

THE QUEEN'S CROWN: WHAT IT WEIGHS, AND HOW IT IS COMPOSED.

I had the rare opportunity of making a detailed examination of the most famous collection of gems in the world—our Queen's most uncomfortable crown; uncomfortable merely by reason of its 2½lb. weight.

The State crown of Her Majesty Queen Victoria was made by a wealthy firm of jewelers, very celebrated in the early part of the century, Rundle & Bridge.

The crown is constructed of jewels taken from old crowns, and other stones provided by Her Majesty. It consists of emeralds, rubies, sapphires, pearls and diamonds. The stones, which are set in gold and silver, encase a crimson velvet cap with a border of ermine, the whole of the interior being lined with the finest white silk.

Above the ermine border on the lower edge of the band is a row of 129 pearls. Round the upper part of the band is a border of 112 pearls. In the front, stationed between the two borders of pearls, is a huge sapphire, purchased by George IV., set in the centre of valuable pearls. At the back, in the same position, is another but smaller sapphire.

The sides are adorned with three sapphires, and between these are eight emeralds. Above and below the sapphires, extending all round the crown, are placed at intervals fourteen large diamonds, the eight emeralds being encircled by clusters of diamonds, 128 in number. Between the emeralds and sapphires are sixteen ornaments, each consisting of eight diamonds. Above a circular bend are eight sapphires, set separately, encircled by eight diamonds. Between each of these eight sapphires are eight festoons of eighteen diamonds each.

In front of the crown is a diamond Maltese cross, in the centre of which glistens the famous ruby given to Edward I. by Don Pedro the Cruel. This is the stone which adorned the helmet of Henry V. at the battle of Agincourt. The centre of the ruby is hollowed out, and the space filled, in accordance with the Eastern custom, with a smaller ruby. The Maltese cross is formed of seventy-five splendid diamonds. At each of the sides and at the back is a Maltese cross with emerald centres containing respectively 132, 124, and 130 sparkling diamonds.

Level with the four Maltese crosses, and stationed between them, are four ornaments shaped like the fleur-de-lis, with four rubies in the centre, and surrounded by diamonds containing eighty-five, eighty-six, eighty-six, and eighty-seven diamonds. From the Maltese crosses spring four Imperial arches, composed of oak-leaves and diamonds. The leaves are formed by 728 diamonds; thirty-two pearls represent the acorns, and fifty-four diamonds the cups.

From the upper part of the Imperial arches hang suspended four large pendant-shaped pearls set in diamond cups, each cup being formed of twelve diamonds, the stems from each of the four hanging pearls being encrusted with twenty-four diamonds. Above the arch is the mount, which is made of 438 diamonds. The zone and arc are represented by thirty-three diamonds. On the summit of the throne is a cross, which has for its centre a rose-cut sapphire set in the centre of fourteen large diamonds.

Altogether the crown comprises one large ruby, one large sapphire, twenty-six smaller sapphires, eleven emeralds, four rubies, 1,363 brilliants, 1,273 rose diamonds, four pendant-shaped pearls, and 273 smaller pearls. The crown was completed in 1838.

Teacher: "What great event occurred in '88?"
Small Boy (after a pause): "Please, sir, I was born then."

SOLVING AN AGRICULTURAL PROBLEM.

The application of the forces of nature to the needs of man is one of the great questions of the day, and it has been so far solved by human research and invention that many of the great trials of physical endurance which were the daily lot of our fathers and grandfathers are now rarely necessary. This is particularly noticeable in the use of wind mills on the farm for a hundred and one purposes formerly performed slowly, and at great cost of labour, by hand.

It is now quite an easy thing for the farmer to grind as much of the grain he grows as he may require. This is but one instance of the benefit the farmer has derived from the inventive genius of the age. We have spent some time in examination of the various contrivances placed on the market by the Ontario Wind Engine & Pump Co., of Toronto, including their various styles of windmills, haying tools, and pumps, and we cannot help feeling that firms of this class are nearly as much responsible for the agricultural success of a country as are the farmers themselves. We are sure that this opinion will be shared by the majority of those who are fortunate enough to see the Company's exhibits at Toronto and other fairs.

HOW IT HAPPENED.

A good anecdote is told of an ambitious gentleman, who, rather indiscreetly, set himself up as a candidate for some office, and who, after the election was over, was found to have received only one vote.

The candidate's mortification was extreme, and, to increase his chagrin, all his neighbours talked as if it were a matter of course that he had given that one vote himself.

This annoyed him so much that he offered a fifty-shilling suit of clothes to the lone voter, if he would declare himself. An Irishman responded to this appeal, proved his claim, and called for the reward.

"How did it happen," inquired the candidate quite taken by surprise—"how did it happen that you voted for me?"

The son of Erin hesitated, but, on being pressed, he said:

"If I tell yez, ye don't go back on the clothes?"

"Oh, no. I promise you you shall have the suit anyhow."

"Well, then, yer honour, sure I made a mistake in the ballot-paper!"

HOW MANY WORDS DO YOU KNOW?

700?

There are about 200,000 words in the English language, although the average individual is not familiar with more than seven or eight hundred.

Even Shakespeare, the greatest of English writers, only made use of 16,000 words. Milton struggled along on 8,000. Many other great writers used less than 5,000. The average educated man of the day, the graduates of the great universities, get through life with a vocabulary of 2,500 or 3,000 words, and use only a fourth of them, except on occasions. Men use more words in writing than in speaking. In ordinary conversation few use more than 400 or 500.

In the beginning of the present century English was spoken by only 20,000,000 people. It is the language to-day of more than 120,000,000 persons. It is not only rapidly becoming the common language of the world, but the polite tongue as well.

PORTRAITS—High-class, low price, next week for your friends.—ROSEVEAR. [Bus.

WHERE MILK IS BRITTLE.

Irkutsk is a city in Central Siberia, where people have more occasion for fire and furs than for artificial ice-cream or thin clothing.

The markets of Irkutsk are an interesting sight in the winter time, for everything on sale is frozen solid. Fish are piled up in stacks like so much wood, and meat likewise. All kinds of fowl are similarly frozen and piled up.

Some animals brought into the market whole, are propped up on their legs and have the appearance of being actually alive, and, as you go through the markets, you seem to be surrounded by living pigs, sheep, oxen, and fowls standing up and watching you as though you were a visitor to the barnyard.

But, stranger still, even the liquids are frozen solid and sold in blocks. Milk is frozen into a block in this way, with a string or stick frozen into or projecting from it. This is for the convenience of the purchaser, who can take his milk by the string or stick and carry it home swung across the shoulder.

FARMERS ARE MUCH INTERESTED.

We have much pleasure in drawing the attention of our farming friends to the advertisement of the People's Wholesale Supply Co., 35 Colborne Street, Toronto. The manager of this enterprising firm is Mr. R. Y. Manning, a gentleman whose business record has gained him the confidence of all the leading business men in Toronto, and we can unhesitatingly recommend farmers to entrust their produce to the care of Mr. Manning's firm. Whether payment be made in goods or cash, of which the producer has the choice, we are sure the result will be satisfactory. We shall be obliged if those of our readers who desire to communicate with the People's, will kindly mention that their attention was drawn to that Company through the advertisement in UPS AND DOWNS.

KEEP WATCH.

There is probably no article for which our friends are more frequent in their demands than a watch, and we would advise them to read the advertisement of Kent Bros. on the first page. They may feel confident that they are dealing with a reliable firm, and the offer made by Kent Bros. seems to be a particularly good one, and gives a purchaser a fair opportunity of satisfying himself on the merits of his purchase.

Boys for Farm Help.

The managers of Dr. Barnardo's Homes invite applications from farmers throughout the country for the boys whom they are sending out periodically from the English homes. The young immigrants vary in age from ten to sixteen. They have all passed through a period of practical training, and have been carefully selected from amongst the 4,500 now under Dr. Barnardo's care in the English institutions. Of the 6,000 who have been placed out in the Dominion up to the present time less than one per cent. have been convicted of any species of crime. All communications should be addressed

Mr. ALFRED OWEN, Agent,
Dr. Barnardo's Home,
214 FARLEY AVENUE, TORONTO.

"Why don't you ever strike more than twelve?"

The pendulum asked with a waggish swing. "Oh, my!" said the clock, with uplifted hands, "I haven't the face to do such a thing."