

**DRIVING RIVETS SLOW WORK**

Not Only That, but Enormous Number of Them Are Needed in a Steel Ship.

The largest single item in the labor of fabricating a steel ship is in the riveting of her hull; therefore the driving of rivets is taken as a standard of size and of progress by most of the shipbuilders. To build a 10,000 ton ship a week means the driving of about 650,000 rivets in that time. The Union shipyards of San Francisco, as at present equipped and freed from labor troubles, can drive about 300,000 rivets, although in a record week it drove 411,000 rivets; the four next largest yards in America—at Fore River, Mass., at Newport News, Va., at Camden, and at Philadelphia upon the Delaware—can drive 200,000 to 275,000 rivets a week each. A half dozen smaller steel shipyards will drive from 50,000 to 150,000 each seven days.

Riveting, despite all the inventions devised to speed it up, remains hard work and slow work. A riveting gang consists of two men and two boys—the riveter, his "holder-on," the passer boy and the heater boy. The gang drives from 300 to 375 rivets in the course of a ten-hour day and is tired at the end of it. But when you know that it takes four men all of a working day to drive an average of a little less than 350 rivets, you can begin to see the full size of the labor problem of driving at least 650,000 rivets a week necessary to turn out a 10,000-ton ship at the end of that length of time. In other words, you need 1,200 men for the riveting gangs alone.

Look at the matter from another angle, writes Edward Hungerford in Harper's. Ten ships a week—the tremendous program for 1918 to which we stand committed—means 6,500,000 rivets a week. And the rivet capacity of our five greatest yards—with a total working force of 50,000 men at the end of 1917—was but 1,350,000 rivets a week. And riveting represents only about 20 per cent in the construction of a ship.

**RAISE MISCHIEF WITH WIRES**

Remarkable Effect of Aurora Borealis on the Telegraph Wires of the Country.

When the aurora borealis, or "northern lights," pay us a visit there is trouble on all the telegraph and telephone lines. The reason for this seems to be that the aurora borealis, which is really an unusual electric emanation from the sun, sets up abnormal earth currents. The strength of these currents has been measured many times and found to have a potential varying between 425 volts positive and 225 volts negative and a resistance of about 2,050 ohms.

Donald McNeil, assistant electrical engineer of the Postal Telegraph company, who has given much study to this subject, made an official report in 1892, quoted in the Electrical Experimenter, in which he described the effects of earth currents on the ten Atlantic cables then in existence. Most affected was that from Brest to Miquelon Island, and the disturbances were greater at the western than at the eastern end, so that often St. Pierre could send messages to Brest but could not receive any.

Long cables were more affected than short ones, southerly ones more than northerly ones, and the abnormal currents seemed to travel mostly from east to west. Sometimes the earth currents are so strong that they injure the condensers. But they are most erratic in their nature and behavior.

**The First Romanoff.**

Romanoff is the name of the Russian imperial dynasty reigning in the male line from 1013 to 1730, and thereafter in the female line. Constant intermarriages with German princely houses, however, have made the Romanoff strain of today more German than Russian. Nay; the oldest ancestor of the house of Romanoff, Andrew Kobyla, is said to have come to Moscow from Prussia (1341). The name Romanoff was given to the family by the boyar Roman Yurievitch, the fifth of direct descent from Andrew, who succeeded in getting a female member of his family on the throne of the czars by marrying his daughter to Ivan the Terrible. In February, 1613, Mikhail Feodorovitch Romanoff, a boy of seventeen, was proclaimed czar, grand duke and autocrat of all the Russias in the Red square of Moscow. With this accession to the throne of the famous, or rather ill-famed, dynasty began a 204 years' misrule that—let us hope—has ended forever with the forced abdication of Czar Nicholas, in March, 1917.

**Fool Growing Plants.**

Scientists have found the way to make the sun shine, as it were, upon agriculture. They charge the soil with electricity and the crops, fooled into believing that the sun is shining, commence to grow at a rapid pace. There is no deception about the results of this experiment, which are hailed as an achievement of vast importance in these days of war when the production and conservation of food are so tremendously vital.

In experiments that have been conducted under the auspices of the English government young strawberry plants are said to have increased in yield by 80 per cent, and even old plants are reported to have given 30 per cent more fruit. Potatoes can easily be persuaded, scientists claim, into the belief that a charge of electricity is genuine sunshine, as a result of which they forthwith grow prodigiously.

**MEN WITH NERVES OF IRON**

Remarkable Feats That Are Said to Have Been Performed by English Steeplejacks.

The business of being a steeplejack has very strangely "run through" several families of England. At Nottingham there was a family named Wootton, members of which had for centuries the reputation of being daring steeple-climbers, not for adventure but in the way of business.

One of these Woottons, in the time of George III, was famous for repairing steeples and spires without using scaffolding; he did his work by the help of ladders, hooks and ropes. When he repaired St. Peter's spire, Nottingham, in 1789, having finished his work, he beat a drum at its top, thousands of people looking on.

Another of the Woottons undertook the perilous task of ascending the spire of St. Mary's, Manchester, which was very lofty. By a tremendous wind the ball and cross had been bent down, and looked dangerous. This steeple climber raised ladders one after the other, assisted by blocks and ropes, and secured each in succession to the stonework with clamps. When he got near the top of the spire the work became more difficult, and the spectators anxiously watched him as he fixed the last ladder. Having accomplished this feat, Wootton stepped from the ladder on to the crown or pinnacle of the steeple, and stood quite upright, with his hands free. Then he raised a cheer, which was responded to by the crowds below. More extraordinary still, one of these steeple-climbers is said to have performed the feat of standing upon his head on a steeple top.

**LANGUAGE HARD TO MASTER**

Fearful and Wonderful Sentences Were Those Written by Pupils of Malaysian School.

Some queer sentences turned out by the pupils of the Methodist Girls' school at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. One can usually distinguish the subject and tell what the child tried to say at least.

When the form of a verb is changed it is called conjugation.

The prime meridian is called the eternal date line.

Gibraltar is the keynote in the Mediterranean.

The finest wheat that ever cropped grows in Russia.

The masculine of spinster is bore.

He had nothing on except a sword and he was unarmed.

A wife is the upset (opposite) of the husband.

The place was taken by storm and thunder.

Benjamin Franklin looked very funny with his clothes behind and a loaf of bread in his mouth.

The cat was thin and pale.

Gibraltar is known as the keynote of England.

St. Helena is a place where Napoleon had been diminished.

The Barbarian states are Morocco, Algiers, Tripoli and Turnips.

Queen Victoria reigned 60 years. She was the longest sovereign that ever ruled in England.

A frog is a bug with four legs. It stands up in front and sits down behind.—World Outlook.

**Got Their "Lively Time."**

A famous lion-tamer tells of a queer Christmas present he once received. It was a consignment from a friend abroad of three lion-constrictors and five alligators. "With Jim's best wishes for a lively time," the lion-tamer and his wife got the lively time desired. He says:

"I shall never forget how annoyed I was when, during the night, two of the alligators broke out of their boxes in our bedroom and began exploring. I could not find the matches, and I and my wife remained on top of the bed enveloped till morning. Luckily, my wife never thought of the thing that worried me. I was afraid the alligators might call on the lion-constrictors to wish them a Merry Christmas, and so wake them up too?"

**Nuts and Digestion.**

The reason nuts are thought indigestible by some is because of the thin skin surrounding each kernel, notes a medical authority. This can easily be blanchered off by pouring boiling water on the nut, and allowing it to stand for a few moments. Almonds should never be eaten with the red, tough skin on the nut meat. When boiling water is poured on the almond, this skin becomes as tough as leather. The best way to use nuts for children is to grind the nut meats or pound them, for which purpose the nut-butter knife in the meat grinder will be found the right tool. A good nut cracker with strong spring makes nut-cracking easy, and is preferable to buying the ready-picked meats on the market.

**Folly of Ridicule.**

A moment of indulgence in ridicule may create lifelong resentment, notes a student.

The late Richard Mansfield is said to have nursed a grievance against Henry Irving for years. The reason was that Irving had momentarily indulged a little weakness he had for making sardonic remarks.

Ridicule of persons strikes at personal vanity. And vanity is a very common weakness. Few escape it altogether.

And this kind of ridicule, in fact all kinds, on examination, will be found to be associated with vanity. In ridiculing there is invariably the desire to show how clever one is oneself.

**WORLD'S MOST CURIOUS CITY**

London Magazine Seems to Have Discovered Queer Settlement on Saginaw Bay, Lake Huron.

The most curious of cities consists of wooden huts on wheels, to the number of about one hundred and thirty, which, when the season arrives, are rolled onto the ice on Saginaw Bay, Lake Huron. The population of this city without a name is about five hundred. Each hut is fitted with cooking utensils, hammocks, and a stove, and is occupied by three men, whose business on the ice is to follow a peculiar method of fishing.

In the center of each hut a hole, about a yard square, is dug to the water. One of the fishermen then takes a live fish of the herring tribe, and after fastening it to a piece of pack-thread drops it into the water. The fish dashes away as swift as an arrow until it is pulled up by the thread, when it returns towards the hole followed by a host of pike and other fish desirous to feast on the dainty morsel. Beside the hole stand the fishermen, harpoon in hand, waiting the arrival of the pursuers, who are received with thrusts of the four or five-pronged instrument, which rarely fails to bring up some writhing victims.

Some huts can show two hundred or more of fine fish at the end of the day's work. The most weird appearance of this city is at night, when the fishermen present the work by the light of torches, which, as is well known, attract fish without the aid of the herring bait. The glancing torches and the shadows of the men leaning over the holes make a strange spectacle. If fish are not abundant in the spot first chosen the hut is wheeled to another site.—London TH-IBS.

**FAIR PLAY ABOVE VICTORY**

Canadian Soldier Generous in Seeing That Opponent Should Have His Right Chance to Shoot.

In an obscure Los Angeles suburb lives a blind man. The following is one of the many stories he tells of his experiences:

It was in the early nineties that a picked team of American riflemen had gone into Canada for a friendly contest with the Queen's Own.

The competition had been fierce and the score close when the last American rifleman laid down at 800 yards. He had to make 23 to tie and 24 to win out of a possible 25.

A great crowd had gathered to watch the contest, and had gradually closed in behind the firing station until there was very little space left for the rifleman.

The first four shots scored the bull's eye, counting 20. With his last shot he had to make a 3 to tie and a 4 to win. The excitement was intense, and the air was charged with the magnetic stillness of repressed excitement, as the commanding officer of the Queen's Own stepped forward and called out "Get back there and give the man a fair show. How can he be shot with you standing on top of him?"

The crowd fell back, the American fired, and the indicator recorded another bull's eye, making his score 25.

**Age of Fishes.**

The most striking characteristic by which fishes of different ages can be distinguished is their size. But the size affords us only the means to estimate the age of younger fishes; as to the older, it cannot serve us as an indication of their age, since their growth may vary according to the different conditions of nutrition, so that often the younger fish will excel in size the much older fish. There is, however, at least as regards the fishes of the Northern seas, a sure indication that betrays their age. It is the otoliths, or ear stones. These ear stones grow as long as the fish itself continues to grow, and form annual rings in the manner of trees. The more annual rings shown by a fish's ear stones the greater its age. In this way the age of a fish can be exactly determined.

**A Change for the Invalid.**

If you have a friend lying ill, try taking some daintily prepared edibles next time you make a visit.

Nourishing broths and soups, wine jellies, delicately browned custards and light puddings made of eggs and milk are good. Or a small jar of marmalade or half a dozen lightly browned biscuits for the invalid's tea. Or creamed chicken and creamed oysters delivered in a charming blue bowl and all ready to be heated up by the nurse.

Grapefruit is always appreciated and mandarin oranges and white grapes in a pretty basket are an appetizing combination, and there are some invalids who would be delighted with a jar of preserved ginger for occasional nibbling.

**Unnecessary Intestines.**

The human intestine seems to be partly a relic of prehistoric times, largely useless in this modern day and age. The uselessness of the vermiform appendix, which is simply the stump of what was once an important and functioning branch of the alimentary canal, is well known. Recent operations in a London hospital seem to indicate that a large part of the lower main canal, the colon, can be dispensed with without harm. In these operations sections of the colon have been removed. The work brings up again the famous scientist Metchnikoff's debated contention that these parts of the anatomy are not only useless but dangerous.

**A Badge of Honor.**

A Liberty Loan button is a badge of honor. Rightfully obtained it marks the wearer as one who has performed a distinct, definite service to the country.

Not all can fight, not all can work directly for the government, but in buying a Liberty Loan Bond or War Savings Stamp every American renders some service to the nation. It has been put within the reach and power of every citizen to aid the United States financially; it is a near American who withholds support from the government, from our soldiers and sailors fronting death on battlefields, and oceans.

Iron crosses to German soldiers, and diamond orders exchanged between Turkish and German sovereigns may be but the honors of sovereignty. But a Liberty Loan button, simple as it is, signifies a patriotic duty done and is an insignia of honor.

**NO FLOUR WITHOUT THE SUBSTITUTES**

Washington, March 7.—All exceptions to the food administration rule requiring the purchase of an equal amount of substitutes with each purchase of wheat flour were revoked today because of the necessity of conserving wheat for the Allies.

The entire country thus is put on a parity in regard to buying of wheat flour. Exceptions to the rule had been allowed in certain localities where substitutes are little known and hard to obtain.

Increased demands for breadstuffs from the Allies were announced several days ago, when the food administration abolished the meatless meal and the porkless Saturday, as the consumption of wheat is closely related to the consumption of meat and it was deemed more imperative to save the grain.

**Philippines Population.**

Government officials recently estimated the population of the Philippines at slightly more than 9,500,000, the island of Luzon having about one-half the number.

**Electricity on Submarines.**

All submarines are operated by electricity, as obviously they could not be operated by steam, when submerged. In addition to its use for propulsion, electricity is utilized on submarines for lighting, for fans, for wireless communications and to cook all meals for the crew.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS.**

All persons holding claims against the estate of Amanda Hazle, deceased, are hereby notified and required to present the same, duly attested, to the undersigned, on or before April 1st, 1918, or be barred.

RICHARD H. HAZLE, Administrator.

March 11, 1918. 34-31-A

**EASTER DISPLAYS**  
Easter Comes Early This Year—March 31

Are you prepared? We are "firmly entrenched in the front lines." Easter is universally considered "dress-up day." No doubt you will need a new silk dress on that day. We open the Spring season with an exhibit of all things in the new Silks—the season's favorite fabric for dress.

**Silk the Favorite**  
There can be no doubt that silk will hold first place as a favorite dress fabric for Spring and Summer. Variety of color combinations and designs, beauty of simplicity as well as beauty of details, account for the popularity of Minter Company's Silks. You are invited to view this collection of Silks at your earliest convenience.

**Foulards**  
In beautiful figured effects, stripes, dots and spots on various colored grounds. This is the great utility silk, suitable for all manner of skirts and dresses. 36 inches wide \$2.00

**Chiffon Taffeta**  
Shown in a wide range of new plain colors for both street and evening wear, including white and black, 36 inches wide, \$1.50 to \$2.00

**Silk Dresses**  
This is a great Silk Dress Season, as evidenced by the large number of Silk Dresses we have already sold. New ones are coming daily, and now is the time to get your choice, while the selections are best. Beautiful dresses at \$12.50, \$15.00, \$17.50, \$20.00 and \$25.00

**Spring Coats**  
What can be more useful than a Spring Coat for dress-wear and automobiling. They are a necessity these days. Let us show you as good numbers as the New York markets afford, at \$10.00, \$12.50, \$15.00, \$18.50 and \$25.00

**Millinery**  
NO FORMAL OPENING THIS SEASON, but all hats are displayed as received or made, including a representative line of the celebrated Gage Hats. We are sure to have just the Hat you want. Come and let us show you.

**Voiles, White Goods and Spring Muslins**  
In a great variety at much less than today's prices.

**MINTER CO. DEPARTMENT STORE**