

PORTUGAL'S OPEN DOOR.

Our Minister to That Country Devises Means to Grant Opportunity for American Dealers There.

Francis B. Loomis, the United States minister to Portugal, says: "There is an excellent field in Portugal now for the introduction of American machinery, carpenters and mechanics' tools, agricultural implements, etc. The Portuguese are increasing the area of their grain production with the object of raising all their own grain, and wherever they have a good crop they can easily do it. This movement commenced a few years back when they used to import grain from the United States. They have now discovered that their country is very fertile and they need modern implements to develop it, because they frequently use methods of agriculture that they had hundreds of years ago.

"American machinery could be introduced with Lisbon and Oporto as the distributing points. The work must be done carefully and systematically, however, by men accustomed to deal with Latin peoples. The best thing would be for our manufacturers to establish a general exporting agency that could maintain a small permanent exhibition of American manufactures.

"Americans are doing a large business in the colony of Angola. The people of Lisbon have just had a tremendous object lesson of American enterprise and efficiency in the construction of electrical tramways in the most difficult part of the country by a Philadelphia engineer. All American material was used. The people call the cars 'Americanos.' The work was done by the South African companies, Westinghouse, Bell & Co., who have obtained similar contracts elsewhere in Portugal."

Mr. Loomis adds that King Carlos always referred kindly to America. He continually seeks the American scientific reports of deep sea soundings, geographical commissions, etc.

TO MAKE TIMBER TESTS.

Bureau of Forestry to Learn the Strength and Durability of Lumber of Country.

Preparations are being made by the bureau of forestry for intensive tests in the strength and durability of timbers in the different parts of the country, most of them scarcely known to manufacturers and lumber dealers. Many tests made of the strength of well-known timbers, are particularly dependent on account of the faulty machinery used in testing. The machinery to be used in these new tests is of the most approved sort and the tests will be final in the minds of dealers and builders. Experiments are constantly being made in this bureau with timbers neglected by lumbermen throughout the country, but which by careful treatment are made to take the place of the various forest growths which are in such constant demand as to threaten the destruction of the species in some parts of the country.

Along this line the department has just made a report on the much deplorable hemlock, so prolific in the extreme west. By fair tests made of the wood it is shown by the department that it can be substituted for redwood or cedar, many forests of which have been entirely demolished by injudicious cutting. The report shows that hemlock is best adapted for uses which require ease of working, handsome finish, and lightness combined with considerable strength.

It has been found suitable for flooring, joists and scantling, laths, siding, ceiling, and other such purposes, excelling most other woods for boxes. Tests are also being carefully carried on in the Philippines, where the imports of insects are so great.

TO RAISE OUR OWN COFFEE.

Outlook Promising for United States Obtaining All It Needs from Island Possessions.

Frank D. Gardner, in charge of the experiment station of the department of agriculture at Mayaguez, Porto Rico, just returned to Washington, reports on experiments carried on there to assist in the growth and culture of such tropical fruits as the orange, lemon, olive, guava, and other fruits, as well as coffee and other staple crops which are likely to add to the revenue of the island. The coffee interests are being pushed to success, and it is believed, with the Philippines and Hawaii, enough coffee can be raised to meet the entire demands of this country in the near future.

TO GIVE SUBMARINE TRIPS.

A Swiss Amusement Company Arranges Excursions Under Water.

It is now known that the Grubst submarine boat, recently sold at Paris, at auction, was purchased by a Swiss amusement company, which intends to give submerged excursions in Lake Geneva. The prospectus says the tickets will be \$25 and the distance covered will be 25 miles under water and a mile and a half on the surface. In order to demonstrate the safety of the boat, each passenger will be presented with a free life insurance policy for \$2,500.

A Timely Warning. Certain thoughtful scientists have found out that the universal habit of using the teeth on the left side more than those on the right in chewing is slowly but surely working the human mouth over to the left side of the face, and that in a few thousand years it will be close to the left ear. The warning may have come in time, providentially, says the Chicago Tribune, to save mankind from such a horrible fate.

GOLDEN GATE CITY LEADS.

San Francisco Shows the Largest Percentage of Suicides—Chicago Ranks Third.

The number of people who voluntarily shut off this mortal coil in American and other cities during last year has been investigated by some figures in statistics and the following figures indicate the result: San Francisco leads with the largest total, 21.1 per 100,000 of population. Next comes another Pacific coast city, Los Angeles, with a ratio of 18.8. The reader has naturally been looking for Chicago, and that city does, in fact, come next with a ratio of 16.6, followed by the neighboring city of Milwaukee, whose ratio is 15.2. New Orleans was the scene of the self-destruction of 11.5 persons per 100,000 of population, and Cincinnati followed close with 11.2. New Haven is next with 10.9, and then comes the borough of Manhattan with 10.8, though greater New York as a whole is well down the list with a ratio of only 12.8. This is less than Rochester, Indianapolis, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Baltimore, Boston, Detroit, Omaha and Louisville, besides all of those specifically enumerated above. As to the foreign cities, Paris leads the list with a ratio of 42, followed by Berlin 38, Vienna 33 and London 28. There were more suicides in Saxony than in any other country, 31.1 per 100,000. In Denmark the ratio was 25.2, in Austria 31.2, in France 15.7, in the German empire 14.3, and Sweden, Norway, Belgium, Great Britain, Italy, the United States and Spain followed in the order given.

The table referring to American cities is somewhat difficult to explain. Why the city of the golden gate, and California, with its glorious climate, its sunshine, its fruit and its flowers, should show the greatest number of suicides seems a mystery, unless the presence of a large Chinese population explains it. The high suicide rate of Chicago is, perhaps, accounted for by the rank and struggle of that great city and the large foreign element it contains—a foreign element, moreover, which comes mainly from those countries where suicide is most frequent. The same is perhaps true of Milwaukee and Cincinnati. The high rate of New Orleans may possibly be attributed to its relation to France and the ideas and traditions brought here from Paris, the suicide capital of the world. But New York city casts a shadow over some of these explanations. How are the large foreign populations, the stress and strain of living and working, the poverty, the excitement, the Philadelphia, the shining city of the humanities paragon, has a higher ratio of suicides than greater New York. And how is it to be explained that New Haven leads all the other New England cities in the number of suicides? St. Paul and Minneapolis tie side by side, but in Minneapolis the ratio is 11.4 and in St. Paul it is but 6.5. It seems that the conclusions must be that there is no method in suicide madness and that the effort to reduce it to rule is doomed to failure.

CARP OUSTING WILD DUCK.

Unseen Themselves, They Have Destroyed the Wild Rice Fields in Ontario, Canada.

The singular complaint comes from various parts of northern Ontario that fish are responsible for the disappearance of certain kinds of game. In localities which were formerly noted for the excellent duck shooting which they offered the birds are now scarce to be had at all. The ducks, geese and other aquatic birds were formerly in the habit of frequenting the large fields of wild rice in the lakes and streams of parts of Ontario, but now these fields have been, in many instances, destroyed by the German carp, which has found its way into these waters. The reputation of this detestable fish not only ruins the flavor of its own flesh, but exhausts the food supply of some of the most desirable forms of feathered game, says the New York Sun.

The Ontario inspector of fisheries, who has been in northern Ontario for the last few weeks, reports that the German carp has not only become dangerous to other fish, as has been frequently claimed, but that in Cook's bay, Lake Simcoe, where there were formerly hundreds of acres of wild rice, not a spear of that plant is to be seen to-day. The same is true of the Holland river, where there were at one time 1,500 acres of rice. The carp have eaten its root, branch and seed. The almost incredible part of it is that the fish have entirely destroyed the fields in one year. The aquatic birds which visit the locality, finding that all their usual feeding grounds have disappeared, out short their visit and move away in search of others. The local sportsmen complain, too, that the carp have attacked the beds of wild celery, and that they, too, are almost completely destroyed.

It remains to be seen what the effect of this wholesale destruction of aquatic vegetation will be upon the game fishes of the locality. The fishery officer of the district declares that it is a question whether the spawn of the muskallonge can be protected and developed without the rice beds. He does not accuse the carp of eating the eggs of the other fish, but states that they keep the water continually disturbed, and that to their presence in these waters must be attributed the decrease in the number of muskallonge frequenting them for spawning purposes.

A Monster Mushroom. Weigh three pounds four ounces, circumference forty-five inches, is the description of another monster mushroom which has been gathered at Braconash, Norwich, England.

PLAGUE OF LUXURY.

How It Has Fallen Upon the People with Progressive Times.

With the Introduction of Modern Conveniences and the Country's Growth in Wealth, Even the First Swallow Lays High.

The growth of luxurious living in America was very slow during the first 20 years of the republic. Indeed, up to the breaking out of our civil war the inequalities of fortune were not so marked as to make those who lived spontaneously according to the standards of those days seem as far removed from the merely well-to-do as to be almost in another world. In the earlier days, any cogger and industries man could prosper, even though he did not perform merely manual labor. There was work for every one to do, and no one was more in demand than Mr. Jackson of all trades, who now walks superficially in the dusty highway, with no one to applaud his adaptability, save to need his ingenious services. Food was plenty, land was cheap, rents were low. Be honest and you will be happy, were not mere platitudes, it was the solemn and the grateful truth. Pretty nearly every one lived well, but pretty nearly all lived plainly. With better houses, with better water supply, with improved lamps for illumination and then with the introduction of illuminating gas, and most of all with the greater wealth which came at the end of the civil war, the growth of luxurious living began taking tremendous strides. Luxury with poor light after sunset, luxury with few of the means of personal cleanliness, does not mean much to us nowadays. Why, a man in a Harlem flat at \$200 a year can command more of the kind of luxury just mentioned than any the dissolute Charles II. ever dreamed of. But the wealth that comes with new fortunes to new people was really what began the race which may be called the Mill-Momies Status for all ages, says a writer in *Albion's Magazine*.

Before those stakes were opened there were a few fortunes in this country. Some were made in the trade with the east, some were made in strictly domestic commerce, and some were founded in piracy, and other adventures by sea, but the greatest number and the most stable were those which came from the shrewd investments in land which was enhanced in value by the growth of cities. Even up to the time that the newly rich began to splurge, the owners of the fortunes just mentioned were pretty generally tolerably plain people, who lived very quietly and looked upon those who made unusual display as too vulgar to come inside the sacred pale which called itself society. In New York, this class of people at the time mentioned lived in the neighborhood of Washington Square; in Philadelphia, toward the foot of Walnut street, and in Boston, in that ever sacred Beacon street. They were slow but sure. They had no doubt about their position, or the propriety with which they maintained their dignity. They did what they pleased, but they did not please to be in the least fantastic, theatrical, ostentatious or conspicuous. And until the newly rich had arrived, with the manifest intention to stay permanently, there were none with either the ambition or the ability to dispute this supremacy, which was maintained not by an aggressiveness, but by the passive power of inertia.

ADVICE FOR A WAITER.

How a Diner Made Sure that the Man Would Remember Him Next Time.

"One Chicago man, laboring under the disadvantage of extreme provocation, recently found a novel way of informing an arrogant waiter that his method of serving was wholly unsatisfactory, says the Chicago Tribune.

The meal had been an exasperating one. Whenever the waiter was wanted he could not be found. When he was not wanted he was hovering about the table attempting to hear what was being said. The host and his friends had been compelled to ask emphatically for every accompaniment of the meal, even down to knives, forks and spoons, so by the time the coffee and cheese had been shoved aside they were in anything but a pleasant frame of mind. Still, throughout the meal the man who was doing the honors retained his composure, and did not once find fault with the waiter in the latter's presence. But he was reserving his ammunition for future delivery.

He asked for his check. The waiter brought it with a gracious bow and it was paid. Then the host arose with considerable dignity, and, reaching in his pocket, extracted a quarter, which he handed to the anxious looking waiter.

"Now," asked the host, after he had paid the customary tip, "do you think you would remember me if I came in here again?"

"O, yes, sir, yes, sir, I'm sure I would," replied the waiter, with a suave smile of satisfaction.

"Well," continued the exasperated guest, "I want you to remember me. Take one more good look at me, so you will make no mistake. And if you ever see me in this place in the future you will keep just as far away from me as the walls will allow. If you should attempt to wait on me again, I give you fair warning that I'll bounce one of these oak chairs off the top of your head."

With this parting shot the outraged guest wheeled on his heel and walked briskly from the place. The waiter did not recover for half an hour.

THE MURKOUS.

Seizing the Opportunity—Teacher—What is the proper name for the dog you call 'Tommy'—When the dog is chained—Detroit Free Press.

Solly—"What's the matter with you, Smith? What are you looking about?" Smith—"None called me a doggie?" Solly—"I see and you are bent on proving it."—Boston Transcript.

Trips Sorrow—"Now, then, Tommy," said the stern father, "are you sorry?" "Yes, sir," sobbed Tommy, who had been punished. "And do you remember what you're sorry for?" "Yes, I'm sorry 'at you're so blamed cross."—Philadelphia Press.

Self-Approval—"When I was a young man I was too proud to ask my father for money," remarked Mr. Cumrox. "Well," answered the youth with the fancy year, "I hate to talk about myself; but if there is anything on which I pride myself, it's not being proud."—Washington Star.

Husband—"What's your wrong with that house we looked at yesterday?" Wife—"It's too big." Husband—"Well, the one we visited to-day, then?" Wife—"It's too small." Husband—"Say, what sort of a house do you want?" Wife—"Sir! I do not propose to commit myself!"—Boston Post.

Bishop Williams, of Connecticut, for many years presiding bishop of the Episcopal church in America, and who lived all his life a bachelor, was talking one day with a young man from the west about a tax a western state was trying to impose on bachelors.

"Why, bishop," said the young man, "at your age you would have to pay about \$100 a year." "Well," said the bishop, quietly and in his old-time vernacular, "it's worth it."

WHO ARE FIT FOR MARRIAGE?

This is a Pending Question Which Each Man Must Solve for Himself.

Enigmas are plentiful in this world, but none more puzzling than the query: "When should a man marry?" The clerk or mechanic earning anywhere from \$7 to \$15 per week has the same desire to make a home for himself, with a priding angel, of course, as do those more lucky young men with fortunes of their own. If the \$10 clerk, let us say, is really in love, he hugs to his heart not only the object of his adoration, but the dream that the old adage is true, that "What is enough for one is enough for two."

But frequently the maiden fair who is to do the priding angel act does not agree with him on this point. She may have visions of seal skin coats, or even automobiles, and other "necessaries" of modern life. But it seems that the German kaiser has issued an edict, in view of the perplexed condition of the public mind, which settles the question in his country, at least, so far as army officers are concerned. The emperor has promulgated an order to the effect that no officer may marry unless he receives a salary of \$1,125 a year and has also an income of \$275 more. That is to say, if he and his future wife between them can muster \$1,500, the wedding bells may ring. The hopes of the \$15 young man are dashed, for officers who get no more than \$750 a year are forbidden to even consider matrimony.

Neither are the sons of the rich Americans without their matrimonial troubles, continues a writer in the Detroit News-Tribune. Every one of them must own a city residence and a country home or seaside "cottage," which interpreted often means a "palace by the sea." A writer in Harper's Weekly suggests that national legislation on this subject might be beneficial, the details being classified something as follows:

Bachelors who think the income of one is enough for two, \$20,000. Bachelors who know the young women are in love with them, and who themselves are willing to go without clubs, cigars and valets, whatever they may happen to have. Bank cashiers whose fiancées have extravagant tastes, \$50,000 a year. Millionaires, \$100,000 a year and unlimited credit.

With the aid of some of these old-world ideas propounded by Wilhelm II., salutary reforms may be inaugurated here in the taking of matrimonial obligations.

Statistics of Education. In education the three Slav countries—Boumania, Servia and Russia—are the least civilized. In these countries the number of those who cannot read or write is in the percentage of 80 for every 100 of population. Among the Latin races Spain has the least enviable record, namely, 65 for every 100; next comes Italy, with 46 to 100, and France and Belgium, with 14 to 100. In Hungary the proportion is 43 to 100, in Austria 39, in Ireland 21, in Holland 10 and in England 9. The white population of the United States counts 5 to 100, and Scotland 7. The countries purely German show a remarkable reduction in the number of the illiterate, the German empire having but one illiterate to every 100 of the population. In Bavaria, and, above all, in Baden and Wurtemberg, there are scarcely any. In Scandinavian homo ignorans is a species which has entirely disappeared. — Educational Journal.

Too Much Water. Little Tommy, when told that he was growing fat, answered: "Yes, too fat. I think they water me too much. Why, I have to take a bath every morning!"—Little Chronicle.

Revival of Dormant Seeds. Turnip seeds have been known to be dormant for seven years through being planted too deep, and after that time to sprout. — Nature.

SCHOOLS AND CHURCH.

The total income of Oxford university is about \$2,000,000. OF CHURCH BRIDGE \$150,000.

A motor car was used as a paig by the captain of a British volunteer regiment at the Colchester maneuvers. Dr. John Matthews, pastor of the Methodist church, of Nashville, Tenn., recently finished the first vacation he has taken since he entered the ministry, 37 years ago. He grived because no one joined the church in the five weeks of his absence.

An English curate who has just entered the workhouse at Fiverton, after being without employment for three years, had made 470 unsuccessful applications for a piece. He had previously served 23 years as a curate, but found that vicars wanted only young men.

M. Richon, a French millionaire, has bequeathed \$120,000 as a fund to enable French students to study philosophy and religious sciences in German universities, and \$20,000 more to the College de France to provide for a German university professor to lecture in Paris.

A four-story, centrally located Y. M. C. A. building has been opened in Shanghai, China, as the faxes department. The success of this venture is assured by the strong financial backing of resident Anglo-Saxon merchants and bankers and by the appointment of Dr. H. G. Barrie as secretary.

It is announced as Cornell university that three women have signified their intention of studying civil engineering in that institution next year. This is a decided innovation for Cornell. Heretofore no woman has taken that course. One woman from Rochester several years ago completed a major part of the work in Miley college. She gained the soubriquet of "Miley Kate," by taking the foundry and blacksmithing shop work with the men.

Foxley parish, near East Dereham, has perhaps the most wonderful record in England. It has only changed its rector once in 116 years. In 1799 Rev. J. Sloughston took the living and held it until 1866, when Canon Norgate, the present rector, was appointed. The venerable canon is himself one of the oldest rectors in England, having a record of 98 years of clerical service. He preached a sermon on the coronation of Queen Victoria and had never had the assistance of a curate until this year.

ILLS CAUSED BY HURRY.

There Are Diseases That Are Attributable to the Stress and Strain of City Life.

To point to the hurry and stress of modern town life as the cause of half the ills to which flesh to-day is heir has become almost a commonplace in sociological diagnosis. The old-fashioned complaints, says the London Lancet, might almost excite a medical man's pity, so much do they seem to be crowded out by those active, widespread young fellows, neuritis, neurasthenia and a whole young family of nervous ills, the offspring of the strained existence of to-day.

A chain is as strong as its weakest link, and to-day it appears that the nervous system is the weak link of the organism. The weakness is not natural. It is acquired because the strain upon this link is so often almost constant and out of proportion to the wearing power of the material. Whether as generations advance individual nervous systems will more easily bear the labor asked from them or not, at any rate, it may fairly be assumed that in the early days of any new style of life the generations born under an old regime have the worst of it.

We may imagine future generations perfectly calm among a hundred telephones and sleeping sweetly through airships whizz among countless electric wires over their heads and a perpetual night traffic of motor cars hurries past their bedroom windows. As yet, it must be sorrowfully confessed, our nervous systems are not so callous. Some of us still start at the telephone ring and find the irregularities of the instrument a source of irritation and worry.

Fortunately, the very causes of nerve exhaustion so far as improved rapidity of locomotion may be counted one of them, provide one important counter-acting feature of town life at the present day. We are alluding to the facility with which those whose week days are spent in city toil may spend the seventh in breathing the fresh air and beholding the innocent joys of the rustic.

Without trains, electric tramways and motor cars, a wholesome change of scenery and surroundings would be scarcely possible in the limited time available.

We do not wish to undervalue for a moment the value of parks and open spaces—the "city's lungs." For many these afford the only possibility of a Sunday in at any rate comparatively fresh air. Those large numbers, though, who habitually find the Sabbath's rest in a day's wholesome exercise at some little distance from their work-a-day center may spare a moment from the usual condemnatory attitude toward the bottle, rush and clutter of up-to-date locomotion to bless the games which enable them so profitably to enjoy the day.

Soaked Corn. Both six ears of young corn; cut it from the cob and put into a buttered pudding dish. Melt one tablespoonful of butter in one pint of hot milk, season to taste and pour it slowly over a beaten egg. Stir well, and mix with buttered crumbs, and brown well it with the corn. Sprinkle the top in a quick oven. Serve hot. — Ladies' Work, New York.

JOSS AND SAINT IN NEW YORK.

A Comparison of Christian and Buddhist Observances in the Metropolitan.

Long-ago missionaries, whose ethnologic notions were a little bit confused, declared that Buddhism was a palpable imitation of, if not a deliberate steal from, Christianity. Besides the similarities in tenet were those in ritual and ceremony. This likeness may be seen by any New Yorker for himself, save the fact of that city. The heavy immigration of Neoplatonians and Stoics has produced several notable imitations in New York, which celebrate the festus of home with more enthusiasm even than is observed in the fatherland. A feature of these celebrations is the presentation of votive candles to patron saints and to the Virgin.

On the other hand, in Chinatown nearly every grocery store carries a stock of oriental votive candles, which are presented to Buddha; the Goddess of Mercy, Kwang Yin; the God of War, Kwang Ti; and the God of Literature, Man-Mo-Mew. These candles are made to suit all tastes, as well as all conditions of the pocketbook. They range from poor, cheap, little red affairs like the Christmas-tree candles, up to stately creations, four, five and six feet in length. The Italians use both red and white, while the Chinese confine themselves almost exclusively to red. They use white and yellow upon special occasions, a white candle being a symbol of death and a yellow one of heaven, or the Son of Heaven, who is the emperor of the celestial kingdom.

Formerly both the Chinese and Italians depended for their candles upon importing merchants. In the last few months the manufacture has sprung up in this city, and now attains fair proportions. It may be seen that the New York candles are better bits of workmanship than the imported ones. The latter are usually softer and greater than the former and produce a smokier light. The homemade are manufactured from stearin, paraffin, or wax, although the last-named substance is growing into disuse. The finest quality imported from China are made from insect wax especially perfumed, while one variety of the Italian imported is made from clarified wax of fine quality, perfumed with the mild scent of blossoms.

Both Italian and Chinese employ a candle which is really a shell within which the candle itself is placed and held in position by means of a helical spring at the bottom of the shell. These shells are often profusely decorated and are strikingly handsome. The Italians prefer an ornamentation leaf-work and geometrical patterns, while the Chinese like minute bead-works, and landscapes. A handsome shell with candle within ranges from one dollar up to fifty, according to size and workmanship. It is durable and is used as an ornament in a church or a joss-house for many years.

A MONKEY'S SAGACITY.

After Being Harried by a Dog, Smart Creature Went to a Hospital for Treatment.

From Baroda comes a wonderful story of a monkey's sagacity. A wild langur monkey in the cantonment had been harried by a dog. After it had got free this intelligent simian made its way to the hospital grounds, a quarter of a mile distant. Here it rested in a tree until evening, reports the London Express.

At seven p. m., seeing the coast clear, it quietly came down and went straight into the hospital, where, without any further hesitation, it took possession of a vacant bed. The hospital assistant tried to turn it out, but it was of no use; and as he could find no rule providing for the admission of monkey patients, met the case by having the bed with the monkey on it removed out to the veranda. The following morning the medical officer, on his visit to the hospital, found that the poor animal had been badly bitten. He ordered some baidanum to be put into his drinking water in order to relieve its suffering. The animal drank it readily.

In the evening the doctor took a lady and gentleman to see the monkey, and they were simply astounded at the manner in which it was making gestures with its hands as if beckoning to the medical officer. The monkey seemed to realize it was being cared for, as whenever food or water was given to it, it quietly lifted up one of its hands and placed it gently on the giver's, with a look as much as to say: "Well, it is no good of you."

The hearing of the animal in all its actions was that of a very old sick man. Unfortunately it died.

Diamond History. Diamonds are said to have been first found in the state of Bahia in 1821. In the range of mountains known as Serra do Sincora; but not until 1828—when Jose Pereira do Prado, who was traveling from that region to Bahia City and camped for the night on the bank of the Moege, a small tributary to the Paraguaçu river, and there by accident found a quantity of diamonds—was an impetus given to mining for the precious stones. — Mining Journal.

No Compliment. "You bear it like a little man," said the dentist, after he had pulled the tooth. "Huh!" exclaimed Tommy. "I'm a heap prittler than that. I bear it like a little woman." For Tommy was an observing boy. — Chicago Tribune.