

Puzzles for Uncle Sam

It is supposed that captains of incoming vessels often play mean jokes on Uncle Sam when they have any particularly worthless cur or other forecastle pet that they want to get rid of. They might, of course, throw it overboard, but that would be missing a chance of giving the United States a lot of trouble. Instead of the simple way of disposing of the beast they enter the animal on their manifest and tag it as addressed to some fictitious person at some non-existent place. It is then taken in charge by the customs officials, and the non-existent consignee notified. Of course he does not appear to claim his property, and the ex-masoc becomes perishable unclaimed merchandise, and as such becomes the subject of much official correspondence. The collector is notified that the merchandise must be sold, or it may deteriorate in value, and after all the forms are gone through it is advertised for sale. At the sale it may bring the price of the postage stamps that would have been wasted on it, if the treasury department mail were not franked, and then a bill is presented by the livery stable keeper, who has been bestowing on it for a month or two care and attention that many a dog show prize-winner never receives.

Some of the most puzzling matters which come before the appraisers and the courts are caused by the importation of strange articles of food for the use of foreign-born members of Uncle Sam's large family. Just now the courts are wrestling with the question of how sake, the favorite alcoholic drink of Japan, should be classified. Large quantities of it are imported at Honolulu for the use of the Japanese laborers there. The question is whether it should pay duty as a wine or a beer, and from the testimony, it seems to partake of the nature of both. In order that the best legal talent could be obtained to argue the case, without making it necessary for the lawyers to go all the way to Honolulu, an importation was arranged at New York, and the case will be fought out in the courts.

A Chinese Post Office

Mrs. H. T. Ford of the China Inland Mission at Tai-kang, in the central province of Honan, in a letter to her family, has some amusing things to tell about the establishment of the Chinese Imperial Post in the province, which is some weeks journey from the coast. She says: "We have got the Chinese Imperial Post here now. At Kai-feng, when they first got it, the post office clerks had a fight with some men who bought stamps and wanted the clerks to lick them and put them on the letters for them. They said the clerks were there to lick the stamps, and paid for the business, and they wouldn't lick them. But the clerks wouldn't agree to lick them, so they came to blows and the police had to come in and separate them. "Here at Tai-kang, the man who has got the post office has begun work. Harry was in his shop when the first customer came for a stamp. It took him nearly five minutes to find the

key and get the stamp box open, and when he gave it to the man he said in a very decided way: 'Now lick it and put it just there.' The customer was foolish (or wise) enough to do so and now a custom has been established in Tai-kang that all purchasers of stamps must lick them and stick them on. There was a great row at the Kai-feng Post Office one day because an address on a letter could not be found and the letter was brought back. "The sender wanted his money back because the letter had not been delivered, but the clerk refused to give it to him, contending that they had had more trouble over it than if it had been delivered. Another man was determined to get the post office clerks into trouble because he had sent a letter some time ago and received no answer. This was clear proof, he said, that the letter had never been sent. The service here is somewhat irregular yet."

Prevents Mal de Mer

An Australian correspondent of the Homeopathic World makes mention of petroleum as a safe and reliable remedy for the prevention of seasickness, and one which he can back up by personal experience. "A few years ago," he writes, "I had occasion to take a trip from Sydney to the Hawkesbury river in the steamer Newcastle. As I had never been outside of Sydney Heads before I determined to guard against unpleasant accidents by providing myself with a preventive against seasickness. I decided upon petroleum, 2x trituration, in 2-grain powders. When the vessel got outside the heads the fun commenced. I began to feel a bit queer, and a peculiar nausea began to steal over me. Down went one of

the powders. Ten minutes afterward I took another, and the nausea disappeared. It came on again later on, but soon vanished before those magic powders. Whenever there was the least sign of its return I took a powder, and thus prevented what might otherwise have been to me a very unpleasant trip. Several children who were in my charge at the time, were successfully treated in the same way. Only recently a lady and gentleman whom I had supplied with a number of these petroleum powders to take with them on a voyage, on their return spoke in the highest terms of them, and stated that they were quite satisfied that seasickness could be prevented, as on other occasions they had always suffered from that malady.—London Doctor.

Good Work of Press

It may be said that nothing has done more to lift the moral tone of business than the healthful criticism of the press. Twenty years ago, the state of financial journalism—not merely the purely financial press, but also that portion of the daily press devoted to finance—was not extremely good. Such journalism was marked by much ignorance, with, unfortunately, at least some dishonesty. Apart from this, the theory upon which it was mainly based was not sound. The people who "made" most of the financial news seemed to think that they were entitled to control, in large measure, its publication, both as to matter, time, and manner. Even

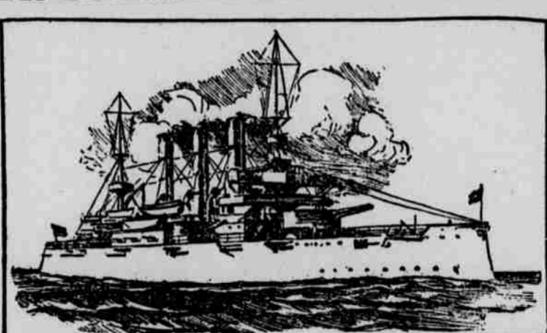
at this day, it is difficult to convince some otherwise very intelligent bankers, directors and managers that the public has a right to knowledge. A case occurred within a month that illustrates very well the point of view obtaining in some circles of the financial community. A certain corporation undertook to make an issue of securities. This fact was developed and published. A financial writer called on one of the directors, showed him the news as published, and asked if it were true. "Yes," said the director, "it is true, but it is pretty hard that two or three gentlemen cannot discuss their private affairs without a reporter breaking in."—The July World's Work.

A Ballade of Gardens

The first was Eden. Through the storm of Rince still the echo of its early knell. The fair Hesperides, beset with snares, Were sacked by one whose spirit naught might quell. Ah! joy to know the ancients' hydro-mel. Their flowers and fruits! And yet not if I could. Would I for all their gold and nectar sell My summer garden in its poppyhood. Of Babylon the marvelous parterres Long since to blight and dusty barrens fell. And where the lovely queen that raised them fares There is no scroll nor scribe to soothe my tell. But in this far off year the olden spell Brews up nepenthes sweet and strong and red.

And closes never blossomed to excel My summer garden in its poppyhood. Each crimson rose a Tulleries terrace bears. Gapes like a wound. I hear the bursting shell At red Sedan, and see in spectral airs Her pale hosts camped on fields of asphodel. There, weariful and sad, I come to dwell. When no profaning foot has ever stood— Beneath the crooning elms that sentinel My summer garden in its poppyhood. For rest and pleasant dreams, dear Isabel. Seek not the hills nor sea, nor voiceful wood: Your bourne is here, where love, too, thriveth well— My summer garden in its poppyhood. —Edward W. Barnard, Jr.

BATTLESHIP OHIO DOES WELL ON HER FIRST SPEED TRIAL



The battleship Ohio was given her speed trial in Santa Barbara (Cal.) channel Aug. 1. The course was up the coast thirty-six miles to a stake-boat opposite Point Conception. On this run the Ohio more than made the required speed, and as she swung around the stakeboat at full speed was half a minute ahead of the time required to make, eighteen knots. On the run down the coast the tide

EVA BOOTH A GREAT ACTRESS. GIVE FEW RAILROAD PASSES.

Salvation Army Leader Bountifully Equipped by Nature. The Canadian contingent at the Salvation Army congress in London was under command of Miss Eva Booth, the "unconscious actress," whose wonderfully dramatic manner was the astonishment of all who heard her speak at the gathering named. Her tones are sweet, full and vibrant with passion and her enunciation is flawless. As she approaches the climax of an appeal for converts her face becomes almost ghastly pale. With hands uplifted she strides to and fro upon the platform, now bending almost to the floor, now sweeping the assembly with a compelling gesture like a young queen of tragedy. Her pose, walk, every movement, is graceful. Mr. Choate, the United States ambassador, is credited with the remark, after hearing her at the Royal Albert hall, where Lord Rosebery and others were present: "I have heard but one other woman on our side of the water with equal oratorical gifts, and that was Anna Dickinson." One dramatic critic says: "Even Coquelin could not improve her in point of facial expression."

Vanderbilt Family Chary of Courtesies of This Description. A peculiar characteristic of the Vanderbilts is that individually they seldom, if ever, give railroad passes. These favors are managed more or less by Chauncey M. Depew and H. C. Duval. In fact, many stories are told by guests of Frederick and William K. Vanderbilt, when there was no special train, having their fares paid for them by their hosts. The distances, except where special trains or cars were provided, were comparatively short; for instance, up to Frederick Vanderbilt's place on the Hudson. The Newport and Long Island country places are on other roads and the Vanderbilts, except on some extra occasions, travel like ordinary mortals. The first change in this system has been made this summer by Alfred Vanderbilt, who has had a light draught yacht built, with a fast motor boat, for the accommodation of his guests from Wickford landing to his country place outside Newport.

OVER "TOM" REED'S GRAVE.

Granite Monument Reared in Memory of Ex-Speaker. A granite monument has been erected in Evergreen cemetery, Portland, Maine, over the grave of ex-Speaker Thomas Brackett Reed. The monument is cut from white Hallowell granite, and rests on a broad base stone of the same material in the form of a parallelogram. The monument itself, which is about ten feet high, tapers slightly as it rises, and its rugged simplicity is relieved only on the side bearing the inscription. There is carved in relief a laurel wreath, after a design of St. Gaudens, as seen upon the Shaw memorial in Boston. Beneath the wreath is this inscription: : THOMAS BRACKETT REED : : 1839-1902. : : His Record is with the Faithful, the Brave and the True : : of All Nations and All Ages. : : WHEN HE TENDED BAR.

OVERCOAT HIS ONLY GARMENT.

Patrick O'Brien Hurried From Bath to Cast Vote in Parliament. Members of parliament are called upon most unexpectedly to attend a division of the house. When the bell sounds the summonses there is invariably gathering in haste to present snap votes being taken by the opposition. Patrick O'Brien, an Irish member, was once caught in an uncomfortable predicament when a division was called. He was enjoying a piping hot bath of the dressing room in the parliament building when the clanging of the bell reached his ears. It was a desperate situation, but Mr. O'Brien was not dismayed. He put on some kind of overcoat, walked boldly up to the division lobby and did not allow even his nearest friend to suspect that, except for the overcoat, he was dressed with the same absence of the superfluous as the first parents when they wandered happy and unclothed, and probably unshowered, in the meandering paths of Eden.

FIGURES THAT DIDN'T JIBE.

Man From Village Thought He Detected a Palpable Exaggeration. Henry Clews, the banker, who has had an experience in Wall street extending over thirty years, was riding on a crowded New York elevated train a few weeks ago. He was accompanied by a friend from up the state, and the latter, not accustomed to being jostled, remarked with a great deal of emphasis that it was terrible the way people were packed into the elevated cars. "This system," said Mr. Clews, "carried 246,587,922 passengers from June 30, 1902, to June 30, 1903." "I know they do a big business," said the man from the quiet village, "but they couldn't carry that many people. You know this country only has a population of 80,000,000."

Works of Untaught Sculptor.

Henry Merwin Shady, who is to model the Grant memorial monument to be set up in Washington, is a son of Dr. Shady of New York, who was Gen. Grant's physician during his last illness. Young Shady, singularly enough, never took a lesson in drawing, painting or modeling. Still he has on his merits succeeded in several competitions for the production of heroic statues, in addition to the one above noted being a Grant monument for Brooklyn and a statue of William the Silent for Riverside park, New York.

Potentate Has Queer Whim.

Sidi Mohammed el Haj, bey of Tunis, has just returned to his north African domain after a visit to France, where he was much of a curiosity with his fez, gold braid, profusion of jewels and gorgeous entourage. His dusky highness was greatly interested in all things military, but found time also to visit a good many theaters. He took home with him a number of portraits of actresses, gravely informing his French friends that he intended to distribute these counterfeit presentments among his wives.

WESTERN CANADA

Three Divisions Affording Great Chances for Settlement—Ranching, Wheat-Growing and Mixed Farming.

The old Romans used to say that Gaul was divided into three parts; so is the Canadian North West. Gaul's divisions were political; those of the Western Canada prairies are created by the unerring hand of nature.

The First Division. Chiefly because of the elevation of the country, the absence of large lakes and rivers, and the operations of the "Chinook" or Pacific ocean winds, which readily cross the Rocky mountains in Southern Alberta through gaps and passes, the southwestern portion of the Canadian provinces is regarded as somewhat arid, and less fertile than other portions of the country.

Although this has been a prevailing idea in the past, it has been left for American settlers, who have invaded this district within the past two or three years, to prove that splendid



crops of grain can be grown on the land.

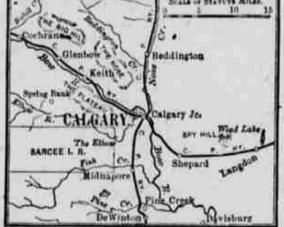
While there are no large lakes or rivers in this whole country there are numerous fast running streams fed the year round by melting snows in the mountains, furnishing an abundance of the coolest and purest water, the best for beast as well as man.

Englishmen and Americans in the western territories are bringing in their herds as fast as they can and leasing or purchasing land in lots from 1,000 to 20,000 acres from the Dominion government. An idea of the growth of the industry will, however, be gathered from the fact that in 1859 there were but 41,471 head of cattle shipped and sold from the ranches. These figures ran to 55,129 in 1900, and to 160,000 in 1903, averaging \$40 per head for the owners. But it takes a great many ranchers and a large number of cattle to cover an area of 200,000,000 acres, the area available for ranching in the Canadian Northwest.

It is not at all necessary that large investments should be made at the outset. Many men commenced with small capital and small herds, and have worked themselves into large herds and great wealth. There is still in the country plenty of room for those who desire to go and do likewise.

The Second Part.

The second part of the Canadian prairies embraces the great wheat growing belt of the country, which is easily a half larger than any other in the world. It includes about 150,000,000 acres. As it is comparatively free of broken land, large lakes and rivers, about 125,000,000 acres of it can be brought under the plow. Placing a farmer on every half section (320 acres) it can comfortably locate 800,000 farmers, or 4,000,000 of an agricultural community. The territorial government's reports show that in 1903 there were raised 16,629,149 bushels of spring wheat off 837,234 acres, an average of 19.86 bushels per acre; off 440,662 acres of oats there were grown 14,179,705 bushels, an average of 32.17 bushels per acre;



69,667 acres produced 1,741,209 bushels of barley—24.65 to the acre, and 32,431 acres produced 292,853 bushels of flax seed, 9.03 to the acre. As but 1,333,434 acres, or a little better than one per cent of the entire wheat growing area of the territories was under crop, a little figuring shows that 13 per cent of the entire country under wheat will raise the 200,000,000 that Great Britain annually requires from the outside countries. It is a fairly safe statement to make that in twelve or fifteen years the Canadian prairies will be supplying the entire demands of the mother country.

Throughout this entire belt there is an enormous length of railway mileage, branches are radiating in every direction from the trunks until they scarcely leave a grain field more than six or seven miles from a road, and they are all required, for in the fall and early winter the sight of the trains passing to and from the elevators at the railway depots makes the entire country look like one hive of industry. In 1880 there were but few white settlers in the entire country, outside of those connected with the Hudson Bay Company's posts, and scarcely a dollar's worth of anything outside of buffalo hides exported till 1883, twenty years ago, and now the country has a white population of over half a million, the immigration of 1903 being 128,364, 40 per cent of the number being Americans brought over by

the representations of their countrymen who preceded them in settlement.

Large Quantity of Free Homestead Lands.

There is yet a large quantity of government land for homesteading in this country, and as in everything else, "the early bird catches the worm." Those who come first are first served. When it is preferred to purchase railway or other company lands they can be got at from \$5 per acre up. This section cannot be better closed than by showing practically what is made by wheat growing in this district. The average from the first of operations is twenty bushels per acre. Breaking the prairie, as first plowing is called, is of course, an exceptional expenditure, as when it is once done, it is done for all time. This costs about \$3.50 an acre. After the breaking, plowing and seeding, harvesting, threshing and marketing—all expenses combined amount to about \$5.25 per acre, that is if a man likes everything done it will cost him \$5.25 per acre. If he does the work himself he is earning wages while producing at that figure. Now, as the average yield is twenty bushels, and the average price 60 cents—\$12 per acre—the difference between the result and cost, \$6.75, is the profit of grain growing year in and year out in the great wheat belts of the Canadian prairie country. If a man has a half section of land and puts half of it, 160 acres under wheat, which is a very common occurrence, he makes \$1,080 on wheat alone and should make, if he is a capable farmer enough, out of other crops, sale of cattle, dairy and other products, to keep himself and family the year round besides.

The Third Division.

The third division of this great country lies to the north of the wheat belt; between it and what is known as the forest country. As wheat growing implies the raising of all cereals that can profitably be raised in the country, the remaining branches of



mixed farming are dairying and the raising of farm stock. It must not be supposed that dividing the prairies in this way is saying that any one portion of the country possesses better soil than another, for such is not the case—all districts are equally fertile, but the topography and climatic influences, etc., differ, as well as the conditions for production. Ranching and grain growing are carried on quite successfully in this northern zone; but it is found more profitable to combine all the features of the industry.

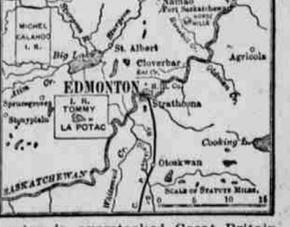
An authority on the subject has stated that agriculture in any country never reaches the maximum of development until the farmers engage at least proportionately in dairying, though the surroundings must always determine the extent to which any feature of the industry may be prosecuted.

Dairying.

In the territories creameries and cheese factories are to a large extent under government control, and as such are working well. In Manitoba they are largely a matter of private enterprise, and from the reports from that province they must be giving absolute satisfaction to the patrons and promoters. If a settler's farm is not specially adapted to extensive cropping, or if seasons or other conditions are against the proper development of large crops, he has always plenty of pasture and an abundance of native hay for winter feed. A small sum of money buys a couple of cows, and he can soon be in possession of a fine herd of dairy cattle, and the same may be said of swine and poultry.

Markets.

The mining districts of British Columbia, which consume an immense lot of dairy products, are close at hand, and always afford a good market for butter, cheese, pork, poultry, and eggs. When in the future that



country is overstocked Great Britain offers as now a ready market for whatever may be produced. Taken for all in all, the Canadian Northwest is the country for the man acquainted with, or willing to learn any branch of farming. In the industry, with a few years of care and enterprise, he can soon consider himself and his family in easy and comfortable circumstances.