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FINLAND A BILINGUAL LAND

Both Swedish and Finnish Tongues Used, the Latter Being in Ascendant.

To the average traveler the matter of language is apt to be the most vital aspect of any foreign country. Trilingual Switzerland is familiar even to the impoverished continental visitor, but bilingual Finland may be more of a surprise. Nor will the fact that the choice of languages is confined to Swedish and Finnish make the trip any easier.

Formerly the Swedish tongue was in the ascendant among the cultivated classes, having been the vehicle of expression of the famous poet, Runeberg. Now, however, the pendulum is swinging the other way, and you will find even Swedish people adopting Finnish names.

Of course, all educated persons speak both languages interchangeably even at the family dinner table. In the rural districts, however, it is different. Groups of Swedish peasants in the south and west parts of the country and in the Aaland islands speak only their native tongue, and the rest of the peasants confine themselves to Finnish.

The writers who used Swedish were the first ones who extolled Finland as a nation. Runeberg was followed by Topelius, another poet and story writer, a particular favorite with children, and Fredrik Cygnaeus devoted himself to history. This activity met with a response from literary men who preferred Finnish, so that now equal bodies of characteristically Finnish work have sprung up in both languages.—Living Age.

FAMOUS DIAMOND IS BOUGHT

Englishman Obtains the "Princess Mary," Which Was Saved From the Bolshevists.

Carried to England from Russia at the time of the Bolshevist revolution, the mystery diamond known as the "Princess Mary" has at last changed hands, the purchaser being a resident in the north of England. The price paid has not been divulged, but its late owner, Gordon Nathan, last year withdrew the diamond from auction, as the highest bid did not reach $10,000. The diamond is a stone of yellow tint, with a Maltese cross on the back, and was named the "Princess Mary" because before her wedding a proposal was made to present the stone to her. It weighs 44 karats and is thus almost as large as the famous Hope diamond. Mr. Nathan thinks the value of the stone will appreciate, and says: "So long as the currencies of Europe continue to fluctuate, diamonds will remain the safest investment. Diamonds I sold 25 years ago at $80 a karat are today worth $350 a karat. I don't know of anything else which has increased in value to that extent."

Blowing Out Devils.

In Zululand, South Africa, native doctors collect rich fees by blowing into the ears of their patients to cast out evil spirits. The medicine man seats the victim on the blanketed floor of the outdoor surgery, after announcing that he is to dispel the wicked demons causing sickness. He places a horn to the patient's ear and blows. The ill one generally makes a bad face, cries "enough," and, being convinced that he has been cured, is troubled no more. In severe cases herbs are used as a remedy, when the horn is not effective.—Popular Mechanics Magazine.

New Pipe Wrench Invented.

A new and interesting device is a simple attachment that in a few seconds makes a pipe wrench out of an ordinary claw hammer. It consists of two hardened steel jaws that swing on a ring which slips over the claw of the hammer.

Odd Notice in Church.

The calendar of the Fort Washington Presbyterian church, Broadway and One Hundred Forty-seventh street, New York, has a paragraph which says: "Don't sleep out loud during the service."

More Power to You, Buddy.

Little Joe—Lookie, papa! I pulled up this great big weed all by myself.

Papa—Well, well, you're quite a little strong man, I see.

Little Joe—Yes, papa, and the whole world has a hold of the other end, too.

Censor Troubles.

First Judge (before painting)—A capable piece of work, what does it really represent?

Second Judge—Well that's just the heck of it. The artist writes that he leaves that for the judges to decide.

Highest Point in U. S.

The highest point in the United States, Mount Whitney, 14,501 feet above sea level, is within plain view from the lowest point in the United States, Death valley, which is 276 feet below sea level.

ANIMALS ARE GOOD LINGUISTS

Horses and Dogs Learn and Remember Meaning of Words in More Than One Tongue.

Can horses and dogs pick up a foreign language and still remember that of the land of their birth?

This subject was broached by one of the speakers at the World Service exposition in Liverpool and it was declared that a British horse can recognize its own language abroad.

The experts who have been consulted agree that this is so. They emphasize the fact, however, that it is primarily the inflection of the voice that the animal learns to understand when sent to a foreign country. It pays much closer and quicker attention to the tone than to the sound of the words.

Dogs, like horses, remember the sound of the language of their masters, and even after many years in a foreign land can remember the meaning of sentences.

A clear proof of some dogs' cleverness is to be found in the way they pick up several native tongues and dialects when they leave their British masters in India and Africa, in places where several languages are spoken.

Cats, on the contrary, seem incapable of picking up more than their names in the language of the country in which they live; they do not deign to comprehend the human tongue, and a cat that does is exceptional.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

WAY TO TEST YOUR RUBIES

All Genuine Stones Contain Tiny Flaws and Characteristic Peculiarities.

After the diamond the ruby stands supreme among precious stones, being the most popular of all colored gems. The genuine stone is obtained from a mineral called corundum.

To obtain one ruby thousands of tons of soil have to be washed and carefully examined. The finest gems come from the great ruby mines of Burma.

All genuine stones contain certain tiny flaws and blemishes and characteristic peculiarities. Spurious rubies get their imperfections during manufacture; and as chemists are more careful than nature, these imperfections are less noticeable.

You can test your rubies by certain differences between the real and the artificial. A genuine ruby contains irregularly shaped bubbles; the imitation gem contains bubbles which are perfectly round. Again, natural rubies have a silky sheen, due to a number of tiny parallel lines running in three directions. Imitation stones never have this characteristic.

To examine your ruby, place it in a strong light and look at it through a microscope. If the stone is in a setting, place a drop of oil on its face, and hold it up with the back face to the light. The drop of oil prevents reflections of light which would confuse the eye.

Still in School.

May June met her friend Agnes in the street. They stood talking for a while, when a friend of theirs, Doris by name, passed them on the other side of the street. In animated conversation with her was Colonel Mitkin.

"Were not Doris and the colonel schoolmates?" asked May, as she caught sight of the pair.

"Yes," answered her friend, "and they are yet."

"Where?" asked May in surprise.

"Oh, don't you know?" said Agnes. "In the school for scandal."

Too Sick to Care.

Mother, father and Willie were in midchannel. It was rather rough. Father did not feel too well, neither did mother, and mother was also driven to distraction by the mischievous antics of the boy.

Finally she appealed to her husband, saying:

"Father, do speak to Willie?"

And in a faint voice the father said: "How are you, Willie?"

Wood From Insect-Killed Trees.

Recent investigations made by the United States forest product laboratory indicate that timber cut from insect or fire-killed trees is just as good for any structural purpose as that cut from live trees of similar quality, providing the wood has not been subsequently injured by decay or further insect attack.

Intelligent.

Hubby (reading)—Three thousand six hundred and twenty-five elephants were needed to make billiard balls.

Wifey—Isn't it interesting to think that those big ugly beasts can be made to make those small billiard balls.

Illuminating Interview.

The reporter had traveled 48 miles to interview the centenarian.

"To what do you attribute your long life?" he asked.

"Well, you see, I was born a long time ago," answered the old man.—London Answers.

Prefers Old Car to Drive.

It was a great surprise to Speeder's friends to note that although he had recently bought a new and expensive car which he drove for a time he now uses it only when his chauffeur is at the wheel. When he drives himself it is his antediluvian rattler of a roadster. "What's the matter with the new bus, Speeder, can't you always drive the old one yourself?" some one asked, says the New York Sun and Globe. "No trouble at all," smiled Speeder. "It runs silently and beautifully, but I prefer the old boat. It is easier to handle. I don't have to bother so much about other people's movements. The roar of the motor and the rattle of the chassis give warning of my approach, whereas in the new car I have to be on the lookout all the time."

Business Women's Cards.

Since women have become such factors in business activities there has been a tendency to omit the prefix Miss or Mrs. on their business cards, says a veteran stationer, according to the New York Sun and Globe. As a matter of fact under the new conditions with women everywhere in commerce there is no established rule on this point. However, this authority points out that there must be taken into consideration the fact that a person to whom a prefixless business card is presented by a woman in business is at a loss as to whether to address her as Miss or Mrs. Since business cards almost invariably act as a means of introduction perhaps feminism must give way to convenience.

How Sunspots Affect Earth.

If you stir an open fire in a grate and bring fresh coals to the front, it gives out a warmer glow. It is the same way with the sun, says Dr. C. G. Abbot, in charge of the astro-physical laboratory of the Smithsonian institution. The so-called sunspots are produced by a stirring of the sun's outer layer. By comparing measurement of solar radiation with photographs of the sun he has found that there is an increase in heat radiated by the sun on the same day that sunspots form, grow or are brought into view on the visible disk of the sun by rotation.

The "Rosetta Stone."

Upon the "Rosetta Stone" was inscribed in heiroglyphics, in demetic writing, and in Greek, a decree of the Egyptian Ptolemy V Ephiphanes (205-181 B. C.). After reciting the numerous benefits conferred by Ephiphanes upon his country as well as upon the temples and the clergy, it provides that the king's statue shall be placed in the sanctuary of every temple and that divine honors shall be paid to him. It is further provided that a copy of the decree, inscribed upon a steel of hard stone, shall be placed in every temple of the first and second rank.

Pioneer in Transportation.

Although man has covered the world with railroad systems and steamship lines, Mother Nature is the pioneer in transportation service. For ages she has been moving her own products from point to point by many different methods. One of the most unusual of these transfers occurs in the formation of bottom ice which freezes at the bottom of fresh and salt water bodies. Stones, rocks and other debris become imbedded in these masses which, after a time, move upward toward the surface, often with sufficient force to shoot high in the air. Then these pieces of ice, sometimes as large as a house, become huge "freighters," traveling considerable distances with the winds and current. As they melt the stones and other fragments sink to the bottom again. That parts of sunken ships have been carried many miles in this manner has been proved by deep sea divers, who have found them literally covered with stones that came from other localities.—Popular Mechanics Magazine.

New Kind of Stamps.

The arrival of twins at a flat one evening caused a great sensation and the sister of the young mother was so impressed by the unexpected honor of being aunt to a pair that she lost her wits for the time being.

She rushed to the nearest post office and asked for stamps so that she might spread the glad tidings.

The clerk said, affably, "How many, miss?"

"Two," she cried, joyously.

"What?"

"A boy and a girl," she said, then fled in dismay.

Getting the Expression.

The beautiful movie actress could roll her eyes and arch her brows, but she couldn't seem to get her finer shades. So the director thought he would try a little strategy.

"Now, Miss Resplendent, we shall have to shoot that scene again."

She took her position.

"Register indignation. Your last effort was rotten."

"Sir-r-r!"

"Hold it. That's more like indignation."

BILL BOOSTER SAYS

STUDENTS RUN CO-OP SCHOOL

Pupils in New York Hire the Teachers Who Work Under Their Supervision.

A unique co-operative movement in the United States was started some years ago in New York city. It conducts schools which are organized, owned and administered by the students. The students are the consumers, who hire the teachers who work absolutely under the direction of the students. These institutions are said to be very successful and have shown marked progress.

The upward swing of the present co-operative movement began about 1890, when a few co-operative grain elevators appeared in the central West. Next came co-operative creameries and cheese factories, also fruit growers' organizations. The latter appeared in California as early as 1886. Later fruit and truck exchanges began to appear in the East. Co-operative shipping of live stock began in Illinois in 1899.—Thrift Magazine.

Shoppers Affected in Queer Ways by Weather

"Most persons are temperamental weather vanes when it comes to buying their food," said one of the oldest stall owners at Fulton market.

"The effect of the weather on the food supply is a negligible matter compared to its effect on the consumer. Of course in hot weather lemons and oranges are taken home to make cooling drinks, and more fruit of all sorts is eaten; but it is more than just that. The shopper has less appetite and sometimes less patience in hot weather, and she is more fastidious. She will toss over the choice of lettuce or romaine for five minutes and then promptly take neither.

"On dark, gray days Mrs. Housewife is attracted to the bright-colored fruits and to the flower stalls. She buys quickly and quietly. It is on such a day, especially if it is very cold, that she feels like making jelly and canning and so buys small fruits and berries.

"More imported cheese is sold the week of the first snow than during the other four weeks, but why that is I don't know any more than I know why fish is in demand on windy days. Wise shoppers read the weather reports before putting in their stocks."—New York Sun and Globe.

Care of Ferns.

To keep ferns in a healthy and growing condition, to prevent and to kill insects and diseases, a proper condition of atmosphere should be carefully maintained at all times. Extremes in moisture, heat, or dryness should never be allowed. In potting ferns after they pass the 4 inch pots, a potting stick should always be used, as the potter cannot very well firm them with his fingers, and it secures evenness in potting. Ferns should be potted tight, especially old plants. They should be shifted into larger pots whenever necessary. Once a day is often enough to water a fern.

World's Laziest People.

The laziest people in the world are said to be the Svantians, a race of mountain folks living in the almost inaccessible mountain ranges lying between the Black and Caspian seas. Their living conditions are approximately what they were 2,000 years ago, save that they have invented new reasons for their laziness, having four holidays each week with a movable list of special holidays that can be declared any time they want another day off, while they live in squalor and filth, in huts and caves with none of the conveniences easily within reach.

Defoe Knew Alex. Selkirk.

A sea captain who has not only sailed the seas, but has read books, writing in the Mentor, has this theory about the production of "Robinson Crusoe." "Defoe most likely constructed Crusoe's man Friday from accounts of 'Poor Will,' a Moskadian, who evidently was a very ingenious man, as he could make fire by striking the flint of his gun against the barrel, and with it heated iron and the like. It is related that Daniel Defoe used to meet Alexander Selkirk at the Red Lion inn, in Bristol, England. Clad in goatskins, the sailor used to recount wondrous tales of his exploits and hardships. Defoe placed his hero on an island off the Orinoco in Venezuela, because he knew that location better, but Juan Fernandez was the actual scene of Selkirk's experience."

The Golden Rose.

A rose formed of wrought gold and blessed with much solemnity by the pope in person on the fourth Sunday of Lent is called the "golden rose." The prayer of blessing contains a mystical allusion to Christ as "the flower of the field and the lily of the valley." The rose is anointed with balsam, fumigated with incense, sprinkled with musk, and is then left upon the altar until the conclusion of the mass. It is then usually presented to some Catholic prince or princess whom the pope desires especially to honor, with an appropriate form of words.

Diet Changes Bird's Color.

Varying the diet of birds has been demonstrated by a Berlin naturalist to result in changing the color of their feathers. Certain foods will cause red and green parrots to turn yellow. The experiments tend to show that a bird's plumage depends largely on the dyestuffs contained in food. Dyestuff put in chicken feed affects the hue of egg yolks to a considerable degree. Caterpillars fed exclusively on walnut foliage become dark butterflies. Indians have long understood the art of changing the color of living birds through the diet method.

Alaskan Eskimos' Progress.

In twenty years the Alaskan Eskimos have made great strides in the ways of civilization. They have churches and schools, many of them read and write, and owing to the reindeer herds that the United States government started for them most of them are prosperous. Deer meat in the north sells at the rate of nearly £2 for 100 pounds, which is the weight of the ordinary carcass. The natives now own at least 200,000 reindeer, which are under government supervision.

Paper That Can Be Washed.

A Japanese inventor has patented a paper that can be crumpled up and washed with soap and water. So durable is this paper that it can be used as a covering for umbrellas, and when soiled, can be easily cleaned at home. The inventor says that as well as the paper, it could be used over and over, being washed when soiled. It is said that the product can be made at a reasonable price. It has a texture somewhat like cloth, and is not to be confused with oiled paper.

Evolution of Smokeless Powder.

A German discovered guncotton, which is used in every kind of smokeless powder. An Austrian discovered a means of rendering it available called colloiding. An Italian discovered nitroglycerin, used today in all such smokeless. A Scandinavian first used it in making powder. An Englishman patented the first bulk smokeless. And a Frenchman is the father of modern nitrocellulose, dense powder.—Sportsman's Digest.

Member of Carp Family.

Goldfish are a variety of the carp and owe their existence to the Chinese and Japanese people, who, since the Sixteenth century, have kept them in a domesticated state, and by selective breeding have eliminated the silver colors of the ancestral stock and produced the beautiful colors we now see. During their first year goldfish are brown, after which they assume a silvery tint, and as they grow older they change to gold.

Life of Locomotives.

In Great Britain a locomotive has a life of from 16 to 18 years. There are many older than that still running, but usually they have been so much rebuilt that their original designers would not know them. During its lifetime the average passenger locomotive on the English railways covers between a million and a million and a half miles.

Blindness in Egypt.

The prevalence of blindness in Egypt is probably traceable to the fact that the fly is sacred in that country. It is said that a mother will not kill a fly nor even brush it from the eyelid of her child. Infection is often carried from one child to another and in the case of diseased eyes the infancy is spread in this manner.

EXECUTED FOR USING COAL

Under Edict Issued by Edward I of England This Was Capital Offense.

In 1306 King Edward I of England issued a proclamation making the use of coal as fuel in London a capital offense. One case is on record where an accused man was tried, found guilty of burning coal, condemned and promptly executed.

The invisible, gaseous products of the combustion of coal were early pronounced detrimental to health and vegetation. Resentment became intense when ladies of rank had their faces made fairer by liberal applications of powder, underwent a serious change of complexion whenever they sat near a coal fire.

The nature of the smoke and odor from burning coal remained a mystery until after the middle of the Sixteenth century, when an alchemist devised an ingenious process of heating coal in the absence of air. The liquid obtained was known as "oil of coal" and was sold as a very important remedy for many ailments.—Popular Science.

Almost Every Known Gem Found in U. S.

Almost every known gem is found in the United States. California, North Carolina, Arizona, Kentucky, Wisconsin, Colorado and Oregon have all produced diamonds. Montana leads in sapphires and rubies, while other states, especially the two mentioned, vie with each other in the production of opal, some of the finest being found in New Mexico and North Carolina. The largest and richest of the known varieties of opal come from Russia, but Colorado has produced a marvelous red-brown stone that cannot be excelled, and the opal varieties of Utah and New England are as lovely as any found. The finest garnets in the world are from New Mexico, although they have been found in many countries over the globe. 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.

Towns Change Names.

In 1925 Christiania, capital of Norway, will change its name and be known as Oslo, members of the parliament of Norway have decided. Christiania remains because much of the various kings Christian who have ruled that country. The Russian Soviets under Kerensky changed the name of St. Petersburg during the war because it was a German name. Berlin, Ontario, changed its name to Kitchener during the war and had a riot over it.

Champion Barber.

The world's most dexterous barber is just retired after cutting the hair of seven years in the same chair. Francis, London, England, claims to have cut hair and [illegible] in 78 years. [illegible] has shaved [illegible] and has shaved [illegible] a day.

[illegible] Faces.

"[illegible] He [illegible]

"[illegible]

"[illegible]

A Dog's Pillow.

[illegible] a dog's pillow. [illegible]

Remarkable Woman Engaged.

[illegible]

Explained.

"What's [illegible] armament, Bill?"

"Why, it's summat like [illegible] my old woman. When there's a lot of a scrap brewin' the one wot proposes peace is the one wot gets out of the poker."—London Passing Show.

Knew What Was Good for Them.

Mrs. Redfox—What makes these sardines so dear?

Grocer—They're imported, ma'am.

Mrs. Redfox—I'll take the domestic sardines, then, and let the imported swim across to this country.

ENGLAND'S HISTORIC WAY

Dover Road Still the Highway of Caesar, Lee, Arnold, Durham Dukes.

Dover road, still the historic highway—is [illegible] measured from its ancient starting place, the south end of London bridge, to Dover cliff. An hour's motor over the Dover road is an excursion into 2,000 years of history and centuries of English poetry and romance, says the Detroit News.

In his book, "The Dover Road," Charles G. Harper says, "Caesar's presence haunts the chalky plateau of Lackington, and the most imaginative [illegible] of the legionaries [illegible] set of moonlit [illegible] Britons, Saxons, Danes and Normans people the stretch of the old road through which the highway [illegible] course or crowd in [illegible] the hallsides [illegible] saints of [illegible] of sanctity great [illegible] of black- [illegible] holy, [illegible] up before [illegible] thoughts of [illegible] of their doings [illegible] the wealths and [illegible] upon 2,000 years [illegible] the historian."

Punch and Judy in China.

[illegible] Punch and Judy [illegible] Punch has [illegible] plate, [illegible] or with the [illegible] one of the old Mystery [illegible] is entirely [illegible] found the [illegible] Post News declares. The name [illegible] is simply a [illegible] for Pulcinello, the [illegible] Italian comedy), while [illegible] derived from [illegible] common name.

It is said that [illegible] similar to Punch is found [illegible] puppet plays of Italy, Egypt, Persia, India, China, and Japan. Punch and Judy shows were introduced into London in 1662, by an Italian who erected a booth near Charing Cross for the performance.

Important Purpose.

"Have you any plan for straightening out the affairs in Europe?"

"[illegible] Senator Soaglow.

"Will [illegible]

"Well, I wouldn't [illegible] sure it will work in this country. In this my opinion [illegible] I'll serve on any [illegible] committee [illegible] to keep me [illegible] people."—Washington Star.