

A MILLIONAIRE'S FEAT.
How The Founder of Monte Carlo Gambled Once and Once Only.

Mons. Blanc, the founder of the Casino at Monte Carlo, which really means Monte Carlo itself, was very eccentric. If he had ever been young there is no record of the fact, for he is always described as a little old gentleman, clad in a long coat, and walking with the aid of a yellow cane, without which he was never seen during his waking hours. Though enormously wealthy, says the London Mail, he was excessively thrifty in trifling matters, and would haggle like an old clothes man to save a franc on articles for his personal use, though he thought nothing of expending hundreds of thousands of francs in beautifying the Casino and the miniature city. He was never known to play at the tables, excepting on one occasion, and then it was a somewhat costly experience.

While on a visit to the Wiesbaden Casino with Mme. Blanc, he was in the habit of accompanying her on a morning stroll each day. During one of these walks madame complained of the heat of the sun, and requested her husband to buy her a parasol. Accordingly the two entered the shop, where madame selected a very pretty article, worth eighty francs—about \$16—which M. Blanc, with a scowl and a muttered grumble, paid.

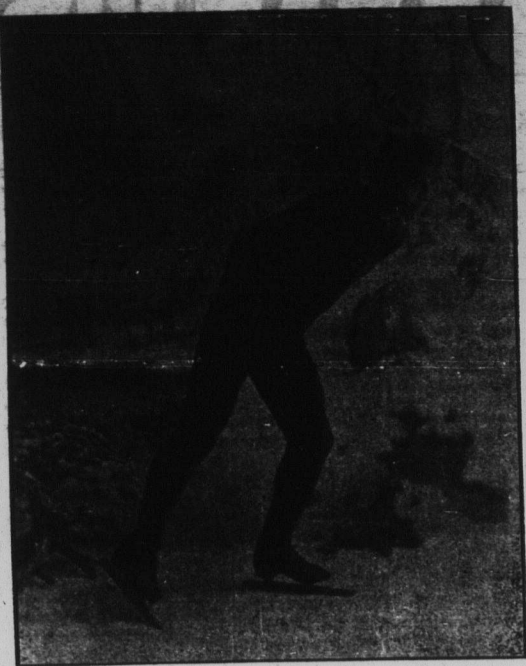
When the Casino opened at noon great was the astonishment of the croupiers and the visitors to see M. Blanc place two louis on the red at one of the trente et quarante tables. The attendants hastened to get him a chair, but this he declined, saying he was only going to remain a few minutes. When the cards were dealt he won, and taking up his winnings, left the original stake of the table. For a second time he won, and had now got back the price of the umbrella. But not content, he ventured another two louis, which this time he lost. Some what annoyed at this, the founder of the place doubled the stake and won, thus getting back the cost of the umbrella again. Determined, however, to regain his two louis, he staked them again, only to see them raked in by the bank. Thus he kept on winning and losing, but never able to recover the two louis, till at last he found himself twenty-five louis out, all the gold his pocket-book contained. A thousand franc note he had was quickly changed and swallowed up. Then becoming exasperated, he cashed his check for a large sum, and, sitting down, commenced the battle in earnest. Hour after hour passed but M. Blanc, his eyes fixed on the treacherous pasteboards, never budged from his post. He kept on planking down heavy stakes until the last deal was declared, when, calmly rising, he seized his yellow cane and made his way through the gaping onlookers into the open air.

On reaching home he found Mme. Blanc playing 'patience' with a pack of cards, the offending parasol being on the table. 'Madame,' said the old gentleman, 'do you know what that thing has cost me?' 'Mais oui, mon ami. It cost you eighty francs.' 'Madame,' rejoined he, 'you are mistaken. I have just paid the bill—91,000 francs.' Madame's sunshade had cost no less than \$18,000.

AS OTHERS SEE US.
An American tribute to a New Brunswick Journalist.

"Tis a sad and bitter experience to see one's idols shattered; to behold one's heroes dwindle down into the merest commonplace everyday mortals; to watch the X-ray of impartial criticism expose the inner worthlessness of characters we have admired and loved. And so this extract from the editorial pages of a Canadian journal grieves us sorely: 'The next generation, brought up wholly outside the range of the personal influence of Newman and his friends, will wonder why such a fuss was made over his union with the church of Rome, to which he was no acquisition as he was no loss to the church of England.' Well, it will be a wrench to reconstruct our judgment of Newman on lines so diametrically opposed to the decision of the world at large during the past half century; but we trust we are not unduly pettinacious in maintaining even our most cherished opinions; and when the sometime historian of Acadia, and actual editor of the St. John N. B. Telegraph, informs us that the minds of Europe and America have been at fault for fifty years in their estimate of the English Cardinal—why that settles it! We forthwith hurl Newman down from the pedestal he has for decades occupied in our private shrine; and are prepared to believe if Mr. Hannay desires it, that the cardinal was unmercifully drubbed by 'muscular christianity' Kingley; that he couldn't write decent English prose; and 'Lead Kindly Light,' about which the world continues to make more or less ridiculous 'fuss' is the veriest doggerel that ever masqueraded as poetry. When intellectual giants deliver their well considered judgments, it behooves ordinary

J. K. McCULLOUGH, Champion Amateur Skater.



There is a new champion in some line of sport every year. Old men must give way to their younger rivals and new skates or bicycles or boats or improved training bring new men to the front. A new champion hockey team never heard of before—the Crescents of Halifax—have won the laurels from the St. John men this week and next week a new champion amateur skater, J. K. McCullough is billed to give an exhibition of speed, fancy and trick skating at the Victoria rink. St. John has had its share of champions in the skating line and should not complain if new and better men appear upon the scene at times. When Mr. Cormick was in his prime he was in the van; then Breen took his place, but both have had to give way to better men. McCullough who appears next Tuesday evening at the Victoria is described as a wonder, the best in the western world. PROGRESS presents a good portrait of him as he appears in skating costume.

ABOUT CAMPHOR.
How the Odeiferous Drug is Obtained from the Tree.

Notwithstanding the comparatively narrow limits of its natural environment, the camphor tree grows well in cultivation under widely different conditions. It has become abundantly naturalized in Madagascar. It flourishes in Buenos Ayres. It thrives in Egypt, in the Canary Islands, in south eastern France and in the San Joaquin Valley in California, where the summers are hot and dry. Large trees, at least 200 years old, are growing in the temple courts at Tokio, where they are subject to a winter of severity to eighty nights of frost, with an occasional minimum temperature as low as 12 degrees to 16 degrees F. The conditions for really successful cultivation appear to be a minimum winter temperature not below twenty degrees F, fifty inches or more of rain during the warm growing season, and abundance of plant food, rich in nitrogen. In the native forests in Formosa, Fukien and Japan camphor is distilled almost exclusively from the wood of the trunks, roots and larger branches.

The work is performed by hand labor, and the methods employed seem rather crude. The camphor trees are felled, and the trunks, larger limbs and sometimes the roots are cut into chips, which are placed in a wooden tub about forty inches high and twenty inches in diameter at the base, tapering toward the top like an old fashioned churn. The tub has a tight fitting cover, which may be removed to put in the chips. A bamboo tube extended from near the top of the tube into the condenser. This consists of two wooden tubs of different sizes, the larger one right side up kept about two-thirds full of water from a continuous stream which runs out of a hole in one side. The smaller one is inverted with its edges below the water, forming an air tight chamber. This air chamber is kept cool by the water falling on the top and running down over the sides. The upper part of the air chamber is sometimes filled with clean rice straw, on which the camphor crystallizes, while the oil drips down and collects on the surface of the water. In some cases the camphor and oil are allowed to collect together on the surface of the water, and are afterwards separated by filtration through rice straw or by pressure. About twelve hours are required for distilling, a tubful by this method. Then the chips are removed and dried for use in the furnace, and a new charge is put in. At the same time the camphor and oil are removed from the condenser. By this method twenty to forty pounds of chips are required for one pound of crude camphor.

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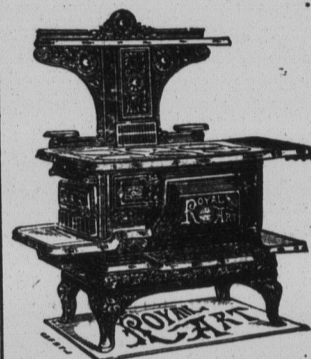
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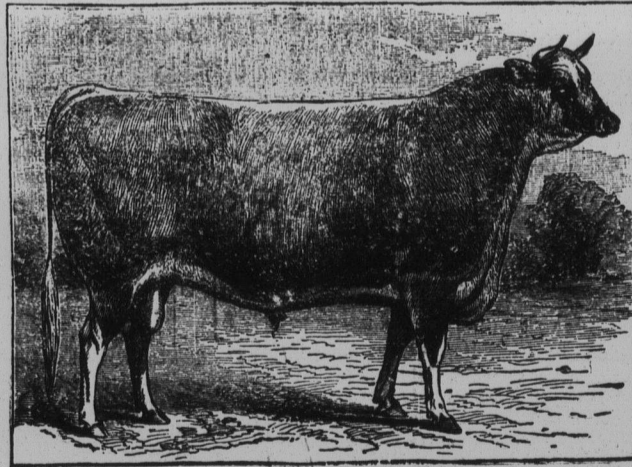
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