

FORTUNES MADE BY ACCIDENT

When the Prince of Wales visited Kimberley recently he was shown the grease-process of extracting the very last diamond from the sticky mess in which it is hidden. This used to be a hopeless job, but one morning an engine hand thrust his grease-smeared fingers into the diamond paste, and thus accidentally discovered that an admixture of grease caused the diamonds to remain behind when the water washed away the waste material in which they were embedded.

It is possible that more useful discoveries and inventions have been made by accident than by design. The pointed spade or shovel was the result of a workman grinding off the corners of his square spade when digging clay. It brought him a fortune.

A Fortunate Fire.

The burning of a starch factory on the banks of the Liffey first revealed the adhesive qualities of scorched starch mixed with water, and introduced to the world a new and cheap gum.

To the upsetting, by William Murdoch, of a tool chest, we are indebted for cast-iron cement; and the accident of a child playing with a bottomless flask with his brother, a Swiss mechanic named Argand, placed over the flame of his crude oil-lamp, resulted in the invention of the lamp chimney. A Nuremberg glass-cutter accidentally let some aqua forth drop on his spectacles, and etching on glass quickly followed.

The inventor of automatic signalling on railways got his idea of track-cutting from a spirit-trapping session. He found that the table stood on two brass rails running across the stage, and immediately suspected the use of electricity. Taking a piece of insulated wire, the ends of which were open, he laid it across the two rails and the spirit ceased to "rap."

Years afterwards, when he was a signal engineer, this early experiment recurred to his mind, and he used the idea for the protection of millions of railway passengers.

The First Telescope.

A traveller through the Yellowstone Park stumbled on a dead horse. The animal had been lying there for a long time, but was wonderfully preserved. On examining the carcass it was found to be covered with borax, hitherto used only in glazing linen, but destined to become one of the most useful chemical compounds in industry through this accidental discovery of its preservative qualities.

The placing together of two spectacle glasses by the children of a Dutch optician led to Galileo's construction of the first telescope, and a mere accident helped Seneffeler to the invention of lithography.

One day, when he was polishing off a stone for etching, his mother asked him to write out a list of the linen that the laundress was waiting to carry away. No paper being available, he wrote the list on the stone in some printing ink.

What a Leak Revealed.

A few days later, when he was about to rub the writing off the stone, he thought he would try the effect of writing on stone bitten in with aqua fortis. He hit away one hundred part of an inch, took several impressions of the writing, and discovered that he had invented the art of lithography.

A lucky accident laid the foundation of the Nobel fortune. Alfred Nobel was assisting his father in the manufacture of nitro-glycerine, when in 1867 he discovered a cask leaking and some of the nitro-glycerine mingling with the silicious sand used for packing. This trivial circumstance suggested a method of preparing a safe and manageable explosive, and the result was dynamite.

A young Bolton engineer, out for an evening stroll, noticed that the seeds of a sycamore falling to the ground acquired a rotary motion as they fell. He noticed, further, that the two wings were turned in opposite directions. This provided the first idea of the screw-propeller.

The Pacific cable is laid at an average depth of 2,640 fathoms, or three miles.

Dreamer.

You do not love my thirst for loneliness,
The urge and ecstasy of dancing blood.
You do not feel secure with me unless
I sit and dine with you on common food.

And I am sorry for you, since I, too,
Know how Life's wine is bitter, drunk alone;
Its bread, unshared, for all the heart can do,

Turns hand upon the lips as any stone.

But be at rest. I will forswear delight,
Deny the dreams that shape your mind's repose,
Sit soberly beside you, for despite All this, my wildness shall bear the rose!

—Georgiana Thayer.

Minister Calls Religion Secret of a Carefree Life.

The secret of a carefree life is to put it in line with God's purposes, declared Dr Henry Howard, of Melbourne, Australia, in an address on "Don't Worry," opening the nineteenth season of the Sunday Evening Club. So says an "Associated Press" despatch from Chicago.

"Christ's cure for a worried life is explained in His words: 'Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things (what you eat) and drink and wear) shall be added to you,'" Dr. Howard said. "Everyone who has stood up to life has felt its worry, stress and strain. But the way out from worry does not lie along the line of escape from work."

The birds and flowers to which Christ refers as carefree, are among the busiest of God's creatures. The word translated "toil" does not mean "work," but work plus worry. First of all stand right with Him. This will swing life into harmony by putting way, and everything life needs will come along the lines of fulfilled relations to Him as Master and Lord."

1925 Rye Crop Exceeds That of the Previous Year

Rye production in countries that produce 78 per cent. of the world crop, exclusive of Russia, is reported at 774,000,000 bushels this year, against 569,000,000 bushels in 1924, an increase of 36 per cent.

Germany's rye crop this year is the largest since the war, being estimated at 301,873,000 bushels, against 225,573,000 bushels last year. Pre-war production in the same territory was 368,000,000 bushels.

The German wheat crop is placed at 107,000,000 bushels, against 89,000,000 bushels last year; barley, 112,000,000 bushels, against 110,000,000 bushels, and oats, 378,000,000 bushels, again 339,000,000 bushels.

Although estimates for potatoes and sugar beets in Germany are not yet available, increases in acreage of both crops and favorable conditions are reported.

Via Caucasian Passes.

At least eight thousand years ago the white nations of the earth began to swarm through the awful passes of the Caucasians, stopping on their way for centuries, and arriving in Europe only to find other peoples there, peoples who were there to subdue or be subdued. Rome was not founded until 753 B.C., but two thousand years before that year the shores of the Adriatic swarmed with the millions of fierce Italians who had come through the Caucasian passes. Whence they came or what they expected to find no one knows.

Impossible.

"Yes," said the second mate of the tramp steamer, on his return home, "when I was in the Mediterranean I sailed through shoals of sardines."

"Nonsense!" said his maiden aunt.

"How could they possibly swim in those small tins?"

Time and You.

Time is measured by the years of your own life is the only Time that you can have for yourself out of all the endless stretch of it. So waste that Time and you are wasting Yourself. And wasting it you are, if you are not making the very most that you can out of it. And to make the most of it takes energy now and always.

Surveyors at Work.

Surveyors of the Topographical Survey of Canada at work in northern waterways of Manitoba. The instrument to the left is a transit-theodolite, and that to the right is a ranger-finder.



Sulgrave Manor, the ancestral home of the Washington family, Northamptonshire, England, which is to be built in replica at Richmond, Va.

PNEUMONIA

A "Catching" Disease Spread From One Person to Another By Germs.

Pneumonia or inflammation of the lungs is a germ disease spread by persons who have pneumonia and sometimes by those carrying pneumonia germs.

As each patient with pneumonia is a source of danger to others, care should be taken to prevent the spread of pneumonia by early diagnosis and especially by careful isolation. As far as possible the patient should be isolated from other persons. All washable articles of clothing and linen should be collected in a separate bag and sterilized by boiling before being sent to the laundry. Clothes which can not be washed should be sterilized by steam whenever possible. If this can not be done they should be thoroughly aired in the sunlight. The dishes used by the patient should be boiled. Such articles as bed rubbers, ice caps, hot water bags and thermometers should be soaked in five per cent carbolic acid. The spitum should be gathered in covered paper cups if these are not available, the spitum should be disinfected with five per cent carbolic in the container and the cup should be thoroughly boiled. Gauze should be used for handkerchiefs and should be collected in paper bags and burned. Body wastes from the bowels and the bladder need not be sterilized because the germs of pneumonia are spread in the secretions of the mouth, nose and throat.

While attending a case of pneumonia the doctor and nurse should each wear a gauge mask and gown. Their hands should be thoroughly washed after leaving the bedside. Visitors should be provided with fresh gauze masks and gowns and warned not to come into too close contact with the patient. These precautions should be maintained during convalescence and until the patient is able to leave the hospital or his home. After the patient has recovered, the mattress, pillows and blankets should be sterilized. If this is not possible they should be given a thorough airing in the sun. All room utensils used in the care of the patient should be disinfected by boiling or with a five per cent carbolic, or 1-1000 bichloride solution. The room should finally be given a thorough cleaning.

A healthy person may carry pneumonia germs in the nose and throat and pass them on to others, who may catch the disease.

A Dangerous Habit.

So long as healthy carriers are known to exist, the public should be educated in an attempt to lessen the present universal traffic in saliva. As saliva is not particularly abhorrent, there is not the same disgust towards it as there is to other human excreta.

Who has not seen the apple pedlar spit on his apples before polishing them, or the street car conductor wet his fingers on his tongue before issuing transfers? In fact, as Chaplin remarks, if saliva were of an indigo color our whole surroundings would be stained blue. As the pneumonia germ gains entrance by the mouth or nose, the public should be cautioned against coughing, sneezing or careless spitting, especially in public places.

Possibly one of the most important means of prevention of pneumonia is

Trapping Minks.

Minks are cunning; they avoid man as much as possible. As a rule, they prefer the small streams rather than the large ones. The reason for this is obvious: The former, as a rule, have the banks overgrown with weeds and brush; the current is clogged, here and there, with logs, limbs, etc.

This gives protection from prying eyes, both for traveling and for the dens and runways. Further, concealment is offered in hunting food, and the shallow places in small streams furnish food in abundance, while larger ones do not. Do not understand from this, however, that it is useless to look for minks along rivers. Good catches are made along the banks, frequently, as they are near ponds and lakes. Marshes and swamps ought not to be passed by, either, for the animals frequent these.

Roots of old trees overhanging the water deserve attention. These are favorite places for dens. Stone bridges, especially if there is room between the rocks for the animals to enter, are excellent locations for dens. Look for tracks under overhanging banks, and runways near rocks in the water. Examine all hollow logs near streams. There are, in fact, so many likely spots to catch minks that one ought constantly to keep watch for them near water, no matter whether the place is but a tiny stream from a drain or spring, or a large lake or pond. Minks are extensive travelers, so far as the males are concerned, and seem to roam here and there, almost everywhere, as long as they are not molested.

Learned Pat.

An Irishman and his wife, on a visit to London, went to a theatre. The wife noticed the word "Asbestos" printed on the curtain.

"Faith, Pat, and what does 'Asbestos' on the curtain mean?"

"Be still, Maggie; don't show your ignorance. That's Latin for 'Wealth.'"

It is extraordinary to me that nobody is ever taught to speak well. At the age of eighteen, young people should be able to stand up in public without fear or nervousness.—Mr. Henry Ainsley.

Don't worry over trifles.

If you must worry, pick out something worth worrying about and get busy.

Stories About Well-Known Poems

His "Poem."

Mr. J. D. Rockefeller, probably the world's richest man, has lately spent much of his leisure, it is said, in writing verses.

Asked by a poetry society to attend a dinner in honor of his eighty-sixth birthday, he declined, sending the following lines in doing so:

I was early taught to work as well as play;

My life has been one long happy holiday,

Full of work and full of play.

I dropped the worry on the way,

And God was good to me every day.

The Child Understood.

Like all people whose work brings them into intimate relation with the human side of things, Sir Herbert Baker, the famous manipulative surgeon, has a great liking for children, and many of his best stories are about them. Here is one:

"Daddy, is to-day to-morrow?" asked little Willie.

"No, my son, of course to-day isn't to-morrow," answered his father.

"But you said it was," objected Willie.

"When did I ever say that today was to-morrow?"

"Yesterday," answered Willie.

"Well it was. To-day was to-morrow yesterday but to-day is to-day just as yesterday was to-day yesterday just as yesterday to-day. And to-morrow will be to-day to-morrow which makes to-day yesterday and to-morrow all at once. Now run along and play."

Playwright Was Saved by Power of the Press.

If you should visit Mr. Israel Zangwill at his London home do not be surprised to find the following notice on the door:

"To Burglars—You are cheerfully invited to enter as everything valuable has been taken away!"

The burglar made straight for a valuable old chest and broke it open in the expectation of a rich find of gold and silver. All they found was a huge collection of press cuttings. They

Good-bye on a Country Line.

"Good-bye."

"Good-bye. Come down and see us."

"I will. Good-bye."

"Good-bye. Now don't forget to come down."

"No, I won't."

"Be sure and bring Sarah Jane with you next time."

"I will. I have brought her this time, but she wasn't very well. She wanted to come awful."

"Did she now? That was too bad. Be sure and bring her next time."

"I will."

"And you be sure and bring the baby."

Walking.

Leaping through garoo is the exciting sport to children by the roadside with springs.

These novel exercises strapped to the feet, as roller skates, can walk, run, jump, etc.

The steel springs, strength, are extremely effective produced in effect on air.

Each shoe has two spikes (says a writer in "Rex") and the lower end of a sole that prevents from injuring carpet floors. With a little said, a child can make enormous strides.

Whence "Satisfied."

Teacher—"Robert, give me a sentence using the word 'satisfied'."

Bobby—"I took Mamie on a picnic last summer and we were quite a lot."

MUTT AND JEFF—By Bud Fisher.

