

This and That

A GAME OF TAG.

A grasshopper once had a game of tag
With some crickets that lived nearby;
When he stubbed his toe and over he went,
In the twinkling of an eye.
Then the crickets leaned up against
fence,
And laughed till their sides were sore;
But the grasshopper said, "You are laugh-
ing at me,
And I shant play any more."
So off he went, though he wanted to stay,
For he was not hurt by his fall,
And the gay little crickets went on with
the game,
And never missed him at all.
A bright-eyed squirrel called out as he
passed,
Swinging from a tree by his toes,
"What a foolish fellow that grasshopper is;
Why, he cut off his own little nose."
—Our Dumb Animals.

TACT WITH CHILDREN.

When my little daughter was about
three years old, I one morning requested
her to bring a certain cup from the dining-
room into the nursery. From one of those
impulses of contrariness that arises in all
youthful hearts at times, she saw fit to re-
fuse. Without saying a word I left the
room and went about other matters. Re-
turning after a short interval, I said very
gravely and gently, "Do you know what I
have? I have a little girl who does not
love me." Instantly the child started up,
dropped her playthings, and saying,
"Allie's going to get that cup," ran out
and brought it to me. Evidently her con-
science had been active while she had
been left alone, and, without any exterior
influence having been exerted, she had
come around to the right frame of mind.
Unquestionably this experience, tending
to self-control, was more beneficial than if
forceful pressure had been brought to bear
upon her conduct. For, before obstinacy
had fairly sprouted, it had died away of
its own accord.—Florence Hull Winter-
burn, in the August Woman's Home Bom-
panion.

HE FIXED IT.

A few days ago, while walking through
Arch street, Boston, just at the hour
when empty trucks are standing there,

OLD FOGY KNEW.

Experiences Teaches People.

"My parents considered coffee simply a
harmless beverage for old and young, so
when a mere baby I commenced to drink
it, and when I reached womanhood, found
myself troubled with nervousness, head-
ache and an irritable temper and to obtain
relief, I drank more and more coffee, thus
adding fuel to the fire.

I grew worse until life was one black
night of pain. My nerves were shattered,
body wrecked with suffering, my stomach
gave out and utterly refused to digest the
most simple foods, and finally I lay for
weeks starving and longing for food, but
unable to eat more than just enough to
keep me alive.

While in this state, my next door neighbor
brought in a fragrant cup that I sup-
posed was some new grade of coffee, and
although I had suffered so terribly from
its effects, the temptation was too strong
to resist and I drank it with relish. I
noticed it had a rich agreeable taste and I
drank it without distress. She repeated
the kindness two or three mornings.

I began to congratulate myself that it
was not coffee that hurt me after all. I
was assuring my friend of this one day
when she astonished me by saying that I
was not drinking coffee, but a pure food
drink called Postum Food Coffee, made
from nourishing grain for building up the
system and nerves instead of tearing them
down.

I then began to drink Postum regularly,
and to get well slowly but surely. To-day
I am a strong hearty woman; my nervous
system is entirely rebuilt and with a re-
serve force of strength in time of need; I
sleep well and awake refreshed and feel
bright for each day's task, with no indi-
gestion or stomach trouble, and a good,
strong active brain ready for any mental
strain or toil. There is no doubt on earth
that coffee nearly killed me.

A friend of mine was obliged to resign
her position as school teacher, because of
extreme nervousness caused by coffee
drinking. I induced her to use Postum in
place of coffee, and at the end of four
months she began teaching again, her
nervousness gone and feeling and looking
ten years younger; her sallow com-
plexion having become a beautiful, healthy
bloom." Name given by Postum Co.,
Little Creek, Mich.

and while the horses are struggling to get
their oats out of their detestable nose-bags
—while the drivers are off eating their
dinner—I noticed a truck-horse uneasily
turning and twisting his head from side to
side as if in search of somebody or some-
thing. I watched him for a moment or
two, and concluding that the nose-bag
had become disarranged was about to
cross the street to see if I could re-adjust
it. As I stepped forward the horse seemed
to have been struck with a new idea. He
lifted his head, and for a moment looked
steadily up the street in front of him.
Suddenly his whole aspect changed. He
shook himself, gave a snort of satisfaction,
as if he had discovered what he had been
looking for, and with his head high in the
air and his ears pricked up, he moved
briskly forward. Much interested, I fol-
lowed him. Arrived at the corner of
Franklin street he deliberately halted at
the tail of an empty truck standing there,
and resting his nose-bag upon it, content-
edly finished his oats.—Ex.

**KING EDWARD AS A TYPICAL
BRETON.**

(From the 'Saturday Review'.)

The late Queen was on many sides typi-
cally British, and when she thought and
acted most individually and unconsciously
she was often most in sympathy with her
people. So with the King. Given some
great and sudden event, we believe the
King's first thought and impulse in regard
to it would be almost certainly that of the
majority of his people. In the King, that
is, his ministers find a very typical Eng-
lishman, and in many cases we do not doubt
that they can judge of what public opin-
ion is likely to be in regard to a proposed
course of action by noting the first impact
on the mind of the King. More knowl-
edge, more explanation, further considera-
tion of the difficulties attending other
courses or action, may alter and change
his mind, but the King's first view is more
than likely to be the first view of the
nation also. It will also be a straightfor-
ward and courageous view, and one free
from undue subtlety and finesse. We
have of course no means of knowing what
the Prince of Wales thought during the
crisis of the late war, but we should be in-
deed surprised if his view was not that of
the vast majority of the British people, i.
e., one of dogged optimism.

MR. KRUGER'S WAGGON.

Some interesting particulars anent the
history of ex-President Kruger's private
ox-waggon, which, taken from a farm at
Rustenberg, came into the possession of
Lord Kitchener, come from Pretoria. The
vehicle was built by one Fouché, of
Robertson, Cape Colony, who spent over
six months in carving the designs with
which it is so prominently adorned. The
material used was very old oak and teak,
in order to obviate the necessity of paint,
and the cart was fitted with brass mount-
ings. In shape it is a typical Boer wag-
gon, but otherwise there is probably not
another like it in the whole of South
Africa. During the last annual sitting of
the Raad it was sold to a near relative of
Kruger for £225, and moved to Rusten-
burg.—Westminster "Gazette."

HARDWOOD ASHES.

A correspondent calls attention to the
danger connected with the care of ashes.
Every year the Insurance Companies are
paying losses from ashes being left in a
barrel in the wood house, porch, barn or
cellar, and very often the people suffer
loss, especially in the country, and have
no insurance; from this cause thousands
of dollars worth of property is destroyed.
It is said that the fine school house at
Brookfield, N. S., about half insured,
was burnt on Wednesday morning,
Nov. 26th, from ashes left in
the wood house in the rear of the building.
Hard wood ashes put into a box or barrel
in a warm place, or even out of doors, will
take fire, we are informed, any time within
a month. These ashes are of little value,
even for fertilizing purposes, and it is
very doubtful if it pays to save them for
"making soap." If saved, they should
always be put in a pot, or some iron ves-
sel and kept there for a month before re-
moving. Then they can be put in the
corner of a cellar, earth floor and up
against a stone wall. The surest way to
prevent any harm from them, is to take
them out at once, and away from all
buildings, or to spread them on land as a
fertilizer.

IN MEXICO.

**The Home of the Cultivated
Rubber Industry.**

Interview With Stanley E. Elkin—
How Rubber Trees Are Grown—
Short Crops—The Obispo
Plantation.

(St. John "Sun," Nov. 27.)

The people of St. John have lately had
their attention especially directed to the
republic of Mexico, by the fact that a
number of province men are financially
interested in a rubber plantation in that
country.

If the average Canadian asks himself
how much he knows about Mexico, he
will probably be astonished to find that he
really possesses so little definite informa-
tion. He has read that Mexico wants
some Canadian wheat this year; that Boer
delegates have visited Mexico with the
view to the formation of a colony; and per-
haps he has read something about the
great activity of American and other cap-
italists in building its more than 10,000
miles of railways, opening mines, buying
plantations and otherwise developing the
resources of the country. He may not
have thought much about it, but the
moment he does think he realizes that the
country has a stable government; for
there are never any disturbances such as
keep South American republics in a tur-
moil.

As a matter of fact, Mexico is immen-
sely rich in natural resources, and its able
and progressive government welcomes the
foreign capital, whether American, Eng-
lish, German or Canadian, which inter-
sects the country with railways, provides
its towns with street railways and other
modern utilities, opens up new avenues of
foreign trade, or in any way contributes
to the national development. In the city
of Mexico there is published, in English,
the Mexican Journal of Commerce. As a
financial journal it compares well with
those published in leading Canadian and
American cities, and the facts it reveals
in each issue, relative to Mexican develop-
ment are a revelation to any one who had
not previously looked into the subject.

On Saturday a representative of the Sun
had a very interesting interview with Stan-
ley E. Elkin, of this city, who has just re-
turned after spending about a month in
Mexico. He went down to make a per-
sonal visit to the Obispo rubber plantation,
which is represented here by Elkin & Chip-
man, general agents in eastern Canada for
Mitchell, Schiller & Barnes of New York.
He left here on Oct. 8th, and went via
New York, St. Louis, Laredo, Mexico
City and Cordova, to Fuentevilla, on the
Vera Cruz and Pacific railway, whence a
two hours' ride on horseback brought him
to the plantation. Of 9,000 acres in this
plantation, 7,000 are to be planted entirely
with rubber trees. Already 500 acres have
been so planted, and the work of further
cultivation is being rapidly carried on.

RAISING RUBBER TREES.

St. John people are aware of the enor-
mous extent to which rubber is used in
commerce, and the ever increasing de-
mand for it; but comparatively few know
anything about the method of its produc-
tion. The rubber tree is indigenous to
Mexico, and flourishes wonderfully under
cultivation. The cultivated tree grows
very straight, to a height of 50 or 60
feet and yields rubber for about fifty years.
At 10 or 11 years of age the tree is about
ten inches in diameter.

Tapping begins in the seventh or eighth
year. The great trouble has been in the
past, and it has caused the destruction of
myriads of wild rubber trees, that the
natives, in tapping, killed the trees. The
tree is sensitive and is easily destroyed if
carelessly tapped.

When the milk is gathered by the
natives, it is coagulated by the use of a
wild vine, which is powdered up and
thrown in, causing it to curdle. Alcohol
would produce the same result. The prod-
uct is black sheet rubber. It could be
kept white by subjecting it to the fumes
of sulphur. There is another kind of rub-
ber called granita. It is in lumps, and is
formed by the juice drying in the sun in
wounds in the tree. Only the natives,
tapping wild rubber trees, use this method.

OBISPO PLANTATION.

On Obispo plantation 500 acres are now
planted in rubber, 400 trees to the acre.
Some of the seed planted this year was a
failure on all the Mexican plantations, on
account of neglect of the officials in hav-
ing the seeds distributed. Rubber seed is
not a certain quantity if kept over three
weeks before planting. But this failure
did not seriously affect the Obispo plan-
tation, which has three nurseries of its own,
and where seed failed the trees are be-
ing transported from the nursery at the

rate of 2,000 per day. One of the nurser-
ies has 235,000 trees, another 117,000, both
planted in the sun, and a third has 118,000
planted in the shade. From these they are
drawing to keep the average on the plan-
tation up to 400 trees to the acre.

The trees grow very fast. Mr. Elkin saw
six-months-old trees at Obispo that were
fully 15 feet high, and acknowledged by
all planters who saw them to be the finest
of their age in Mexico.

Apart from one of the nurseries referred
to all the planting on Obispo is done in the
sun, the forest being entirely cleared away.
A better growth is thus got in one year
than in three years in the shade. The close
planting at the outset, 400 trees to the
acre, enables them to occupy every foot of
ground with a crop of some sort. There is
less room for weeds, and the trees protect
each other from the wind, grow taller and
assume a more desirable form.

Under the shade system the underbrush
only is cleared away, the tall forest trees
are left standing, and furnish shade to the
growing rubber plants. This is a good
system for coffee planting, but rubber trees
when close planted afford enough of mutu-
al shade, while the sun on their tops great-
ly stimulates growth; therefore what is
called sun-planting is best.

But the 400 trees to the acre are not left
there permanently. When full grown that
would be entirely too many. Therefore at
the end of the sixth year the company will
tap and take out 200 of the trees, grinding
them up and extracting every ounce of
rubber. At a moderate estimate each one
will yield a pound of rubber, worth 50 cts.
The present price in the New York market
is 85 cents. In the eighth year, tapping of
the remaining 200 trees begins, and they
continue to yield for fifty years. The
amount of rubber yielded by a tree in-
creases gradually till its fifteenth year,
when it yields from five to seven pounds
per year continuously.

Referring to the above price in the New
York market, it is estimated that rubber
can be gathered and landed in that market
at five cents per pound, gold.

As an illustration of the wonderful fer-
tility of the soil, Mr. Elkin states that when
he was at Obispo a rubber plant was taken
from a nursery, the top cut off and the stem
transplanted, and in five days it showed
three healthy sprouts. Rubber is as much
at home in Mexico as an apple tree in the
Aunapolis Valley. An old Spanish coffee
planter near Obispo, whom Mr. Elkin
visited, had a plantation of 400 acres of
rubber trees, from ten to twenty years old,
which he had simply raised for his own
pleasure and did not tap at all. He calls
them his endowment policy.

OTHER CROPS.

But the company did not have to wait
for the growth of their rubber trees to get
a profit from the plantation. They get two
corn crops the first year and one the second
from between the rows of rubber trees, and
the yield is about 40 bushels to the acre.
Between the summer and winter season
they also raise a bean crop. A ready
market is found for these crops right at the
plantation.

Coffee is another source of revenue, forty
acres bearing that crop. Some years ago
a former owner of the property had 20,000
coffee trees, but the coffee plantation was
all burned over in a forest fire. Since then
10,000 of the trees have sprung up from the
root, and are now five years old. There is
also a nursery of 10,000 trees, and next
year the full acreage will be under cultiva-
tion, half of it producing. Next year it
should yield 5,000 pounds of coffee, and in
the following year 15,000 pounds. This
coffee is worth six cents per pound, gold.
One third of the coffee sold in New York
comes from Mexico, and it is worth noting
that Mexican coffee is actually shipped to
Havana and thence re-shipped to New York
as Cuban coffee.

Cacao, or chocolate, which is a scarce
and high priced article, also flourishes at
Obispo. There are now seven acres plant-
ed, having about 200 trees to the acre, and
twenty-five acres more are being planted
this year. Eventually there will be 1,000
acres devoted to this product, which after
the fifth year yields about one dollar per
tree. It is a sure crop, requires but little
labor, and the product is declared to be the
finest in the world.

Along with the cacao is planted another
crop, vanilla, which has reached in that
part of Mexico the highest state of cultiva-
tion. Of the 2,500 vines planted some are
bearing now, and all will be bearing in the
third year. As cacao is planted the vanilla
is planted with it, the former affording the
needful shade and the stem for the vine to
climb. They thus flourish together. The
vines grow to a length of fifty or sixty feet.
On Obispo Mr. Elkin saw a vine fifty feet
long, bearing 275 blossoms and ten pods.
From fifty to seventy-five pods yield a
pound of vanilla, which is worth \$16, gold,
in Mexico City. Five hundred vines are
planted to the acre. If we take six vines
to the pound, the 2,500 vines would yield
over 416 pounds, which at \$16 would total
\$6,656 from the five acres, or \$1,300 per
acre, in addition to the cacao crop from
the same ground.

(Continued.)