

## For the Boys and Girls

### THE ORIOLE'S NEST

A splash of gold in the tree-top tall;  
A glint in the white of petaled  
sprays;  
A bird that answers its mate's far call  
Across the garden and over the wall—  
The self-same song of a thousand  
Mays!

An oriole's nest is swinging low  
Where pear blooms whiten a gaunt  
gray limb;  
Where pear blooms weave a ruff of  
snow  
And scatter themselves in the depths  
below;  
Oh, rocking it is to a lulling hymn!

The nest is there in the shadows deep  
When crickets chirp at eventide;  
The nest is there when the world's  
asleep  
And stars down through the new  
leaves peep,  
An airy bark in an ocean wide!

The nest shines out at the dawn's red  
beam,  
A thing of web and fibre and floss;  
A tilting cradle where fledglings  
dream  
Beneath a warm breast's orange  
gleam,  
And under the petals that soft  
winds toss!

The nest, the nest of the oriole,  
Afloat in the aisles of the ancient  
pear,  
Adrift in a sky with a cloudy shoal;  
Ah, it swings with the earth on its  
leaning pole;  
It swings, it swings in the blossoms  
there!

—Leslie Clare Manchester.

IN AFRICA IT IS "LE NJEK"—IN  
CHINA, "TA PAN."  
Far away in the "Dark Continent"

of Africa the dark boys play a game called "Lenjek" (pronounced "lay-nyack...") Like many of the games of skill, to teach boys to do things they will have to do when they grow to manhood.

In order to play this game it is necessary to have a large round disc of some soft material. The African boys use a cross section of a certain very soft and porous tree. The lad who is "it," armed with this disc, takes his place in front of the rest of the group. The other boys in the game line up a few feet back about two feet apart.

Each boy in the line has a long spear, made of a straight piece of tough wood whittled to a very sharp point at one end. The leader spins the disc through the air at a height about equal to his shoulder. It is thrown perpendicularly, so that the flat side is towards the line of boys. As it whirls past, each boy flings his spear, endeavoring to pierce it. When one succeeds he takes the place of the leader and throws the disc the next time, the former leader retiring to the foot of the line.

This game trains boys to spear speeding animals. When the missionaries introduced tennis in Africa the natives thought that it resembled this game so they gave tennis the same name, "Le njek."

In some parts of China the boys play a game similar to this except that they use stones. Their leader throws a large stone instead of the disc and the other boys try to strike it with smaller stones as it whirls past them. This game is called "Ta-Pan."

wan's average was 6.85 tons to the acre with an average value of \$7.00 per ton, or for the entire province \$1,200,000. Alberta had an average of 5.85 tons to the acre, each ton being worth \$6.00, making the total provincial crop worth \$411,000. In all cases the value of an acre of corn was practically double the value of an acre of wheat.

### Leads to Much Silo Construction.

The possibility of successfully growing corn in Western Canada has many aspects. Not only does it prove the greater range and diversity of Western agricultural production, but it has a marked effect on other phases of Western farming. The corn patch is rapidly followed by the erection of a silo, and now, where one scarcely saw one of these buildings in a day's drive a few years ago, they are becoming the natural establishment of every mixed farm. This is having a pronounced effect on farm feeding, which is again apparent in the dairy industry, in which the Western Provinces are making such strides.

The Western Provinces are only starting out on their careers as corn-growing areas. The era of experimentation and development is only just past, but past definitely with its conclusions most favorable. This may be taken as the first year of really serious attention to the commercial production of corn, and those to follow will undoubtedly see corn ranking with other crops which have made Western Canada internationally famous.



And Could Have Saved Trouble.

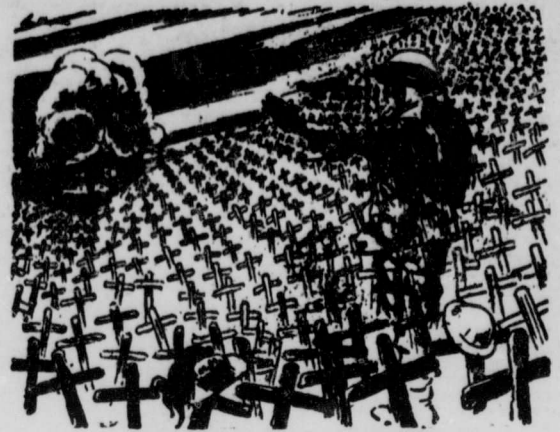
Wife—"Just to think those Americans had to go all the way to China to be held up by bandits!"  
Hubby—"Yes, when they could just as well have stayed home for that."

### A Smart Witness.

The prosecuting attorney had encountered a somewhat difficult witness. Finally he asked the man if he was acquainted with any of the men on the jury.

"Yes, sir," announced the witness, "more than half of them."  
"Are you willing to swear that you know more than half of them?" demanded the lawyer.

"Why, if it comes to that, I'm willing to swear that I know more than all of them put together," came the emphatic reply.



A LEAGUE THAT MUSSOLINI FORGETS

—From the Pall Mall Gazette, London, Eng.

## SALARIES IN SALT

When paid your "salary," how often does it occur to you that the meaning of the term is "salt money?" For the word salary is derived from the salarium, or salt allowance, which every Roman soldier regularly received.

Our connection with salt is, indeed, closer than we may think. Being a component of the human body, salt is essential to life. Men, animals, plants, all require salt. The amount necessary to the health of a man is estimated at half a ounce a day.

There are, so far as is known, only two people who do not use salt in its mineral form. These are the Arabs of the Hadramaut, and the natives of the Nicobar Islands. But the former live on roasted meat and milk, both of which contain a certain proportion of salt.

### Carried by Pack-Horse.

It is worth noting that in Holland, in the Middle Ages, the worst punishment provided by a very severe penal code was to feed criminals on bread unmixed with salt. The consequences of this diet were terrible.

Ordinary bread contains half of one per cent. of salt, and fresh beef 0.310 per cent.

The part that salt has played, and is playing, in the history of the world is seldom realized. The oldest road in Italy is the Via Salaria, along which salt was carried, from the salt-pans at Ostia into the Sabine Country, long before the birth of Rome.

London owes its foundation to salt.

In days previous to the Roman Conquest the salt-pans of Cheshire and Worcestershire provided salt not only for the whole of the South of England, but also for Northern Gaul.

The old pack route ran south-east across England and over the Thames—then a very broad but shallow stream—at the ford of Westminster. Sometimes the river was too high to cross, and the pack-trains had to wait.

Naturally, therefore, a village with a fortified stockade grew up at the ford, and this village gradually developed till it became the greatest city the world has ever seen.

### Food and Physic tool

The caravan trade of the Sahara is largely in salt, which is scarce in North Central Africa. In Abyssinia, for instance, bars of salt are still in use as currency. Another ancient caravan route is that along which, during countless ages, salt has been carried from Palmyra to the Syrian ports.

The only other source of salt in that part of the world is the Dead Sea, the water of which is a saturated solution of sodium chloride. The Dead Sea was formerly the personal property of the Sultan of Turkey; and its shores were guarded by armed soldiers who prevented the Arabs from drawing so much as a pail of water.

Salt has always provided revenue for rulers and governors. In the days of William III. the duty in England was no less than fifteen shillings a bushel, or thirty times the prime cost. The salt duty was not finally removed in England until 1825.

Apart from its value in food, the uses of salt are almost endless. In medicine, it is used in cholera and other diseases, and as a solution for injection in cases of loss of blood, while the value of salt baths does not need to be emphasized.

### Dogs Used for Fishing.

Fishing with dogs is a sport many people have never heard of, yet it is popular in some parts of the British Isles, chiefly on the north coast of Somerset.

During the autumn, conger-eels are very abundant there. They lie off the coast beyond the low-water line, where the ebbing-tides, at this period of the year, leave exposed a vast expanse of mud. The conger-hunters take advantage of this to pursue their sport. Wearing wading-boots, and armed with a thick stick some six feet long, one end of which is sharpened after the fashion of a chisel, they set out, accompanied by a motley collection of dogs.

Boulders and large stones are turned over to lay bare the lair of the eels, the long sticks being used to stir up the mud. The eels then start to wriggle; this excites the dogs, who seize them as firmly as possible. It is no easy matter, however, for an angry eel is a ticklish, slippery customer, with more strength than one might credit.

But the dogs soon become quite expert at their job. Having got a firm hold of an eel, they will stick to it until the hunter helps them to "land" it.

The conger-eel weighs anything from five to nine pounds, and even larger ones are sometimes caught. A lucky hunt will result in some five or six congers, but no matter what the "bag," this method of fishing with dogs will afford exciting sport.

### A New Element.

The teacher was piloting a class in general science through one of the early lessons in the text book.

"What were the four elements," she asked, "into which the ancients divided all natural objects? William, you may answer."

"Earth," began William slowly. "Earth—and—and—air—let's see, there was earth and air and—water—and—and—"

"Well, well," said the teacher briskly, "what causes more accidents than anything else?"

"Automobiles," cried William, grateful for the teacher's tip.

Spiders lived on the earth long before man. In the most ancient of the carboniferous rock two hundred and fifty different varieties of fossil spiders have been discovered.

## CORN GROWING IN WESTERN PROVINCES

### RECORD ACREAGE DEVOTED TO CEREAL AND FODDER.

### Era of Experimentation and Development is Over With Favorable Results.

An outstanding feature of Western Canadian agriculture this year is the enormously increased interest exhibited in the planting of corn, and this season sees a record acreage in the West devoted to both cereal and fodder. It is not long since the possibility of growing corn in the Prairie Provinces was regarded with the utmost scepticism, which was followed by the exhaustive experimentation of a few enthusiasts with a more or less desultory following on the part of others. Any doubts of successful growth have now been definitely dispelled. Corn has been firmly established as a Western Canadian crop, and every indication points to a general belief in its assuming a more important place each year in the agriculture of the Western territory.

The first real profession of faith in the future of Western Canada as a corn-growing area was made in Southern Alberta when, last fall, the Alberta Corn Growers' Association was formed. Then, to prove that successful propagation was not limited to the southern area of the prairie, Prince Albert, in Saskatchewan, several hundred miles north, held the first corn show to take place in that province, at which locally grown corn was exhibited said to be the equal of that grown anywhere. Now the Saskatchewan Corn Growers' Association has been organized and the first provincial show will be held in Maple Creek in November next.

### Active Results Apparent.

A prominent visitor to the prairies this spring was responsible for the statement: "For every acre of corn sown in Alberta last year, ten is being sown this." The provincial association has indeed been active in encouraging the planting of further acreage in every way. From Calgary it has distributed two carloads of corn seed, this going from the international boundary to Peace River and outside the province as far as Victoria in the West and the eastern Manitoba boundary in the East. The association now has 50 farmers growing corn, who should account for the planting of 27,000 acres of this crop in Alberta this year.

The movement of corn-growing in Western Canada is of very recent date, but has been characterized by startling rapidity, and the development of the last five years has been

little short of phenomenal. Manitoba, which in 1917 raised 47,600 bushels of corn, grew 218,000 bushels in 1922, an increase of over 250 per cent. for the period. Saskatchewan in the same time increased her production from 31,800 bushels to 187,000 bushels, or by nearly 500 per cent. Alberta increased her yield from 4,000 bushels in 1917 to 82,000 bushels in 1922, an incredible increase of 1,915 per cent. Manitoba last year achieved an average production of 7.50 tons of fodder corn to the acre, which was worth then \$6.00 per ton, or for the total provincial crop \$1,296,000. Saskatchewan

## The Vogue of Civility

BY ARTHUR W. ROW.

If I were a good fairy and could bestow a single gift on an orphan child I might choose "civility." We live in a world of least resistance and good manners give a being supreme advantage with all peoples. In business there is no one thing so vital. It "sells" like nothing else. Courtesy impresses because it represents control and it is the opposite of ignorance.

A really polite person makes one feel safe, serene and happy. One can get away with almost murder if one is only "nice" about it. People are so sensitive to this that many times they put manners before morals.

There is one special, burning reason why civility should be "stressed" just now. It is this: the lack of civility is supposed by many to be the most glaring fault of American people. Europeans say we know life and have it most abundantly—but of "living" we know practically little. By "living" I mean life's sweetness; its little graces; small amenities, above all—its charm.

An awful fact is that our manners do not compare with those of the past. And we are all dreadfully the loser. What good does all our material prosperity if we miss the finer things in life?

What a charming thing a smile can be—how warming, heart-cheering—memorable. Yet a smile is only a thought. I knew a woman who made a lifelong friend because of the way she smiled and thanked a man just for giving her his seat.

### Charm of Childhood.

What is more charming than a child with fine manners? To its natural charm it adds one hundredfold, but do not blame the child if its manners are bad; if its little blunders are laughed at as cute and smart; if it is made the cynosure of all eyes. The tragedy of this is that it mars the whole after-life of the boy or girl, for in after years the world will not take trouble to correct, it will just ignore.

What are called "manners" are but the outward semblance to the inward grace. Bad manners show a terrible barrenness within—like a house with-

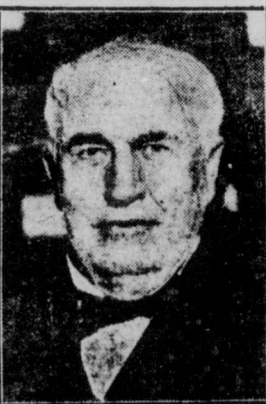
out furniture, like a church without an altar, or a theatre with no stage.

Take the matter of eating. In England and on the continent they make eating a festive thing, a thing of the highest civilization and art. There people dress for dinner, as a custom, and do not wait for some special occasion. They eat leisurely and there is much conversation. They do not "talk" but converse.

### The Personal Touch.

The whole thing is we are not machines. The needs of all are ever individual. When one is waited on in a store as a peculiar case—an individual need—what a booster one becomes forever after of that particular store! It is the human, personal touch that has the lasting effect.

Of course, one must never forget that the head of any great business is in a way its parent—its father—mother. Unless all are happy, harmonious



Sees New Era in Fuel.

Thomas A. Edison, who believes that a day will soon come when coal will be converted into electrical energy at the mines, and the power delivered all over the country. He has already been discussing the plan with Nova Scotia mine owners.

and interested, the service in that particular organization will be only mediocre. The courtesy so rare and so needed must first emanate from the employer. Some large stores begin their day's work with the community singing. In this way the workers get their emotions flowing, nerves tingling and faculties keenly alive.

### A Treasured Legend.

There is a legend in our family of an encounter a distant relative had with Edward VII. He came to their little English town to lay the cornerstone for some building. In his position as Mayor it devolved upon our kinsman to entertain the Royal guests. The party consisted of the Duchess of Teck, the Princess Mary (now Queen of England) and the Prince of Wales, afterwards Edward VII. They arrived in the morning, laid the cornerstone, had lunch and departed on the afternoon train. All seemed to go off with the utmost precision to the infinite relief of the Mayor, who was rather unaccustomed to such a severe ordeal. All seemed to go well, but the Prince sensed an intense underlying anxiety and uncertainty on the part of his hostess. After the formal adieux had been made at the station and the train was about to move out, the Prince, who was standing on the step of the train, suddenly got off, ran up to this woman, took her by the wrist and whispered—"We did have an awfully good time—no bosh!" This little, intimate touch absolutely reassured her and supplied that personal note that made all well, at the same time supplying a story that became a treasured legend in her family.

Finally, manners are our attitude towards people. They are our gesture to the world and determine our exact status in society and regulate precisely the conduct of people to us and our affairs. Bad manners are vulgar not only because they are thoughtless but especially because they are unkind. As Portia says, "Thus shines a good deed in a naughty world."

Good manners are the most flaming advertisement any one can possibly have.—Success.