

Peculiarities

PEOPLE who are accustomed to think of the East as slow, will need to revise their opinion. Two weeks ago a party of British journalists were entertained at the Union Club in St. John, N.B. Just before entering the Club they sat for a group photograph, and twenty-five minutes later as they departed, the finished picture was presented to them. At this rate of doing business, a good many photographers in the so-called hustling West will have to increase the hustle or be marked down as "also ran."

Fire alarm boxes must be something of a novelty in the West and Edmonton is having trouble with citizens who mistake the boxes for letter boxes. The other day an alarm was sounded from a busy corner and the firemen were on the scene in record time. No trace of fire could be discovered but two letters were found carefully mailed in the alarm box. The letters have been held with a view to discovering by whom they were deposited.

Verily this is a country of boundless opportunities and no man need be hard up if he chooses to work. A student of Toronto University who has been spending his vacation at the Kawartha Lakes, Ont., has cleared \$700 by catching frogs and shipping the legs to the New York and Chicago markets. The frogs are caught with a piece of red flannel and an ordinary fish hook, and are shipped in eighty pound cans.

What are said to be the bones of the first mastodon ever discovered in British Columbia, were unearthed on the Queen Charlotte Islands recently and brought to Vancouver. The skull measures seven feet six inches across the forehead, and the eye sockets measure two feet in diameter, so that the eyes must have looked like automobile searchlights. The vertebrae of the monster are between sixteen and seventeen feet in length. It is probable that the skeleton, which is valued at \$50,000, will be placed on view in Vancouver this fall.

Here is another rap at Toronto, from the Kingston "Whig," but it is a good one: "A Trenton minister made a funny break last Sunday in his sermon, but didn't notice it. He said that the Apostle Paul took his graduate course at Antioch and his post-graduate course at Toronto. Of course he must have been thinking of Toronto being the modern Jerusalem, or the Holy City!"

Justices of the Peace are occasionally requested to solve some novel problems. A week or two ago, Magistrate Duncan of Estevan, Sask., was approached by a rejected lover who wanted to collect mileage for many trips made over the trail in the course of a long courtship, before he was turned down by the lovely one!

Regulations just issued by the Department of Agriculture have adjusted the wolf bounties as follows: For each timber or gray wolf, five dollars; for each prairie wolf or coyote, one dollar; for each wolf pup of either kind, one dollar. In order to obtain the bounty, the pelt including the head must be produced intact to the inspector.

According to the "Western Canada Contractor," oil, tar, and asphaltum are found in abundance in the Athabasca Valley. On the Athabasca River alone, it is said, there is enough asphaltum to pave the streets of all the cities in the world, and this can be manufactured for commercial purposes at small cost. With adequate railway facilities, it is confidently predicted that ample capital will be forthcoming for the development of these immense resources. Already one Seattle oil company has staked claims in the district.

It is not often that the Chinese oaths are administered in this country. The most

binding form is that of breaking a saucer on the head of the person to be sworn, the thick skulled one believing that his soul will be broken as surely as the saucer if he does not tell the truth. The other form of oath, however, was administered at Edmonton recently. This consists in the person to be sworn writing his name on a piece of brown paper which is then soaked in the blood of a newly killed cock, after which it is burned. The witness then declares that as surely as the paper was burned may his soul burn if he does not tell the truth.

What is said to be the finest steam yacht that ever visited the port of St. John, spent a day or two there at the end of August. The vessel is the Remlik of New York, owned by W. T. Kilmer, who with his mother and nine others are on a pleasure trip to the coast of Labrador. The yacht is 202 feet over all and carries a crew of thirty-six men. She was built in England and is said to be one of the best yachts flying the pennant of the New York Yacht Club.

Ajax defying the lightning is not more remarkable than the spectacle of John Houston of Prince Rupert defying the G.T.P. Houston is an ex-member of the B. C. Legislature and the proprietor of the first Prince Rupert paper. The G.T.P. have selected another man to publish a paper there and will not rent or sell Houston space for an office. The latter, however, appears to be a man of resource as well as determination. He has a plant on the wharf, and now threatens to build a scow in the river and publish his paper from that.

A bride for the fourth time at the age of eighteen years, is the remarkable record of a young woman living near Winnipeg. She is the daughter of a former Nebraska rancher and was married the first time when scarcely fifteen years of age. Her first and third husbands died suddenly and the second deserted her. Her present husband is Robert J. Horton, a young farmer. Mrs. Horton is a pretty and attractive woman. She has no children.

The Nelson (B.C.) "Canadian" is authority for the statement that a genuine Prince has been residing in that metropolis incognito, also unheralded and unsung. He is Prince Louis Philippe de Bourbon, and he has been engaged for some months as a porter at the Strathcona Hotel. When the news of his identity leaked out, the Prince called at the newspaper office and made a clean breast of the whole affair. He seems to take a pride in his occupation as a means of retrieving his shattered fortunes, and says he will remain in Nelson until there is a change in the form of government in France.

The question of physical supremacy between the East Indian and the American Indian in British Columbia is a disputed point, but the former appears to have scored in point of fascination. A Hindoo who was in a fishing camp near New Westminster ran away with a young Indian girl a couple of weeks ago, and forty friends of the girl have left their nets and started in pursuit, vowing violent vengeance. There is some doubt as to whether the girl went willingly, and if not, it is a case in which the Hindu may be sentenced to life imprisonment.

GRACE BEFORE MEAT.

The "Grand Magazine" tells a story of a Scotch minister who cannily regulated his gratitude according to the meal he saw provided. "Bountiful Jehovah," was always the prelude when the table before him groaned under good things. A meagrely-spread board, however, drew forth the more temperate, "Lord, we are not worthy of the least of these Thy mercies."

For the Children

"NOW, children," said the teacher, as she distributed the flower-seeds among the little ones, "I want you to plant these in pots, and when they begin to grow don't fail to tell me. I will give a prize to the one who reports first."

At five o'clock one morning, a few weeks later, the family with whom the teacher boarded was aroused by a loud ringing at the door-bell. The man of the house went to the door. "Who's there?" he asked.

"Tommy Tucker."

"What do you want?"

"I want to see Miss Adair."

"What's the matter? What do you want of her?"

"I want to tell her something."

"Won't it keep till daylight? Can't I tell her myself?"

"No. It's something she wanted to know just as soon as it happened, and nobody else can do it."

Tommy was admitted and shown into the parlor. Miss Adair was awakened and informed that a boy wanted to see her on business that allowed of no delay.

"Why, Tommy!" she said. "What brings you here so early? What has happened?"

"Teacher, mine's growed."



Auntie. "Now, Tommy, just you keep perfectly still, or you'll have the whole lot over. And besides you must think of the poor elephant."—Punch.

PLEASURE AND PAYMENT.

I like to have them read to me
The bloodiest stories that can be—
Of grizzly bears an' Injuns red—
Before it's time to go to bed.

I like it 'cause it makes me creep
When in the dark I try to sleep,
An' through the hall an' on the stairs
I hear the Injuns an' the bears!

The same way with ice cream, I think—
Vanilla or the dandy pink—
That tastes so awful good, an', oh,
That makes your head an' eyes ache so!
—Edwin L. Sabin in the Housekeeper.

A LEADING QUESTION.

The youngest teachers of the Lincoln school are telling with glee a great joke on Miss Blank, one of the oldest and most capable instructors in the primary grades of our schools.

It was Harold's first day at school. Miss Blank came down to his desk and said, "What is your name?"

"Harold Smith," the bright youngster replied.

"And how old are you?" went on Miss Blank in her methodical way.

"Six," said Harold. "How old are you?" and the young teachers are laughing still.—Lippincott's.