

ESTING NEWS ITEMS

Condensed For The Careful Reader

When not in use a new dining table and seats for several persons can be folded out of the way against the wall of a room.

A method has been developed in England for molding reinforced concrete water mains at the places where they are to be used.

A device has been invented for moistening the gummed side of adhesive labels to just the right degree for attaching to packages.

Japan is planning to develop commercial wireless telegraphy and telephony extensively through its department of communications.

About one-fifth of the money spent in the United States for food is used to buy dairy products, according to government figures.

Designed for use over uneven ground, a German tractor is driven by two large front wheels and steered with a small one at the rear.

To enable directories printed in small type to be read easily an inventor has designed a magnifying glass to be mounted on a telephone.

French automobile builders are experimenting with a car driven by the heavy oil remaining in petroleum after the extraction of kerosene.

For reaching nuts in difficult places an inventor has equipped a long handled socket wrench with ratchet mechanism that can be reversed.

A London underground railway station track end has been given a pneumatic buffer that will withstand a pressure of 200 tons if struck by a train.

Neatness of appearance and lightness of weight are the advantages of small eye shades mounted on spectacle frames that their inventor has patented.

According to tests in Germany shallow draft steamboats driven by six paddle wheels set fanwise at the stern develop more power than side wheel craft.

When pushed ahead of a flat car on a street railway a recent invention scoop tears up old asphalt paving between the rails and loads it into the car.

Work is under way on Finland's largest hydroelectric power station, which will develop nearly 400,000 horse-power, with a possible increase to 680,000.

The paper covering the sides of a flat box resembling a suit case in which loads of 50 pounds can be carried are extended upward and formed into handles.

The longest flight by an airplane having an engine of not more than seven and a half horse-power will win two substantial prizes in England for its designer.

When a live bait pail for fishermen that a Mississippi man has invented is turned on one side it discharges a single specimen of its contents through an opening.

A national wild life museum has been established in Australia to preserve specimens of the singular animals native to that country that gradually are disappearing.

To indicate the danger point of automobile storage batteries a plug that lights a lamp on the instrument board of a car when they become overheated has been invented.

As seismographs in tracing earthquake waves indicate rock formations Swiss scientists have invented a device to locate ore deposits when earth shaking blasts are fired.

For convenience in packing without danger of breakage a square tea pot has been invented, having a hole instead of a spout at one corner and an indented handle opposite it.

So successfully have improved windmills in Germany developed electric current for lighting and local power that experiments will be tried in operating a railroad with them.

The rapid expansion of a sensitive liquid when heated bursts a thin bulb and puts in operation a new head for automatic sprinklers that is said to be proof against corrosion.

Italy has been estimated to have water power available equal to the power obtained from 17,000,000 tons

of coal, about seven tenths of it in the northern part of the country.

The keys on an accordion patented by a Kansas man are operated in the same manner that a stringed instrument is fingered, enabling a person familiar with the latter to play it.

A European scientist has found that the act of smelling strongly scented flowers has an effect on the voice that, if done to excess, may seriously impair the voices of singers.

The work of 100 laborers is claimed to be done by a South Carolina inventor's machine that harvests from 150 to 300 bushels of clover seed in an hour, leaving the hay in the fields.

English opticians have suggested that the surfaces of much used roads be colored green to lessen an increasing number of cases of eye troubles attributed to white or gray highways.

A tent to cover a tree and a generator for a gas that kills insects has been patented, it being possible to carry the outfit on a motorcycle, the engine of which operates the generator.

To reduce automobile accidents France is considering a proposal to subject applicants for drivers' licenses to rigid examinations of their vision, hearing and heart and nerve conditions.

A small tube fitted with a magnifying lens and held in place on the ground glass of a camera has been invented to enable sharp focusing to be done without the use of a head covering cloth.

Much economy of power is claimed for a motor boat invented by an Australian engineer in England that is propelled forward and backward by jets of compressed air expelled beneath its hull.

Lacking axles, a chassis for long motor busses has been designed in which the engine drives the front wheels, practically forming a tractor section that can be separated from the rest of the frame.

Hydroelectric power developed in Italy will be carried over the Strait of Messina by a transmission line in which there will be two towers, each higher than the Eiffel tower, more than two miles apart.

In United States government tests screw jointed pipe in which lead filings were used on the threads withstood higher pressures than those in which white lead paste or paste and filings together were used.

Argentina has about the same population as Canada on one third of the area.

Arms adjustable to both height and width of plant rows feature a new spraying machine.

Automatic prepaying telephones will be tried in France under control of the government.

It has been estimated that there are 120,000,000 fish to every square of the oceans.

There are nine plants in Germany obtaining about 30 per cent of coke from locomotive slag.

An electrically operated machine has been patented for smoothing butchers' chopping blocks.

In England several old stage coaches of historic interest have been modernized and restored to service.

A recently invented spark plug can be taken apart and cleaned without distributing the porcelain or packing.

The French government is promoting the use of a new motor fuel that is a combination of alcohol and benzol.

A light but efficient machine gun has been specially designed for banks to use as protection against bandits.

An Italian company has been formed to conduct commercial air transportation between Italy and the Near East.

Extending from the shank of a new screw driver at right angles is a ratchet mounted lever to increase its power.

Of English invention is a machine that opens cotton that has been compressed and cleans it with a current of air.

A revolving scoop under the control of a driver features a new tractor for expeditious grading of and.

An incandescent lamp producing anesthesia by the peculiar blue light it produces has been invented in Switzerland.

For making practically permanent signs in street pavements an inventor has patented rubber bricks of several colors.

WARNS PLAGUE IS EVER A MENACE

Public Health Service Gives Out Some Figures.

Washington.—It is estimated that 10,000 human beings have died of the plague in the last 25 or 30 years. These are from the current health statistics of the United States public health service.

The report estimates that hundreds of millions of people have died of plague in ages past and says that the present pandemic of plague began in China in 1894. The report continues: "During the calendar year 1923 plague was reported to the surgeon general of the public health service as being present in the following countries, namely: Algeria, Australia, Azores, Brazil, British East Africa, Canary Islands, Ceylon, Chile, China, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Greece, Hawaii, India, Indo-China, Iraq, Japan, Java, Madagascar, Mauritius island, Mexico, Palestine, Peru, Portugal, Portuguese West Africa, Russia, Siam, Siberia, Spain, Straits Settlements, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Union of South Africa and Venezuela.

"Some of these countries have been plague infected for many years and no doubt will remain so for many years to come, possibly for centuries even. The most common way in which plague spreads from one country to another, from one city to another, is by means of rats on board ship.

"When the rats of a large city become infected with plague it often takes many years to eradicate the disease. The fact that there are no human cases does not mean that there may not be rat infection. In at least one city there is a record of rat infection extending over a period of 10 years without the occurrence of a human case during that time.

"As is well known, the pneumonic form of plague may, and sometimes does, spread with great rapidity among people who live under overcrowded and other insanitary conditions, that is, where there is close personal contact. Under favorable conditions pneumonic plague spreads along the lines of travel by human beings, by rail or by any other mode of travel, but this is not generally true of the bubonic type, which goes where the rat goes and reaches human beings from the rat.

South American Birds Act as Sheep Herders

Husum, Wash.—A South American bird, called the yakamk, is just as efficient a sheep herder as the collie, declares August Boeller, owner of large flocks near by. A cousin shipped two young yakamiks to Boeller last summer from Venezuela and now, nature, they are inseparable from the sheep.

The yakamiks are a sort of crane, long domesticated in Venezuela, and, dog-like, showed marked faithfulness and intelligence regarding sheep herding. In the day the long-legged birds wobble around the edge of the sheep bands, keeping watch for foes and wanderers. When darkness comes they fall in at the rear until the sheep are corralled, then seek a roosting place on the highest object found.

Like geese, they eat forage with the sheep. The yakamiks are adept in attacking and beating off eagles, coyotes, foxes and will even go after bears and wolves, beating them with wings and stabbing with needle-like beaks. Mistaking Boeller's dogs for foes the two yakamiks have kept the collies in a state of fear for several months.

Kanakas Plan to Show Sailors Their Volcano

Hilo, Island of Hawaii.—Every sailor of the United States fleet, which is to visit the territory next spring for maneuvers, will be given an opportunity to visit the volcano of Kilauea, thirty miles up the slopes from Hilo, the greatest continually active crater in the world.

Avalanches and earthquakes now compose Kilauea's activities almost solely, 47 earth shocks having been recorded at the volcano observatory in the week ended December 17.

Since the volcano's latest violent eruption, in May, 1924, there has been slight activity at the fire pit of Halemauau. The dimensions of the crater, increased greatly by last May's activity, are approximately 8,500 by 3,000 feet, with a depth of about 1,300 feet.

Safety Drive Reduces Auto Deaths of Kiddies

Los Angeles, Cal.—A reduction of 21 per cent in child fatalities due to motor vehicles has been made through systematic teaching of safety in the public schools of Los Angeles. It has been revealed in a check made by the Automobile Club of Southern California.

The safety curriculum in Los Angeles public schools was begun about three years ago through the co-operation of the board of education and the public safety department of the automobile club.

Children are given practical instruction, and, in addition, they compete in designing posters and verses for bulletins used in the safety movement. Diplomas are issued to students completing the course.

Poor Little Rich Boy Has His Troubles, Too

Though there never is a second's let-down in making chivalric manners second nature to the boy of society parents, there are two schools influencing his education, says the New York Times.

One, predominant, is the school to make a man of him; and this school sees that the boy has a competent boxing instructor and frequent lessons in the art of fistfights.

The other school emphasizes dancing and music lessons for recalcitrant young heirs who would rather be tumbling about in athletic fun.

There was one hot summer day—one of the biggest town houses on Fifth avenue—the family at home for a day or two, between summer fittings—and the ballroom opened for a ten-year-old boy's dancing lessons.

He wept, but his mother was obdurate. Here was the beautiful big reception room, a blaze of sunlight coming in the windows. A young woman, specially engaged, played the piano and the dancing instructor, also a young woman, monotonously demonstrated steps, called out "one, two, three," and led the suffering, perspiring boy in doleful jazz dances for an hour in the morning and another in the afternoon.

And he wept.

Ragtime to Military

Military band music except of the drum and military band marching spirit.

An industrial effect of a bar found that work to a dan Singularity

ragtime of Both began where meant so

The ragtime is forbidden to sing anything but music of a lilt, galloping nature, to which their hands would naturally keep time. In this motion of the hands of the cotton pickers lies the origin of ragtime, and it was presented to the public in the first place by purely negro choirs.

Name of a Knight

The calling of knights by their Christian names dates back to the early creation of knights; surnames did not come into common use until long after knighthood was established.

In the very old days, a man was known only by his Christian name—the surname was added later as a means of distinguishing different people of the same Christian name. But all the time the Christian name was the real name. Just as for some purposes it remains so today, the Christian name only, for instance, being used in the marriage ceremony and other services of the church. So when John was raised to the dignity of knighthood he became Sir John, the title being given to the Christian or real name, and not to the surname, which was only added as a distinguishing mark. And this custom is still adhered to.—Family Herald.

Famous Writer's Relatives

Thomas Scott, the favorite brother of Sir Walter Scott, is buried in a Quebec cemetery. Thomas Scott came to Canada in 1814 as paymaster of the Seventieth regiment, which was eventually transferred from Kingston to Quebec. Having for some time been suspended by his superior officers, he was confirmed in his position by Lord Palmerston in 1817. He was such a good writer that he was supposed by some to be the real author of the Waveley novels. He died in 1858, and left three daughters, Jessie, Ann and Eliza. The eldest married Lieutenant Colonel Huxley and the other two went back to Scotland with their mother.—Winnipeg Free Press.

Long Memory

Old people often take great delight in reverting to the scenes of childhood, and vie with one another in early recollections. Sometimes they assert confidently that they can remember things that occurred in their infancy.

One remarkable instance of this sort of memory is recorded in an old family Bible in a New England household. The Bible was published in 1865, and on one of its family record pages there may be read the following entry, made in a trembling hand:

"Mary Anne Taylor, born of January, 1782, according of her recollection."

Early Street Lighting

The first street lighting was in 1553, when the people of France, were ordered to place candles in front of their houses.

In 1788, pitch or resin bowls were used for the candles. The first illuminating gas for street lighting was in London in 1809. In 1821, B. Md., used illuminating gas for lighting. The first electric arc made their appearance in New York city in 1881, while gas mantle lighting did not appear for street lighting until 15 years later, in 1896.

Work and Happiness

Happiness loves to see men at work. She loves labor, weariness, self-sacrifice. She is found not in palaces but on farms, in factories, and mines. If one looks up from hard work he will see her, but if he looks too long, she will fade away.—Grit.

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