exceed the want of order in which this gifted woman lived, nor her apathetic negligence of her affairs. One morning at 3 o'clock her household goods were seized for debt. She was not up, and she begged the officer on duty to allow her to sleep a few hours longer, as she had been up late the night before. He granted her request and took a seat in the ante-room. She slept comfortably until 11, when she arose, dressed herself for a dinner party, walked in to the officer, thanked and complimented him for his politeness and good manners, and, coolly adding, "I leave you master of everything," she went out.

## John Gilpin.

John Gilpin was a London linen draper and train band captain, whose amusing adventures are related by Cowper in his ballad entitled "The Diverging History of John Gilpin, Showing How He Went Further Than He Intended and Came Safe Home Again." The original of the poem is said to have been a Mr. Bayer or Beyer, a famous linen draper, whose establishment was on Paternoster row, where it joins Cheapside. The story was related to Cowper by Lady Austen (who remembered it from her childhood) to divert the poet from his melancholy. The poem first appeared in 1782, and was afterward included in the second volume of Cowper's works.

## Tied Up for Life.

The man of the house in name only mopped the bald spot in front where his forehead should have been and gazed with intense hatred at his wife a few steps ahead. It seemed evident that he was about to divulge a confidence, and the hotel clerk leaned toward him with a friendly, expectant glance. The grumbling one came nearer to the clerk and said: "When I got married her folks told her not to do it and my folks told me not to do it. Said it was a misalliance and we wouldn't stay together a week. Misalliance nothing! I've been married twenty years, and I can't even get out for one night."—Prize Story in Judge.

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## LEADS IN MEDICAL SCHOOLS

### United States Has Eighty-two Out of the Total of 445 in the World.

Out of an approximate total of 445 medical schools in the world, the United States predominates with 82 schools, according to a list prepared by the Rockefeller Foundation. Next come the British Isles with 43, followed by France with 32, Russia with 28, Germany with 24, China with 24, Italy with 22, Japan with 20, India with 18, Spain with 11, Mexico with 11, Brazil with 10, Canada with 9, Netherlands with 8, Poland with 8, Switzerland with 5 and Belgium with 5. Fifty-four other countries support from one to four medical schools each. Not only do standards differ greatly between countries, but even within national areas, notably in the United States, medical schools are of distinctly different grades as measured by personnel, equipment, resources and ideals. In spite of great variation in quality, however, all these centers of teaching are more or less directly dominated by the aims and methods of modern medicine. It is one aim of the Rockefeller Foundation, says the report, to hasten the development of international co-operation in medical education, by all available means.

## New Sugar Beet Digger.

It is said that a machine for topping and digging sugar beets promises to eliminate much of the back-breaking work of harvesting. The apparatus resembles a potato digger in general outline but in front of the lifts that remove the roots from the ground is a revolving disk twenty inches in diameter, so adjusted by a spring and roller that it measures the cutting distance from the top of the beet instead of from the ground. Immediately behind the disk are two lifts that remove the beets from the ground and deliver them to an endless chain elevator that frees them of dirt and dumps them out behind the machine. As the top and head of the sugar beet contains an acid that counteracts the sugar in the rest of the root, a harvester must measure the beets and cut them at the right place.

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