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America's Blunder.

Fate of the Wooden Ships.

000,000 from the assets to the liabilities account of the Federal balance sheet, unced from Washington on Aug. 3, a dispute is recalled which had far-

sents the cost of the 800 wooden ships Matrimonial Boom built hastily in 1917 to transport the American Army abroad despite the manace of German submarines. Gener By the transfer of an item o f\$250,- al Goethals, then General Manager of the Emergency fleet Corporation, opposed the building of wooden ships as steel ships. Mr. Denman, Chairman of reaching consequences. The enormous the Shipping Board, disagreed with item thus written off as loss repre- him, and as a result of the lively conthe Shipping Board, disagreed with flict that ensued Colonel Goethals sought other fields of activity. Then, when it transpired that the judgment of Goethals was correct, the forced renent of Mr. Denman followed and there was a complete reorganization of the Shipping Board under Chairman Hurley. Many of these wooden ships were still unfinished when the end of the war approached and the contractors speeded up their work in order not to lose their profits. The ships are still a cause for considerable expense, yet are said to be practically useless. They lie at various ports,

in Japan.

Japanese find a close connection be tween money and marriage by readmore costly and less effective than ing the lessons of the financial depressions in Japan. The passing of easy money-making has caused a rush to the Japanese matrimonial agencles and women are leading in the rush. In prosperous times the agency customers are men loking for wives, but now, say matrimonial managers, the old order, is reversed. In view of the approaching "hard times" women seem to be seeking safety in the protection of husbands. One result of the feminine advances is a marked increase in marriages.

carry a complete assortment of waiting upon the musician. Plates of Women's and Children's White and Black Ballet Slippers. purchase by private firms.—Current PARKER & MONROE, LTD., East End Branch.-oct12,6i

Japan's Ivory Carving.

Japan takes the credit for the finest vory carvings in the world. If your reasures should become broken, and the pieces are not lost, they can be repaired. The dismembered fragments must be fitted in place and held there by using a cement which is not affected by moisture.

A cement which cannot hold its own in spite of moisture is of no use, and for this reason ivory must have water in order to preserve its beauty.

Exposure to the dry air any length of time causes fine lateral cracks to appear, and when once they come a masterpiece is ruined forever.

By way of illustration as to the possibilities of the Japanese expert repairer, suppose an ivory carving represents a hunter, his gun and game bag. A dead bird, too large for his game bag, is slung over his shoulder, while a wounded live bird is held by a cord tied around its leg.

The wounded bird is crying out with fear and pain. The skillful Japanese artist has been able to separate the upper and lower bills of the bird, showing clearly that the mouth is open, although the bills are not much thicker or wider than the point of a stub steel pen.

Delicate Workmanship,

If by any accident one or both of the bills have been broken off and lost, the Japanese importer can send the piece back to his own country, perhaps to the very artist who made the carving, and in due time have the reasure returned to its owner in all its former heauty.

This is what the Japanes carver has done: He has carved out a new bill and with the tiniest dowel-pin attached it. A correspondingly small hole has been made in the bird's head and a joining of the two parts has been so skilfully done that the keenest eye cannot defect the break.

No Canadian or European "restorer would have either the ability or the patience to do this, but even if his patience and skill should be found equal to the demand, if he is an honest and well informed man he would not undertake the work for you. He knows he could not live on the price for which you could get the work done if you knew where to send it. It is only in Oriental countries, where living is cheap, that this is possible.

In Japan no carvings are made in factories. The artist works in his own studio. At the bottom of the piece when it is finished the maker carves his name, initials or sign. In due time this distinguished mark comes to have a commercial value with art dealers, just as the name of a great writer bas with editors and publishers.

In Tokio there is an art school in which an average of about 500 pupils a year study art under different masters. In ivory carving there are native teachers, but in this the Japanese are but following out the rule which governs their conduct in all matter of education and progress. That is the person who is best fitted for the pro fessorship is given the chair.

In other branches of art taught the Tokio schools European and other asters are employed. carvings the Japanese, for the simple reason that they have no equals at that particular work. Moreover, the best ivory carving, even in Japan, come from Tokio and its environs.

The length of time which a Japanese artist must give to his apprenticeship work upon ivory before he can become sufficiently skilled to earn a living at his chosen profession depends upon a number of things, such, for instance, as natural taste and industry.

In this, as in other arts, but lew ever become great, but if a carver, after he shall have been under his master's instructions for five years, has reached the place where his works will sell, which by no means must be taken to imply that he can sell enough of them to live on the proceeds, he has no reason to be ashamed of himself or feel discouraged as to the progress he has made.

But the man must be made of that kind of stuff which loves art for art's sake, for his labor will always be but poorly paid. Though a little piece not more than four inches high may retail in Canadian and European are stores at a price ranging between \$50 and \$150, but a small part of this sum ever reaches the Japanese artist. Those hair-fine carvings tell their own story of the weeks and months of patient labor expended in their making.

Sidelight on Wagner.

An interesting sidelight on Wagner s given in the recently published reminiscences of a British diplomat. Twice a week, we are told, the master-musician, used to play at the house of Baroness von Schleinitz, wife of the Minister of the German Royal Household. "Two grand the master played us his gigantic, works. His playing finished, a small, Saal, at which Wagner seated himself alone in state." Then all the great auerkraut, liver sausage, black puddings, herring salad, cheeses of varlous kinds, raw ham, and raw smoked the South of Ep and. The boys who ly with the use of the cane. As the goosebreast would be piled upon the are troubleson table amid much fussing amongst the get thrashed

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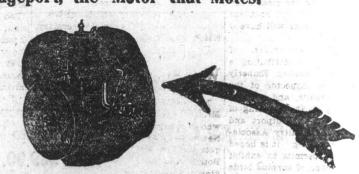
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around him."

BALLET SLIPPERS — We ladies of Berlin would bustle about, Punishment Up-to-Date.

A new form of punishment has been devised by a schoolmaster, in "ould otherwise master says, he gets at the vital need ed into an for all nunishment making the boy

jostle and reprove one another for the "Brainless Army." These boys is really a mental process, and the ignorance of the master's gastrono- are marched up and down the class novel form of punishment used at his "Meanwhile Wagner, each day until they are shamed out of schools claims to get at and stabilize planes were placed side by side, a dressed in a frock-coat and trousers the particular form of bad behaviour this sense, thereby effecting a permanent point Wagner insisted upon, and here of shiny black cloth, his head covered to which they are addicted. The ment cure of the had boy. with his invariable black velvet skull- march takes the form of a procession cap, would munch steadily away, tak- round the classes, the very smallest very-plainly appointed supper-table ing no notice whatever of those scholar getting a glimpse of the Higher Form boys in disgrace. Walking in pairs, the boys have to keep in step, to the hand clapping of the classes through which they pass. This punishment has done much to reform Boots and all other wearing apparell also Furniture and General Household and an

Wallace, I. snd Navy

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