

PASSING OF OLD MEXICO.

Overlaid by Modern Customs and Ideas the Country Is Changing.

In Public Opinion James A. Leroy describes the invasion of Mexico by modern customs and ideas. He says: "The old customs, and with them much of romance and charm, are passing away..."

"Half-foreign families have been establishing themselves by the intermarriage of German, and sometimes British or American immigrants, into Mexican families..."

BANK GAINS BY SNAKE BITE

Texas Farmers Deterred from Using Barnyard as Hiding Place for Money.

The farmers of the cotton belt for some reason have long been shy of banks, and have been in the habit of getting their money in receptacles of various kinds, such as old shoes and cans.

Charles Bosler, a farmer living near Flatonia, Tex., went to a corner of his yard one day, and in a few minutes came hurrying back, shouting to his wife that he had been bitten by a copperhead snake.

Upon hearing the story Mrs. Bosler went out to get the money where her husband had left it. The shoe was still under the board, and the farmer's wife reached in to get it, when she caught a glimpse of a copperhead snake lying there.

As soon as he had attended to his wife's snake bite, Farmer Bosler got his gun, went out to the place where the snake seemed to be standing guard, and lifted the board. Coiled on the old shoe was the copperhead, and it showed fight at once.

The news of this adventure of the Bosler family with the copperhead snake soon spread about the neighborhood, and then the farmers began coming into Flatonia every day to deposit in the banks all sorts and conditions of money.

LIFE WOULD BE TOO LONG

The Awkward Results of Universal Longevity Are Herein Propheesied.

Suppose a man 50 years old, making a good income from his business, were to decide to live until he was 100, and not to retire until he was 90.

The first consequence would be, says the London Spectator, that he would have the opportunity of making much more money than if he died at 70; next, that his children would have to wait much longer for it.

His three sons, junior partners in the same firm, aged 65 downward, and his nine grandsons, aged 40 downward, will find very little to take out of the business between them.

Even more distressing would be the case of the family in which there was no business out of which an income could be obtained. The old baronet, aged 100, would still be living at the family seat, enjoying the income he had inherited.

Possibly it might be found necessary to compel a person attaining the age of 70 to give up his money and his estate to his son, and to live on a small pension allowed him out of the wealth he had inherited or acquired.

But even then not all the inconveniences and uncertainties would be ended. Even if a man undertook at the age of 40 all those obligations, and had housed, say, a parent, a couple of grandparents, and possibly two or three great-grandparents in a number of 4150 cottages on the family estate, and were making them allowances suitable to their respective ages, it would yet be almost beyond his power to prevent them from reasserting themselves should they desire to do so.

He entered a little unsteadily, blowing on his hands. It was late, relates the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. "Frosty," he said. "Frosty, un-seasable. Brrr! Glass of ale, with some red pepper in it. Must warm up."

He drank the ale. He waved his hand toward a large picture of President Roosevelt. "Who is that man?" he said. "You know who it is," the bartender answered, testily. "Who is it?" he demanded, with a stately, offended air.

WINDMILLS OUT WEST

USED BY FARMERS FOR ALL SORTS OF PURPOSES.

In Some Sections They Are More Numerous Than in Holland—Many Are Home-made.

Travelers say that Nebraska and Kansas have more windmills than Holland. It would be difficult to find a farmhouse where there is not one or more, and sometimes it is possible to count 30 or 40 from a single point of view.

The western windmill, however, is distinctly different from the Holland mill, that is, most of them are. Some of the Dutch emigrants have brought over with them the old idea of great arms of canvas that revolve slowly and dignifiedly.

The windmill made its appearance soon after the first settler, and for the last 30 years the trade has been growing at a tremendous rate. Wind power is the cheapest natural force that can be utilized. In the east the winds are too variable and infrequent to be depended upon, but in the west there are few days when there is not something doing in the breeze line.

The water question early puzzled the settler. When the overland trail was the highway for east and west travel there were regular stopping places along the road, at springs, creeks and buffalo holes. Between these the plains were like the desert in the matter of water.

The great majority of the mills in use are shop-made. One can be installed for almost any figure, from \$50 upward. But there are thousands of homemade mills in the state—so many and of such ingenious designs that Prof. Edwin Hinckley Barbour, of the chair of geology in the state university, has compiled a 77 page book, illustrated with dozens of photographs of the various types, which is printed by the agricultural department for free distribution.

Prof. Barbour has visited practically every corner of the state in his quest after information, and has found that in most German settlements the old-fashioned Holland mills, more or less modified, predominate. Popular types in other sections are the battelax, with four arms shaped like the battelax; the kodeliv, a boxlike structure surrounding four fans that travel at a terrific speed; the merry-go-round, in which vertical fans rotate about a common axis, and the mock and giant, turbine types. These mills, he found, were not erected by the poorer, unstable, shiftless men, but by the wealthier and more progressive farmers.

Some of these mills are mounted on towers; others upon structures built upon the ground or upon short posts. Gas pipe is often used for an axis, and fans are made of grocery boxes. Mr. Barbour found in a Swede settlement in Dawson county a turbine mill that consisted of an old wagon wheel bolted to the end of a barn. Blades were attached to the spokes. At another place he found a farmer who had formed a tower of locust poles, cut on the place. Upon this tower he bolted the driving parts of a self-blinder, with journals, bearings and crank in place.

The chief drawback to the home-made mill is that it is possible to use most models only when the wind is blowing from the right direction. As the prevailing direction in the seasons when most used is from the south, this difficulty is not so great as might be thought. Sometimes double mills, to get the wind when it is coming from either direction, are built. The chief type of the shop-made mill is the turbine. These are usually made to revolve upon their towers, so as to face any wind, while others have rudders to guide their movements automatically. The power is transmitted in such a way as to travel vertically.

TRANSFERS OF CURRENCY.

How Funds Sent Out by the New York Sub-Treasury Are Handled.

Owing to the large transfers made during the past few weeks through the New York sub-treasury to the interior, special interest attaches at this time to the manner in which these transfers are made, and the government regulations concerning them.

The bank or individual having occasion to send a large sum of money from New York, say, to Cincinnati deposits the amount at the sub-treasury here together with the equivalent of the express company's charge for actually shipping the currency to that city.

In the case of transfers to San Francisco, the government undertakes the service without charge. Originally this arrangement was made merely for the purpose of bringing east the proceeds of new gold from the mines and of sending west funds which the government might itself need on the Pacific coast.

In the case of unusually large transfers, permission must first be secured from Washington, as the local sub-treasury is not in a position to know definitely how much it may be convenient for the government to pay out at any given point. The New York sub-treasury, however, will undertake on its own authority the transfer of sums aggregating, say, \$250,000 or \$300,000 in a day.

GUESTS' TRUNKS SEARCHED

Precautions Some New York Hotel Keepers Consider It Necessary to Take.

Pass keys to rooms are not the only kind used in hotels. Porters are also provided with keys that will open any trunk lock. This is necessary, says the New York Sun, to keep the guests from accumulating souvenirs in such numbers that the hotels would suffer. The tendency to collect souvenirs always develops most rapidly in hotels because of the belief that they can be carried away without danger of detection.

"I cannot always tell what trunks to open," the proprietor of an uptown hotel said to a Sun reporter the other day. "So there are occasional collections that get by me. But I rarely miss the heavy takers. Only last week the housekeeper called the attention of the proprietor to the great demand for linen that came from a certain woman guest. She had been in the hotel nearly a year, occupying a suite with a sitting-room and spending plenty of money on food and livery."

"The suspicion that she might be taking the sheets, towels and pillow cases that were disappearing seemed improbable in the highest degree. Suddenly she notified us that she was going to leave. 'Well, I opened her trunks with my skeleton key. They were all going to her sister's house down on the Jersey coast. That turned out to be a boarding house which the woman had just opened. 'In the trunks was all the missing linen. The name of the house had been carefully removed from all of it, but there was no uncertainty about the identification. 'We just took out the linen and sent the trunks along. Of course we never heard of the woman again. She was rich enough to buy all the linen she wanted.'"

Rhine Changes. The dredging of the Rhine is already producing excellent effects in the upper reaches of the river. At Au, in the Rhemthal, the marshes are disappearing, and the agricultural lands of the region are gaining enormously in fertility. Where quite recently everywhere was marsh, which tended to spread, the earth is becoming solid, and gives promise of becoming cultivable. Some of the marshy tract has been already reclaimed.—London Globe.

THEY ARE

VEDDAS OF CEYLON ARE A SINGULAR PEOPLE.

Almost Extinct Tribe Preserves Characteristic Peculiarities of Twenty Centuries or More Ago.

Only one tribe of people in all the world never fought. The people with whom the cabinations is unknown, to whom a grin is a phenomenon, and a smile an unheard-of thing, are the Veddass—the aboriginal inhabitants of Ceylon, every man, woman and child of which is as solemn as a hardened old first nighter at a musical comedy.

And, bearing out the truth of the proverb, "laugh and grow fat," the Veddass are the slenderest, most emaciated people in the world—so thin that the man who could not tell whether he had a stomach-ache or lumbo-ache would be called plump among them.

For nearly 2,000 years, according to the best chronicles, these people, now almost extinct, have preserved the same characteristics, and no one, so far as history reveals, has ever seen a smile on the face of one of them, or heard a laugh while in their section of Ceylon.

The Veddass are divided into three distinct groups, the rock Veddass, who dwell almost entirely among the Bintenne jungles, in caves or clefts in the rock, and who are skillful archers, bringing down bats, owls, crows and kites, which constitute their principal food; they will not, for religious reasons, touch the bear, elephant or buffalo. The second group is the village Veddass, who live in small colonies along the eastern coast and cultivate grain to a small extent; and the third are the coast Veddass, now numbering less than 300, who have settled down in the coast jungles and eke out an existence by helping the Moors cut timber or aiding the fishermen.

These three small groups are all that remain of the original inhabitants, and they have no intercourse with each other. The Veddass of the rock are, if possible, the most solemn group of the three, and all efforts to teach them even to smile have proved unavailing. Why these people do not smile is a mystery. They alone of all the people of the earth know nothing of the sensation of laughter. An English scientist, who recently journeyed to Ceylon for the purpose of investigating this question, persuaded some of the rock Veddass to permit him to tickle them in the ribs and in the middle of their feet with straws, and never caught even the flicker of a smile on their faces, nor did he ever succeed in making one of them squirm and laugh aloud during the operation.

They are not only as absolutely lacking in humor as the recent farce comedies, but appear to lack the physical power to express any feeling akin to humor. Another strange thing about the Veddass, and the one which may possibly be connected with their lack of humor, is the fact that every one of them is a George Washington, and unable to tell a lie or to conceive of anyone else telling a lie. They cannot even believe that anyone would take the property of anyone else and association with civilization has failed to convince them that it is possible. When anything is missing since the advent of other peoples into Ceylon, the fact that it is missing is charged to the article itself.

It is probable that their lack of humor and consequent inability either to lie or to laugh results from their lack of imagination. They seem utterly unable to imagine anything—they have no god, no belief in, or thought of a future life, no religion, no ceremonies, no temples, no idols, no art of worship, and, on the whole, they are as unimaginative as the ordinary short-story writer. With all this—or, rather, without all this—the Veddass are a peaceable, gentle, quiet people. They take wives without any marriage ceremony, and are faithful and constant to them, supporting them to death. When their wives are unfaithful they take them back, and the wife's relatives punish the man.

Love for the Old Home. Mankind is nomadic, and while the sweetest poetry in the language is inspired in the old home, the monumental work in the world has been accomplished in the main by those who left the parental roof to pursue elsewhere the quest for fortune, fame and high success. Nevertheless, the love for the old home abides. The reunion of those who remain and those who have departed is an occasion that will stir the pulse of any community in which such a soulful event takes place. The pretty announcement was made by a newspaper in a little New England town which was about to celebrate its old home week that "the Jones boys have arrived, and Charles will preach in the Presbyterian church on Sunday." A little waf of news like that revives old times and pays for all the preparation of "old home week."—Philadelphia Ledger.

DREAMS OF STARVING MEN

They Have Many Visions of Tempting Viands and Piles of Food.

"Food dreams," superinduced by extreme hunger and the difficulties that attend the advent of Morpheus in the antarctic regions are very interesting reading, and from the account of the voyage of the Discovery to the antarctic is extracted the following data:

"In the journey to the south, in which we were absent three months from the ship," says Edward A. Wilson, M. E., writing in the British Medical Journal, "our food allowance was for some six weeks a bare pound and a half per man daily. On this allowance hunger never left us, and sleep was much disturbed by disappointing food dreams—airlines of beef and steaming cauldrons of cabbage and potato; ball suppers—stuffed turkeys and splendid hams, and waiters flying around with plates full for everybody else; but about as one might one could not get attended to, and then one awoke and remained awake in one's sleeping bag for hours from sheer hunger and healthy appetite to wait for a breakfast of boiled rice and the crumbs of one and a half biscuits fried in the fat of a thin slice of bacon. Then four hours' huddling on the sledges and a cold lunch of arctic chips of seal meat, eight lumps of sugar and a biscuit, then three more hours of hauling on the dogs, and a final camp for the night on a panikin' of seal, made of pemmican and pea meal, with plenty of boiled tea water and a fraction of a piece of chocolate. As for sleep in the lower temperatures of the spring sledge journeys, it is hardly worth the name.

The stamen used to wake in the morning and swear they had been awake all night; but my own experience is the same as that of others, and it is this: One gets into the reindeer-skin sleeping bag with no joy at all, for after a few days' sleighing the accumulation of moisture from the condensation of one's breath and from the snowdrift, and from perspiration in one's clothing, has filled the reindeer hair with frost and rime, and made the leather hard and full of frozen wetness. One crawls into this after freezing one's fingers over changing socks and boots of reindeer skin—an absolute necessity to prevent the freezing of one's feet. Having drawn the flap over one's head and buttoned all the toggles, so that as little air as possible can get in or out, one begins to shiver one's self warm, a business which occupies from an hour to an hour and a half or two hours; sometimes it seems to occupy the whole night. During the process the bag begins to thaw, as well as one's various garments. After this thaw has set in properly one begins to dream, and but for dreams the most absurd under the sun, one would not believe that one had slept at all. Every hour or so one wakes to shiver, and then the dream begins, and this goes on until at last there is light enough in the tent to cook by, and one knows that purgatory is over.

CROP OF CIGARS GROWING

Great Increase in American Consumption of Tobacco This Year.

The habitual smoker is occasionally reminded by his abstemious friends that smoking is an expensive habit and a wasteful one, and he is asked to consider how much money he could save annually by a discontinuance of the habit. The habitual smoker, if he gives consideration to this proposition at all, invariably comes to the conclusion that the money he might not expend for cigars or tobacco would not be "saved" at all and that the other things he would probably buy with it would not give him a tenth of the genuine enjoyment and solid comfort derived from his pet luxury.

Whatever the conclusions of the individual smoker, however, it must be admitted that the habit of smoking, as indulged in by Americans, costs in the aggregate a lot of money. Tobacco leaf presents some interesting figures on this subject. During the fiscal year ended June 30, 1905, there were manufactured in the United States 7,689,327,207 cigars, an increase of more than 185,000,000 over the record of the preceding year. The cigarette crop, too, in spite of Indiana's antiquated law, showed a healthy activity, the increase amounting to over 141,000,000 in a total output of 3,368,212,740. The United States also produced over 21,000,000 pounds of snuff last year and 23,489,110 pounds of smoking tobacco; the latter an increase of only about 2 per cent.

The value of all this tobacco-product is not given with exactness, but it is estimated at over \$300,000,000. The last three census returns were as follows: For 1880, \$116,772,831; for 1890, \$195,536,862; for 1900, \$263,977,514. At the rate of increase of production in 1904-5 over the preceding year the estimate of \$400,000,000 does not seem excessive.

An interesting fact in connection with these statistics is that the great bulk of the product is raised here, manufactured here and consumed here. Compared with the grand total imports and exports are relatively insignificant. Importation of tobacco in all its forms last year amounted to only a little over \$22,000,000 and exports to a little over \$37,000,000.

Iowans in Colorado. The state census of Iowa, just completed, shows that the state has lost more than 30,000 inhabitants since the national census in 1900, all of this decrease being in the country districts. It is estimated that fully one-half of this loss is the result of emigration to Colorado, the Iowa farmer having found that he can raise better crops and more of them on Colorado land worth \$25 per acre than he can be produced on \$100 land in his home state.

L'ABEILLE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLEANS