

IN KING LEOPOLD'S "RED-RUBBER LAND"



From stereograph, copyright, by Underwood & Underwood, N. Y.

Curious dwellings of the collectors of rubber for the Congo Free State government. These curious huts are found at Yambuya, one of the villages of the Congo Free State. They resemble remotely the shape of the Indian wigwam. The skeleton is made of poles and the outer covering is of clay and stench. Yambuya is on the left bank of the Aruwimi river, just below its lowest rapid.

TAFT IN A CORSET

MME. JACQUES PROMISES SECRETARY NEW "FIGGER."

President May Also Adopt New Method to Reduce Girth and Become Sylph-Like—Will Wear Long Stockings, Too.

New York.—Secretary of War Taft, candidate for president, will wear a corset to reduce his girth. If it is successful, President Roosevelt may also adopt the same method.

Cartoonists the country over, who are now using only balloon lines in their various designs of Secretary Taft, will have to get out their models of sylphs and hamadryads, for Mme. Jacques, a famous corset maker, declared that in three months she will have completely banished his embonpoint and reduced him to the slim symmetry of a ballet dancer.

Mme. Jacques made this vast promise as she boarded the St. Louis the other day to return to her shop in London, after having established two branches in Washington and this city. She spoke as lightly of her corseting process by which William H. Taft will attain the lissome grace of a woodland elf as if it was simply the belting in of a debutante.

Furthermore, Mme. Jacques promises to achieve a new "figger" for President Roosevelt, who, she said, is getting altogether too girly. Boxing, wrestling, jumping five-barred fences, and the light exercise of reeling off 20,000-word messages have failed to keep the chief executive's waist down.

"I will return in a month," said Mme. Jacques, "and expect to take the president immediately in hand. I have his promise that if I accomplish my designs on Secretary Taft he will be measured for my belt and stockings."

"Mr. Taft's girth is now 58 inches, and just as a beginning I am reducing it to 40. After that if he wishes a more willowy figure I can accomplish it. I never fail."

Mme. Jacques explained that her corset is not really a corset—that is, it is not of the whalebone and steel stay species worn by her sex and the graceful ones of the French nobility. Strictly speaking, it is a belt that girdles in the forward overhang. To it there is attached by garters long silk striped stockings to give a more slender effect.

"The stockings," said the corset maker, "help to shape the thighs and give the leg a graceful slenderness. Imagination helps a lot in my process, for I have found that when my patients believe the offensive curves are fading, they actually do fade."

"Now, Secretary Taft is only one of scores of distinguished men who are now being gathered into slender lines by my belts and stockings. When I come back there will be a procession of them stretching from the capitol to the White House, walking briskly with heads erect, chests out, and—well, it will have completely vanished. Why, I have some men under treatment who have not seen their—Trilby—for years, who will be able to turn a back somersault with ease in a few months."

Pays \$100 for Stolen Kiss.

London.—A fine of \$100 and costs was imposed at Hanley on Charles Frederick Goodfellow, formerly secretary of the Potteries mills, limited, for kissing Edith Hall, aged 16, in a North Staffordshire railway train.

"SASSING BACK" IS COSTLY.

Pert Boy Given a Bath in Mortar by a Contractor.

Cincinnati, O.—As the result of "sassing back" Carl Guth, aged 18, son of a Lockland locksmith, was given a bath in a tub of concrete. The lad was watching a gang of laborers, who are constructing the middle canal lock, and accidentally got in the way of Samuel House, the foreman. House brushed the boy aside and warned him not to get too near the edge of the bridge, as he might fall into the soft concrete.

Guth, it is said, did not like to take such orders, and told House to mind his own business, that he would stand where he chose. Thereupon House grabbed the boy by the collar and dropped him into a lot of concrete which had just been dumped into the box. Guth yelled and kicked frantically in his efforts to get out of the mortar, and was sinking deeper into the mixture when several negro workmen let down the mortar bucket to his aid. Guth scratched it eagerly, and the bucket with Guth clinging to it was slowly hoisted high in the air and then slowly let down in the shallow water of the canal.

A large crowd of spectators who had gathered to watch the progress of the practical joke laughed heartily at the boy's expense as dripping with water and smeared with mud and concrete he made his way to the bank of the canal. After he had made his way home and changed his clothing he swore out a warrant for House, who was arrested by Marshal Hanley. In a trial before Mayor Clifford of Lockland House was fined ten dollars and costs for disorderly conduct.

SALARY TOO BIG, SAYS PASTOR.

Boston Preacher Asks Flock to Cut Amount by \$1,000 a Year.

Boston.—Rev. Frederick B. Fisher, pastor of the Temple Street Methodist Episcopal church, has created a stir in the church world by sending a letter to his congregation asking that his salary be reduced from \$2,200 to \$1,200 a year.

"A preacher should be paid just enough for a modest living and no more," says Rev. Mr. Fisher in his letter. "We (myself and wife) can live very comfortably on \$1,200 a year, and it is not right that the church should pay me more. The other \$1,000 can be used for a better purpose. The church members should devote this \$1,000 annually to the relief of distress and destitution among the poorer classes."

Rev. Mr. Fisher is a native of Kokomo, Ind., and was formerly pastor of the North Street Methodist Episcopal church there. Before coming to Boston he was a missionary in India. He began life as a bootblack and has supported himself since he was eight years old. Rev. Mr. Fisher is one of the most popular preachers in Boston.

Dog Swallows Hat Pin. Kalamazoo, Mich.—Dr. Waddles, veterinary surgeon, cut into a fox terrier's stomach and removed a hat pin seven inches long.

The dog swallowed the pin two weeks ago, and until the other day it was believed he was suffering from rheumatism. The animal began bleeding at the mouth, and the surgeon concluded he had swallowed something which was cutting the stomach. The terrier belongs to J. W. Carpenter. The dog will live.

RAPID GROWTH OF JAPAN RACE.

Population of the Islands Increasing 2,000,000 Each Five Years.

Tokyo.—The population of Japan today is just about 50,000,000. The exact figures for 1907 are not yet available, but the estimates just published are based on the average growth of the last 30 years, and may be taken as fairly accurate. In each of the five-year periods for which figures are shown, over the last 25 years, the population has increased, roughly speaking, by 2,000,000. To-day the estimate is that there are 45,267,744 native-born Japanese in the territory ruled over by the mikado.

In addition figures in the official record show that at the end of 1906 there were some 300,000 Japanese abroad, and that figure has been largely increased during the last year. Excluding China and Korea there were 34,000 Japanese settled in various parts of Asia, while the nearer territories of the two exceptions named were credited with 100,000. Europe had 690; Australia and the Islands of the Pacific 70,000 and the United States 90,000.

The Japanese native papers comment with satisfaction on these proofs of Japanese progress, especially when compared with the falling birth rate in certain western countries. They also claim that where there has been objection to Japanese immigration it has never been on the ground that they were undesirable citizens because of being of a low type or addicted to objectionable habits. On the contrary, they have been objected to because of their industry and simplicity of life. "They have been accused," says the Asahi, "of being aggressive. There is not the smallest justification for such an epithet. They have beaten back the aggression of other powers, but no aggression on their own account can be laid to their charge."

CLOCK IS CENTURIES OLD.

Notable Timepiece Which is Now Owned by Iowa Men.

Cedar Rapids, Ia.—Cedar Rapids claims the oldest clock in active service in the country. Hanging on the walls of the offices of J. S. Anderson & Son is a timepiece that has ticked off the seconds, minutes and hours for more than two and a half centuries, according to the best evidence. It has marked time for wonderful epochs, and it seems in good enough condition to keep on marking time for another century.

The clock is one of the famous collections owned by M. J. Whitfield, formerly of this city, but who is now living in Cuba, and is one of the three first made with the pendulum and escapement movement, and is the only one of its kind in the United States. One of the other two is in a museum in Berlin and the other is in a collection in Athens. This particular clock was brought from Europe by a member of the Amasa colony, and was discovered there by Mr. Whitfield, to whom the collection of old clocks is a hobby and who has about 250 in his collection, which is conceded to be the finest in the country. The claim to the invention of the pendulum and escapement movement, like the claim to most inventions, is disputed, but it is practically certain that the first movement of this kind was made by Christian Huyghens in about the year 1652, and there is no doubt whatever that the clock in the Anderson office was one of the first three made by him.

GIRL LOSES MAN QUOTED AT \$350.

Holder of Option Refuses \$157 Offer, with Balance of \$3 Monthly.

New York.—Because Mary Barna did not have enough money to buy Steve Gurick, he is now the husband of another woman. He and Annie Markowitz were married by Judge Owen Mahon in a public court in Elizabeth, N. J. Steve himself had little to do with it, except in the beginning.

It appears that Steve had engaged himself to both women, but Annie had first claim. Mary offered her \$157, all she had saved, but Annie said he was worth \$350, and she wouldn't sell him for a cent less. Then Mary said she would pay the \$157 down to bind the bargain and three dollars a week until Steve was fully paid for, but again Annie refused.

Mary took the matter into court on a charge of breach of promise, but the judge decided that Steve belonged to Annie and that Mary had recognized the fact by trying to buy him from her. So Steve and Annie were married. Mary looked on but said nothing.

FISH TO EAT MOSQUITOES.

Tampa Has a New Scheme to Rid City of Pests.

Tampa, Fla.—Tampa's efficient chief of sanitation is determined to rid the city of mosquitoes this summer, or at least eliminate that pest as effectually as it is possible to accomplish that much desired end, with the aid of fish as devourers of the wiggly tails which at times infest the cisterns about town and propagate mosquitoes. He has a trio of fishermen catching minnows for this purpose, and proposes to distribute an army of small fry among the tanks and water receptacles around residences and business places.

The minnows, several hundred of which were caught and placed in a large tank at sanitary headquarters, will be conveyed to all parts of the city, to be used as slayers of the embryo mosquito.

MARRIAGE AS AN INSTITUTION.

Regulations Concerning Matrimony Derived from Canon Law.

There could hardly be a more profitable undertaking for a young man and young woman who contemplate matrimony than a study of marriage as a historic institution. It would show them better than almost anything else could do their relations to society and to the state, says the Youth's Companion, and would give them a personal understanding of what the minister means when, in the beginning of the ceremony, he says, "not by any to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly."

The laws of marriage in all Christian countries are derived from the canon law, that is, the law established by the Christian church in the Middle Ages. This law was based upon the Roman civil law, influenced to a considerable degree by Teutonic ideas. Marriage laws are also influenced, and in some countries controlled, in respect of marriage within certain degrees of relationship or affinity, by the laws of Moses, contained in the book of Leviticus. Gradually some of these prohibitions have been relaxed. In the recent case of England it was a matter of controversy whether the Moslem law forbids such marriages.

The purpose of all statute law, as applied to marriage, is now and has always been primarily the protection of the state, and secondarily the safeguarding of the rights of the contracting parties. The Roman Catholic church regards marriage as a sacrament. The Protestant churches of western Europe reject this theory, and in order to lessen or prevent secret marriages, demand that the consent of parents be obtained.

Even in Roman Catholic countries today marriage is governed by civil legislation. The civil marriage has now said, indeed, to be the great innovation of the nineteenth century. In most Catholic countries two services are performed. The religious ceremony complies with the theory that marriage is a sacrament, the civil ceremony with the theory that it is a contract. In these countries the civil ceremony alone makes the marriage valid. The church ceremony alone does not.

Reminded Him of Home.

William G. King of Kansas City recently told of the experience of a Kansan crossing the Atlantic in rough weather.

"One morning," began Mr. King, "this Kansan went out on deck when a big gale was blowing. Nobody was in sight except the captain.

"Go below there!" the captain shouted. "The passenger looked about to see to whom he was talking.

"You mean me?" he yelled back, "when he saw there was no one else in sight.

"Of course, I do; go below," and the captain came alongside.

"Well, I guess not," protested the Kansan. "I'm up here to see how one of your mountain-high waves and terrific gales" compare with what we have in Kansas in the way of cyclones. This ain't a patch to what I've seen out our way."

"A big wave broke over the deck, sweeping the Kansan off. They picked him up with a broken leg, a twisted shoulder, a sprained wrist and his face looking as if it had been dragged backward through a briar patch. When he came to he saw the captain.

"By gravy, cap," he said, feebly, "that reminded me of home, only it was a darn sight wetter."

Heroic Test, but Sure.

A sufferer from nervous diseases had been in the hands of the doctor for many months. Last week he declared his positive conviction that he was cured.

"I think, myself, that you are again as sound as a dollar," said the specialist, "but before I pronounce you entirely well I wish to subject you to a final test. Here are two books. Read one of them to-night for about three hours before you go to bed, and the other to-morrow night. If, when you go to sleep, you dream about the stories you have just read, if you live through the scenes again and see and talk with the characters, you will have to come back for further treatment. But if, on the other hand, you either do not dream at all or else dream about something entirely different from these books, you are a well man."

The stories provided were of the hair-raising variety, calculated to make a deep impression upon any man, nervous or otherwise, but the patient laid them down at the end of the three-hour session and sought a dreamless couch. As the result of that test of nerves the doctor pronounced him cured.

Egypt's Wonderful Progress.

The progress of Egypt's commercial development in the last 20 years has been most marked. The cotton crop alone in that time has more than doubled. In spite of the large reductions of taxation the revenue last year was the largest ever collected in one year. The great wealth of Egypt lies in her agricultural resources—cotton, oil seeds, sugar and other crops. These, in turn, depend upon the Nile flood. With the Nile regulated and under control by the immense system of reservoirs and dams, with a fallow freed from excessive taxation, and with a network of light railways, rendering the produce of the country accessible to foreign markets, the prospect of Egypt is placed on a more solid basis than in the past.

FLOG STRIPPED TRAMPS.

Connecticut Farmers Ply Rawhide on Skins of Thieves.

Waterbury, Conn.—While four tattered tramps were wandering as to who should carve a juicy piece of beef which they had snatched from little Margaret Fairclough in Milton, a dozen farmers, armed with horsewhips, surrounded the banqueters. They were all huddled around a crackling fire, watching the meat as it sizzled on a hook. Outnumbered three to one, they offered no resistance.

"Take off yer cloths!" commanded the leader of the posse.

"Do you want us to catch our death?" whined one of the tramps.

"If you do you'll go to heaven well decorated," answered the chief of the avengers. "Come on, now, strip and be lively about it!"

The command was accompanied by a vigorous application of the whip in a few minutes four shivering hoboes were posing in the altogether, six inches of snow serving to emphasize the fact that it was the closed season for soap as far as they were concerned.

"Grab hands, ring-a-rosy fashion," shouted the executioner, and the tramps obeyed with many a whimper.

"All ready, boys," yelled the leader. The farmers formed an outside ring and at a signal from the boss the whips descended across the shoulders of the four men. Fifty times the rawhide lashed their naked backs, and when at last they were commanded to dress they looked like rambling rainbows. The farmers promised to take an encore if the tramps didn't get a luste on, and within ten minutes the last of the quartette had dragged himself out of sight.

GOT TOO MANY KISSES.

Superfluity of Love Causes Man to Flee from Bride of Sixteen Days.

Chicago.—Arthur Kebr, a musician, who has been married just 16 days, has sued for divorce. Too much love is the plea he makes for disunion. He married Mary Rogers, a young widow. Here is his own story:

"You never saw anything like it in all your born days. She would sit on my lap by the hour, and if I wanted to go across the street for a package of tobacco she would order me to stay where I was and do the errand herself, because she was afraid some girl might run off with me.

"She wanted to be kissed in the morning and kissed at noon and kissed at night. I could never get away from the passionate, despairing cry: 'Arthur, kiss me!'

"I was a prisoner in my wife's house. The week I was there I earned only \$4.20 because she wouldn't let me go out to play. I had to be with her all the time, getting loved.

"There was only one thing for me to do, and I did it—ran away. I wouldn't go back to her for anything."

MONEY SAVES WIFE.

Eloper Held Husband's Property in Her Name and Was Forgiven.

Pittsburg, Pa.—Ernest Kohler, a merchant of Cranford, N. J., confronted his wife Christina and Alexander Bergner, a neighbor, in police court the other afternoon. "If it were not for the property, I would let you both go over the road for this," said Kohler.

The husband says his wife and Bergner left home two weeks ago. He traced them to New York, then to Pittsburg. Here he caused their arrest. He promptly preferred charges against Bergner, who is still in jail, but he asked the police to release his wife, and took her home with him.

"I've got \$20,000 worth of property tied up in her name, judge," said Kohler, "and I can't afford to let it go."

Kohler says the couple took \$200 cash when they left. He will prefer charges against Bergner in New Jersey and try to have the man extradited.

MILLIONAIRE QUITS DRY TOWN.

Gives Mansion to Mission Board and Leaves Asheville in a Huff.

Asheville, N. C.—John A. Roebling, multi-millionaire and owner of Beauclene, a \$500,000 country estate on St. Dunston's, between Asheville and Blount, has decided over his entire property to the home mission board of the Northern Presbyterian church and will return shortly to his home in Trenton, N. J. Mr. Roebling says that he is leaving Asheville because Asheville has gone for prohibition. Mr. Roebling says that there is no personal motive in his going away and abandoning a magnificent mansion.

"It is just a matter of principle," he stated, "on account of prohibition, which I oppose from principle. He has been a resident here for ten years.

During the recent prohibition campaign in Asheville Mr. Roebling was one of the most prominent leaders against it. He made hundreds of speeches during the campaign.

Stamps Wear Out Tongue.

Winsted, Conn.—Because she looked so many postage stamps three years ago, Miss Myra Silvernail, employed in the post office in Norfolk, says her tongue "aches most of the time."

She was treated at first in Hartford, but got no relief. She has just returned from a six weeks' stay at St. Vincent's hospital, in New York, but her tongue still bothers her. The case puzzles physicians, who think that an operation may have to be performed. Her trouble has impaired her general health.

BLOW AT ENGLISH BARMAID.

Move to Shut Out Women from the Liquor Business.

London.—Efforts to save the young women of the future in the United Kingdom from taking up the life of barmaids will be vigorously pushed at the forthcoming session of parliament. The bishops of St. Albans and Birmingham, the great free church leaders; Revs. R. J. Campbell, John Clifford and Frederick H. Meyer, and a large group of physicians, politicians and scholars have memorialized H. H. Asquith, chancellor of the exchequer, to provide for the elimination of the barmaid in the new licensing legislation. However, they have not asked that the girls at present so employed be driven out of business.

It is estimated that 100,000 girls are engaged in the sale of intoxicating beverages in this country, and a considerable number of these are under 21 years of age and more than half under 25.

"The claim that the influence of the barmaid is good in that it causes men to drink less and generally behave better in the saloons is not borne out by the facts," said Rev. Mr. Campbell. "The trade papers' advertisements clearly show that the girls are employed because they attract men to saloons, and when men go to saloons they drink."

THIEF SPOILS GOOD RECORD.

Takes Clothes and Makes Man Miss Church First Time in 25 Years.

Minneapolis, Minn.—Church attendance records in the Young family were broken Sunday when for "reasons annexed," and good ones at that, T. W. Young, living on Fourth avenue south, did not attend worship on Sunday for the first time in 25 years.

Mr. Young is one of the pillars of St. Stephen's church, having for the past quarter of a century been identified with all its workings, and his non-appearance at service on Sunday morning placed the church officers in such a predicament that J. J. Dugan, a prominent church official, made an investigation and discovered that his coworker had good cause for staying away from church—and he wasn't sick, either.

It seems that last week Mr. Young sent to the laundry all except his needed wearing apparel, and on Saturday night left the latter, which included his Sunday meeting clothes, in full view of the habitual thief who is prone to wander about in the dead of night. This wanderer of Saturday night found his way to Mr. Young's home and carried away all that was in sight, with the result that Mr. Young failed to put in an appearance at church.

PREACHERS RING UP FARES.

Hard Times Drive Them to Street Cars in Smoky City.

Pittsburg.—The slackness in business here has made some strange bed-fellows in the Pittsburg Street Railway company's business. It was announced by that concern that recently it had taken on 20 college graduates, four college professors and two ministers of the Gospel as street car conductors and motormen.

In every case the new men have been a success from the start, and inducements have been offered to keep them after the slump has passed away. The preference has been for conductors' berths, though one of the ministers was compelled to take the job of motorman until there could be found a place for him with the bunch.

The other minister, according to the street railway people, is running a "trick" which does not end until two a. m., and he is getting along famously with the tough crowd after the saloons close. The railway people refuse to give names, saying it would make matters hard for their new men, who are all that could be desired.

DIARY EXPOSES SOCIETY GIRLS.

Mistress Finds Notebook Holding Secret of Wealthy Servant.

Dayton, O.—Two society girls of Indianapolis, Mary Rosetter and Isabel Farrer, members of well-known families, who are touring the country in an effort to solve domestic questions in the interest of the servant girl, secured places here through the free employment bureau, which was not informed of their mission.

A Dayton View family needed a girl for the dining room and another to take charge of the silver and assist in the dining room, and the young ladies secured positions in the same home. But for the fact that one of the girls misplaced her diary, which was found by the mistress, they would still be holding their places. However, when evidence was presented to them the girls immediately resigned and did not wait for their pay. They left for another city, but are keeping their destination a secret. The girls are out in the interest of a club movement on sociological lines.

Graft 1,974 Bits of Skin.

Westboro, Mass.—One of the most remarkable skin-grafting achievements on record has been completed at the farm of J. G. Kestler, when the last of 1,974 pieces of skin was placed on the arm of Mrs. Kestler. All the pieces were taken from the arms and legs of the husband. The operation has lasted more than three months. Mrs. Kestler was severely burned in a kerosene explosion last July, the right side of her body and her face being left without skin. The entire side is now covered.