

NORWAY'S LOFTIEST MOUNTAIN PEAK



The magnificent Skagastveind, for long held to be the loftiest mountain peak in Norway, is situated near the Sognefjord, the largest of the many fiords which penetrate the west coast of Norway. The mountain has been repeatedly climbed, but all attempts to reach the summit by the formidable southwestly crevasses had failed until the occasion on which our photograph was taken. The ascent of the famous peak was then made by four mountaineers without the assistance of a guide and the leader of the successful party is here shown on one of the most difficult bits of the climb.

PRICES WILL GO UP

NEW YORKER PREDICTS INCREASE IN COST OF LIVING.

Prof. Joseph F. Johnson Says the Consumer's Burden Will Grow and That Wages Will Not Advance in Proportion.

New York.—According to Prof. Joseph French Johnson, dean of the New York university's school of commerce and finance, in ten years the people of this country will have to pay about 30 per cent. more to live than they do today. He bases his conclusions on past performances in the purchasing power of money, which, he says, has alarmingly decreased in the last ten years, until now one has to pay about 44 per cent. more for commodities than in 1897.

Figures prepared by Prof. Johnson are embodied in the record of the government's case against the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, for Prof. Johnson was one of the witnesses called by the Standard's lawyers a few weeks ago to tell how the price of oil has not kept pace with the gradual increase of almost every article the public is obliged to buy.

The conclusion—reached by Prof. Johnson after several months of investigation—is that the end of the steady increase in the price of commodities is not yet, and that, unless all signs fail, the consumer in this country will be taxed even more heavily for the necessities of life for many years to come. He blames it all on the plenitude of gold.

"In the next ten years prices will go up as steadily as they have during the last ten years," said Prof. Johnson, when asked for his views on the probable trend of commodity prices in the future. "This is my belief, founded on a political economist's experience. From 1897 to 1907 prices jumped 44 per cent. I believe that in 1918 we shall see prices advanced to 80 per cent. above the prices quoted in 1897.

"The wages of the workman will not rise in the same proportion. That is a law of political economy. The workman will find himself pinched in pocket. The tremendous increase in the world's supply of gold has rendered capital here and abroad easy to obtain. With increased loans interest will rise, and then up will go commodities.

"The fact, however, that wages will not rise proportionately does not mean that there will be any lack of employment. With gold so plentiful, manufacturers will enlarge their plants and increase their forces. The army of labor will keep pace with the demand for it, but wages can't rise with the increase of laborers hired. Such, at least, is my conclusion."

Original Night Rider. The Omaha Bee says that Paul Revere was the founder of the rough riders. He was also the original night rider, wasn't he?

Climatic Peculiarity. New York, despite its more rigorous climate, is 900 miles nearer the equator than is the British capital.

ANOTHER TREASURE TROVE.

This Time New Jersey Woods Give Up Box of Gold.

Millville, N. J.—A report that a wooden box containing gold coins and some bank checks was found in the deer woods between this city and Fort Elizabeth, was confirmed by former Assemblyman Wilson Banks, who has the box and papers in his possession.

The treasure was discovered by Alan Barnett, who, while cutting timber for Mr. Banks, struck the box, which was covered with leaves. Removing it he found that it was securely locked and burst it open with his ax. The man turned over to his employer the box and papers, but refused to give up the gold coin. He has since been spending it lavishly with companions. Mr. Banks states that about five years ago he and a relative were walking at about dusk near the place where the hidden box was uncovered when they heard a woman scream and exclaim:

"Oh, save my life. Don't put the box there; you know it's all we've got."

As they approached the spot a man and a woman ran into the road and drove away in the darkness. Mr. Banks has written to a bank in Albany, N. Y., to ascertain the value of the papers.

DEVISE NEW EXPLOSIVE.

Government Experts Have One More Powerful Than Japanese Shimose.

Washington.—That the United States army has been keeping pace with the armies of foreign countries in developing high explosives is evidenced by the report of Brig.-Gen. William Crozier, chief of the bureau of ordnance of the war department.

The discovery by Russian officers that the Japanese had been using a mysterious high explosive during the Russian-Japanese war led to wide experimentation in this line throughout the world. It is now said the United States government has obtained explosives even more powerful than the Japanese shimose.

At the Sandy Hook proving ground the firings under the direction of the war department involved an expenditure of 73,945 pounds of powder, with 3,431 projectiles and 167 rounds of fixed ammunition, a total of 3,700 rounds having been fired in addition to 469 explosive tests.

These firings necessitated the preparation of 395 special secret reports, which are closely guarded.

Immigration Decreasing. Washington.—The increase in the alien population of the United States in the year ending September 30 last, was only 6,398.

Secretary of Commerce and Labor Straus called the attention of President Roosevelt to these figures.

According to Secretary Straus 724,112 foreigners came to this country in the year between October 1, 1907, and September 30, last, but during the same period 717,814 foreigners left our shores for their own countries. Some of these, however, were naturalized Americans going abroad to live, but the exact number of them was not obtained.

WHAT IMPRESSED THE RUSSIAN.

American Gastronomical Delicacy Had Appealed to Him.

Recently a member of the Russian revolutionary party, who had been through all sorts of exciting vicissitudes in his native country, was on a visit to the United States.

Wishing to be polite to him and talk on those subjects nearest the Russian's heart a gentleman who met him asked all sorts of questions about the Douma, the Czar, dynamite, and everything else which he adjudged interesting to the foreigner.

Then, when he could think of nothing more about Russia, he turned the conversation in this direction:

"I suppose that you find America a striking contrast to your own country—full of liberty and respect for everybody's rights. It must seem peculiar to you to note how little the government interferes with citizens as they go about their daily work. And the absence of soldiers—that must strike you as strange after Russia. I feel sure that it must. Tell me, sir, what is it that you like best about America?"

The Russian's eyes lighted up. "Waffles," he replied.

DINER KNEW WAITER'S TRICKS.

Had No Intention of Paying for Other's Carelessness.

When the three men sat down the leader of the trio began a minute inspection of the tablecloth. Presently he put his finger on several little scorched spots.

"See this," he said to the waiter. "Yes, sir."

"Well," said the man, "just bear in mind, won't you, that these holes were here when we came in, and when we get through don't tack a dollar onto our bill to pay for burned table linen."

"That's all right," said the waiter. "I'll look out for that."

The order having been given the cautious diner elucidated his remarks still further. "That is a trick those fellows have," he said. "Somebody burns the tablecloth with sparks from a cigar and gets away before the damage is discovered, and the next comer, if he happens to be a smoker, is blamed for his predecessor's sins, and is charged with the cost of the linen. I have had to pay well for other people's carelessness, so nowadays I make it a point to examine tablecloths at the beginning of a meal."

Splitting the Difference.

When jurymen in Stony Gulch disagree, there is usually some member whose influence, backed by his recognized "handiness" with a gun, carries the day. "Some thought he'd ought to get \$3,000," said Bud Lewis, referring to a recent case, "but I persuaded 'em to compromise."

"Indeed," said the stranger, with a wary eye on Mr. Lewis' gun, which he seemed to be fondling in rather a careless way. "What sort of compromise?"

"I put it to 'em, 'Why not split the difference and call it \$500?' And when I'd brought my reason to bear on 'em," said Bud, with a loving gaze at his weapon of defense, "they all come round to that compromise in no time." Youths' Companion.

A Thirteenth Century Drink.

Thirteenth century tastes in food had few limitations. Besides the "fowl of Africa and the rare gadwit of Ionia" mentioned by Pliny, gourmets in the time of King John used to regale themselves on herons, cranes, crows, storks, comorants and bitterns. Some would wash their meals down with wine, but the majority drank mead or metheglin. Mead, according to Holinshed, was only the washing of the combs after the honey had been taken from them, and so poor a beverage that it had to be spiced, peppered or made palatable with sweetbair or thyme. But metheglin contained one hundredweight of honey to 24 gallons of water, and must have been much more intoxicating than the strongest old ale of the present day.

How an Alaska Hunter Got a Bear.

Joe Kanaka, a Jap, was in pursuit of large game a few days ago in the vicinity of Knik. Instead of being armed with a thirty-three or any firearm he carried only a coil of rope. Seeing a black bear feeding near a prospector's trail he sprang upon the bear's back and quickly had a noose of the rope around Bruin's neck.

The Jap held to one end of the rope and succeeded in tangling the bear in its coils, but the bear tore Kanaka's clothing to shreds. When the bear was thoroughly tangled the Jap beat him into submission and led him into Knik.—Valdes Prospector.

Keep Windows Open at Night.

To sleep without plenty of fresh air is to take just so much poison into your system. It means that you breathe the same air over and over again, and then you wonder why you feel so heavy and languid in the morning. No matter how cold the night, open your window as far as it will go. If you wrap yourself up properly you will not feel the cold. Wear a flannel gown and something over your head. The last thing before going to bed, fill a bottle with hot water, cork it tightly and place it in the bed. If you have plenty of bed coverings you will be as warm as possible all night.

Ready for the Call.

"The best man in Georgia," said the old farmer to his son, "came from the plow." "That's what I want to come from," said the youth, "an' mighty quick, too."—Atlanta Constitution.

FOGS OF LONDON AND PARIS.

French Capital Bids Fair to Suffer Worse Than the English.

A certain undesired supremacy has always been granted to London in the matter of fogs, and the London peasouper has always been considered unequalled in its way. But things have changed a good deal of late. In the first place, those of late years, notably that at the beginning of this month, have been overhead fogs, which made the noonday like night, although in the streets it was perfectly clear, and there was little or no dislocation of traffic. This is said to be owing to the fact that a few hundred feet up the air is cold enough to condense the moisture, whereas in the streets the air is warm enough to keep the moisture uncondensed. This variety of fog is certainly the least objectionable, for it enables people to go about their business without groping along the walls in utter darkness, as used to be the case. Another change that must be noted is the prevalence of fogs in Paris, notably in the present month, when in the first week the fog was much worse on the banks of the Seine than on the banks of the Thames. Some years ago, when Paris burned wood, the city had no real fogs, but now that it has taken to burning coal it has imported the "London particular." And as the Seine at Paris is not tidal, there is less chance of a breeze to carry away the fog than there is even in London.

RAISED FUNDS AND HAD JOKE.

Typical Anecdote Concerning Whistler, the Eccentric Artist.

Whistler's most recent biography has this to say of his early life in Paris: "Though frequently hard up, Whistler had an income which seemed princely to students who lived on nothing at all. If Whistler had money in his pockets, Mr. Ionides says, he spent it royally on others. If his pockets were empty he managed to refill them in a way that still amazes M. Oulevey, who, in proof of it, told us of the night when, after the cafe where they had squandered their last sous on kirsch had closed, he and Lambert and Whistler adjourned to the Halles for supper, ordered the best and ate it. Then he and Lambert stayed in the restaurant as hostages, while Whistler, at dawn, went off to find money to pay. He was back when they awoke with 300 or 400 francs in his pocket. He had been to see an American friend, he said, a painter. 'And, do you know, he had the bad manners to abuse the situation—he insisted on my looking at his pictures.'"

Diplomatic Sufferer.

It was at a well-known sanitarium. A number of frivolously disposed young convalescents were taking their ease on couches on one of the commodious sun-balconies of the establishment, and, despite the rules enjoining perfect silence upon all, were enjoying a lively conversation, mixed in with much giggling. Suddenly from the darkened depths of a room, the windows of which looked out upon their balcony, there came a plaintive voice.

"Will you youngk ladies be goot enough to adop dalking so loud?" said. "I was trying to vake up, undt your lofely voices lull me to sleep again efery time I gets mine eyes open already yet."—Harper's Weekly.

Girl Miner.

The west has a girl miner who works eight hours a day. Her name is Laura White, her age is 22 years, and she hails from San Francisco. Some time ago she located several mining claims in the dreary Funeral range, near the eastern edge of the famous Death Valley. One of the claims proved to be a rich one and she and her brother are working it alone.

The brother works at the bottom of the shaft and Miss White hoists the ore to the top. At first she wore skirts but finding that they impeded her work, she donned the miners' regulation boots and trousers, shirt and Mexican sombrero.

Climate Sharpens Appetite.

Probably the Eskimo banquets last longer than any others, and the quantity of food swallowed is also proportionately greater. Ross records that seven of his party of natives once ate continuously for 33 hours, during which time they consumed 200 pounds of seal meat. Europeans, exposed to the same climatic conditions, act in much the same way. Capt. Scott of the Discovery, on his return from his long sledge journey over the inland ice of the Antarctic continent, did nothing but eat and sleep for the space of three days and nights, and even then he was still hungry.

Wonderful Bamboo Organ.

In the old church of Los Pinos, near Manila, is a wonderful bamboo organ built by the Recoletos parish priest of that town, Father Diego Cera, in the year 1793. The upright bamboo pipes do not look unlike the metal pipes in a modern church organ, but a second set of pipes rest horizontally on a rack just above the keyboard. The organ is in use to this day and the bamboo is well preserved, Father Cera having a secret process of preserving the wood which he never divulged.

An Aeronautic Stunt.

"Money can't do everything." "No, but it can do some things better than man." "Foy instance?" "Well, I was thinking of its ability to fly."

CIRCUS MAN'S NARROW ESCAPE.

Exposure Only Averted Through Two Fortunate Circumstances.

An old circus man tells this incident as one of the narrow escapes he had in the show business. He had trained lions, zebras, leopards, rhino—you know—and all sorts of beasts of prey, but this, he says, was his narrowest escape.

It was when he was running a dime museum in Milwaukee.

One day a mild-mannered Russian came out of the railway station up at the town that was made famous, with a valise in his hand. He was a heavily bearded man and with shaggy hands and arms like George Esau. He hunted up a cabman and inquired modestly: "Where is the dime museum?"

The cabman told him and then asked: "Want to ride up?"

"Yes," the bearded stranger told him quietly, almost bashfully, "I'm to be employed up there. I'm the wild man."

"The narrow escape," says the circus man, "lay in the fact that no newspaper men heard the man's remark, and that the cabman was an Englishman, with no sense of humor, who never thought to repeat it."

MISTAKES OF MENTAL WORKERS.

Few Endeavor to Keep Themselves in Proper Physical Trim.

Neglect of physical development is responsible for many of the ills to which the vast army of men workers is heir. Men and women who labor in offices are even forgetting how to use their legs, so convenient is it to resort to street cars, though the distance to be covered may be but a few blocks.

The best mental work is performed by those who keep in good physical trim. Generally, the incentive for this is lacking. It is perfectly possible for every mental worker to take daily, systematic exercise, though it may be only a brisk walk in the open air or a few free-hand movements on rising in the morning or retiring at night. Few, however, gain sufficient exhilaration in these diversions. Most people are more strongly attracted by games, competitions or the forms of exercise entered into by a considerable body of persons in unison. More than that, most people would prefer to watch others in these pastimes than to enter into them in person.

Rules for Good Health.

To keep in good health it is necessary to have regular hours for eating and sleeping. Meals should be arranged to be served at the same time each day and there should be no hurrying. Go to bed at a set hour and rise regularly. A cold bath is a very great aid toward maintaining health and beauty, but if it is too great a shock to the system then a tepid bath will do. Do not, however, neglect the morning bath. It is a great deal easier, of course, to start taking a cold bath in summer than in winter—any way to contract the habit. Do not eat between meals—it is injurious to the complexion and to the general health. Even afternoon tea is not at all good for the average woman or man.

The Ox's Affections.

Oxen usually die in pairs. One yoke fellow seldom survives the other. Working and resting side by side through many long years these patient animals develop so strong, so deep and abiding an affection for one another that separation means death.

When a pair of oxen are yoked together in youth they fight. Their mutual hatred is as great as would be that of two men yoked together. But with the years' passage they cease to kick and butt. They become friends. And this friendship ripens at last into an overmastering affection which, it may be, consoles the mild, laborious creatures in some measure for the lifelong cruelties heaped on them by man.

A Surprise for the Thief.

Herr Hager, a rich and influential banker, frequently had watches picked from his pocket. At first he had recourse to all kinds of safety chains; then one morning he took no precaution whatever, and quietly allowed himself to be robbed. At night, on returning from his business, he took up the evening paper; he uttered an exclamation of delight. A watch had exploded in a man's hands. The victim's hands were shattered and the left eye destroyed. The crafty banker had filled the watch case with dynamite, which exploded in the operation of winding.

School That Turns Out Heroes.

Wednesday was a high day at Eton; perhaps it might be called a saint's day, too. Has ever before one school sent 1,400 of its sons to fight for their country in one war? Has ever school had 120 of them killed in the same war? Eton is unique. There are other great schools, but Eton stands on its own plane. Criticize Eton as you may, show all its faults; it is Eton still. Eton may reflect many of the proverbial shortcomings of Englishmen; certainly it represents peculiarly their traditional virtues.—Saturday Review.

Too Busy.

"What we want," said the reformer, "is a leader who is wholly unselfish; a man absolutely above all mercenary considerations." "Yes," answered the man with chilly eyes; "and when you find that kind of a man, he's generally broke and compelled to work hard for a living instead of studying economic theories."

NEEDED TO HAVE RICH FATHER.

Youth's Living Expenses on a Rather Extravagant Scale.

David Belasco, the great manager and playwright, complained bitterly the other day of a man who had duped him—a man who, pretending to be a millionaire, had promised to invest \$250,000 in the erection of a "model" theater.

"He took me in," Mr. Belasco frankly admitted. "I have, I suppose, too sanguine a nature. I expect, I suppose—in the way of success, fortune, happiness—the impossible. At any rate, taken in I was."

"In my exorbitant demands on life," said Mr. Belasco, "I resemble a young friend of mine, a banker's son. This lad is very amiable, but very extravagant. His load of debt is always, like the load of Atlas, unspcakably huge."

"His father said to him last New Year's day:

"Now, Sam, I want you to turn over a new leaf. No debts in 1909. Eh, is it agreed?"

"Yes, sir," said Sam heartily.

"His father took out his check book.

"How much a year do you need, Sam," he said, "in order to live as you want to and at the same time keep entirely out of debt?"

"Sam, after musing, answered with a bright smile:

"About \$15,000 a year—and all my expenses paid."

UTILIZING HIS SPARE MOMENTS.

Congenial Occupation for Hubby Just Before the Opera.

Husband (who is going to the opera with his wife)—There! I took time by the forelock, to-night. Here I am, an hour beforehand, with my evening clothes all on and everything ready. Now I'll go down stairs and have a quiet smoke, while you get ready. Wife—Oh! darling, can you ever forgive me?

"What's the matter now?"

"Why, the cook tells me the furnace fire went out this afternoon, as the furnace man failed to come. The baby has a cold, you know. Would you mind going down in the cellar and making it over? You've just got time, love."

Good for the Liver.

When the liver is bad life is jaundiced. Nothing will be right and woe will flock—in imagination. Therefore, keep in good trim. If you think your liver is torpid take it in time. Change your diet; go in hard for systematic and outdoor exercise, special calisthenics to act on the liver and deep breathing. Avoid rich food, especially in hot weather. Eat plenty of fresh vegetables, fruit, Graham or whole-wheat bread and not too much meat. If milk makes you bilious, it is better not to drink it. As soon as you begin to feel bilious and your eyeballs look yellow, drink lemon and water. Not lemonade, for the acid of the sugar and lemon is injurious, but the juice of half a lemon squeezed into a glass of water. This can be taken hot at bedtime and cold, but not iced, in the morning.

Singing as Evidence.

Appropos the prodigiously long orations of the Maoris, written a correspondent, it may amuse your readers to know that only a little over twenty years ago my uncle, a judge in New Zealand, was obliged to issue an order to the effect that "in future singing would not be taken as evidence" in his court. It was the constant habit of the Maoris when pleading a cause to sing long and quite poetic sagas. As these generally begin with legends of their remote ancestors, sometimes many hours, even days, would be spent before the point (possibly a trivial one) was reached. There is something Gilbertian in this idea, but any old New Zealander could vouch for the facts.

The Walrus' Defenses.

A full-grown walrus will weigh as much as 2,000 pounds, a mountainous mass of muscle and blubber. He is armed with tusks of ivory, sometimes two feet in length, and when from his upturned bulk these formidable weapons are plunged downward upon an enemy they are as resiliant as the flap of a gullotine. Such a thick layer of blubber lies under the skin that he is practically clad in an armor impervious to teeth and claws alike. So, unless the bear is greatly favored by luck, he has little chance to overthrow his antagonist.—From St. Nicholas.

Dog Ghosts.

The phantom dog specter was one of the hardest of old English superstitions. Almost every county had its black dog which haunted its lonely spots and was the dread of every native. Most of them were regarded as devils, but some were held to be the spirits of human beings, transformed thus as a punishment. Lady Howard, a Devon noble of the days of James I, for instance, was said to be compelled to haunt Okehampton in the form of a dog as a punishment for her cruelty to her daughter.

Puzzle Made Plain.

Readers of "Gulliver's Travels" are naturally brought up sharp when first confronted by the word Houyhnhnna, the name given to the half horse half man creature, whose reasoning power Dean Swift makes so acute. The word is obviously an attempt to spell out the sound given by a horse's neigh—but the philologists call somatopoeia—but one hesitates to pronounce it. An eminent English authority—no less than Prof. Sambury—approves its pronunciation to rhyme with minium, and it has been so used in English verse.