

IRELAND

Recent Happenings Told By Mail From the Land of the Shamrock.

A farm in Co. Down, containing 1-2 statute acres, was recently sold at auction for \$850.

John Naughton was fined \$250 at Ballinasloe, for using a defaced penny stamp on a letter.

A fire in which a butcher shop and fancy ware store were consumed took place recently at Larn.

The Irish Parliamentary fund for 1910, just closed, reached within 400 of the magnificent total of \$75,000.

While among a gay throng at a meet of the Tipperary hounds, at Fethard, Capt. Murphy of Coolmore fell from his horse and died before aid could reach him.

In Dublin, at Mary's Abbey, William McKenna and his wife, Elizabeth, were found dead with their throats cut. A blood-stained shoe-maker's knife was lying near them.

At the opening of the Commission of Oyer and Terminer in Dublin the Lord Chief Justice was presented with white gloves, emblematic of the county's freedom from crime.

Mary Hamilton, of Drumbow, Irvinestown, has died in the workhouse at Irvinestown at the age of 104. She retained all her faculties and was in good health almost to the end.

In the ancient Abbey, convenient

to the town of Donegal, recently there were laid to rest the remains of two centenarians: Wm. Warke, Winterhill, and Miss Margaret Melly, Donegal.

Eugene Walsh, ex-manager of the Kilmore and Anghrim Dairy Society, was remanded at Carrick-on-Shannon on a charge of embezzling funds to the amount of \$536 belonging to the Society.

Although only nineteen years of age, Jas. Coyle, student, Maynooth College, recently obtained the B.A. (honors) degree of the National University of Dublin, winning a very high place in the list of graduates.

Patrick Greavy went out recently to bury a large boulder near Ballynash. He did not return, and a search party found the rock had fallen on him, killed him, and buried him in the hole made for the boulder.

At the recent Honor Degree examination in Trinity College, Dublin, Miss Georgina Revington, daughter of John Revington, Tralee, obtained first place, Senior Moderatorship, and large gold medals in Natural Science, an unusually high-achieving. This is the highest distinction awarded by the university.

LIVING IN CAIRO, EGYPT

MODERN CONVENIENCES, BUT THEY COME HIGH.

An Englishwoman Writes of Her Experiences in Housekeeping in That Country.

"When I first went to Egypt to live, about twenty years ago, residence in Cairo was very different from what it is now," writes an Englishwoman in the "Queen".

"Houses were inconvenient, had neither pantries nor bathrooms, and servants had no English training at all in the way of orderly housekeeping.

"Of course there were always the one or two exceptional servants to be had and occasionally a decent house or two to be found, but these things both cost a mint of money and were not available to the young official. The English community was small, perhaps 300 or 400 souls at the outside, and their residences were scattered over a wide area of many miles.

"Mrs. Jones had called; but where did she live? Right away on the other side of the city, down the riverbank, under a gateway, through a cotton repository, and then into a one-story flat bungalow surrounded by gardens. And Mrs. Smith, where did she live? Out on the desert, two miles from nowhere in a corner of the old soldiers' barracks; no address, no road, no signposts.

"Still you had to find it, and in doing so you made great friends for your pains, and everybody absolutely knew everybody else. In winter things were quite gay, but funnily enough in summer.

"THEY WERE STILL GAVER.

All the unfortunates who were left behind to spend the heat in Cairo clumped together, full of real friendliness and good will, to give each other a good time.

"I was afraid that sort of thing is quite done away with now. Cairo has grown too big, too prosperous, too busy to bother with the next door neighbor. The change seemed to come with the change of government. In the old days when the Sudan was a military fighting unit the pink of the English army spent its holidays from Halls to Assouan with us in Cairo, coming and going throughout the year and made up of England's best form of sportsmen.

"In Cairo itself the present influx of hundreds of young educational officials had not yet come into vogue. The club, not full of overbearing, was quite small, very cozy, very homely, very dear. The men had no wives and few ladies had our drawing rooms always full with delightful bachelors.

"And now, twenty years later, what has happened? One's winter is spent in returning endless calls from unknown acquaintances just passing through. You pass friends you would like to know only in the rush and tear of Savoy dinners or other hotel dances. You are out every night and in bed all day resting for the next bout.

"EXPENSES ARE HIGH.

"Rents are enormous, servants' wages are ruinous. You must have endless dresses for such a climate, and in April, when your money is all gone, you still have got to leave

for Europe, else you spend the whole of next winter getting over the heat of a summer spent where you are. Everything has increased in price. The old houses are unfit for habitation and the new ones want \$1,250 a year rent for five rooms. Then you can only stay there half the year. Added to this you must come and go with your family and you must keep alive somewhere during the other six months.

"You can at exorbitant wages throw out your servants when you leave, but it is better to pay them a reasonable rate and keep them through the summer. After all, they too have got to live, and their wives and children, also. If you get a reputation for closing the house no servant living will take much interest in your welfare and will incessantly rook you during the winter months because he must.

"The cook's wage is high, but he has to pay rent, a family to keep and no summer work available. You must feed your English cook and pay her rent. It averages the same with the good one, and the bad ones we do not keep at all. Your black butler-boy is your English parlormaid and in these days quite as handy. He also stops at the silver and the door and will not touch the dustpan.

"There is little to choose in these days between the price of a good flat and service in Cairo and the same.

"IN THE CENTRE OF LONDON.

You can get everything new, sanitary, well-built flats, telephone, electric light and gas stoves, motor and electric trams just at the corner, but also you must have not less than \$5,000 a year. In England if you are comfortable, you can stay there all the year round, but in Cairo the more ladies there are and the more the expenses increase, so much the more urgent it is that you must move out in summer and repeat all your bills in another country more sanitary and with better climate.

"That is what makes Cairo so expensive for the poor man. I have seen humbled creatures with humble wives arrive full of joy at a salary of \$3,000 a year. With the best intentions, both pulling the load, living in summer on their people, with only one child and cheap servants, they could not make both ends meet. You cannot help yourself out of the trouble. You cannot go to market, you cannot visit your own kitchen full of Arabs, you cannot help being cheated.

"You must pay, or else you must do with cheap, bad servants who are stupid and inefficient. If a cook is clever at cooking he is clever at your accounts, and you may stand over him while he weighs the beef—he will still get his proportion. He has only six months, in which to make enough to keep him going while you are away during the summer. Pay, and he will give you the best of good times—good dinners, no worries, no tempers, the house running on oiled wheels; but you must pay, remember that."

What can't be cured supports the doctor.

English lawyers never wear mustaches.

It is better to be a dark horse than a black sheep.

To say a man is happy because he is rich is as unwarranted as to say a man is healthy because he has enough to eat.

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NO ALTERATION IN MEXICO

THE WORLD'S MOST CONSERVATIVE COUNTRY.

Habits and Customs of the People Have not Yet Changed in Centuries.

Mexico is the graveyard of modernity—the most un-American country in all America. It has been stated that Mexico B.C. and Mexico A.D. are practically one and the same thing, and certainly there is a great deal in Mr. W. E. Carson's "Mexico" to bear out this assertion. All Mexicans are slaves of habit. If anything is not customary it cannot be right or worth considering. Thus, if a servant were asked to sweep the floor when her usual duty was to cook, she would politely refuse, with the phrase, "No es costumbre" (It is not the custom). You order a chop at a restaurant, with soup to precede it, and the soup comes half an hour after the chop. You complain, and on your next visit to the restaurant, you order both courses to be served together. But the waiter resolutely refuses. "No, señor," they say politely, "no es costumbre."

AN EDITORIAL MAXIM.

If you are in a hurry to catch a train, and implore the waiter to be quick, he puts his thumb and forefinger gingerly together and says, "Our moment, señor," as if a moment were a fragile piece of spun glass, and he was afraid of breaking it. Then the swarthy villain strolls off and disappears for nearly an hour. That is conservatism, too, which has retarded the education of the lower classes, and very few of the poorer people in Mexico can either read or write. Thus it is that the "public newspaper reader" is enabled to earn a living in the land where the flowers are without perfume by making the rounds of the drinking places, and reciting the news of the day.

A certain amount of literary skill is required to follow this strange calling successfully, and the reader is, in fact, a sort of peripatetic news-editor, for he selects only two or three items which he will please his audience.

Yet even the newspapers themselves show a great lack of enterprise, and in the smaller towns editors rarely publish any bright local news, and never hesitate to publish intelligence at least a week old. An amusing reason for this was given by the editor of one of these Mexican products of modern journalism. "Good news," he said, "is like good wine. It improves with age. It is always better to hold news over for a week. If it is true, we shall get more facts and if it proves to be false, why should we print it?"

"GOODS AT THE OUT PRICE.

Sometimes, however, the Mexicans do attempt to be up to date, and certain departmental stores make desperate endeavors to copy the go-ahead style of the twentieth-century Yankee.

Plastered over the windows are such appeals as "Ojo, gran garata, ojo!" (Look at the great bargain; just look at them!); "Precios muy reducidos" (Prices greatly reduced); "Gran reduccion" (Great reduction). One worded shopkeeper, with a limited knowledge of English, announced "Goods at the cut price," evidently a Mexican variation of the popular American expression, "Goods at cut prices."

Some shops, in a desperate attempt to Anglicize themselves and appear very up-to-date have christened themselves "Fashionable," "Old England," "High Life" (pronounced "high leaf"), "Five o'clock," "Royal Club."

In one restaurant an attempt has been made to "English" the bill of fare, with such lamentable results as "beef-steak vilet" (for sirloin steak) and "coctel" (cocktail). In another, the proprietor essayed the experiment of translating the names of the various modern breakfast foods into his native language, and shredded wheat biscuit became "bischochos de avena." The translated terms were not exactly a success. Mr. Carson ordered some "bischochos de avena," and the waitress brought an omelette!

Every shop has a name painted over the door, and sometimes these are very quaint. Thus one drug store calls itself the "Gate to Heaven," and a drinking saloon is "The Bait of the Devil." The names as they bear picturesque names as "The Love of God Street," "Pass If You Can Street," "Lost Child Street," "Sad Indian Street," and "Street of the Wood Owls."

Yet, with all their faults, the Mexicans are nothing if not polite—too polite sometimes, as Mr. Carson shows.

TAKEN AT THEIR WORD.

Mexicans of the upper class have a pretty way of telling you that their house is yours. "Su casa es numero," meaning literally, "Your house is No. —," giving their address.

NEW TOWN MADE TO ORDER.

Modern Suburb Will Attract or Ruin Estate, Near London.

After a competition among sixty-two architects, many of them of international distinction, plans have been chosen for the great ready-made town on the outskirts of London, England, which is to be created on the Ruiship estate of King's College, Cambridge. The place is eighteen minutes by fast train from the West End. The estates of the college extend to some 1,300 acres in the two Middlesex parishes of Northwood and Ruiship. An "erected suburb" is what the papers call it.

The Ruiship town-planning experiment will be the most extensive undertaking of the kind in the world. There are to be more than 7,000 houses, divided according to rental as follows:

\$500 or more rent.....	21
Not exceeding \$500 rent.....	324
Not exceeding \$300 rent.....	5,541
Not exceeding \$150 rent.....	3,556
Total.....	7,642

About 387 acres will be devoted to building plots, 225 acres to parks and other open spaces, and 184 acres to roads. Nowhere on the estate are there to be more than ten houses on an acre. This is the same rule as is usually followed in suburban development in America. In some places in Ruiship there will be only two or three dwellings per acre.

The central avenue of the Ruiship town is to have a fifty-foot grass strip along its centre, flanked on either side by thirty-foot roadways; a church will face each end of the avenue. There are to be, of course, a theatre, a club, a municipal building, schools, an arcade, a concert hall, a library, a museum, a golf course, a hospital, an abattoir, baths, a laundry, a garage, possibly an aviation ground, and every other up-to-date suburban facility.

The Ruiship Manor Garden Suburb is the first great scheme under the new Act of Parliament. The London County Council is carrying forward several large suburban housing developments.

CRANES HERD SHEEP.

Yakamik Is the Name of the Only Known Shepherd Bird.

The yakamik of South America is, so far as is known, the only "shepherd bird" anywhere. We have all known of course, of dogs that, unaided, may be trusted to shepherd a flock of sheep, but a shepherd bird, which will drive its charges to pasture, protect them from prowling animals, and gather them carefully together at night, fall to bring them safely home again, is indeed a unique creature.

The native owners of sheep and poultry in Venezuela and British Guiana are the possessors of this species of crane—for to that family the yakamik belongs—are entrusted sheep, ducks and other poultry. The South American sees them depart for their feeding grounds, secure in the knowledge that the crane will bring them all back safely. Any unlucky animal detected by the yakamik while prowling about to steal gets very much the worst of it. The bird savagely attacks the marauder with wing and beak, forcing it to retreat in haste. A dog is no match at all for the yakamik.

At dusk the bird returns with its flock, never losing its way, no matter how far it may wander, for its sense of location is extremely accurate. When it arrives home, the yakamik rooks upon a tree or shed near its charges, to be ready to resume its supervision of them when they are let out again in the morning.

This queer bird is said to be as affectionate as it is trustworthy. It will follow its master about with capers of delight, showing its appreciation of any attention given it by the most extraordinary evolutions.

DEATH OGLES MIDDLE LIFE.

Startling Increase in Tale of Victims Past 40 Years of Age.

While the death rate of persons under 40 years of age has remarkably decreased since 1880, the death rate of persons over 40 years of age has markedly increased.

Why? One reason is that science has done comparatively little against the non-communicable diseases. Then medical science has nursed along weak constitutions which in earlier periods would have succumbed in infancy or adolescence, and has carried them across the boundary of middle age, but has not been able to assure them a ripe old age. A third reason, of course, is the increasing complexity of life, which brings heavier burdens, stresses and overwhelms some persons as soon as the impetus of their youthful vitality is spent. A fourth reason is that people do not replenish this vitality and prepare for the problems of middle life.

There is really nothing cheaper than the attainment and preservation of good health. Fresh air and sleep are nature's free gifts, and bodily activity a normal impulse of the blood, while it costs less to eat frugally than to over eat.

CAPT. COOK'S EXPEDITION

THE EXACT SPOT WHERE THE MEN DIED.

Relics of Massacre Discovered at Queen Charlotte Sound Recently.

The exact spot where 10 members of Capt. Cook's expedition were massacred by the Maoris 137 years ago has been definitely determined and some interesting relics of the ancient tragedy discovered by Robert McNab in Grass Cove, Queen Charlotte Sound.

It may, perhaps, be remembered that on Dec. 17, 1773, the captain of the Adventure sent two officers and eight men across the sound to gather wild geese for the ship's company. They failed to return, and searchers who were sent out finally discovered evidence of a tragedy in a number of baskets containing human flesh and fern root, also a hand of a white man. Grass Cove was previously conjectured to be the scene of

THE ANCIENT TRAGEDY.

but Mr. McNab, however, has settled the question once and for all by discovering the exact spot where the Englishmen were murdered.

After Mr. McNab and the party of friends with him had decided that the massacre took place in a certain bend in Grass Cove—a conclusion to which they came by comparing the locality with the description given in Cook's papers—they went ashore and spoke to a settler, Mr. Greenall, who was living on the spot, regarding any evidence of the massacre that he may have seen. Mr. Greenall said he had dug up in his garden an old flintlock, a barrel, a bayonet, and some other kind of a weapon he was unable to identify.

This latter weapon Mr. McNab at once identified as

AN OFFICER'S HANGER,

which was doubtless the one used by Midshipman Rowe, who was in charge of the boat's crew. There was a description of the sword given in the accounts and they corresponded exactly with the weapon dug up.

It was with that hanger that Midshipman Rowe killed two Maoris and wounded the chief before being overpowered and killed. This discovery places beyond a shadow of a doubt the exact locality of the massacre, which took place on the spot now occupied as Mr. Greenall's garden in Grass Cove. Mr. McNab's discoveries confirm the idea that the weapon may have been carried there from the fact that the locality exactly corresponds with the description given by Capt. Cook—London Standard.

MAKING DIAMONDS.

Specimens Manufactured at One-Fifth Cost of Real Stones.

After nine years of experiment a young Englishman has succeeded in producing what he calls "Synthetic diamonds," of a quality he claims never before approached. Their hardness is 98 per cent. of that of the natural diamonds. They can be stamped upon with the heel without injury. A London Daily Mirror Scientific representative has heated one in a spirit-lamp flame and kept it red hot for three minutes without damaging it.

The color is so good that even by daylight an expert can scarcely detect the difference between these stones and natural diamonds. And though the smaller ones are slightly better than the larger, they can be made satisfactorily up to a weight of one carat (four grains). Two months ago the inventor had succeeded in turning out stones which defied detection at night by the ordinary untrained eye. His latest stones are still better. Their density is practically the same as that of natural diamonds, and they are absolutely permanent—unaffected by the atmosphere.

But they are deficient in that distinctive steel-blue shimmer which the best natural diamonds possess. Of course, the maker does not disclose his process. The base is presumably mineral, and the stones are made by compression, simulating the formation of natural diamonds through the contraction of cooling mineral matter.

Diamond makers, by dissolving sugar in iron, or some other substance which exerts tremendous pressure upon its contraction by cooling, have often obtained very small but perfect stones of more or less effective appearance. But this newest invention has produced stones of remarkable size and brilliancy. He estimates the cost at about one-fifth that of the natural stones, at present prices.

Many a learned man has succeeded in making a fool of himself in several different languages.

If a girl has made up her mind to marry a young man she is not intent that he ask her father.

MATRIMONIAL RECORD.

Couple Married, Divorced and Remarried Within a Year.

M. and Mme. Horzen, who live at Zurich, Switzerland, have just recorded a new kind of matrimonial record. They are each aged 19 years, but have been married, divorced, and a few days ago remarried at Zurich.

The young couple married at 18, and the wife became homesick and left her husband for her parents after a short time. They agreed to a divorce, and obtained it, but regretted the step later. A reconciliation took place, which has been followed by a second marriage and a second honeymoon within a year. It may be explained that a divorce nisi becomes absolute in Switzerland as soon as it is pronounced, and the parties are free to remarry next day. Further, if both parties agree, a divorce is a question of weeks, and very cheap in that country, a \$25 note often covering full costs.