

PIONEER IN HIS LINE.

THE WORLD'S VERY FIRST LOCOMOTIVE FIREMAN.

Death of Joseph Whitehead of Clinton, Ontario, Recalls the Amazing Progress of Railroad Invention—Shoveled Coal Into Stephenson's Engine in 1825.

There died in the small town of Clinton, Ontario, on the 12th March, 1894, at the age of 80 years, a man whose career ought to remain forever memorable in the annals of railroad beginning, development and construction. Joseph Whitehead was the first man that fired a locomotive engine, and he lived to take part in the construction and completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway, one of the greatest achievements in its line of the new world. That such an experience should have been crowded into the span of one human life few men of the present generation can realize, for the convenience of railroad travel appear to us as much a part of the universe as the coming and going of the seasons.

When George Stephenson was busy devising the first locomotive soon to astonish the world and revolutionize social systems, Whitehead, a boy of 10, was a driver of a coal car on the tramways near Darlington, England. The tramway ran from Darlington to Stockton, a distance of twenty-five miles, and the occasion of its construction was to transport coal to the mines to the seaboard. That crude method of transport, however, was our modern railroad system in embryo. Stephenson talked the owners of the road into the idea of trying steam instead of horse power, and then a struggle began that lasted several years before a charter could be secured. The road was opposed by all classes of people. Laborers thought it would put everybody out of work. The landed proprietors objected because it would ruin their fox coverts, farmers thought it would burn their stacks, and preachers talked against it from the pulpit because it mocked God by bringing places nearer together than he ever intended they should be. On this account much of Stephenson's preliminary surveying had to be done by moonlight. When the charter was finally granted, the roadbed was constructed on a somewhat different plan from that pursued at present. The rails were laid on two-foot blocks of wood and were kept from spreading solely by the weight of the ballast. The first engine constructed was the "Locomotion," which weighed about twelve tons and had four wheels. The water tank was made out of a hoghead. On this engine the erstwhile driver of the tram, Joseph Whitehead, became the first fireman.

The road was completed its whole length before the first train was run over it, and on the day of opening the route was lined with people eager to see the iron horse. The little engine made the run successfully and proved that it would not do all the evil things reported of it. The speed depended on the wind. If a head wind on a grade it often came stock still and had to wait till the wind went down. At other times it ran ten or twelve miles an hour. The first trip was made Sept. 27, 1825.

The name of the first engine was "Locomotion" and the driver, James Stephenson, was a cousin of George. Strange as it may appear, although many other things about railroad construction have been altered, the gauge of the first line of railway ever laid down—4 feet 8½ inches—has become the standard gauge of the world. At this time Mr. Whitehead could neither read nor write, and it was only at the earnest solicitation of George Stephenson that he undertook to master the three R's. Once interested, however, he became a zealous student, and by continued application rose to the post of paymaster of the road.

Before the first trial was made the press of that time prophesied that all sorts of disaster would happen if the visionary Stephenson were permitted to carry out his scheme. The proposed speed of the locomotive seemed to have a special terror to these editors. The Quarterly Review said among other things:

Twelve miles an hour! Might as well trust one's self to be fired off on a congress rocket.

A few years later the editor of the Review happened to board a car behind the old "Planet," the engine of which Robert Pickering, was drunk. The run was not a



JOSEPH WHITEHEAD.

very long one, but for the last four miles of the stretch the train, composed of two or three of the old-fashioned cars, besides the engine, flew along at a speed exceeding sixty miles an hour. The distance was covered in three and a half minutes, and it is said that the Quarterly Review never afterward ridiculed prophecies of railroad speed.

After serving several years as fireman and engineer on the first English railways, Mr. Whitehead launched out as a contractor and built a large portion of the Canadian Railway on the west coast of Scotland. Subsequently emigrating to Canada, he constructed the whole of the Buffalo and Goderich Road, now a branch of the Grand Trunk. While engaged in commercial pursuits in 1867 he was elected to the Canadian Parliament as a Liberal. When the Dominion government decided to connect by railroad the eastern provinces with British Columbia on the Pacific coast, Mr. Whitehead was awarded a contract for constructing a large part of the road. He took the first engine into Manitoba in 1878, taking it by boat from Fisher's Landing down the Red River to St. Boniface. Since the completion of the Canadian Pacific Line Mr. Whitehead has lived at Clinton, Ont., in comparative retirement.

A Great Advance in Japan.

The Mikado of Japan has issued a decree allowing a Japanese woman to lead, if she should so choose, a single life. Formerly, if found unmarried after a certain age a husband was selected for her by law.

A ROYAL HUNTER.

The Prince of Wales Shoots Vast Quantities of Game Every Year.

There is no better shooting in England than is to be found in Norfolk County, in which lies Sandringham, the estate and palace of the Prince of Wales. In the parish adjoining Sandringham is Castle Rising, the preserves on which are among the best in England, and here at every shooting season may be found His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, who to his other accomplishments adds that of being a capital shot. The prince used to rent the shooting on Castle Rising estate, but lately his son-in-law, the Duke of Fife, has relieved the heir apparent of that expense by renting the place every year. The Duke's royal father-in-law lost nothing by this change, for he never misses being present at any one of the shooting weeks in November, December and January. Game is tolerably plentiful on the Sandringham estate, but the game larder at the castle is of enormous dimensions, and the shooting on Castle Rising is a valuable aid in making up the vast supply of game necessary. Just as soon as the shooting is over in January preparations are begun for next season's sport. The whole preceding year on the estate is a preparation for these shoots. The eggs of the pheasants are gathered from their nests in the dense undergrowth of the covers in the spring and put to hatch under ordinary conditions. They are then disposed in clusters of coops in the several covers near the keeper's cottages. Great care is exercised in feeding the young birds, which are reared chiefly on grain. The pheasants roam over the whole county, and a month or so before shooting commences the beautiful creatures may be seen in thousands all around Castle Rising and Sandringham.

In addition to pheasants there is a plentiful supply of partridges, the shooting of which begins in September, although a day



THE PRINCE IN HUNTING COSTUME.

for that sport is always set aside at the big shoots. Partridges are entirely wild, no attempt being made to rear them, and if all one hears in Norfolk be true many a partridge egg goes to enrich the breakfast table of the Sandringham laborer. Scattered over the estate are big rabbit warrens, and just on the border of Castle Rising is an extensive moor devoted to rabbit breeding. In this neighborhood stray dogs and cats are regarded with great disfavor by the prince's keepers, who never overlook an opportunity of discouraging the presence of these animals. It is said that some of the laborers who have pet cats are forced to keep them on chains in order to preserve them from danger at the hands of zealous keepers. Farmers and others who are licensed to carry guns can shoot rabbits in their own fields, but knocking over a pheasant by such persons is only permitted at the day's shooting which the farmers have after the great shoots are passed.

The Duke of Fife's shooting party usually numbers ten, always including the Prince of Wales. Each of the party is accompanied by a man to load and carry his guns and by a boy, whose duty is to carry cartridges. His Royal Highness has for years been a heavy weight, and on this account is accompanied by another boy, who carries a small round seat on which the Prince frequently rests. Dressed in shooting costume, he looks very stout and just like what he considers himself when in Norfolk—a stout country squire. To human eyes the sports look murderous, although a certain amount of excitement is aroused by the ceaseless crack of the guns and the morris skill with which the birds are brought down. As many as 2,400 birds have been shot in a single day during the big shoots, and although, as has been said, a great deal of the game is needed for the Sandringham larder, almost as much is given away, much of it to poor people on the estate.

On big shooting days the Princess of Wales drives over to the daily lunch, bringing with her the ladies who may be staying at Sandringham. The keepers tell an interesting anecdote of the princess. The waiters serve at lunch in full dress, and, of course, with uncovered heads. But at one lunch, some years ago, the day chanced to be exceedingly wintry, and the princess observed the waiters shivering and put on their hats. They hesitated to do so, such a breach of decorum even at the desire—which amounts to a command—of their royal mistress. She, observing this, laid down her knife and fork, saying that she should not go on with her lunch until they had done as she wished. The servants, of course, at once obeyed, and since that time none of them has been allowed to wait with head uncovered.

The Astral of Feathers.

When we speak of feathers the thought of the ostrich is not far distant, as its feathers are for outnumbers and outrank all others. Feathers have been known since the most ancient period, and the ostrich plume has been of all the choicest. In fact, it's only rival has been the peacock's feather, which was used in Rome and Egypt centuries ago. As a mark of special favor the German Landesknecht of the fourteenth century and their wives were allowed to wear large felt hats decorated with ostrich feathers. Nowadays all classes may and do wear ostrich plumes, tips and pompons.

Popularity of Featherless Brides.

The correspondent of a morning contemporary, says London Lady, has discovered that, taking roughly twenty-six marriage announcements, fourteen of the brides are featherless. From this he draws the conclusion that young ladies whose property is under their own control are twice as desirable as those whose money is still under the control of their male parent. A particularly cynical view, which, like most conclusions arrived at from statistics, is open to any amount of argument.

EDITOR GOLDENBERG.

PORTRAIT AND PEN SKETCH OF THE EDITOR OF FREE RUSSIA.

How He Escaped the Russian Spies—He Describes His Flight from the Emirs of the Czar—His Adventures at Constantinople.

Here is the story of the escape of a Russian revolutionist from the pursuit of the Russian police, told in his own words. The chief actor and narrator of the story, Leo Goldenberg, is the editor of the



LEO GOLDENBERG.

American edition of Free Russia, the organ of the Society of Friends of Russian Freedom. The editor of the European edition, which is published in London, is the famous Stepanov.

"It was in Jassy, in Rumania, in 1891, just after the killing of Czar Alexander II. The Russian residents there were nearly all revolutionists, and we had a gathering to celebrate the removal of the Czar.

"When the Russian Consul heard of this celebration he protested to the Rumanian authorities against such things being allowed. No action was taken immediately, however, but in a few days we had another reunion for a similar purpose, and six of us were arrested. The Rumanian Government did not wish to arrest us, but you see Rumania is a small country and is afraid of her eastern neighbor, the great Russian bear. Well, we were kept in prison about a month but were very well, and all the time the public prosecutor was apologizing to us for our detention, and explaining that Rumania was forced to take this action. Then Russia asked for the extradition of myself and three others, who had been wanted for some time for political offenses. The Rumanian Government, however, decided not to give us up, but in order to get out of the scrape determined to send us out of the country.

"It was finally decided to put us on a French steamer bound for Constantinople. 'Soon after the steamer sailed the captain pointed out to us a Russian spy who was on board, and warned us against him. When we arrived at Constantinople the captain told us that the ship was surrounded by Turkish police, and that every one who left the ship would be asked for a tessera (passport). Among those on board expelled from Rumania were a Polish colonel who had been in the revolution of '63, and a Rumanian subject. We decided that as the Russian authorities did not want them they should try to go ashore. They were arrested at once on information supplied by the Russian spy who was on board.

"Then we decided to wait until all the other passengers were ashore, and after a long consultation with the captain I made up my mind to make the attempt, although the police still remained around the vessel. I was to go ashore as an officer of the vessel, and the captain gave me an officer's up for that purpose. I then appeared on deck and gave orders to the sailors in the hearing of the police. Then I got into the ship's boat with two sailors and the Greek steward and was rowed ashore.

"I went to the Rumanian Ambassador, and, representing myself as a merchant of Constantinople, told him that I had heard some persons under the protection of his government were detained on a ship in the harbor and could not come ashore. He told me that he could do nothing. Then I remembered that one of our number was an American citizen, and had his wife and two children with him. I went to the American Consul and told him the same story that I had told the Rumanian Ambassador. When he heard that a lady and two children were detained he sent his secretary to inquire into the matter at once.

"The next day when I called I was told that the man was not an American, but that the lady and children had been brought ashore.

"The Polish colonel had also his wife and child on the steamer. I tried to stir up the Polish colony in Constantinople to take some action for his relief, but was unsuccessful. His wife, however, was a devout Catholic, so I found out the address of a Catholic convent where there were many Polish sisters and told her to go there, have a good cry and tell them all about it. She followed my advice, and the very next morning all the newspapers contained accounts of how the Poles were stirred up about the imprisonment of the colonel.

"The time was coming, however, for the steamer to sail on her return trip to Constantinople, and there still remained on board the American citizen and another. The second man was weak and sick and unable to stand the hardships which we foresaw that we would have to undergo, so we gave him nearly all our money and transferred him to a steamer bound for Marseilles. The American came ashore in the same manner that we did. On the fifth or sixth day Turkish soldiers and officials began to come to us and tell us that they would secure the release of our two friends on the payment of 200 francs. Others offered us passports for 100 francs each. We had no money for bribery, however, as we had only thirty francs each, given us by the Rumanian Government.

"We then were assured that the two prisoners would not be extradited, but would be sent to France at the expense of the Turkish Government, so we were easy about them. At the same time reports were published in the papers that owing to the vigilance of the Turkish police six Nihilists who had been sent by the Rumanian Government had not been allowed to land. I then began to look around for means to get to France or England myself, as I had lived in both these countries before.

A chance friend whom I made helped me to get passage on an English vessel to Malta. There I claimed the protection of the British Consul, and he assisted me to get to London. I arrived in London with just five shillings left, and stayed there until I came to this country."

YANKEE POSTAGE STAMPS.

The Great Quantity Made During the World's Fair Year.

Postage stamps, stamped envelopes and postal cards are now all made by contract, says Blue and Gray, none of the work being done in Washington. At each factory inspectors are stationed, who must exercise strict oversight of the whole business, from the taking in of the blank paper to the sending out of the finished product up on requisitions from postmasters, all of which pass through the department at Washington. Every sheet of paper must be accounted for, and if a single stamp be imperfect or imperfectly printed the whole sheet containing the defective stamp must be sent to Washington for examination and destruction. From three to five millions of stamps are thus sent to Washington every week, where they are carefully counted, checked off, and burned.

Last year's issue of postage stamps was, in round figures, 4,000,000,000. If these had all been of the Columbian size they would have been sufficient to make a ribbon long enough to encircle the earth three times, with something of a remainder. The postal cards used during the same period, if placed end to end, would put a paper girdle around the earth more than a dozen times.

It may not be generally known that Uncle Sam prints one postage stamp that is not for sale, i.e., the second-class matter stamp. This stamp, new or canceled, passes out of the hands of the post-office officials. Postage on periodicals is prepaid by the postman, in cash, and the receiving clerk cancels these special stamps to the value of the postage thus prepaid, and forwards the canceled stamps to the department as vouchers.

It is not often that Uncle Sam displays any sentiment in the kind, size, or color of his stamps; but last year he was persuaded by somebody to indulge in a little Columbian frivolity, and the result was a lot of overgrown stamps which were greedily bought at first and afterward voted a nuisance. Three thousand million of the Columbian stamps were ordered from the contractor at a cost of \$170 per million. The ordinary stamp costs only \$14.30 per million. It did not take long to discover that the public preferred the old size and style, and if Uncle Sam had not possessed a "grinding monopoly" he would have been badly overstocked with his overgrown "Columbians." Fortunately the contractor agreed to give up one-third of the contract, so that only two thousand million of the large stamps were made. At the end of the year one hundred and sixty-five million remained unsold. Here again was displayed the advantages of a monopoly, for Uncle Sam simply divided up the lot and sent out to some three thousand or more presidential postoffices, with instructions to the postmasters to give the public nothing else until the Columbian stock should be disposed of.

HAPPY DUKE AND DUCHESS.

The Counts and Suits to Each Other as to Taste and Sympathy.

The Princess Louise Margaret of Prussia, the daughter of Prince Frederick Charles, was, when she married Prince Arthur of Great Britain, a bright-eyed, pink-cheeked young lady, a healthy-looking German with a slender figure and a sweet expression. As the Duchess of Connaught and the mother of three handsome children, she is somewhat faded, though she preserves her winning expression, and, in a measure, the slender prettiness of her figure. She looks very much a German; and so, indeed, does the duke, who seems even more Teutonic in face than does the venerable queen, his mother. The princess is a clever woman in her quiet way, and in her girlhood was her father's constant companion and fellow student. She has a genuine and sincere nature, no end of common sense and a rare consideration for the comfort and



DUKE AND DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT.

convenience of others. Even in the smallest matters she is thoughtful of those about her. She is very happy with the duke, for they are closely united in tastes and sympathy. Their children are stout and sturdy youngsters, who are particularly beloved by their grandmother, Queen Victoria. The Counts, who have heretofore had no fixed abiding place in London, have now been provided with one in the shape of Clarence House. This has been the home of the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Arthur's elder brother, but now that the Edinburgh menage has been transferred to Germany, it is available for other uses.

A Scotch Farmer's Wife. A Scotch paper tells of a farmer's wife who had a great deal of trouble with her servants. The other day one of them came to her to say: "Madam, I fear I shall not be able to work much longer. I think I am going blind." "Why, how is that?" You seem to get along pretty well with your work." "Yes; but I can no longer see any meat on my plate of dinner." The farmer's wife understood and the next day the servants were served with very large and very thin pieces of meat. "How nice!" the girl exclaimed. "My sight has come back. I can see better than ever." "How is that, Bella?" asked the mistress. "Why, at this moment," replied Bella, "I can see the plate through the meat."

Woman's Vast Influence. As it is impossible for the fountain to rise higher than its source, so it is impossible for men to rise higher than their wives, mothers and sweethearts. So when women begin to realize the vast influence they exert they will not complain of the lack of chivalry in men when they do nothing to call forth that chivalry, devotion and respect.

Good Mother Nature. Buckets of plantain leaves are made by the natives of almost every tropical country.

A Good Half-Century's Work. John Dunyan finished the "Pilgrims Progress" at 60.

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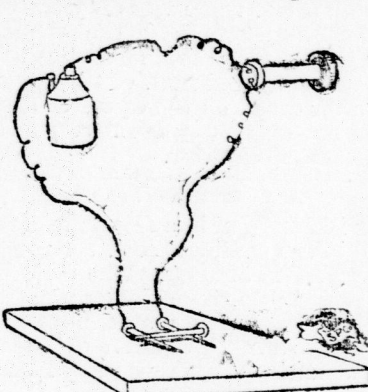
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means of it sound can be magnified to unheard of proportions. The common, ordinary house fly may be made to stamp its feet with the noise of a horse's tread, or the ordinary silent and stumbling across the sounding-board with a noise resembling that which a baby elephant might make in an empty hall.

And yet the microphone is a very simple instrument indeed. The principle of its action depends on the interruption of an electric current which passes through a telephone. The apparatus for interrupting the current is so delicately poised that even the movement of a fly's leg will produce a vibration which is accurately reproduced in the telephone. That is the secret of the whole affair. Keeping that fact in mind, it will surprise many persons to learn that three ordinary round iron nails and a square piece of wood will form a very good microphone. Two of the nails are laid parallel to, but not touching, each other. The third nail is laid across the first two, which are connected in circuit with a battery and a telephone receiver. The nails, of course, are laid on the flat, square piece of wood, which acts as a sounding-board and transmits to the nails any vibration which may take place upon it.

When, for instance, a fly, confined in a pasteboard box, attempts to walk around his prison the vibration caused by his movements is conveyed through the sounding-board to the nails, which, in their turn, interfere with the perfect passage of the electric current as it travels across the places where they rest upon each other. A large vibration produces a correspondingly large sound in the telephone, and so on down to the smallest degree of minute-ness.

Every sound is reproduced exactly as it is made, excepting that it is much magnified. And it is surprising how many different kinds of sound can be heard. Not only may you hear the footsteps of the fly, but when it is performing its toilet, the rasping of the hind legs against the wings, or the rubbing together of the antennae may be distinctly heard. But when the "animal" begins to "buzz," the noise in the telephone receiver is terrific.

This is the very crudest form in which a microphone may be made. Those which are manufactured for commercial or experimental use are very exact affairs—delicately adjusted and arranged to work with screws at the highest point of efficiency.

Tea and Coffee.

In an interesting article in the Independent on "Sleep," Dr. Henry M. Lyman, of Chicago, speaks in strong condemnation of the use of tea and coffee as it now prevails. Among other things he says:

"In the majority of patients whom one encounters in our modern cities there has been a slow poisoning of the brain with the narcotics and irritants that are so freely employed by many who are ignorant of their effects. I do not now refer to alcohol and tobacco, for their pernicious activity is pretty generally recognized. I refer to those milder poisons, tea and coffee. These substances are slow and insidious in their action; and the comfort derived from their use is of such an agreeable nature that their harmful energy is often overlooked. For laborers and for workmen who pass the greater part of their life in the open air, these beverages possess the minimum of noxious influence. But for women and children and for men of the professional and official classes, whose life is passed indoors, and whose nerves are consequently in a highly sensitive condition, the constant use of tea and coffee, as ordinarily prepared, is very prejudicial to that nervous integrity that permits unbroken restful sleep. These beverages should, no more than alcoholic beverages, be allowed as a daily means of refreshment. Their undoubted benefits can only be secured by their use like alcohol, as an occasional means of restoration and exhilaration after extraordinary exposure or fatigue. Much of the harmful influence of tea and coffee can also be avoided by a proper mode of preparation. They should be used only in the form of an infusion made by pouring boiling water over the tea leaves or the powdered coffee, and should be drunk immediately before the delicate aroma has been evaporated and the bitter extracts have been soaked out of the herb. Prepared in this way, tea and coffee may occasionally be used with great advantage, but as ordinarily furnished they are poisons."

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