

QUEER PLANT THAT SULK

Mimosa pudica Creeps Its Leaves and Then Folds Them Up When Molested.

This pot plant lays claim to no distinctive beauty, but possesses such queer, interesting habits, that it is attractive to have growing indoors in winter. The curious thing about it is that by sulking in a marked manner it makes known its resentment at being disturbed or molested. If one leaf-tip is touched, the petiole, or foot stock of the leaf connecting the blade with the stem, droops downward and the tiny leaflets, of which the whole leaf is composed, fold up one after the other, and soon the next leaf follows the action of the first, and so on, until the entire plant takes on a most sullen, gloomy, imposed-upon attitude.

A spell of the "sulks" may be brought on by a gentle shaking of the main stalk or by holding a lighted match some distance beneath the leaf-tips. A shower of rain, too, will cause the leaves to fold up in a few seconds, and at nightfall this queer plant sulks in a determined way, remaining folded all night long, to open only with the next morning's sunlight.

Botanists are unable thoroughly to understand the movements of this queer plant. The very young, tender specimens are extremely sensitive and move more quickly than older ones. Botanically, it is *Mimosa pudica*, commonly known as the sensitive plant. It may be found in most florists' establishments, growing in pots, quite convenient to be carried home to one's own window garden. If one prefers to grow the plants from seed, they should be planted a quarter of an inch deep in well-pulverized soil, and placed in a sunny window. The plants will grow from one to two feet tall; the leaves will be delicate green, and, eventually, flowers, fluffy balls of pinkish lavender, will bloom.

Giant Parrot of the Rockies.

Science now knows that there once lived in the Rocky mountains a giant parrot, with a massive beak and a raucous voice, which might have sounded like a megaphone for miles through the ancient marshes of prehistoric America. The bird stood seven feet tall, and its huge head was two and a half feet long. Of this there is no question. One nearly complete skeleton exists, and fragments of others, including skulls have been dug up. Perhaps 3,000,000 years have elapsed since this mighty fowl trod the earth. Although so mighty, the giant parrot was neither so big nor so formidable as another great bird whose remains have recently been dug up in Patagonia. The latter was a cursorial (running) bird of prey, a monster of the heron family. In fact, it was by far the biggest bird of prey that ever lived, and probably attacked with success large-sized animals. This remarkable fowl, says one authority, had a head bigger than that of a horse, with a huge beak as sharp as a pick. It stood eight feet high on its sharp-clawed feet. Its neck was as thick as a horse's neck, and its limbs very massive. Like the giant parrot, it had wings too small to be of any use for flight.

Love's Awakening.

Dear Sir—I am too excited for words. I have just experienced all the joys of having a pretty girl flirt with me. I found my chest expanded, my shoulders back, my head up and, most gratifying of all, my repeatedly condemned conceit for the moment justified. Ah, what a tonic!

'Twas in an elevator in the Insurance Exchange. I was alone in the car (pardoning the operator) when she entered—not too tall—not too short—a blue-eyed blonde—young and llesome. Do you wonder my heart skipped a beat? And then she looked toward me and smiled, while one coy hand brushed from dimpled cheek an imaginary silken strand of the spun gold that was her crowning glory.

Skeptical as ever, I hastily brought my right heel down heavily upon my left foot's pet corn and found I was awake. She was still smiling, and slowly I beamed upon her . . . my skepticism vanished.

A frown replaced the smile as the owner's fairy knuckles caressed my cheek . . . and my skepticism returned as I spat out three teeth. . .

How was I to know there was a mirror back of me? —*Sam Nix.*

Who Was First Printer?

A New York collector recently bought a rare copy of the Bible, known as the Gutenberg Bible, the first book printed from movable type. He paid \$60,000 for it. Now this claim of being the first book printed from movable type has been disputed by the Hollanders. The Germans claim Gutenberg invented the art of printing, but in the flower city of Haarlem, Holland, there stands on the Grootte Markt a statue of Laurens Koster, another inventor of the art of printing. It is quite possible that two different men hit upon the idea at the same time, but then the Chinese could print ten centuries before the birth of Christ.

Ancients Had Speed Boats.

Folks in King Tut's time were not so slow. Carl Mitman, in cataloguing the ship models in his department of the Smithsonian Institution, points out that Egyptians built boat hulls of the correct form for speed nearly 4,000 years before modern scientific designers arrived at the same conclusions. Vikings had the right idea and Malay tribes had the wave line theory of construction down to perfection when English and American sail boats were clumsy tubs.

Income Tax Reduction.

In connection with the effect of the new tax reduction bill, which was signed by the president Monday, on the balance due for income tax and with special reference to the June 15 payment, Major John F. Jones, collector of internal revenue, has issued the following statement: "If at the time you filed your federal income

tax return you paid three-fourths of the amount of tax reported on further payment thereon will be due. If at the time return was filed one-half of the amount of the tax reported was paid no payment will be due until September 15. If at the time return was filed you paid only one-fourth of the amount reported due you must pay on or before June

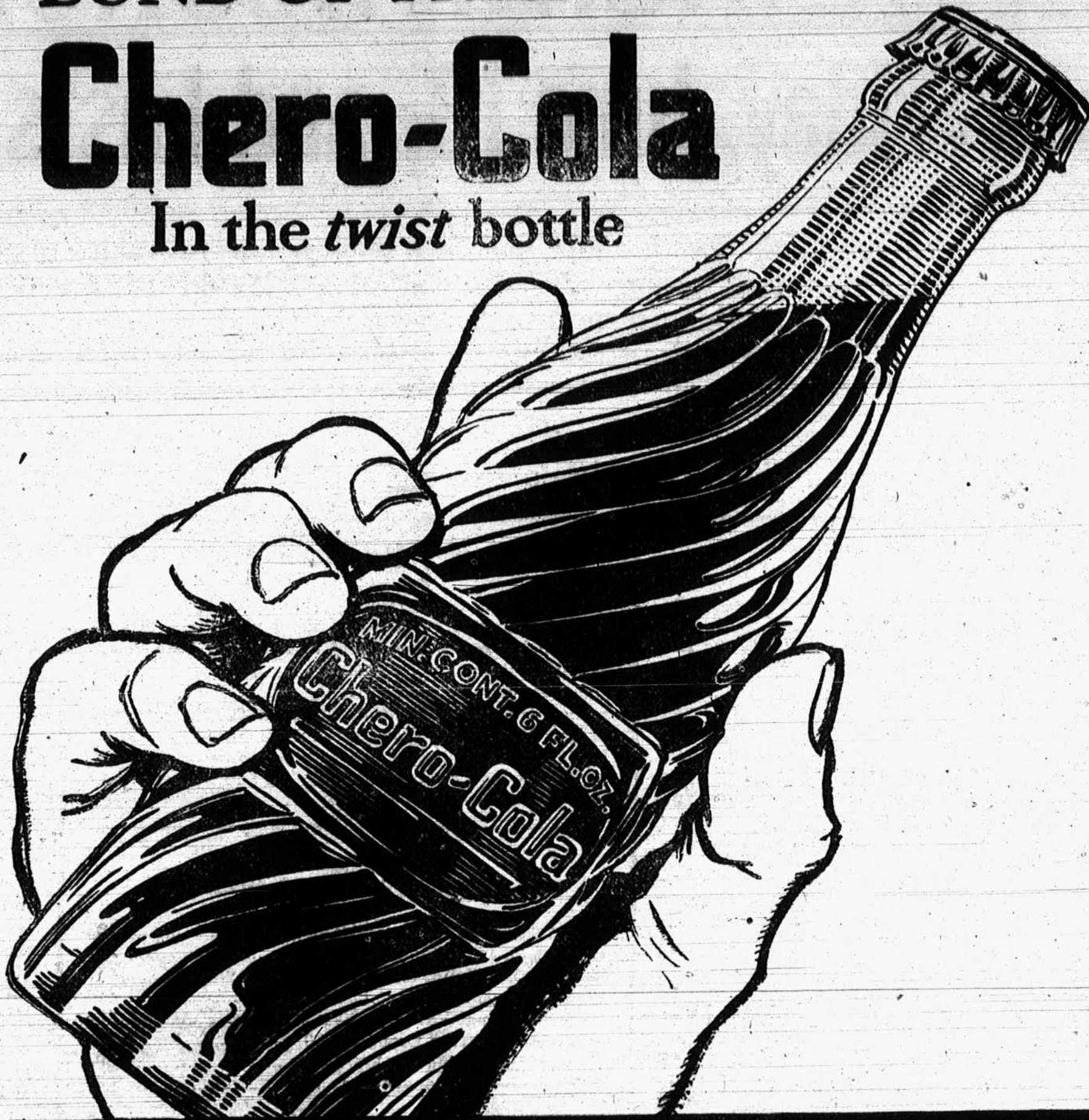
15 one-half of the amount paid by you when you filed your return. In other words, if your return showed a tax due of \$100 and which upon filing you paid \$25, you will be due on or before June 15 \$12.50 instead of \$25, the original amount due having been reduced by the revenue bill to \$75 and the first payment of \$25 plus the payment on June 15 of

\$12.50 will make one-half of the total tax due. The main point to be borne in mind is that one-half of the total tax due from you this year must have been paid on or before June 15." Collector Jones also stated that the matter of refund to those who had paid their tax in full upon submission of return would be handled promptly.

"In dealing with the English language one is often reminded of the characteristic English handwriting: just as an English lady will write in a manner that in any other country would be found only in a man's hand, in the same manner the language is more manly than any other language I know."—Professor Jespersen, University of Copenhagen.

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