

# The Wonders of America

By T. T. MAXEY

## THE MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN.

IN 1840 Henry Shaw, a citizen of St. Louis, a lover of nature and of flowers in particular, built a large country residence near the city limits. He surrounded it with flowers and plants of every known variety. When he died in 1859, his will provided for a board of trustees to manage the garden and left sufficient funds to support it. This wonderful floral park, said to be the largest in the world, was thus preserved for the education, admiration and enjoyment of all.

It contains a collection embracing 150 species of palms; a varied collection of tropical and sub-tropical plants; a collection of the 35 known species of cypresses; a wonderful assortment of plants which grow best under desert conditions; numerous species of ferns and allied plants; a great array of plants of great economic value and displays of plants that feed on insects; species of the pineapple and its relatives; numerous showy, flowering plants, while in the private orchid house a representative of each of the 800 species of this beautiful flower is to be found.

The outdoor collection includes a water garden, several hundred varieties of roses, numerous species of herbaceous plants, a rare paucy display, a variety of economic plants and trees and shrubs, native to North America and grouped in families. All told, about eleven thousand species of plants are growing in this garden. The body of Mr. Shaw reposes in a handsome mausoleum within the grounds.

## THE MOST POWERFUL LOCOMOTIVES.

AT the time of their completion, the locomotives used for hauling the long, heavy coal and other trains over the steep railroad grades in the mountains of Virginia were the most powerful in the world.

The enormous size, weight and power of these leviathans of the rail are positively astounding. Each engine (and tender) weighs almost 900,000 pounds, is considerably more than 100 feet in length, has 20 driving wheels, is fired by machinery, exerts a straightway pull of 176,000 pounds and, 'tis said, will haul any load that the coupling pin will hold.

The boilers of these giants on wheels are about 9 1/2 feet in diameter. Each boiler contains 381 two and a quarter-inch tubes, which, placed end to end, would reach almost two miles; and seventy 5 1/2-inch flues, having a total length of more than a quarter of a mile. The fire boxes are 15 feet long and 9 feet wide.

The shipment of these large locomotives from the point of construction to the point of service presented an unusually peculiar and difficult problem requiring great care and attention, for the reason that the tracks and bridges of the various railroads over which they had to move were not, in all cases, built to withstand such tremendous weights. They were shipped in a partially knocked-down condition and approximately two weeks were required to move them from Shenestady, N. Y., to Princeton, W. Va. Three cars were necessary to carry the loose and detached parts belonging to each locomotive.

## NIAGARA FALLS.

IF you can imagine a river three-fourths of a mile wide, 20 feet deep in the middle, and containing thousands and thousands of tons of water, suddenly tumbling over a cliff 160 feet high and dashing on the rocks below with a deafening roar and throwing up huge clouds of mist and spray, you have some impression of what Niagara Falls, the world's best-known and most popular waterfall, is like.

This majestic cataract is situated in the Niagara river, between Lake Erie and Lake Ontario and near the city of Buffalo, N. Y. Ny-ah-ga-rab is an Indian word, meaning "Thundering Waters." Members of the Seneca tribe, 'tis said, considered the roar of the falls as the voice of the Great Spirit. Thinking he inhabited the spray, they made many and various offerings to this deity.

The waterfall divides itself into two parts, American Falls and the Horseshoe or Canadian Falls. Nine-tenths of the flow, which is estimated to be 500,000 tons per minute, passes over the Horseshoe Falls, which is by far the more impressive of the two.

Below the falls the river is considerably narrower than it is above the falls, and the water rushes, at a frightful speed, through a seven-mile-long gorge, in which is located the famous Whirlpool Rapids.

The edge of the cliff over which the water plunges into the canyon below, wears away at the rate of about five feet a year. Geologists declare that this mighty fall has been in operation for about 20,000 years.

## HELL GATE BRIDGE.

THE completion of the New York Connecting railroad gave us our first all-rail through route from New England, via New York, to the west

of America and a continuous rail line up and down the Atlantic coast from Key West to Halifax. It also calls to mind the fact that the insurmountable obstacle which had heretofore blocked the way had been overcome and the supposedly impossible accomplished.

Before this route could be opened, it was necessary to get trains across that terror to navigators, the rocky-bottomed tidal channel, known as "Hell Gate," between Long Island shore and Ward's Island in the East river, opposite Manhattan Island on which New York city proper stands.

It was not possible to sink piers into the channel, and the stretch was considered too great to be covered by one arched span. An engineer with vision came to the rescue and trains now cross on a wonderful four-tracked steel bridge. A peerless, steel arch, 1,017 feet long, said to be the longest as well as the heaviest ever flung across any waterway of equal width, now bridges the gap. The entire weight is carried by gigantic 250-foot high towers on either shore. The bridge is 93 feet wide, designed to carry 76,000 pounds per linear foot. The extreme height of the arch is more than 300 feet above the water.

About 19,000 tons of steel were used. The towers are bedded in solid rock, and it is estimated that they contain 3,000,000 cubic feet of masonry. The bridge cost \$12,000,000.

## THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN, THE DIVINE.

THE corner stone of this great Episcopal house of worship, which crowns Morningside Heights in New York city, was laid on December 27, 1892. This church was designed to be the largest and most costly church edifice in America and the fourth largest in the world. St. Peter's at Rome and the cathedrals at Seville, Spain and Milan, Italy, only being larger. It will be over 600 feet long and its greatest width 300 feet. The total cost will exceed \$10,000,000, and although it has been under construction for more than twenty-six years, no one can now say when it will be completed.

The architecture is of the French gothic style. The plans for the great organ call for 7,000 pipes and a chime. The crypt will seat 500 and the altar is to contain 150,000 pieces of mosaic glass. It will contain seven chapels of tongues: St. Martin of Tours or Huguenot chapel, representing the French rite; St. James or Spanish chapel, representing the Mozarabic rite; St. Ambrose, representing the Italian rite; St. Saviour, representing the Oriental rite; St. Columba or Scots chapel, representing the British rite; St. Boniface or Holland chapel, representing the German rite; and St. Augustine or Swedish chapel, representing the Scandinavian rite. There is to be also an open-air pulpit with a 40-foot-high spire and ornamentations in gothic structures.

Donations, large and small, have come from every conceivable source and direction, to assist in the erection of that which is to be America's greatest cathedral—a cathedral for the people in America's greatest city.

## THE OLDEST SCHOOL.

THE Boston Latin school is the oldest educational institution in the United States, having enjoyed a continuous existence since April, 1635. From the start, it was a school for higher education, especially Latin and Greek. It appears to have been the determination of the founders "To beat Satan in each and all of his lairs;" their fore, "For the common defense and for the general welfare should the classical languages be taught at the common charge."

One day during the early days of the revolution, the master (as the teachers were called in those days), a loyalist, announced, as he dismissed school, "War's begun and school's done; deponite libros," but the school was soon re-opened, and when the British evacuated Boston in March, 1776, the master went with them as a prisoner. 'Tis said that in his day, all that was required for admission was to read a few verses in the Bible. School began at seven o'clock in the morning in summer (eight o'clock in winter) and ended at five in the afternoon, with a recess from eleven to one.

The present building, completed in 1880, was, at that time, "the largest structure in America devoted to educational purposes, and the largest in the world used as a free public school." It contains 50 school rooms, each accommodating 35 students.

It is doubtful, indeed, if any other school boasts of a more honorable career, can show as long a list of prominent men as graduates or more persistently conformed to the aspirations of its originators. (Copyright, 1918, Western Newspaper Union)

## Where He Got the Name.

The first bulldog appears to have been bred from the English mastiff, and by process of systematic selection in breeding a smaller and more active dog than the mastiff was evolved. The smaller dog was found to be better suited for sport than the heavier and slower mastiff. The bull-baiting dog, without a doubt, required an inordinate amount of gameness.

## Lisbon's Gambling Clubs.

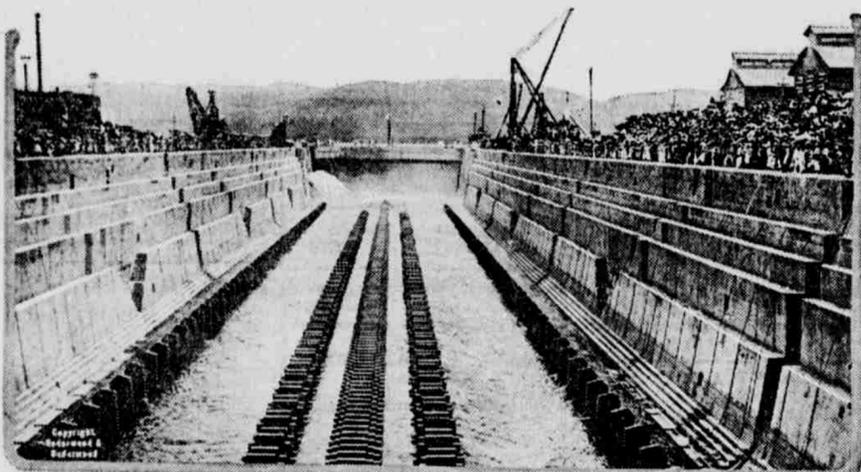
The Portuguese are born gamblers and the most brilliant side of their night life is found in the exclusive clubs of the city of Lisbon. Wonderfully appointed, with added attractions of excellent dining rooms, music, dancing, reading rooms and libraries, they are kept alive by one thing—the Portuguese love of play.

## PARADE OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR IN PHILADELPHIA



The great parade of Knights Templar moving down Broad street, Philadelphia, in honor of the Americans who served in the war. Major General Clement, U. S. A., retired, was grand marshal.

## OPENING OF PEARL HARBOR DRYDOCK AT HONOLULU



View of the Pearl harbor drydock at Honolulu a few moments after Mrs. Josephus Daniels, wife of Secretary Daniels, pressed the button that operated the water controls. The project, which is the greatest of its kind, is now completed.

## SHE GETS \$50,000 A YEAR



Marion K. Hoffman, seventeen-year-old daughter of the late Charles Frederick Hoffman, is to receive \$50,000 a year from the estate of her grandfather and eventually will get a residue of many millions from her father's estate. This photograph was made in Newport.

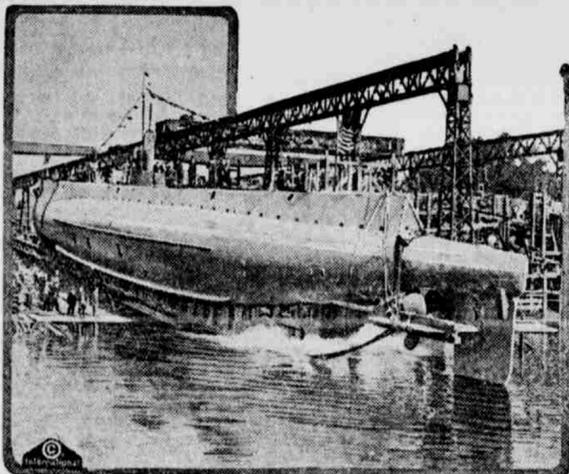
## Asleep on the Car.

I had been up late the night before and the next morning in the street car, on my way to work, I fell asleep when to my ears came the sound of "Hush-a-Bye My Baby," softly whistled. I opened my eyes and there opposite me sat a young man whistling the tune while the eyes of the people around were on me, smiling. I did not close my eyes again for the remainder of the way.—Exchange.

## Dining Room Stunt.

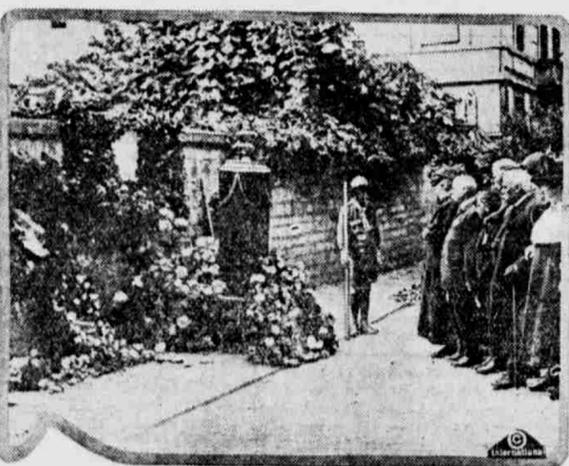
"Why did you discontinue your fountain in the main dining room?" "Exhilarated guests kept Halloween sports going all the time." "What d'ye mean, Halloween 'sports'?" "Bobbing for goldfish."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

## OUR GREATEST SUBMARINE LAUNCHED



The U. S. S. AA-2, largest and greatest of Uncle Sam's submarines, taking the water at the yards of the Fore River Shipbuilding company at Quincy, Mass.

## THE WALL OF DEATH AT DINANT



The wall in front of the fort of Dinant, where the Germans during their occupation of the city summarily executed 100 Belgian civilians. This photograph was made on the fifth anniversary of the massacre when relatives of the martyrs placed flowers on the spot in their memory.

## Justwed Gets a Jolt.

Justwed—Hadn't we better burn all these old love letters I sent you? Mrs. Justwed—Oh, no, Jack. Maybe after we've been married a while we'll get bored some evening and want something funny to read.

## Fixing It.

"Mrs. Gaddy is always complaining that her nose is kept to the grindstone." "That is why it is so sharp it is always sticking in other people's business."

# BOY SCOUTS



(Conducted by National Council of the Boy Scouts of America.)

## BOY SCOUTS AND BOMBS

A circular printed in red and threatening him with "extermination" for his part in the boy scout membership drive was received by Gavin McNab, a prominent attorney of San Francisco.

Others were said to have been received by Associate Justice W. W. Morrow of the United States circuit court, and Frank Summers, an attorney, who also were identified with the campaign.

The circular accused McNab of recruiting the boys as future soldiers "to protect the flag-flaunting financiers."

One of the most effective ways to fight bolshevism and anarchism in this country is the suggestion: "Boost the boy scout movement." Everybody knows the wholesome Americanism taught the boys of this organization, along with a general system of physical, mental and moral development. One seldom hears of a boy scout going wrong and getting into trouble with the law. It may also be said no one ever hears of a scout who is not a patriot.

Boys who belong to the scouts do not grow up to flaunt red flags and plant bombs. And if they have any influence at home, their fathers and big brothers imbibes something of their spirit of loyalty and understanding. Clearly enough, if all American boys were scouts, there would be mighty few adult reds to make trouble.

## START OF SCOUT'S EDUCATION

Scouting is an educational proposition. Its intent is both to help the scout do the thing he likes to do and to do it better and to lead him out into fields of thought and action that its many divisions offer.

Every applicant for membership must pass the following requirements before he can attain the rank of a tenderfoot scout:

1. Know the scout law, sign, salute and significance of the badge.
2. Know the composition and history of the national flag and the customary forms of respect to it.
3. Tie the following knots: Square reef, sheet-bend, bowline, fisherman's, sheepshank, halter, clove hitch, timber hitch, or two half-hitches.

## SCOUTS IN THE EPIDEMIC.

One scout in Morristown, N. J., served as an interne at a local hospital for two weeks. He did all the work which is usually performed by a grown man. Another spent the better part of a week at a children's home where the majority of sixty inmates were suffering from influenza. Water had to be carried up four flights of stairs, meals prepared and served and many other duties performed.

Still another volunteered for work with the Red Cross and drove a supply truck three times a week between Hoboken and a soldiers' convalescent hospital at Mendham.

Four other scouts were on duty at a diet kitchen established during the epidemic in the high school building.

## BOY SCOUT FARM WORKERS.

Over the field and down the road  
The day's toil done;  
A song upon the lips of us  
To speed the setting sun;  
And peace within our laughing hearts  
And pride to know that we  
Still carry on like true scouts—  
(We did our share in wartime,  
Our share and more in wartime,  
In time of Victory.)

Liberty bond and Victory bond,  
We did not fail;  
And love of country in our hearts  
Shall never die nor pale;  
And never call but that we heed  
For what the gain if we  
Should mar the record that we hold—  
(We did our share in wartime,  
Our share and more in wartime,  
And fall the Victory?)  
—Edmund Leamy in Boys' Life.

## SCOUTS AVOID OIL-SKIN BAGS

About the worst kind of a sleeping bag a scout can choose, especially in cold weather, is one made of rubber or oil-skins.

Major David A. Abercrombie tells of a trip through the North in which one of Stefansson's companions used bags made of oil-skin material. When he awoke in the morning he found that the moisture from his body had accumulated on the inside of the oil-skin and had frozen stiff.

And what is more, they couldn't get the frost out of the thing for the rest of the journey! An extreme case, to be sure, but one that points a warning.

## CHINESE BOY SCOUTS ACTIVE

The wave of progressivism that has swept over south China has given impetus to the boy scout movement, which has taken root in other parts of the orient.

Quite recently Pang Mue Chang, a well-to-do merchant, formerly of Honolulu, set aside a large part of his country residence near Canton, as a training school for scoutmasters, who are needed badly in view of the enthusiastic approval the movement has been given there.