

FALLS OF MONTMORENCY



The far-famed Falls of Montmorency—nearly a hundred feet higher than those of Niagara—are situated eight miles from Quebec, Montreal. Power is derived from them to operate the street railway lines in Quebec. The height of the falls is 250 feet and the roar, which is tremendous, can sometimes be heard for miles away.

WATER FLOWS UP HILL

REVERSING FALLS AT MOUTH OF ST. JOHN RIVER, N. B.

Remarkable Phenomenon Caused by Rise of Tide in Bay of Fundy—One of Nature's Wondrous Works.

St. John, N. B.—Speaking of freaks of the tide, there is nothing in this world to equal the phenomenon at the mouth of the St. John river, where water flows up hill and down twice daily. These reversing falls are in a class by themselves in the world's natural curiosities.

The rise of the tide in the Bay of Fundy, which ranges up to 60 feet, averages at St. John harbor 28 or 30 feet.

At the mouth of the St. John river the great body of water is forced through a deep and narrow gorge. On the one side of this gorge the harbor opens; above it the St. John river, nearly 500 miles long, stretches away into the province of Quebec.

When the tide in the Bay of Fundy is on the flow the waters rise with such rapidity that the level in the harbor becomes, in less than an hour, considerably higher than the level in the river.

The water is forced through the gorge at such a rate that it literally falls up into the river, the height of this fall reaching at times 14 feet. So great is the area of the river, so great is the amount of water rising in the harbor and so narrow is the gorge, that it would take hours longer than the interval of any tide to bring the river level up to that of the harbor at high water.

As a consequence, after the tide has turned and is on the ebb in the harbor the level is still so much higher than the river that the tide in the river continues to rise for two or three hours, the water still falling upwards.

The same force works in the flow. After the water in the harbor has fallen until the level in the harbor and in the river are the same, the fall downward begins. During the next few hours the harbor recedes until the drop from the river to the harbor is as much as 16 or 17 feet at the very lowest tide. Once more the tide turns inward and comes up quickly, but over three hours elapse before it is sufficiently high to counteract the downward flow from the river.

At half-tide there is a period of something less than an hour when navigation is impossible.

It might be supposed that this immense flow of water could be utilized for practical purposes. As yet, however, none of the schemes have been found practicable.

Tramps Had Store of Soap.

Villanova, Pa.—Eight tramps, who had 13 boxes of soap in their possession and owned a commissary large enough to provide for a small army in a woods near here, and after a hearing before Justice Buckland of Erie County, were committed to jail as vagrants. Where the soap came from and what they wanted with it is a mystery.

Loved Dulcet Phone Voice.

Richmond, Va.—It was telephone courtship that resulted in the marriage here of Miss Orrie Lee and Charles L. Vanstory of Atlanta, Ga. The bridegroom said he fell in love with Miss Lee's voice while talking with her over a telephone. He sought her acquaintance and a courtship followed, conducted principally over the wire.

NAME OF CHRIST BARRED.

Order of New York School Board Calls Forth Protests.

New York.—Orders that no hymn or carol containing mention of Christ or Christmas shall henceforth be sung in the public schools of New York have been given by the board of education. Following the announcement loud protests were uttered in every section of the city.

Emphatic instructions were given by Frank R. Rix, general musical director, to all the teachers under him that in no circumstances, during the approaching Christmastide particularly, are they to permit pupils to sing any song that shall contain any word or phrase which would accentuate religious significance.

That all sectarian references, which include the name of Christ and mention of Christmas, are being eliminated from the song books in use in the public schools of the city was a surprising bit of information which was disclosed with the announcement of Mr. Rix's action. All the books are now in the hands of the printers for revision.

The decision of the board of education to take the radical step resulted from the agitation of a year ago, when a representation of orthodox Jews appeared before the board and complained that the Christmas festival as celebrated in the schools was essentially sectarian. At that time no action was taken.

DYNAMITE FOR AGED GROOM.

Neighbors Explosively Resent an Old Man's Haste to Wed Again.

Allegan, Mich.—Because Conrad Walters, aged 83, took unto himself a bride within a shorter time after the death of his former wife than a conservative rural code apparently permits, his house was dynamited by the incensed ruralites.

Walters lives in Watson township, ten miles from Allegan. His wife died a few weeks ago, and, fearing to be left alone, he married again. This early marriage soon became the talk of the countryside. Disciplinary measures were freely discussed and the men of the neighborhood, urged on by the women, decided that Walters and his bride should be jarred to a sense of decorum.

Several sticks of dynamite were procured and a crowd of men and women made their way in the evening to the Walters farm. The dynamite was placed under the edge of the house. The resulting explosion broke nearly every window in the house, Walters appeared at the door, shotgun in hand, and blazed away at the fleeing figures.

To save his feelings and stave off any threatening legal action, a purse was raised which more than repays the damage to the house, and it is believed that now Walters will let the matter rest at this.

NOTABLE ENGINEERING FEAT.

Big Railway Station at Antwerp Is Moved and Made Higher.

Antwerp.—An extraordinary engineering feat has been accomplished here. An entire railway station has been bodily moved. The building was on a block 33 meters by 22 high and weighing 3,000 tons. It was set back 33 meters and raised a meter and a half.

The building was underpinned and then rolled back, as was done recently with a theater in America. The work occupied five months.

There was a good deal of skepticism locally as to eventual success, but, well, the engineer, lived in the station with his family the whole time, and now he is a hero at the successful completion.

WATER FROM SAND DUNES.

Source of Part of the Netherlands' Drinking Supply.

The supply of water for Amsterdam and The Hague is collected from sand dunes bordering on the sea. In the dunes near Harlem, where they have a width of nearly two and a half miles, the summits are 20 to 22 feet above the sea level. The quantity of rain water percolating to the ground-water streams is estimated at 1.19 inches per annum. From Amsterdam the water is collected in open canals, which are never excavated below sea level. For The Hague it is collected in stoneware pipes in a bed of shells laid at a depth of 13 feet below sea level. Harlem is beginning to build wells 50 to 60 feet below sea level to collect water. As fresh water is found at such depth under the dunes, while the water at the same depth in the immediate neighborhood is salt, it is thought that the hydraulic pressure of the dune water prevents sea impregnation. The water contains much iron in solution and for this reason, as well as for other reasons, is filtered at the three places mentioned before being pumped into the mains. When the water is collected in wells or pipes it must be aerated before being filtered.

DUCKS ON A SPREE.

Trick of Young Girl Yields Good Financial Returns.

The 15-year-old daughter of a farmer living on the shores of Chesapeake bay, where wild ducks are found in greater numbers than anywhere else in the United States, has proved herself a better hunter than any of the men who make a living by it. She noticed that at one spot hundreds of ducks came ashore to eat the sorrel plant. She got a peck of corn, soaked it for two days in whisky, and then at night scattered it on the ground. Her father laughed at the idea, but he laughed too soon. The next morning a large number of the ducks came ashore for the sorrel, but took the corn instead. The result was that over 50 of them were made so drunk that they were easily captured on the shore or by a boat, and the girl made over \$25 at one haul. Perhaps ducks shouldn't be tempted to become drunks, but it is certainly an easy and profitable way to gather them in for the market. The wonder is if the people who eat them will also become hilarious?

Hourglasses for Pulpits.

The 20-minute sermon is a purely modern invention, as is proved by the number of pulpit hourglasses that are still to be found in many old churches. In the register of St. Catherine's, Aldgate, the following entry, dated 1564, occurs: "Paid for an hourglass that hanged by the pulpit, where the preacher doth make a sermon, that he may know how the hour passeth away, one shilling." A modern pulpit glass—probably the only one of its kind—is to be found in the Chapel Royal, Savoy. It is an 18-minute glass, and was placed in the chapel on its restoration in 1867.—Westminster Gazette.

Remember the Pioneers.

It may be that some of the younger generation are inclined to forget the debt they owe to the pioneers, and even to scoff at their influence and ideals. If this is true it is unfortunate, and there is all the more reason for the perpetuation of pioneer associations and the wielding of pioneer influence. To belong to such an organization is to be inscribed on a roll of honor. In this new country it is almost a title of nobility. The sons and grandsons of these sturdy men and women should cherish their history and traditions and preserve them from oblivion.

Brigand's New Means of Extortion.

Even cremation has been made to subservise the purposes of the brigand in a manner in which those interested ought to take note. At Strauburg there is a crematorium with a depository for urn attached. From this place there disappeared some days ago the urn containing the ashes of two members of a wealthy family named Berle. The police have been quite unable to obtain any clue but the family were called up by telephone the other evening and notified that the restoration of the urn would cost them \$5,000.—London Globe.

Decorations Not Necessary.

It was Mr. Hobart's first experience with waffles and he liked the taste of them. When he had been served twice he called the waiter to him and spoke confidentially. "I'm from Pokenville," he said, "and we're plain folks there; don't care much for style, but we do know good food when we get it. I want another plateful of those cakes, but you tell that cook she needn't stop to put that fancy printing on 'em; just send 'em along plain."—Youth's Companion.

In the World of Letters.

"I'm glad that spelling reform craze has subsided," said the proofreader. "I must confess it had me worried." "We got off easy," answered the copyholder; "suppose there had been a decree ordering us to take up Volapuk or Esperanto."

Encumbered.

"So your daughter is going to marry a title," said the old acquaintance. "No," answered Mr. Cumros. "It's worse than that. She's got to take a fellow that I don't like along with it."

ALL A MATTER OF INCHES.

Woman's Increased Height Makes Her Superior to Man.

I wonder if the love ideals of womanhood are changing with the sex, which is certainly in a transition state. At one time it was a rare event for a woman to marry a man much younger than herself; now it is a common one. Not so very long ago, in her secret heart, the unattached maiden rather longed for a master to whom she might play the part of admiring and adoring satellite, but in the present year of grace she prefers to be sovereign herself, and to have a prime minister who is useful and subordinate. Can this change be in any way due to the superior inches of the modern woman? A difference must inevitably exist between the day dreams of the six-foot something and the day dreams of five-foot nothing. Only the other evening, at a concert, I was much struck by the imposing manner in which a very tall woman, splendidly gowned, made her entrance into the room. She swept in as if the whole world belonged to her, while behind her followed an insignificant creature in black carrying her costly cloak, her fan and I don't know what else. Honestly, I felt sorry for him, but realized that my pity was wasted. One could see he exulted in his wife's magnificent appearance and his own subjection.—Black and White, London.

GOOD THING TO LEAVE ALONE.

Physicians Advise to Those Who Are Fond of Mushrooms.

It may be possible that when all the boys are dead they will quit eating toadstools and dying in spasms therefrom. The edible and poisonous varieties of these fungi are too close together in general and species for the average youngster to differentiate them. It continues, after many years, to be the same old story: Eat it; if it kills you it is a toadstool; if it agrees with you it is a mushroom. Some years ago the department of agriculture at Washington issued an elaborate and beautiful set of illustrations of mushrooms and "near" mushrooms, labeling one set "edible" and the other "poisonous." The story leaked out that the printers got the labels mixed, and that the transportation was not discovered until the work had been sent broadcast. The officials did some tall hustling in an effort to call in the issue. A well-known physician said to me the other day: "Owing to the very great difficulty in ordinary life of detecting the true from the false, my mushroom advice has usually been 'let both kinds alone.'"—New York Press.

Porpoises in New York Harbor.

New York harbor was treated to a strange visitation one night recently. A school of porpoises, numbering as many as 100, and headed by a venerable patriarch in gray whiskers, swam in, took a leisurely survey of their surroundings and then returned to the open, something for which the oldest inhabitant could recall no precedent, says the Boston Transcript. The visitors came in through the new Ambrose deep water channel. "Perhaps they assumed that it had been prepared expressly for their accommodation. At any rate, they seemed to approve of it. This phenomenon occurred on the night which a soothsayer had appointed for the submergence of Manhattan by a tidal wave. But the skeptical public did not take alarm. On the contrary, the old watermen said it betokened fine sea weather.

A Famous Model.

A good many years ago—27, to be exact—the most famous model in the world, Antonio Corsi, wandered from town to town as a strolling minstrel in England. Felix Moscheles, the famous artist, happened to discover him at Dover, brought him to London and employed him as a model. That was the beginning of a really artistic career, and to-day Antonio Corsi has the distinction of being the finest model in the world, as well as the most famous. All classes of painters have been thankful to employ him. He posed for Sargent and Abbey for the well known paintings in the Boston public library, and he has not declined to appear as Mephistopheles on a can of deviled ham.

Could Have Their Choice.

Frederick Sandys, described by Ruskin as the greatest of English draughtsmen, was once asked before he was known to fame to paint the portrait of the mayor of a town, a most estimable grocer. The spokesman of the deputation said that the committee was prepared to pay as high as \$50 for a good portrait, but on seeing the artist's face grow long, added that they only wanted a half length. "Oh, of course, that makes a difference," said the artist, most urbanely. "Which half would you prefer, gentlemen?"

A Narrow Escape.

Anxious mother (to small son who has just tumbled down stairs)—"Mercy me, quick! are you killed?" Little Dick—"No, m." "Are you hurt much?" Do tell me, quick!" "No; that was the luckiest fall I ever had." "Lucky?" "Yes; I only struck one stair on the way down."

Strange Behavior.

Doctor—"I regret to inform you, Mrs. Tightwad, that I fear your husband is afflicted with softening of the brain." Mrs. Tightwad—"Goodness gracious! What makes you think so?" Doctor—"He insisted on paying me in advance."

NO "DASHING" FOR THE POLE.

Progress Northward Is Rather by Slow and Painful Stages.

"Will someone kindly tell me," spoke the man from behind a newspaper, "why they are always speaking about a dash for the pole? My impression of these Polar expeditions, gained from reading in that they proceed by painful and tedious stages, creeping along over vast expanses of ice and snow, climbing wearily over the ice hills and hummocks and stopping to bridge yawning crevasses and pitfalls. The word 'dash' in my mind is always associated with a sharp, quick run to a certain point, and yet we are told that sometimes Polar explorers manage to make only a mile or two a day and that by the hardest work. How can any one call progress that often lasts several months a 'dash'?"

"We read that Wellman is going to make a 'dash' for the pole by means of a balloon. We are told that Peary is going to make a dash for the pole by means of ice sledges drawn by Esquimaux dogs. And now I see by the paper here that another explorer is going to make a 'dash' for the pole in sledges drawn by Polar bears. Now my impressions of Polar bears are that they are slow and sluggish in movement. How is one going to make a 'dash' with such ungainly creatures?"

RAILWAYS BUILT FOR WAR.

Russia Has Recently Completed Last Strategic Line.

Russia has at length completed the great steel and concrete bridge across the Oxus at Karli, on which it has been busy ever since the autumn of 1905. This bridge is the last and principal link in the new strategic railway which is being built between the great city of Samarkand, in Russian Turkistan, and the little village of Rosoga, on the Afghan frontier, and as soon as the rails are laid, which will be in a few months' time, the czar will be able, should he so wish, to mass easily a million of men upon the borders of this debatable territory. Another of these strategic railways has also been recently completed from the Caspian to Penjdeh, by way of Merv. This means that Herat, the traditional "key of India," is now within easy striking distance of St. Petersburg. These great trunk lines have been constructed secretly. They have never been opened for traffic, except local on certain sections. They are, in fact, railways built for war. The sterile regions through which they run can, for the most part, never support any permanent population. They stop short on the frontier of Afghanistan, amid a jumble of mountains and morasses and uninhabited salt deserts.

A Backwoods Humorist.

The eastern tourists decided to have a little fun with a Billville citizen to whom they had applied for information as to the road they were traveling.

"How long have you lived here?" they asked.

"Long enough to know better."

"Don't you like the country?"

"When it goes to suit me."

"Ever been up in an airship?"

"No. When I make up my mind to fly, I'll know what to light."

"Ever ride on a railroad train?"

"No. Nigher I ever come to it wuz bein' blowed up by a sawmill."

"Well, tell us what 'moonshine' liquor means."

The Billville man shifted his "chaw" of tobacco on one jaw to the other, spat on the greensward, and as he prepared to climb a fence, said:

"H—I, and a heap of it!"—Atlanta Constitution.

Turkish Labor Too Cheap.

An American manufacturer of laundry machinery tried to introduce it into Smyrna, Turkey, but Consul Ernest L. Harris has reported that so long as the price of labor in that Turkish city remains so low the practice will continue of doing the washing at home, and there will be no opportunity for the sale of laundry machinery. Of late years in Smyrna it has become the practice, he says, to a certain extent to send the washed linen to public laundries for ironing and starching, but even this is ceasing. Specifications were drawn up for the establishment of a laundry after the American plan, and careful consideration was given to the price of coal and labor. It was found that the margin was so small that the undertaking was bound to be a failure.

Encourage Child in Music.

Encourage your children if they show a fondness for music. Teach them little kindergarten and nursery songs which are bright and swinging. The music should be easy enough for the childish voices to master without any difficulty. Do not start a child to studying instrumental music when too young, for the practicing will become a drudgery and the child's talent may be ruined. A child should be at least 12 or 15 years of age before it is made to study music, and many authorities claim that 18 is the proper age. If a child has no taste or fondness for music, do not force it to study for it will be time and money wasted and it is sometimes ruinous to a child's disposition.

Theory and Practice.

"So you think aerial navigation has a future?" "Undoubtedly," answered the inventor. "What I am wondering is whether it will ever have a present."

LICORICE ROOT.

We Buy Half a Million Dollars Worth a Year from Asia Minor.

Licorice root grows wild in the fields of Asia Minor, and few attempts have been made thus far towards its cultivation.

Until 50 years ago it was practically unused, says Payson. The root grows on the Meander plains is the best in the world, being superior to that found in Syria, Mesopotamia, Caucasus, Siberia or China.

The exporters of the root lease licorice bearing lands for a period of from three to five years. Digging usually begins in October, and is done by peasants, who at the end of each day deliver the root to the various depots and receive payment according to the quantity they bring.

The root is piled up and exposed to the air until about May and June. It then weighs only half as much as originally, owing to the thorough drying process to which it has been subjected. The root is sorted to obtain the qualities known as "debris" and "bagette," both of which are highly valued.

Licorice root is shipped in bales weighing about 220 pounds each, pressed by hydraulic machinery and strapped with iron bands. The United States is the principal consumer of this class of licorice, which is shipped there in its natural state as raw material, being admitted free of duty.

It is converted into licorice paste for medicinal purposes, and is especially used for flavoring plug tobacco. Licorice root in its original state can also be found in any drug store in America. Annual exports to the United States amount to about 14,210 tons, valued at \$560,000.

CHILE WANTS OUR ENGINEERS.

High Officials Say American Skill is Needed in Andean Mines.

Philip Sol, the consulting engineer of the republic of Chile, who, with Juan M. Gatica, attorney-general of the South American country, were commissioned to come to the United States and purchase locomotives and mining machinery, is desirous of taking back with him to Valparaiso a score or so of competent American engineers, says the Philadelphia Telegraph.

"There is a great field for American engineers in Chile," said Mr. Sol before starting on a short trip to Niagara Falls and New York for a few days. "There are now few engineers, considered competent, in the vast mining fields of my country. Beginning with Philadelphia, we intend to come in contact with the mining engineers of the various cities we will visit. The gold veins have been scarcely tapped. The salt-peter mines, under the crude methods of unskilled engineers, are yielding only one-half of what they should. It is the same way with other mining fields."

"Have you received promises from any mining engineers of Philadelphia to go to Chile?" he was asked.

"I cannot make that public," was his response. "I have interviewed several. They look with favor on the suggestion of Mr. Gatica and myself."

Easily Distinguished.

A couple of travelers found themselves detained at a village inn, and inquired whether there was any amusement to be had at the establishment.

"Oh, yes," replied the waiter, with palpable pride, "we have a billiard room."

At their request the travelers were conducted thither, and found a badly lighted room, with one small table, which had evidently seen better days. Their attendant produced a set of balls which matched the table for wear and were of a uniform dirty gray color.

"But how do you tell the red from the white?" asked one visitor.

"Oh," was the reassuring reply, "you soon get to know them by their shape."

Wages in Great Britain.

Wages in Great Britain average much higher than they do on the continent, and in France and Germany wages are higher than in Italy, Spain or Austria. The district court at Carlsbad, Austria, recently fixed the daily wages of laborers of both sexes for the years 1907, 1908 and 1909 as follows: Males—Foremen, 60 cents a day; others, 40 cents, and apprentices—Adults, 28 cents, and juveniles, 18 cents. Servants of the state, 48 cents, except servants of the post and telegraph, who receive 44 cents.

No Place for Alligators!

An English tourist in the West Indies had been warned against bathing in a river because of alligators, so he went in swimming at the river mouth, where his guide assured him there would be none.

"How do you know there are no alligators here?" he asked when he had waded out neck deep.

"You see, sah," said the guide, "dey's too many sharks here. De alligators is skeered out. Dis aint no place for dem, sah."

A Substitute.

Customer—Will you give me a copy of "The Art of Being Happy at Home?"

Librarian—I'm afraid it's out, but I have here a little treatise on substitute, which makes an excellent substitute for it.—Polo Mela.