

# The Lure of Brazil.

Only the Monroe Doctrine Prevents its Exploitation by Germany. By Alexander Del Mar, President of the Latin-American Chamber of Commerce.

THE German retort to Count von Bernstorff's assurance of peace is too significant to pass without notice.

South America, so far as natural resources are concerned, is the richest continent on the globe. Brazil is the most extensive country on that continent, its area exceeding that of the United States proper. I lived in Brazil a considerable period and am fairly well acquainted with the country and the people. Barring the strictly equatorial region, its climate is genial and healthful. The country is well watered and the soil highly productive. There are no dangers to apprehend either from man or beast.

Yet Brazil is but sparsely populated, and except in the cities and among the immigrant colonies the African race predominates in numbers, the legacy of a slave system which was swept away only thirty or forty years ago. These people are mostly very poor, very peaceful and wholly destitute of military organization or instinct. Not only are they without arms, they would not know how to use any aggressive weapon more highly developed than a cheese knife. As for guns, tools, engines, etc., they are pitifully innocent of them. The little German army that with the permission of its allies devastated China ten years ago might dance cotillions for a while all the way from Tijuca to the Andes. Whether they could hope to get back is quite another matter. Such an expedition instead of injuring might prove a blessing in disguise, since it would unite all America, North and South.

In comparison with Brazil Germany is a petty principality, bursting with 65,000,000 of hardy, energetic and somewhat pugnacious people who sadly need more space, but who, owing to the like need of other Europeans, have been stopped in Asia and limited to an arid and worthless region in western Africa—that is to say, comparatively worthless, because although it will yield nothing to agriculture and next to nothing from mines it happens to be directly east from and in the same latitude as Brazil. Any one of the great German steamers could make the voyage in a week or ten days. What prevents them from making that voyage? The belligerent Bismarck regarded the Monroe Doctrine as a most incredible American impertinence, an opinion largely shared by his countrymen. Nevertheless it seems to hold; and Count von Bernstorff's peaceful assurances must be accepted in the same frank and cordial spirit which doubtless animates them. The colonizing vigor of the Hamburger Nachrichten might find something more eligible and nearer home than Brazil.

# Nonemployment Insurance.

Scheme in England Parliament May be Called on to Consider.

By John L. Griffiths.

THE question of insurance against non-employment, and whether or not to make it compulsory as to certain industries by parliamentary enactment, is now receiving much attention in England. The proposed legislation will have three cardinal features, in that it will be compulsory, contributory and specialized as to different groups of trades. Inasmuch as the trades of building, shipbuilding, engineering, construction work generally, and vehicle making have been subject to the most serious fluctuations in the past, it is as to these trades that insurance against nonemployment will first be made applicable. Contributions from both employer and the employee are regarded as essential to secure permanence and stability to the undertaking, backed by the belief that if the wage-earner has assurance that he will be provided for in case of misfortune and distress, there will be less inclination to engage in strikes. In this way a larger measure of peace in the industrial world is hoped for.

The contributions required from the state, the employer and the employee will be 5 cents each weekly, the amount paid by the wage-earner to be stamped weekly on his insurance card. If the wage-earner is out of work he is required to report to the nearest labor exchange. He will receive no benefits the first week, but an effort will be made to find employment for him. This employment he is forced to accept unless he can show a good reason for not doing so, the validity of the excuse to be passed on by a committee representing the employers and employees. If employment can not be found, then he is to receive ordinarily \$1.98 benefit a week for fifteen weeks, in no case to exceed twenty weeks. The original period during which the wage-earner must contribute to the insurance fund will likely be eight months, and if he applies for insurance a second or a third time, the time for receiving benefits will be lengthened proportionately.

The insurance scheme is not intended for men habitually or chronically out of work, but for the steady and industrious wage-earner who temporarily has no employment. The scheme has only been suggested, and it has not been called up for parliamentary action. It has met with a varying reception from employers and from trade unions, some approving and others condemning, but still there is as yet no indication of organized and general opposition.

# The Railroad Conductor.

Many Duties That Come To Him Before He is "It." By Edward Hungerford.

As a conductor he will probably begin in the freight service. His caboose will be a traveling office and more than that, it will carry all the gossip of the division up and down the line. It may be a homely little car, but it is just as sure to be a homelike place. From its elevated outlook he may command a good view of the train away ahead to the engine, and he will be supposed to know all the while that the brakemen are attending to their valuable contents. There is a deal of bookkeeping to be accomplished in that traveling office. The conductor will receive the way bills of the cars of his train and their contents, and he is held responsible for their safe deliveries to their destination or the junction points where they are to be delivered to other lines.

When he comes to the passenger service there will be still more bookkeeping to confront him, and he will have to be a man of good mental attainments to handle all the many varieties of local and through tickets, mileage books, passes and other forms of transportation contracts that come to him, to detect the fraud from the bad, to throw out the counterfeit that are constantly being offered to him. He will have to carry quite a money account for cash affairs, and he knows that mistakes will have to be paid for out of his own pocket.

All that is only a phase of his business. He is responsible for the safe conduct of his train, equally responsible in the last respect with the engineer. He also receives and signs for certain orders, and he is required to be in mind every detail of the train's progress over the line. He will have to be an assortment of questions to answer at every stage of the journey, and he is expected to maintain the discipline of the railroad upon its trains. He may mean in the one instance the ejection of a passenger who refuses to pay his fare—and still he must not involve the road in any big damage. In another, the subjugation of some gang of drunken loafers. The standard of it is that so many conductors come as near as they do to the high standards.—Outing Magazine.

# More Coincidence.

Professional Man's Experience With an Amateur Palmist. By James O'Neill.

Years ago I was at Asbury Park, where I met a young Irish fellow who was reading the palms of the guests of the hotel. She was not a professional palmist. I submitted my palm for examination and she informed me that in the early part of the coming year I would meet with a severe accident and would narrowly escape from death. I was called. On March 4 of the next year I was struck by a falling object and sustained almost fatal injuries. It was a mere coincidence, but I have met many trustworthy palmists who have told me by palmistry, both as to the future and the past, things which I have never had any other explanation for. Can any one give me an explanation? I know of a telepathy or thought suggestion, for I have frequently in adjoining rooms written a word or a sentence thought of by some of the words would occasionally be spelled out to me. I am not very credulous, but these things amaze me. I have met a dozen or more witnesses.

Great Britain has 500,000 horses available for the purposes of war fare. The United States has 1,000,000 horses available for the purpose of warfare.



# ASTRONOMICAL CALCULATIONS FOR 1910.

Being the Second After Bissextile, or Leap Year; and Until July 4th, the 134th Year of the Independence of the United States.

## ECLIPSES FOR THE YEAR 1910.

In the year 1910 there will be four eclipses, two of the Sun and two of the Moon.

I. A total eclipse of the Sun, May 8-9, visible in Tasmania as total and in Australia as a partial eclipse.

II. A total eclipse of the Moon, May 23-24, visible in United States. Moon enters total shadow, May 23, 10 h. 46 m. P. M. Middle of eclipse, May 24, 0 h. 34 m. A. M. Moon leaves total shadow, May 24, 2 h. 22 m. A. M. Magnitude of the eclipse, 1.10 of the Moon's diameter.

III. A partial eclipse of the Sun, November 1. Visible in Siberia, Japan and Korea.

IV. A total eclipse of the Moon, November 16, visible in the United States. Moon enters total shadow, November 16, 5 h. 44 m. P. M. Middle of eclipse, November 16, 7 h. 21 m. P. M. Moon leaves total shadow, November 16, 8 h. 58 m. P. M. Magnitude of eclipse, 1.13 of the Moon's diameter.

## REIGNING PLANET.

Jupiter is the reigning planet this year.

## CARDINAL POINTS.

Vernal Equinox, entrance of the Sun into Aries, March 21, at 7 o'clock in the morning.

Summer Solstice, entrance of the Sun into Cancer, June 22, at 3 o'clock in the morning.

Autumnal Equinox, entrance of the Sun into Libra, September 23, at 5 o'clock in the afternoon.

Winter Solstice, entrance of the Sun into Capricorn, December 22, at 12 o'clock 15 m. at noon.

## EVENING AND MORNING STARS.

Venus will be evening star (setting after the Sun) until February 12, then morning star (rising before the Sun) until December 5, then evening star until the end of the year.

Mars will be evening star until September 22, then morning star until the end of the year.

Jupiter will be morning star until April 1, then evening star until October 15, then morning star until the end of the year.

Saturn will be evening star until April 17, then morning star until October 24, then evening star until the end of the year.

## THE BEGINNING OF THE SEASONS.

Winter Solstice, 1909, beginning of Winter, December 22, 6 h. A. M.

Vernal Equinox, 1910, beginning of Spring, March 21, 7 h. A. M.

Summer Solstice, 1910, beginning of Summer, June 22, 3 h. A. M.

Autumnal Equinox, 1910, beginning of Autumn, September 23, 5 h. P. M.

Winter Solstice, 1910, beginning of Winter, December 22, 0 h. A. M.

## DURATION OF THE SEASONS.

Sun in Winter Signs, 89 d. 1 h.

Sun in Spring Signs, 92 d. 20 h.

Sun in Summer Signs, 93 d. 14 h.

Sun in Autumn Signs, 89 d. 19 h.

Tropical Year, 255 d. 6 h.

Sun North Equator, 186 d. 10 h.

Sun South Equator, 178 d. 20 h.

Difference, 7 d. 14 h.

## FIXED AND MOVABLE FEASTS OR CHURCH DAYS.

New Year's Day, January 1.  
 Conversion of St. Paul, January 25.  
 Septuagesima Sunday, January 23.  
 Sexagesima Sunday, January 30.  
 Purification of B. V. M., February 2.  
 Quinquagesima Sunday, February 6.  
 Shrove Tuesday, February 8.  
 Ash Wednesday (Lent begins), February 9.  
 Quadragesima Sunday, February 13.  
 St. Valentine, February 14.  
 Mid-Lent Sunday, March 6.  
 St. Patrick's Day, March 17.  
 Palm Sunday, March 20.  
 Good Friday, March 25.  
 Easter Sunday, March 27.  
 Low Sunday, April 3.  
 St. George, April 23.  
 St. Mark, April 25.  
 Saints Philip and James, May 1.  
 Rogation Sunday, May 1.  
 Ascension (Holy) Thursday, May 5.  
 Whit Sunday (Pentecost), May 15.  
 Trinity Sunday, May 22.  
 Corpus Christi, May 26.  
 St. Barnabas, June 11.  
 St. John the Baptist, June 24.  
 Saints Peter and Paul, June 29.  
 St. James, July 25.  
 Transfiguration, August 6.  
 St. Bartholomew, August 24.  
 St. Matthew, September 21.  
 Michaelmas (St. John and Angels), September 29.  
 St. Luke, October 18.  
 Saints Simon and Jude, October 28.  
 Thanksgiving Day, November 24.  
 Advent Sunday, November 27.  
 St. Andrew, November 30.  
 St. Thomas, December 21.  
 Christmas Day, December 25.  
 St. Stephen, December 26.  
 St. John the Evangelist, December 26.  
 Holy Innocents, December 28.

## CHRONOLOGICAL CYCLES FOR 1910.

Dominical Letter	B	Julian Period	6623
Golden Number	11	Roman Indiction	8
Epact (Moon's age, Jan. 1)	19	Year Jewish Era, Oct. 3	5671
Solar Cycle	15	Mohammedan Era, Jan. 13	1328

Age of the word

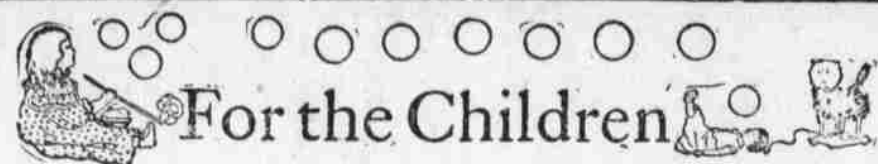
## HALLEY'S COMET APPEARS.

It seems that Dr. Wolf, of Heidelberg, was the first astronomer to photograph the reappearance of Halley's Comet in 1909. His telegram stated that he found it Sunday, September 12, just within the confines of the constellation Gemini, near the boundary of Orion; and that it was of the sixteenth magnitude. By some this is believed to have been the "Star of Bethlehem." Its reappearance since the thirteenth century seem to have been coincident with many disastrous events, which has tended to increase the superstitious belief in the malign influence of comets. This comet should be an interesting celestial object well into 1910, rising at first before the Sun, on May 8, about 2 p. m. It will pass near Pollux in Gemini June 9, after its conjunction with the Sun, when it ought to be at its greatest brilliancy as an evening star, setting about 2 hours 30 minutes after the Sun, at about the close of evening twilight.

# A HAPPY NEW-YEAR.

By Anna M. Pratt.

From Oregon to Texas, from Florida to Maine, The pleasant New-year's greetings are flying like the birds; And if we can remember All their meaning till December We shall fill the days with kindly deeds and loving, thoughtful words.



THE RAIN.  
 A million little fairy feet all dancing overhead—  
 Oh, don't I love to hear it when I'm snuggled up in bed!  
 When mother takes the light away and says, "Now, go to sleep,"  
 And I be there and listen to the fairies' little feet!

I think of all the thirsty things out in the field and wood,  
 And how they drink the raindrops in—oh, it must feel so good!  
 And how the tiny blades of grass come stretching up to see  
 Where all the patter comes from and whatever it can be.

I think of mother's rain-barrel and of the waterspout,  
 And how the water rushes in and tumbles to get out,  
 And how the birds out in the woods must snuggle down to keep  
 Their baby-birdies warm and dry beneath their breasts asleep.

I think of all the puddles there'll be out in the rain,  
 And of my brand-new rubber boots—just purpose for the rain,  
 And there I be and listen to the fairies overhead—  
 Oh, don't you love to hear them when you're snuggled up in bed?  
 —Harriet Crocker LeRoy, in Youth's Companion.

## BOB'S PUMPKIN PARTY.

Bob's father was driving; Bob sat next to him and Dorothy on the other side of Bob. She could be on the outside end of the seat because she was seven years old now. Bob wasn't yet quite five, but he was going on five.

They drove along sunny roads. It was a morning when most of the leaves on the trees were yellow and red; and in a field, now and then, Dorothy saw yellow pumpkins. "Every now and then," she said, "I see pumpkins, lots and lots of them."

They drove along—and along. Pretty soon Bob said, "What are pumpkins good for, daddy?"

"Good to eat—pumpkin pies, don't you know?"

"Oh!" said Bob. Mr. Mason hugged Bob up to him. "They don't let you eat pies, do they, Bob? Well, maybe, later."

"Don't they do anything else with pumpkins?" asked Bob. "Why, yes; why, to be sure they do—jack-o'-lanterns—don't you know jack-o'-lanterns?"

"Yes," said Bob. "I thought so! Doffie, you and I have some—those that Cousin Jim gave us—last year, I guess it was—little ones, cardboard."

"M-m," said Doffie; "cardboard, with funny faces."

"Yes," said their father; "but those are only cardboard. Ought to see the real things! You've never had any—never had any jack-o'-lanterns? Poor little children!" and he laughed at Bob and Dorothy.

"Let's get some," said Bob. "You buy us some, daddy."

"Buy some! you goose! Why, you want to make them—don't want to buy them! the making's half the fun!"

"But you haven't any pumpkins," said Dorothy. "I don't think we have any at home."

"Oh, well," said her father, "we may have to buy the pumpkins to start with."

"I'd rather have pumpkins right out of a field," said Bob.

"Yes, daddy—wouldn't they let us take some of those?" asked Dorothy.

"Oh, dear no—mustn't take anybody's pumpkins. They don't grow wild, they belong to people; they were planted and the farmers are going to gather them up and sell them. I'll tell you, your friend, Mr. Bell, will give you some, and be glad to."

So they drove along and along. At last they came to Mr. Bell's farm, and turned in at the gate. "Lots of pumpkins in Mr. Bell's yard," said Bob. "Just see that pile down by the biggest barn!"

"Oh-h-m-m-m!" said Dorothy. And their father did not forget to tell Mr. Bell that the children wanted to beg some pumpkins. "For jack-o'-lanterns," said Bob—"only just two or three pumpkins good for jack-o'-lanterns."

"Well," said Mr. Bell, smiling at Dorothy and Bob, "you may have all the pumpkins that you will roll over to your wagon from the heap there by the barn!"

What a funny time they had rolling them! Pumpkins are heavy, quite heavy, and they are not really round, you know, but rather flat on two sides, and on one side they have a short, stiff stem; they don't roll very easily. Dorothy and Bob had to work pretty hard, bending over and pushing and turning and tugging those fat pumpkins—fun!

"Want anybody to help you?" called Mr. Bell.

"No, no, thank you!" said the children.

At last they had three pumpkins ready to start for home—one for Dorothy, one for Bob and one for their friend, Bob Bascom. "He would be lonely if he didn't have one," Dorothy said.

"Yes, he would," said Bob. The grown-up men had to lift those pumpkins into the wagon, of course. How proudly Dorothy and Bob looked down at the jolly yellow things when they were once more driving along with their father. Hard tugs they had had getting those three pumpkins over from the pile to the wagon—a pretty good lot of work—they liked to think of it.

But you'd say they would like even better to think of it after they found what fun it was to have a jack-o'-lantern party.

but they all worked together, cutting out a round piece like a cover with the nice, stiff stem in the middle for a handle; then getting out all the soft inside, with the seeds; and then making the comical faces—holes for the eyes, nose and smiling, grinning teeth. They fixed a candle in the middle of each; and, oh, how specially funny those lanterns were when, about five o'clock, Dorothy and Bob and Bob Bascom had them, all lighted up, on the veranda in the dark! Mrs. Mason and Mr. Mason were there, and pretty soon what should they all see but some more jack-o'-lanterns coming up the path!

"A party! a party!" screamed Bob; "a pumpkin party!"

"O mamma, a pumpkin party!" shouted Doffie.

It was the three Kips—May, Sanborn and Bradford—and Max Blow was with them—everybody with a lantern; why, that made seven in all!—a fine ring of them when they were all set down on the piazza in a circle! Around this ring the children capered and danced, looking at it from all sides and laughing at the jack-o'-lantern smiles and shadows and lights that they made.

Each jack was so fixed that he could be carried around by a string, and so could take part in processions. Lovely parades they had on the veranda and down on the paths under the trees. They kept it up an hour, and more than an hour!

And when Dorothy was going to bed she told her mother that she had never had such a good time before in all her whole life; and Bob called out: "That's because you never had one single pumpkin party before this one!"—Susan P. Peckham, in the Christian Register.

## CUSTOMS.

A new game is being played by the Hunt children which they named "Customs," and this is how it came about:

They had been traveling in Europe all summer with their mother and father, and among the numerous things to interest them were the custom-officers, who investigated their baggage for goods on which to charge duty. When they came back to America they were detained a long time in the Custom House waiting for an officer to examine their trunks. It was great fun for the children to follow the officers about, and hear what the people had to say, and how much money they had to pay for the dress goods and jewels and everything they had brought from abroad. So they immediately invented this game.

One person is chosen as the "customs officer," the rest of the company being passengers. The officer holds a handkerchief knotted into a ball.

"What has A in his trunk?" he asked, throwing the handkerchief at one of the "passengers." As he throws it he must fix in his mind one object commencing with A that can be packed in a trunk. The person at whom the handkerchief is thrown must answer some object commencing with A. If he answers the same word that the officer has in mind he must pay "customs" or forfeit to be redeemed later, or if he fails to answer quickly he must pay customs.

The fun lies in playing quickly, and in keeping the passengers wondering whose baggage will be examined next.—Philadelphia Record.

A MISSIONARY'S EXPERIENCE.

It was one hour before sundown on a cloudy, drizzly after-noon. I had my double umbrella, blue inside and white outside, for fending off both sun and rain, but had it closed over my hand without clapping it, to go through a narrow opening in the bushes. I had crossed a little open grass plot of a few rods, and was just entering a narrow footpath through the mountain jungle, that would take me down to the east foot of the mountains, where I was to meet my pony.

Suddenly a tiger sprang into the path and disputed passage. I saw at once what he wanted; only great hunger impels these tigers to come out during the day. He had had no breakfast and wanted missionary meat for supper. I did not wish him to have it.

It is always best if a scrimmage is to take place to be the attacking party. When I was a boy I had gone out among an Indian tribe in Michigan and learned their war whoop. Springing forward I raised this war whoop, and at the same time suddenly opened my double umbrella. Springing aside, over a bush, into the open ground, he made for the crest of the hill. Straight as an arrow he went through a crevice in the hill. About twenty feet down on the other side I knew he would strike on grassy ground, and the slope from there led down to a little stream, which my path again crossed, less than a quarter of a mile below. I scrambled up the hill to the crevice and saw the tiger trotting down the slope evidently wondering whether he had done a wise thing in running away.

Putting my head with its big, white sun hat into the opening, I once more raised the war whoop. Down the tiger dashed again with speed. When his pace slackened I repeated the operation and on he dashed, and so continued until he entered the woods on the opposite side of the valley. Then I turned and wended my way to the foot of the hill, mounted my pony and kept my appointment.—Dr. Jacob Chamberlain's Story of Missionary Life.