# **NEW RECORD IN RAW SILK RACE**

### America Winning Heats in Contests Whose Stakes Are Millions.

Washington.-Uncle Sam has been winning heats in one of the most dramatic races ever staged by trade—the

raw silk transport race.
The course is 8,300 miles. Swiftest steamships, special trains for which speed limits are waived, seaplanes and airplanes participate. But there is no cheering crowd in the stands, because every mile of the race is concealed with the closest secrecy. The

stakes are millions. In 1918, 81 per cent of the United States' huge silk imports from Japan came in foreign steamers but within two years steamers flying the American flag in the Pacific have obtained an Important share of this valuable

Why silk is rushed from Yokohama to New York at breack-neck speed, outdistancing the best passenger service, and the thrilling details of this contest against time over the world's longest race course are told in the following bulletin issued by the National Geographic society:

Excepting gold and silver bullion silk probably is the most precious commedity, weight for weight, carried on a large scale by commerce. A single special train will bring \$5,000,000 worth of silk. Just as it costs dearly to ship money, high charges are put on silk shipments. The saving of two days' sailing time between Yokohama and Seattle is said to make a difference of 50 cents a bale at New York Interest on the millions of dollars tied up multiplies at the rate of thousands f dollars a day and, in addition, there is costly insurance.

New Silk Course Record. The world's record on the Yoko-hama-New York silk course was set up a few months ago when the Orient was brought within 13 days, 3 hours and 8 minutes of Manhattan. Laden with \$5,500,000 worth of raw silk, the President Jackson made Seattle on the ninth day. A United States mail seaplane met the liner at Victoria and winged its way to Seattle, 100 miles away. It brought port documents and forwarded cargo papers to New York before the President Jackson docked.

Special port forces moved the rich ignment in three hours to a special silk train waiting with steam up. The swift Oriental limited passenge trains take 70 hours to reach Chicago: "reefer," as the silk special known to railroaders, makes it in 65 hours. Twelve cars were required for the President Jackson cargo. With Queen Silk goes a heavy cordon of train guards armed to the teeth. When the treasure train safely reaches York the shipment is divided quickly among the consignees for stor age in warehouses or dispatched to mills in such famous silk towns as Paterson, N. J., or Woonsocket, R. 1.

Carried on Mystery Train. Few people know when the "reefer" is on the rails. Like a ship of war, it virtually runs under sealed orders. Railroad divisions seldom know when it is coming or where it is going until it and orders arrive.

The previous speed record for silk dent Grant landed a \$10,000,000 consignment at Seattle. The "reefer" brought this product of billions of caterpillars into New York in 13 days 4 hours and 55 minutes out of Yoko-hama. Night air mail will be a boon e New York silk merchants. Before silk shipments can be release many papers must be approved an ected Seattle has one of the two seaplane mail services in the United States honce Queen Silk will suffer n embarrassment of delay. Night air mail will hasten dispatch of silk ship-ment papers to New York so there will be no slip when the dusty "reef er" reaches the Hudson.

Although silk culture originated in China and the very name China finds ple," the United States looks to Japan for most of this raw material. Amer ican mills are weaving nearly 50,000, 000 pounds of raw silk annually, of which about 80 per cent comes from Japanese mulberry orchards. The ugly little silk worm is treated with great respect in the Orient for it brings to the Far Eastern peoples than \$300,000,000 from

United States alone. Queen Silk's throne is as solid as the year it was set up by a Chinese princess, centuries before the birth of The Western world began to rship her when the crusaders went the East "to kill the horned devils and returned to imitate the fine genthey found there." The mer-of Venice, thriving on the West's new knowledge, like the mer-chants of New York today, guarded of authorship.

Queen Silk well; this single city-state built 300 men-of-war to convey its EXPLORERS SEEK HARDY

### Innocent of a Barber

Maysville, Mo.-W. R. Taylor, who lives on a farm between this city and Cameron, declares that he has fived 72 years and has never been shaved a barber. Taylor revealed this fact when he read in a local newspaper that a man has reported that he was fifty-one years old and had never been shared by a barber. As a result of his claim. Taylor beats the other man by 21 years.

#### Smelling a Rainbow

From time immemorial English country folk have believed that they can smell a rainbow. Of course it is a mistake to believe that a rainbow has any smell, but the peculiar odor may be caused in this way: Rainbows are most common in the warm days of an extensive search in Brazil. spring, when growing vegetation of many kinds is giving out fragrance and the moist air is filled with a wonderful blending of aromatic odors. How many people believe that the direction of the wind at the turn of the season indicates what is to be expected during the coming three months! There is no scientific evidence that such is the case. Probably the idea arose from tends to preserve its character. Thus, if a certain kind of weather is experienced for ten days, the probability is greater that the type will persist for another period, rather than that a change will come about."

### High Value of Brick

It is an interesting fact that brick making, the most ancient of all the industries producing manufactured building materials, is today one of the basic industries of the nation. It is difficult to destroy a brick. Vast quantities of the bricks made in the early days of the industry may still be found on the sites of the ruined cities of antiquity. Bricks made nowadays are composed of exactly the same me-terial and manufactured according to the same principles as the ancient broduct. The composite price of brick all over the United States works out today at a little over \$15 per thousand. Brick, therefore, is a manufactured article weighing from four to five pounds, costing about a cent and half, and capable of giving several thousand years of service. It is the cheapest manufactured material on the

### Cuckoo Superstitions

There are numerous superstitions associated with the hearing of the ctickoo's first call. In the maritime highlands and Hebrides if the cuckoo is first heard by one who has not broken his fast some misfortune is ex pected. Indeed, besides the danger, it is considered a reproach to one to have heard the cuckoo while hungry,

says the Detroit News.
In France to hear the cuckoo for the first time fasting is to make the hearer "an idle do-nothing for the rest of the year" or "to numb his limbs" for the same period. There is a similar belief in certain parts of the west of England. In Northumberland on is told, if walking on a hard road when the cuckoo first calls, that the ensuing season will be full of calamity. To be on soft ground is a lucky on

### Prometheus

The word Prometheus, the name of means forethought, and forethought is the father of invention. According to the Grecian tradition, Prometheus taught man the use of fire, and in structed him in architecture, astron omy, mathematics, writing, rearing cat tle, navigation, medicine, the art of prophecy, working metal, and indeed, every art known to man. The tale is every art known to man. The tale is that he made man of clay, and, in order to endow his clay with life, stole fire from heaven and brought it to earth in a hollow tube. Zeus, who in Grecian mythology corresponds to Jupiter in the Roman mythology, in punishing Prometheus, chained him to a rock, and sent an eagle to consum his liver daily. During the night it grew again, and thus the torment of Prometheus was ceaseless, until Her-cules shot e. and unchained the captive.

Shakespeare or Bacon?

A heated discussion arose in the Nineteenth century from an attempt, on the part of Miss Delia Bacon, to prove that Lord Francis Bacon the author of the plays commonly attributed to Shakespeare. William H. Smith, an English scholar; Nathaniel Holmes, in his "Authorship of Shake-speare," and Mrs. Henry Holmes have also labored in the same direction. In 1888 Ignatius Donnelly produced his work entitled "The Great Cryptogram," wherein he endeavored to sh Bacon's authorship is avowed under a cypher in the text of the plays in the folio of 1623." Shakespearean schol-

# PLANTS IN NORTH CHINA

Department of Agriculture Men Hope to Find Many Valuable Strains of Cereals There.

Washington.-To seek new plants for cultivation in this country, P. H. Dorsett, for 25 years with the office of foreign seed and plant introduction of the United States Department of Agriculure, and his son, J. H. Dorsett, left this country recently for Shang-hal, where they will begin a three-year plant exploration trip in China. Dorsett is a well-known scientist and was one of the foundation builders of the bureau of plant industry, says the announcement of the department telling of the trip. He has been on several plant exploration trips and made

In the course of a long stay in north ern China the two investigators will search particularly for hardy plants for cultivation in this country's north-ern Great Plains region. The work will differ from ordinary plant ex-ploration, it is explained, in that instead of traveling widely the scientists will concentrate on a small area and study intensively the more impor-tant crop plants there. Other investigators in China have shown that there are in the gardens, fields and orchards of that country many varieties of fruits, vegetables and field crops still unknown and which may prove valuable in this country.

"Many interesting strains of wheat, barley and other cereals are known to exist in Manchuria and northern China," says the department. of these are likely to prove of great value in the United States. Soy beans, rapidly becoming an important crop in this country, are extensively cultivated in northern China, and many va-rieties will be introduced for trial. Hardy forage crops likely to prove of value in the Great Plains region also will be secured. The Dorsetts will search for these plants and will send roots, cuttings or seeds for propagation and trial in department gardens

"The department has in mind hardy Chinese bush cherries, which prelimi nary investigations have shown to be adapted as far north as Mandan, N. D., and whose fruit is similar to the sour cherry of this country and used in the same way. Attempts will be made to find superior varieties of blight-resistant Chinese chestnuts, which the gradual destruction of the chestnuts of this country by blight has rendered important to secure.

"Attention also will be given to the introduction of hardy shade and windbreak trees able to withstand the se verity of the winters of the northern Great Plains region. It is probable that Manchuria may furnish many such trees. For the Western states the explorers expect to obtain su-perior varieties of Japanese persimmons and of the Chinese jujube. Other Chinese fruits of probable value for which they will search are peaches, pears, apricots and plums, all of which exist in wide variety. Many varieties of these fruits are now being grown here, but large numbers of them are vet to be tested.

"The explorers go provided with ecessary materials for packing and shipping seeds and plants which will be shipped from Shanghai to Washington, where they will be inspected and freed from any diseases or pests before they are sent to the gardens for a character in Grecian mythology, this exploration Mr. Dorsett and his this exploration Mr. Dorsett and his son will travel in the provinces of Chihli and Shansi, and in Manchuria." exchequer, made possible by his generally to the kids.—Detroit News.

### Venus' Basket

Venus' basket is a glass-silk spong which grows in the tropical seas of the Pacific, from the Fujiyama region to the Indian ocean. By the Japanese it is called the mineral silk sponge and is used for its fiber, which is woven into chemical fiber cloths, into fireproof candlesticks and into deli-cate fireproof curtains. In its natural state the glass sponge is covered with these long silky fibers which are used in the arts referred to. A small of these fibers covers the base.

The specimens are raked up from the ocean bed, and the framework, for weaving, is employed in the cov age insulation, where it has been found equal to asbestos.

### Inspires Confidence

Picture postcards of a Kansas City hotel carry this message: "This hotel fully equipped with auto-matic sprinklers. Statistics show loss of life has never occurred in a

### DESIRE FOR SILK Oldest Plate Presented to National Museum



What is probably the oldest plate in the world has been presented to the National museum in Washington by Miss Lelia Lieberman of Washington. For more than a thousand years the relic has been handed down through succeeding generations in the Lieberman family. The plate, which is about fourteen inches in diameter, was orig owned by King David and it bears the crest of the famous monarch. Along the outer rim of the plate are engraved characters setting forth the use of the plate and a record of the various branches of the family through which it has passed.

### Find Coin of 1150

Armstrong, Mo .- A coin, bearing the date of 1150 and the lunge of Queen Mary, was plowed up the other day by P. W. Shiffett, a farmer near here. The coin is made of green gold, the metal used in ancient times for coining mones, and, besides, the date and the image of the queen, is marked with a cross, ten stars and has a ripg soldered to it, having evidently been

Crawled Into Telescope The arrival of a new 21-inch lens at Wesleyan university for the giant telescope in the Van Vleck observatory recently presented the problem of how it was to be inserted in the long barrel of the telescope, the New York World states. Prof. Frederick C. Slo-cum, head of the astronomy depart-ment, undertook to crawl 11 feet into

the telescope and adjust the lens.

Members of the department awaited with bated breath the outcome of Professor Slocum's muffled efforts. On receiving his signal—the wiggling of his toes-he was pulled out, looking none the worse for his experience. He took occasion to remind his confreres that being the thinnest man on the faculty had its advantages. He is of Cape God Yankee stock.

### **Big-Hearted Bachelor**

An old bachelor, who is fond of children, especially penniless ones who on a warm evening brings, while strolling about a northern suburb recently made a score of youngsters happy when he rounded them up and took them in a bod to a church lawn social. The youngsters didn't wait for a second invitation to be his guests and none of them backed away from the tables when the leaf and the control of the second invitation to be his guests and none of them backed away from the tables when the leed delicacy and cake came around their way. They left the tables with three cheers for the philanthropic friend and the

#### Caught Crows Napping Mark Lowe, a farmer, used a chear

and effective method to kill crows and at the same time made a good profit in collecting the bounty, a Parsons (Kan.) correspondent of the New York World states. When he appeared at the county clerk's office with 280 crows and collected \$28 the clerk fig. crows and collected \$28 the clerk fig-ured he shot them one at a time, and that they cost him five cents apiece in ammunition.

Lowe set the county clerk right, however, when he informed him he got the crows in two shots. He explained he had exploded two charges the crows perched at night, and it lit-

### "Iberian"

The Iberian peninsula was so named from the ancient inhabitants, who were known as the Iberes. According matic sprinklers. Statistics show loss of life has never occurred in a sprinkled building. In case of fire you may get wet, but not burned."

To one traveler that brought a wonderful thought and he wrote thereunder the following prayer: "Now 1 lay me down to sleep. Statistics guard my slumber deep. If I should die I'm not concerned, I may get wet but I won't get burned."—Tavern Talk.

to some authorities the word merely means "inhabitants." The name seems to have been applied by the earlier Greek navigators to the peoples on the eastern coast of Spain, probably originally those who dwelt by the River Iberus, the modern Ebro. Iberian thus means sometimes the population of the peoples of some definite race who formed one element in the population.

# HOSE NOT MODERN

### Much Appreciated by Royalty, Centuries Ago.

There is a popular notion that silk stockings are a recent vogue, and one sometimes hears them compared rather deprecatingly with the fashions of our grandmothers.

But if critics would take the trouble to dip into the social history of the past, they would find that silk stockings, far from being an invention of the moderns, were really in popular use before even worsted stockings were thought of.
Until the reign of Henry VIII stock-

ings were made out of ordinary cloth, his majesty's own hose being of yard-

Long before this, however, silk stockings were largely worn on the continent, and in Henry VIII's own time they were indispensable to the attire of Spanish courtiers, and in-deed of the general aristocracy of

They had, of course, been heard of in England, and were greatly coveted. What is spoken of by the famous chronicler, Stow, as "a very great present" was in reality, a gift of Spanish silk stockings from Sir Thomas Gresham to Edward VI, King Henry's son. Latterly, King Henry himself evinced a decided weakness for these, nether garments of "ahiny texture," and he lost no opportunity of getting a pair across when circumstances were favorable.

Again in 1560 we find the same Sir Thomas Gresham writing thus from Antwerp to the celebrated Elizabethister, Sir William Cecil—"I have written into Spain for silk hose both for you and my lady, your wife; to whom it may please you I may be remembered." The black slik stockings, Gresham's biographer tells us, duly arrived, much to the gratification of the recipients.
Subsequent troubles with

made it impossible to get the dainty hosiery across, and when Queen Elizabeth came to the throne silk stock-ings were not to be had. But the queen's silkwoman, Mrs. Montague, was not content that her royal misso she secretly knitted a pair of black silk hose and presented them to her

majesty as a New Year's gift.

The queen, of course, was over-joyed. Mrs. Montague was immediately sent for, courteously thanked, and commissioned to keep her majesty regularly supplied. "I like sift stock-ings so well," she said, "because they are pleasant, fine, and delicate, that henceforth I will wear no more cloth stockings." And, according to the

ontemporary gossipers, she never did. It was thus that the fashion was set, and the manufacture of silk stockings in England started. But at first the price was prohibitive, and it was long before any but the highest in the land could afford to wear them. What they or, smally cost cannot very well be ascertained. But the diary of Philip Henslowe tells us that whereas as little as £4 was paid for a pair in later Elizabethan days, as much as £4 14s, was paid for a pair of silk hose for one of the actors!

### Breeding Up Hen Flock for Higher Production

If the Oregon experiment station had not bred from their high productire flock.

Not all 300-eggers will reproduce themselves. Heredity does not always pass down to the first generation. Sometimes it skips a generation. High productivity can only be secured in the flock where there is vigor and

Vigor is not always indicated by the indicate vitality include a heavy pro duction of eggs of good fertility and good hatchability, and the hen's chicks must grow well and develop well.

flocks over the state of Oregon was about 100 eggs. The college started trapnesting and selecting their birds. In five years from that time we had increased the production from an average of 100 eggs to 200 eggs, done entirely by selective breeding, eliminating the poor producers. We had jumped from the 200-egg individual to the 300-egg individual. At the present time the 300-egg individual is quite common.—A. G. Lunn, Oregon Agricultural College. tural College

# Mr. Stumblefoot-I'd rather dance

Miss Trippit—If you're so fond of fancing, why don't you learn how?

**Exceptionally Quiet** Visitor-Your housemald seems very

Lady of the House—She is! Why, se doesn't even disturb the dust!

### Main Road Lacking in Allurement of Byway

Even before the automobiles took over the main roads it was better to walk in the byways. Along the lesser roads people are not too hurried for a friendly greeting as they pass, and the very animals of the back country are less sophisticated—the horses and cat-tle look up from their pasture to gaze

with frank interest at each passerby. Then, coming from time to time across the quiet of the countryside, are sounds that men have always Beard gladly—the far-off crowing, like a mellow bugle, of a barnyard kingthe distant creak and rumble of a farmer's heavy wagon rolling on upon the hills.

But best of all are the moments of

discovery: late afternoon, when the shadows are growing long, and the road, bending suddenly about a low hill facing toward the bay, comes out ed with dark green pines—and then, beyond, a great stretch of fair water, deeply blue.

That is the allurement of the byways; quaintness is all about, and beauty lies in wait—perhaps around the next turning of the lane.—Col-

### Pearls Gathered in Many Parts of World

The pearl is a globular concretion found in the shells of certain bivalve molluscs, highly valued for orna mental purposes, and classed among gems. The principal sources of pearls are the pearl oyster, found through-out the Pacific ocean; the pearl mus-sel; and the freshwater mussel. The chief pearl fisheries are those of Ceylon, carried on principally in the Gulf were known to the ancients. Pearls are also obtained from the Sulu archipelago, northeastern Borneo; New Guinea, Gulf of Mexico, and Australia Native divers descend 60 or 70 feet, weighted by a stone and lowered from a boat by a rope. They carry a net and gather the pearl oysters in it. They remain below for 30 or 40 seconds at a time, and are hoisted to the surface after signaling with a rope The oysters are allowed to rot on the beach in the sun's rays. Then in seven or ten days the decayed oysters are searched for pearls.

Artificial pearls are largely made in France, Germany, and Italy, by blow-ing a thin globe of glass and filling it with a solution of ammonia and fish

### **Odd Form of Punishment**

In the days when it was customary to bestow the title "Mrs." on all women of mature years, whether married or unmarried, deprivation of the prefixes Mr. and Mrs. was among the punishments enforced in the American cologles, says the Detroit News. The ords of Massachusetts show that in 1680 Josias Plaistowe was condemned "for stealing four baskets of corn from the Indians, to return them eight baskets again, to be fined five pounds and hereafter to be called Josias, not Mr., as he used to be."

Though the penal code also provided for depriving women of the prefix, there is no record of this clause having been enforced.

## The First Ad

The first known English newspaper advertisement concerned, not pills, the results they did. As a result they ing, but a lost horse. It appeared in have increased the average of the entermoderate, of March 27, 1649, and the Moderate, of March 27, 1649, and ran: "Reader, thou art entreated to enquire after a blackish and kind of plebald nag, very poor, his face, feet on his tail, wall eves. He was stolen from grass from John Rotherham, of Barnet, in Hertfordshire, Whosoever will enquire, find him out, and bring or send tiding of him shall have what content they will for their pains."

## Chicken Lice Destroyed

by Dipping in Solution Chicken lice can be easily destroyed by dipping the birds in a solution of

sodium fluorid and water. Five ounce of sodium fluorid dissolved in a tul containing five gallons of water will be sufficient to treat 100 adult birds or twice that number of chickens ten to twelve weeks old. Every bird on the place should be drenched in this solution to entirely eliminate poultry lice for the next few months. Select a warm day and dip the birds early in the forenoon.

#### Meat in Growing Mash Do not feed over 10 per cent meat

in the growing mash, as a high pro-tein ration will mature the pullet instead of developing growth. Thirty-five pounds of cornmeal, 25 pounds bran, 25 pounds middlings, 10 pounds meat scrap and 5 pounds bone meal is suggested. Milk may replace the meat, but do not leave out the bone meal,

### Danger in Carrying Good Humor Too Fa

There was once a woodcutte had the reputation of being th good-humored man for twenty good-humored man for twenty round, says a writer in the shire Post. His life had been for his parents had died when he barely sixteen, and he had ha support himself by woodcutting, no help from any one. He had i been able to marry, and lived b self in a small hut deep in the

One day he was out cutting do very hard oak tree; he had handle of his ax broke in two. the head, bouncing off a knot in wood, rolled away down the steep side, and in a moment had vanifrom sight into a deep ravine.

This was the only as that the woo cutter possessed, but he simply smile scratched his head, lit his pipe and I turned home. It was cold weath and on reaching his hut he found th wolves had broken in and eaten ne all his food. "Never mind." he to himself. "No use getting ar It's lucky I still have a bit of ch locked in the cupboard, and as fo ax, I'll have to try to borrow one

That night there was a heavy s fall and the woodcutter woke this roof leaking, and snow stre onto the floor. "I must mend to tomorrow," he thought. "I'm lucky have a bed to lie in." But during t next hour, the blizzard redoubled; woodcutter's roof gave way con ly; he was snowed under in his and never woke. This story plainly that good humor, tho useful quality, is a little danger entirely unmixed.

### Esparto Grass Used for Many Purpos

The route to Gafsa is consta traversed by trains of camels with parto grass. This grass is very p tiful in the central uplands of Tuni but as a depot is sometimes a six days journey and 60 centimes is the price of a load, there is not much tune in it for the collectors,

the Christian Science Monitor.

At the depots it is pressed into bales with primitive presses and then exported. Esparto is of very tough texture and great flexibility, and for centuries it has been used for making ropes, sandals, mats and baskets. the Spanish navy cables made

parto are used.

Gafsa is an Arab town with no E ropean buildings except the barract Two Arab houses, at a little distant apart, constitute the only hotel. To oasis here is specially beautiful, puticularly the apricot trees which a of immense size and apparent age a laden with very small fruit. Arabs the tree.

## Minerals Fed to Steers

Found to Be Beneficial Minerals for steers were tried at the Iowa station during the past winter. A mixture of 50 pounds gro limestone, 50 pounds spent bone-bl and one-third ounce of potassium lo-dide was fed to the steers at the rate of one ounce per head per day. The steers in this experiment got shelled corn, corn silage, clover hay and oil meal, with salt available at all tim The cattle which had minerals gains slightly better, had a better appeti and were a little better finished the end of the feeding period that other cattle which had the same ration minus the minerals.

Mineral feeding to steers is still in the experimental stage, but the reand flank white, and a little white tip at the Iowa station indicate that it may be worth while. Where good clover or alfalfa hay is fed, we should expect that minerals have less effect than in a ration in which the hay has less mineral matter than clover or alfalfa. Those who can easily secure the minerals can well afford to try the Iowa mixture with their next load of

### Profitable Practice to Feed Foals Fresh Grain

Foals should not be allowed to folfarm, but should run together in a roomy, clean, well ventilated box stall or paddock. If a small pasture, sur rounded by a good fence and containing shade is available, it makes a good place for foals. If fresh water is not available constantly, it s be supplied often.

The foals should be nu ing, noon and night and allowed to run with their dams during the night. In this way they go through the sum-mer in good condition and can be weaned without any setback.

Foals will learn to eat readily it is profitable to let them have cess to clean, fresh grain. Two crushed corn, two parts crushed of and one part bran is a satisfact mixture. If crushed grain is not a able, shelled corn and shelled of may be used.