

CITY HAVING RAPID GROWTH

Norfolk Bids Fair to Break all Records at Her Present Rate of Progress.

There is not a city in this country, perhaps none in the world, that is growing at a more rapid rate than Norfolk," remarked G. W. Sizer, manager of one of the leading hotels of that city, at the Raleigh, the Washington Post states. "The last census gave the population of Norfolk at less than 70,000. Today it is estimated that Norfolk is a city of 140,000, or more than double the size it was in 1910. Washington prides itself on the tremendous growth attained in the last two or three years. I take considerable pride in the growth of Washington, for I lived here many years, but the proportionate increase in the population of the national capital cannot compare with that of Norfolk. Of course, both cities are helped by war business. Washington, I presume, is the busiest city in the world, but Norfolk is almost next.

"Hampton Roads is filled with ships. Battleships are passing in and out every hour, and soldiers and sailors are filling the streets, hotels and residences of Norfolk. Only recently I saw some 2,000 soldiers from New Zealand parading through the streets of Norfolk. Many of them were not young. New Zealand already has sent close to 150,000 men to the front in France, and Belgium, out of a population of 1,500,000, and is still sending men, which should be an object lesson to us.

"Business is booming in Norfolk as never before. The hotels are filled to overflowing just as they are in Washington. New business blocks are going up and the residence sections of the city are being extended far into the outlying districts. I venture to say that in another decade Norfolk will come close to being the leading city in the Old Dominion, both in population and importance."

STRANGE VARIETIES OF FOOD

People of Different Parts of the Earth Are Shown to Have Decidedly Different Tastes.

Strange foods, such as potato flour, artificial protein cakes, green bone-fat preparations, rabid soups, pudding powders and other unusual things, have come into use during the war and their adoption serves to remind us that much good food material is neglected in ordinary use. Only a few people eat snails; most of us would starve amidst plenty of biscuits; and the thought of snails as food would give those who call themselves civilized the shudders. But unusual food, once become familiar, is often relished. Colonel Roosevelt got the best work from his men on his African expedition by promising them raw steaks from slaughtered hippopotamuses. Captain Bartlett, who carried Stromboli to the arctic water, found raw polar bear flesh more appetizing than anything he had eaten at home.

Frenchmen eat snails and dog steaks; most tribes more than mutton. Some arctic tribes prefer to have their fish decomposed before eating them, and even then perhaps they smell no worse than Limburger or Brie cheese. South Americans eat lizards and narros' milk is a favorite Russian beverage. Truly, "there is no accounting for tastes."—New York Sun.

Playing the Man.

No matter what part he may be playing in the strenuous game of life as it is presented today, the brotherhood man, above all others, must play the man. These are times when the best that is in us must be given to "carry on," and the race run with steadfastness and a manly purpose. As Robert L. Stevenson so beautifully puts it: "Whether we regard life as a line leading to a dead wall—a mere bag's end, as the French say—or whether we think of it as a vestibule or gymnasium, where we wait our turn and prepare our faculties for some more noble destiny; whether we thunder in a pulpit or pule in little esthetic poetry books about its vanity and brevity, whether we look justly for years of health and vigor, or are about to mount into a bath chair, as a step towards the hearse; in each and all of these views and situations there is but one conclusion possible; that a man should stop his ears against paralyzing terror and run the race that is set before him with a single mind."

"Flying Fish" Torpedo.

Aerial torpedoes—the bane of German submarine crews and first-line trenches—have been called "flying fish," because their tapering cylindrical bodies and huge air-fins suggest the tropic sea creatures. The torpedoes are held upright in the air and given a diving velocity by the air resistance which strikes the fins, spinning them round and round. Contrary to popular impressions, certain forms of air resistance speed up rather than retard falling objects. Not only the aerial torpedoes, but all airplane bombs and darts, are now grooved or finned to whirl in fall.

The German Zeppelin bombs are similarly constructed.

Uses of Potatoes in Sweden.

Uses made of Swedish potato crop, officially estimated this year at \$4,244,820 bushels, will be interesting to people of the United States. Of the entire crop, 37.1 per cent is used for direct human consumption; 32.7 per cent is fed to animals, and 6.5 per cent is used in flour making. The loss in storage is 11.9 per cent and 11.8 per cent is retained for seed.

JUST WHAT INTERESTED BILL

Loss of Cars and Freight Didn't Seem to Amount to Much to Him at the Moment.

"I was riding on a freight train through Kansas," a Santa Fe official relates. "I was up in the cupola of the caboose. Downstairs the conductor and the rear brakeman watched carefully a pan of beans 'warming over' on the old coal stove. They waited only the return of the head brakeman before 'putting away' their luncheons, which they were taking from their full dinner pails. The pan of beans was a partnership dish. I could see the head brakeman coming down the train from the engine. Suddenly there was a jerk, a shock, and I saw freight cars begin to pitch from the track and pile up in heaps. I had a hasty vision of the head brakeman sailing through the air and landing in a cornfield, clear of the right of way.

"'Bill's killed,' I shouted as I clutched wildly to retain my seat. 'He's been thrown clear over into the field.'"

"As the caboose finally came to a standstill, about the only car left on the track, the conductor and the rear brakeman rushed forward to gather up the remains of 'Bill.' But as they ran to him 'Bill' picked himself up in a dazed sort of way and was brushing the dirt from his eyes and his clothes when they reached him.

"There was at least \$75,000 worth of cars and freight piled up there in that wreck, probably \$100,000—a total loss. But the question 'Bill' asked as his rescuers reached him was: 'Boys, how's them beans back there?'"

LIFE OF A DEPOT AGENT

His Duties Are Manifold and He Is Envied by Few, According to This.

The life of a railway agent is one of roses and cinders for the most part. Some folks think that about all he has to do is to sell tickets and keep the extra cent when he makes odd change, but there are other things in the life of a railway agent besides framing your face in a ticket office window and opening a money drawer with a doorbell on it, and smiling when the folks ask him what time the 5:03 train will be here if it's on time.

From early in the morning when he starts the day by looking into the coal bin at the end of the platform to see how much bituminous has been stolen during the night, until sundown, when he starts out to hang drug store signs on the switch posts, he is an extremely busy man, says the Walker (Mim.) Pilot. Between checking over freight receipts and running the hay press for the carbon copies of waybills, it's no wonder he hasn't time to build a fire in the waiting room or rub off last week's train schedule from the blackboard, because he is a busy man.

He listens to complaints with one ear and the telegraph keys with the other, and has been known to answer the phone, sell a steamship ticket and put a bucket of coal in the stove all at the same time, in order to get his work done within the eight-hour schedule. About the only ones to envy an agent his job are the girls in the town, and that's because he has such a good chance to get acquainted with the brakemen on all the freights.

Long Ride Before Him.

A cyclist who stopped at a village inn boasted about his abilities as a rider to such an extent that the landlord ventured to make a wager with him.

"Look here, mister," said the innkeeper, "you can't ride up and down this road till the church clock strikes six."

"Done," said the cyclist. "It's just close on five now," and the next minute he was speeding down the road.

After about an hour's riding the cyclist shouted to one of the bystanders, of whom many had assembled:

"I say, has the church clock struck six yet?"

"No, you idiot," was the blunt reply. "Our church clock never strikes at all."—London Tit-Bits.

American Girls Who Marry Young.

The census bureau finds that hundreds of American girls in every twelve months are married at fifteen. Thousands annually are married at sixteen. Out of every 100 women in this country eleven have married before passing nineteen. In New England (according to the census data) only one woman in fifteen gets an acceptable proposal before she is twenty. In the south, the desirable man offers himself to one out of five or one out of six girls of nineteen or under. It is shown by the census that a young woman's chance of offers is decidedly better in a rural community than anywhere else.

Hottest Heat.

The highest temperature ever reached by man is 9,400 degrees Fahrenheit. This was produced by two English experimenters, Sir Andrew Noble and Sir F. Abel, asserts a scientist. This was done by exploding cordite in a durable steel cylinder. This was due to the suddenness of the reaction, and, although of momentary duration, it was an interesting scientific achievement, nevertheless. With the aid of cordite Sir William Crookes was able to make small diamonds. Professor Moissan, who has produced diamonds, can heat his electric furnace to 6,300 degrees.

SURELY A WONDERFUL WORM

Remarkable Intelligence Displayed by Insect Owned by Col. Harta Bectem.

"I had a trained worm once," began Col. Harta Bectem, reflectively, according to the Detroit Free Press. "I don't wonder that you chaps look surprised—as far as I know it's the only case of a trained worm on record. Haw! Yawss!"

"I was digging for bait on the far bank of the Ganges and I noticed that one of the worms had a particularly large head. Well, now, my favorite motto is, 'Large head, something in it.' I started to educate the little devil, and in two months he was the marvel of the entire countryside. Rully!"

"Here's the way he would help me fish: He'd wind his little tail around the end of the hook and wave his body about till a snapping pottle, or perhaps a blue-nose skad, would make a dive for him. Quick as a wink Slivers—that's what I called him—would coil himself up into a ball and roll out of the fish's jaws just as they closed on the hook. Clewah, what! Oh—ah—and I forgot to mention, whenever he saw a fish coming he would send three little bubbles up to the surface and put me on my guard. Then, after I'd landed the fish Slivers would stick his head out of the water and wait for the hook again.

"He died, finally, of some sort of cerebral trouble—brain fever, perhaps. Gad! boys. I was sorry to lose that worm! If any of you ever get over that way just look up his little tombstone. It's right outside a little town called Goodab—any of the natives'll show you. Haw!"

DESCRIBES CURE FOR GROUCH

Doctor Finds Uneasiness and Crankiness Are Both Diseases That Can Be Groped With.

Take comfort, all ye who "fly to pieces" at the slightest provocation or are judged fidgety or cranky or irritable. Your friends, and more especially your enemies, may say it is just "pure cussedness," or even worse. But Dr. Meyer Solomon brings word to such sufferers that they are victims of a disease which may be cured.

In the New York Medical Journal he has an article dealing with the subject in plain language and telling simple systems and simple remedies.

"In common forms," Doctor Solomon says, "there is nothing more than a condition of uneasiness or unrest. The person is fidgety, ill at ease, cannot concentrate on the task before him and is so generally disturbed he does not know what to do with himself. It is but natural that while in this condition the person is irritable and is apt to be cranky, grouchy, easily angered and not at all himself, as he will tell you. I venture to state in this simple form the state occurs now and then in all human beings, but for the most of us these periods are relatively infrequent.

"Many may find relief by going to a gymnasium, playing golf, tennis, or the like; going to a baseball game, joining a card game; yes, even going to a prize fight, a wrestling match and similar methods of amusement. Others may find their peace in intellectual pursuits—reading a novel, a scientific book or article, resorting to one of their hobbies."

Popular Superstitions.

To be born on the first day of a new moon means that the child will have a happy life and be rich. A child born on the second day will grow rapidly. A short life is predicted for a child born on the third or the sixth day. A child born on the fifth day will be deceitful and proud.

Birth on the seventh day means that a child born will live long, but have many troubles. The ninth day promises that a child born then shall have riches and honors. A child born on the tenth day will live long and be a great traveler.

A birth on the eleventh day means that the child will be healthy and handsome, and if a girl, remarkable for wisdom. A child born on the twelfth day of the moon will be dearly loved, but have a bad temper.

Watch His Laugh.

The leopard cannot change his spots, nor the laugher his laugh. It is as characteristic as his nose or the color of his eyes. No polish or educational veneer can alter the laugh much in quality and tone, although it may soften it. Yet, even then, in an unguarded moment the old laugh rings or cackles, or explodes, and the show is given away.

A man to be avoided, to be passed by on the other side, is the man who laughs without smiling. The man who laughs like a mask or a ventriloquist's puppet. His face wrinkles. He makes a noise. But he is smileless as a rooster when cackling. Take it from me, that man is hard, relentless, cruel, malignant.

The Unspeakable Turk.

This expression came into general use during the Bulgarian agitation of 1876, on its appearance in a published letter of Carlyle's to George Howard, M. P., dated November 24: "The unspeakable Turk should be immediately struck out of the question, and the country left to honest European guidance." It was not the first time, however, that Carlyle had made use of it. In 1831, nearly fifty years before, in "The Westminster Review," No. 20, in an article on the "Nibelungen Lied," he makes mention of "that unspeakable Turk, King Machaboh."

New York and Quebec.

Quebec City is older than New York. It was founded in 1608 by Samuel de Champlain, whereas the earliest date that can be set for the founding of New York is 1610. New York Bay and the Hudson river were discovered by Verrazano in 1524, and the discovery was followed by occasional visits of trading and exploring vessels until the arrival of Henry Hudson in 1609, one year after Champlain had built his fort and chateau on the slope leading up to the heights of Quebec. Beginning with 1610 Dutch merchants dispatched several vessels to engage in the fur trade with the Indians, and in 1614 a ship commander Adrian Block, having lost his vessel, built the "Oronrust" or "Restless" on the shores of the upper harbor of New York. About the same time a few huts were built on the south end of Manhattan island. In 1623 the country was erected into a province by the Dutch, and the seat of government was established on Manhattan island, on part of the site of the present city of New York. Dutch rule commenced, and continued until September 8, 1664, almost one hundred years before the British acquired New France or Canada.

Oil From Melon Seeds.

A genuine American invention originated at Rocky Ford, where a melon-grower named Barrill, with the faculty of inductive reasoning, found out that a clear, rich oil can be expressed from the seeds of cantaloupes, notes the Chicago Tribune. He submitted samples to government chemists at Washington, who notified him that their tests indicated a new table oil of the same texture and color as olive oil, one which needed no refining process. There is wide significance in this discovery, which indicates melons, squash and pumpkin seeds, as perhaps those of citrus fruit as well, as a prolific source of oil supply.

Oldest College Sorority.

The oldest of the women's college sororities is the Alpha Delta Pi, which was founded at Wesleyan female college in 1851.

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