

Coffee the drink of Democracy

THE MYSTERY OF COFFEE

The London Telegraph says:

An industrious American has just brought together in a mighty volume all that men know about coffee. . . . That great nation has long been justly proud of its eminence in coffee making and drinking, and some of its patriots have contended, like Mark Twain, that outside America no potable coffee is to be found. This we hold to be an excess of national pride. . . .

Why is it that some countries consume so much more coffee than others? America drinks, we believe, some dozen pounds per head per annum. Yet across the border in Canada a people of the same racial origin and of as high a standard of living, only want one pound each. In Europe the Dutch, the world's greatest coffee drinkers, take some fifteen pounds apiece, and the Scandinavian countries are not far behind. But Germany in her days of prosperity only wanted half as much, France less than half, and our own country an insignificant fraction. These variations in taste are a dark problem.

Some critics have held that the unpopularity of coffee in England is due to domestic ignorance. "The secret of making good coffee," Thackeray wrote, "is known to very few housekeepers. It is to have plenty of coffee." But excessive economy is not the characteristic fault of our cooks. Who ever knew one spare the tea? That rival's popularity is, of course, the cause of the neglect of coffee. But to say so is not to explain the mystery. What hidden force in Nature is it which makes tea supreme in Britain and the dominions and coffee in the United States?

venture of Lexington and Concord. That is why this nation, nourished on tea in its infancy, made coffee the beverage of its maturity.

Coffee vs. Beer

In 1777 Frederick the Great of Prussia issued a proclamation to his subjects which read:

"Everybody is using coffee. If possible this must be prevented. My people must drink beer. His Majesty was brought up on beer, and so were his ancestors and his officers. Many battles have been fought and won by soldiers nourished on beer, and the King does not believe that coffee-drinking soldiers can be depended upon to endure hardship and beat his enemies in case of another war."

That the judgment of the excellent Frederick was not great in this instance was demonstrated in the last war, when the coffee-drinking soldiers of this country made what was considered a fair showing against the beer-nourished battalions of the Fatherland.

Coffee

"Bootlegging"

To restrict the use of coffee in Germany, Frederick made it a government monopoly, and only those holding government licenses were permitted to roast coffee publicly. Illicit coffee roasting and bootlegging of the beverage were problems turned over to a corps of "coffee-smellers," who went hither and yon with their noses in the air, trying to detect infringement of the law. The government "coffee-smellers" wore the butt of ridicule and anathema among the crowds in the coffee speakeries.

An old Arabic manuscript, written in Mecca in the year 1511, says: "Come and enjoy the company of coffee in the places of its habitation; for the Divine Goodness envelopes those who partake of its feast." "Grief is not found within its habitations. Trouble yields humbly to its power. It is the stream in which we wash away our sorrows. It is the fire which consumes our griefs. "Drink of it confidently and give not ear to the speech of the foolish!"

The Earliest Records

So was coffee hymned in the place of its nativity. Coffee first came out of Arabia and Abyssinia, according to the best information available. The first reference to it in literature was made by Avicenna, a Mohammedan physician, who died in 1037. "It fortifies the members," he wrote, "it cleanses the skin and dries up the humidities that are under it and gives an excellent smell to all the body."

The "kaveh kanes" of Mecca were the first coffee houses. Kair Bey, the Governor, discovered that those who met in the coffee houses discussed politics and religion, sometimes critically. So he ordered the kaveh kanes closed. The Sultan, at Cairo, disapproved of the Governor's "indiscreet zeal" and had him executed. But in Constantinople, where plots against the oppressive government were hatched over the coffee, the public houses were closed, and reopening meant that the proprietor was sewed in a sack and thrown into the Bosphorus.

Prohibiting Coffee Fails

Coffee prohibition did not last long. So much hostility was stirred up by it that the Government decided to place men in the coffee houses to lead the discussion rather than maintain the ban. So erudite professors of conservative viewpoint expounded their doctrines directing talk into safe channels. "They are commonly large halls," it was written of the coffee houses of Asia Minor in 1800, "having their floors spread with mats and illuminated at night by a multitude of lamps. Being the only theatres for the exercise of profane eloquence, poor scholars attend here to amuse the people. Some aspire to the praise of invention and com-

posed tales and fables. They walk up and down as they recite or, assuming oratorical consequence, harangue upon subjects chosen by themselves."

It was in these places that the "Thousand and One Nights" stories were first told and gained their great popularity.

Oriental Importance

Twenty dishes a day was not an unusual amount of coffee for one Oriental to drink. The promise to provide the wife with coffee at all times was one of the young Turk's marriage vows, and refusal or neglect to do this was recognized as proper cause for a divorce. The Steward of the Coffee was the most important functionary of the Oriental household, the serving of the beverage being attended with much ceremony.

When the Orient gave coffee to Europe through the Venetian traders there began that era of which Disraeli wrote, "The history of coffee houses was that of the manners, morals and politics of a people."

Coffee House Popularity

With few newspapers or forums for discussion the coffee house became a "penny university," where events were broadcast and theories gained currency. Even medicine seized upon the beverage as a cure-all. "Do but this Rare Arabian cordial use and thou mayst all the



the Turk's head, a noted coffee house, witnessed the flashing repartee and conversation of Goldsmith and Reynolds. All literary men, then and now, seem to find coffee an especial friend of their muse.

Art in Coffee Houses

Joyous relaxations and jestful companionship are depicted in the old woodcuts which have come down to us portraying the gatherings in the coffee houses. They make one yearn for similar boon companions and a place wherein to exchange gossip and ideas.

Each wrote a Coffee Cantata. The oldest painting of a coffee house, in 1650, is credited to a pupil of Frans Hals. And in Vienna, a statue pouring coffee was raised to the memory of Kolschitzky, who opened the first coffee house there. Literature, music, painting and sculpturing, the four famous arts turning to the subject of coffee—truly, signal evidences of its popularity.

Captain John Smith is credited with bringing the first coffee to America, but honor for starting the great coffee-

growing industry of South America and the West Indies is due Captain Gabriel de Clieu, who brought a slip from a coffee-tree owned by Louis XIV, to Martinique. His vessel was becalmed for weeks, and he kept the tiny plant alive by sharing with it his slender ration of drinking water. This sprig grew into plantations covering millions of acres, which today supply the United States.

The Coffee of Today America today knows how to use its coffee, but great tribulations has the little aromatic berry known as to the treatment given it from the days when the green bean was stewed and sweetened or the pulverized berry made into balls with fat, and used as a war ration by the African tribes. So boiling coffee appears to be literally a relic of barbarism—but a worth-while relic, for all of that.

But always it has been welcomed as "the heartening brew that gives courage and comfort does not steal one's brains away but sharpens them—whether it was ground in an ink-jeweled coffee grinder of brass and tea wood, or made in a two-ear gold pot with its chafing dish of spirits of wine in a leather case for the Dauphin of France." Well indeed may it be termed "the drink of democracy."

The Coffee House of Long Ago

English coffee houses are famous since the days of Francis Bacon, who in 1627 wrote that coffee "cometh to the brain and helpeth digestion." In them gathered also the wits and literary lights of a generation fifty years later—Steele, Addison and Macaulay, and in the eighteenth century



Pope Blesses Coffee—16th Century

IN THE Sixteenth Century there came to Pope Clement VII a delegation of monks, seeking an audience. This was granted, and the monks brought to the attention of the Pope a new and wicked custom, as they termed it, which was developing in the city of Venice. The Venetians, said the monks, were drinking a strange black beverage called coffee, an infidel drink from Arabia, undoubtedly an invention of Satan given to the Moslems in place of wine, which was forbidden to them by their religion.

The Pope ordered that this drink should be prepared and brought to him, in order that he might decide justly. He sipped it contemplatively. "Why, this Satan's drink is so delicious," he said, "that it would be a pity to let the infidels have exclusive use of it. We shall fool Satan by baptizing it, and making it a truly Christian beverage."

Which was accordingly done, justifying, in the eyes of the Venetians, the



No Coffee Was Turkish Grounds for Divorce

BASKETBALL AT CAROLINA

Practice Began This Week. Though the Football Season is But Half Completed. Chapel Hill, N. C., Nov. 9.—With two former captains of the team returned for this season and with other veterans from last year's quintet back, the prospects for basketball at Carolina appear unusually bright this season. Not only are there veterans to try for the team but some likely looking men from the lower class will be available. Cartwright Carmichael and Monk McDonald are the former captains who will be on hand this season. Carmichael plays center while McDonald is a guard. Sammy McDonald, Monk's little brother and forward last season, also is back this year. Though the football season is but half completed, practice for basketball began this week under the leadership of Winton

Green, of Wilmington, captain of the team. Green is forward on the team and has played with the varsity for three years. Before coming to the University he made a name for himself in high school basketball circles when he played with the Wilmington High School team. Among candidates for guard position with this season's aggregation will be Billy Devin, a member of this year's football team and Yelverton. Carl Mahler of Wilmington, steady guard of last season, is not back and his place will have to be filled. Among the likely looking candidates out for the position are Jack Millstead of Charlotte, Jimmy Poole of Greensboro, and Johnny Pursler of Charlotte. Vanstory and Linberger, now playing football, also are expected to be candidates for the quint. Tommy Graham, for four years a dependable substitute, graduated last year and is not available this season.

Coming up from the freshman team is Jack Cobb of Durham, captain of last year's freshman quint. He played an excellent game last year and is considered very good varsity material. Other candidates are expected to include Dandor of the 1922 freshman team; Fisher, who was ineligible last season; and Penton, Solomon and Ambler. Though Bob Fetzer, director of athletics, will have supervision over the coaching of the team, the actual coaching will be done by Norman Shepard of Wilmington, former varsity star. Bretney Smith of Asheville is manager of the team. Practice began the first part of this week and will continue for three nights a week until after the Carolina-Virginia game when it will become an everyday thing. The full schedule has not yet been arranged. Hope and strive if you would thrive.

Dance Lovers' Magazine. A new Macfadden publication, Dance Lovers' Magazine, makes its initial bow to the public this month on the news stands. It is profusely illustrated with photographs and is check-a-block with interesting articles among which may be mentioned "Dancing as a Developer of Body and Mind," by Bernard Macfadden, "The Romantic Adventures of a Dancing Venus," "Gilda Gray Startles Broadway With Voluptuous Voodoo Dance," "Married Life is a Dance," by Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Valentino, "How I Keep Fit for Love, Life and Laughter," "My Dancing Children and How I am Training Them," by Bernard Macfadden. The latest fox trot music is published in full so one can play it at home. If we could see the values of health in a pile of gold before our eyes, its worth would then be understood.

What the World Is Doing

AS SEEN BY POPULAR MECHANICS MAGAZINE

Oil Spreader for Rough Seas to Help Ships in Storms

To calm rough waters around ships caught in storms, a southern man has invented a spreader that sprays oil over a



large area around the vessel. Pumped from a tank on deck, the fluid passes far out from the boat to umbrella-like devices of canvas that are set floating in the sea. It can be used for large or small craft, or from lifeboats while making their way through heavy waves in the event of disaster. The illustration shows the oil spreader being used from ships and shore to subdue breakers and protect passengers, vessels and breakwaters. A close-up of the spreader is shown in the inset.

Poles of Elastic Concrete Bend Without Breaking

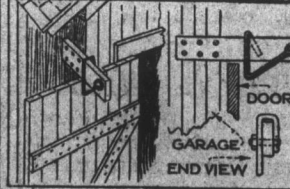
Hollow, concrete poles, designed to carry electric transmission lines, are being made by a process that allows them to end under heavy strains without break-

Thirteen Thousand Laws Are Enacted in Year

Although there is said to be no exact record of the number of laws on the statute books of the nation, experts have calculated that in one year, 13,000 of 40,000 bills presented in the legislatures of 35 states, were passed at a cost of about \$900 each. Congress handles from 10,000 to 20,000 bills each session, and it is estimated, passed 630 before its last adjournment. Estimators figure that there are between 50,000 and 100,000 state and federal laws.

Simple Garage-Door Catch

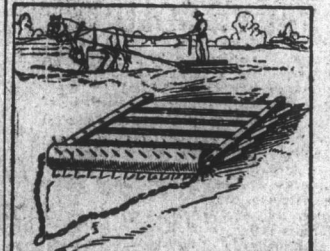
The garage-door catch shown in the drawing is used on garage doors to prevent the doors from swinging back against the car while driving it into or out of the garage. The arrangement is unusually simple in that only one piece of iron rod, bent to the shape shown, and pivoted to a wooden bracket, forms the



complete catch. The wooden bracket is secured to the side of the garage and a bolt on the end of the bracket is used as a pivot for the catch.

Combination Rotary Harrow and Drag

The combination rotary harrow and drag shown in the drawing and used for pulverizing clods can be made in a short time from material available on every farm. It consists of five 6-ft. lengths of 2 by 10-in. lumber, nailed or bolted to two 2 by 4-in. endpieces, and a 6-ft. wooden roller, attached to the front so that it will



revolve when the drag is pulled over the ground. Rows of teeth, made from heavy spikes, are then driven in so that they project about 4 in., and the heads cut off and the teeth sharpened. Two 3/4-in. bolts, driven into each end of the roller, serve as journals, and turn in bearing holes in the 2 by 4-in. endpieces. The drag may be weighted down with stones, or if desired an old mower seat may be attached to it for the convenience of the farmer.

Cat-Tails Yield Flour, Silk, Starch, and Also Sugar

From the cat-tails found in almost every swamp, scientists have succeeded in making both food and cloth. Roots of the weed produce starch, and sugar, the pollen has been used as a flour to make bread, the brown spikes make an excellent substitute for silk, and the fluffy down is valuable for stuffing pillows. The plant was first discovered by the Iroquois Indians and, during the Great War, it was extensively used throughout central America.

Sardinia's "White Coal"

An artificial body of water which will produce 50,000,000 kilowatt hours of electrical energy for industries and will irrigate over 74,000 acres of land has been created on the Tiro river in Sardinia.

In Genesis occurs the sentence:

"Then men began to call upon the name of the Lord." That was supposed to be about 575 B. C. Pope Gregory, in 552, instructed the manner of praying with the face to the east.

Where Catfish Abound.

The overglades region of Florida is the largest catfish-producing center in the United States. Every season between 5,000,000 and 6,000,000 pounds of the fish are shipped from this section.



Looks Like 1914

This unusual photograph was taken in Munich, Germany, recently. The occasion was the unveiling of a memorial dedicated to the soldiers of the former regiment of the Bavarian king (Leibregiment). It shows General von Lossow, present commander of the Bavarian Leibregiment (center); General Count Bothner (left); and former Crown Prince Rupprecht (right). Dr. von Kahr, Bavarian dictator, is shown at the picture wearing a top hat.