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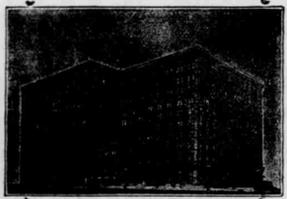
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## PENS LONG USED

Writing Instruments Are of Great Antiquity.

Records Prove They Are as Old as the Sword—Constructed of Many Materials.

The pen is one of the oldest instruments man has used. Whether or not it is mightier than the sword, as Bulwer Lytton makes the great French cardinal exclaim in the play of "Richelieu," it is perhaps of as great antiquity as the sword. It is not as old as stone-headed war clubs or stone axes, but it seems to date back to the beginning of men's knowledge of metals and their alloys. As soon as men got the idea of inscribing symbols on stones as representing things or words, they used an iron instrument which was the parent, or the ancestor, of the pen. There were pens of iron and bronze and reeds, and later the quills of feathers.

The Assyrian kings and scribes and the Phoenicians 2,000 years before Christ proclaimed their dynasties with decrees written with pens made from reeds and feathers. The early Greeks inscribed their letters with a stylus, but the later Greeks wrote with the quills of geese, crows, hawks and eagles. Pens of brass and silver were in use in Rome at the beginning of the Christian era.

The stylus with which many of the Greeks and Romans wrote was something like an iron bodkin and it came to be used so often in brawls that it was prohibited—that is, men were prohibited to use a stylus. The bodkin in old English times was no doubt a big darn or knitting needle and Hamlet had that instrument in mind when he said: "When he his quietus might make with a bare bodkin."

There are various references in the Bible to pens. In the Book of Judges, the fifth chapter and the fourteenth verse, is this: "Out of Machir came down governors, and out of Zebulun they that handle the pen of the writer." In 1 Kings, the twenty-first chapter, in the matter of Ahab, Jezebel and Naboth it is written: "So she wrote letters in Ahab's name, and sealed them with his seal and sent the letters unto the elders and to the nobles that were in his city, dwelling with Naboth." In the nineteenth chapter of Job, the twenty-third and twenty-fourth verses, is this: "Oh that my words were now written! Oh that they were printed in a book! That they were graven with an iron pen and lead in rock forever!" The eighth chapter of Isaiah begins, Take thee a great roll, and write in it with a man's pen concerning Maher-shalal-hash-baz." In the Third Epistle of John occurs this: "I had many things to write, but I will not with ink and pen write to thee."

Pens of steel, gold and silver appeared in Great Britain, France and America about 1800 but they were very slow in gaining favor. They were expensive, clumsy and not as satisfactory as the quill. But the quill had reached the limit in the nicety with which it could be pointed and the gold and steel pens continued to be improved in their smoothness and flexibility. The first fountain pen was patented about 1830 and the number of patents granted on fountain pens now reaches into the thousands.

### Chilean Grapes Imported.

An experimental shipment of grapes was sent from Chile to New York, with a view of ascertaining whether a market could be found in the United States for the product of the Chilean vineyards. The grapes were shipped in cold storage and are reported to have arrived in excellent condition and to have been sold at highly satisfactory prices. It is reported that another shipment is planned as soon as arrangements can be made. The experiment is of particular interest, since it is possible that the exportation of fresh fruit from Chile to the United States might become very profitable, providing shipping facilities were available. Chile produces fine fruit of almost every variety known to the temperate zone, and it ripens during the winter months in the United States, when the market would be at its best.

### Paper Movies.

Paper instead of celluloid for movies is being tried abroad, it is said, at a tremendous saving of expense, and little decrease in excellence. Opaque paper may be used many times without wearing away. Such a revolution in cost is desirable, of course, but if clear photographs can be made through paper we shall be surprised. The materials of which paper is made may be made translucent to ordinary vision, but hardly transparent; although the light rays now in control of men achieve wonders through obstacles the natural sight of man cannot pierce.

### Rubber for Tires.

Nearly 600,000,000 pounds of crude rubber were used last year in the manufacture of automobile tires in America. Of this immense total Brazil contributed more than 48,000,000 pounds, the Dutch East Indies an equal or slightly larger amount, and the British Straits Settlements nearly five times as much as either of the other places named. In addition supplies were drawn from the Belgian Congo, French Africa, Venezuela, Mexico, Peru and Panama.—Brooklyn Eagle.

### Political Snort.

"How did Senator Snortworthy get such a reputation for political acumen?"  
"The senator never waits until the band wagon is crowded before he climbs aboard."  
"No?"  
"When it's about half-full, he mounts with no apparent hurry and conducts himself with such dignity and aplomb that the late comers think he has been there all the time."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

## MUSKRAT IN TERRAPIN ROLE

Professor Reveals Secret on Finding Bones of Fur-Bearer in Turtle Dish at Lunch.

Only an absent-minded science person would have put bones from the terrapin stew into his pocket, instead of on his plate.

"Now, isn't that just like a bone turning specialist?" said his host generally, turning to the group of servants whom he was entertaining at luncheon at a leading hotel, according to the New York Sun. "If I thought that you wanted a skeleton of one of the diamond backs, I would have had the chef save one for you, shell and all."

The science person stirred uneasily in his chair.  
"Sorry," he ruminated. "Didn't realize it. Not a good luncheon trick. Silence and social graces don't go together, do they? Such remarkable bones for a terrapin stew that I wanted to study them."

"Come, now, speak up, professor, what kind of anatomy was it? Baby dinosaur?"

"Oh, no," the professor said. "Such terrapin are raised for the market is considerable quantity in Dorchester county, Maryland. Their fur is also highly esteemed."

Right then and there something was started. The head waiter was sent for, and when pressed for details, said that he was quite sure that the diamond backs had come direct from Baltimore. The steward came next.

"Well," he said finally, "do you suppose there is enough terrapin raised in this country to supply all the hotels? I should say not."

The bones which the professor had disinterred were those of a muskrat, for in the county of Dorchester muskrats are raised in large quantity not only for their fur, but also as terrapin par excellence. The dark brown flesh is not unlike that of the land tortoise. Muskrats are clean feeders when they have a chance and before they are killed for the terrapin market they are carefully fattened on the choicest materials. Only recently in one of the French magazines there was an article on the diamond back in which due credit was given to the "County de Dorchester." In America, for producing such an excellent substitute for a costly delicacy.

### Machinery Tells Unfortunates.

Most of us are, unfortunately, more or less familiar with the stethoscope, which the doctor uses when listening for the signs of defective action in our lungs or heart. It is not so widely known that the same kind of instrument can be employed to detect abnormal noises in moving machinery. The latest development in this workshop stethoscope, due to a British engineer, lies in the use of a kind of telephone receiver in place of the stethoscope rod.

The advantage of this device is that every bearing and every gear in a factory can be fitted permanently with a receiver and all the receivers can be connected by electric wires to a single board in the manager's office or any other convenient spot. By means of suitable switches the manager can examine each bearing or gear in succession without moving from the board. Since abnormal internal noise is often the first sign of trouble which may lead to breakdown, this simple and rapid means of detection is an invaluable aid to the factory owner.—Victoria Colonist.

### Power of Radium.

The power of radium to reveal things hidden is continually finding some fresh application; now it discloses the secret history of old pictures, now it saves the fisherman from wasting his pearl oysters, showing him whether or not an unopened oyster contains pearls. Lately its power of revealing its own presence has been made use of, bringing a happy sequel to what would have been an expensive mistake indeed. A tube of radium worth £1,200 was, by mistake, thrown into a furnace. The one responsible, greatly concerned, called in a radium expert. They raked the ashes out of the furnace and then sprinkled them with zinc sulphide. The radium caused the zinc sulphide which had fallen on it to become luminous, and, to the great relief of all concerned, the little tube was picked out of the patch of light unharmed.—Christian Science Monitor.

### The Lobster's Path.

The special dispatch from New London which told of the Noank fisherman who sold 2,700 pounds of lobsters for more than \$300, thus enabling him to pay all the expenses incurred last spring when he started to build pots, buoys, etc., probably gives only the first chapter in an interesting story. It is fair to assume that the dealer who resided there to the summer hotel was enabled to pay the expenses he incurred when he erected his new warehouse, wharves and office buildings last fall; while, it may be presumed, the summer hotel owner in retelling them to his guests cleared off the half-million-dollar mortgage he contracted when he added the 10-story marble wing earlier in the season.—Hartford (Conn.) Courant.

### New Cure for Cataract.

A new instrument has been invented by a Spanish surgeon for the cure of cataract of the eye by means of suction. The new method obviates the use of the knife which makes an operation so undesirable in the cases of elderly patients. The former Empress Eugenie was treated by this method in her ninety-fourth year with remarkable success.

### Superstitions About Leeks.

Leeks are supposed to be harbingers of good fortune in Wales, and when one finds a leek growing on the wall about the house there is expectation of some great happiness coming to the inmates. In olden times the leek was supposed to keep witches away.

### No Use for It.

"What's the matter, old chap? Didn't she return your love?"  
"That's just the trouble. She returned it and told me to give it to some other girl."—Boston Transcript.

## SPEED OF BIRDS

Observations Show It Has Been Overestimated.

Airplane Travels Faster, but Winged Creatures Beat It in Starting and Alighting.

Every one surely who has watched the flight of the swifter birds has made his own estimate as to their speed.

The speeds attained by the carrier pigeon, the duck and the faster of the sea birds have formed the subject of endless guesswork and inevitable exaggeration. Birds which are incapable, even when at full stretch, of doing more than forty to fifty miles an hour, have been credited with 100 and more.

Now, the fact of the matter is that nothing is more difficult than to judge of the speed of any object through the air by mere human observation. Fore-shortening due to perspective alone renders it impossible to tell just when a moving object passes above some fixed point on the ground, and almost invariably the estimated speed is far beyond the actual. At the present time the highest well-authenticated speed is that of homing pigeons, some of which have reached a speed of 60 miles an hour over comparatively short distances.

But now comes Colonel Meinertzhagen, a noted ornithologist in Great Britain, with the statement that during his anti-aircraft duties in the war, he trained his men in instrumental work by making them take observations of the flight of birds. These he collected and then confirmed their results by instrumental work himself. He tells us that the speed of birds, as thus accurately ascertained, is far below what it is popularly believed to be, varying from twenty to forty miles for the smaller passerine to from forty to fifty miles an hour in the case of waders. Those speeds represent steady flight; but when a bird is frightened by an enemy, or when it is pouncing upon its prey, it can accelerate greatly for a limited time. He estimates that for a short distance the swift can reach a speed of 100 miles an hour.

The airplane, therefore, has greatly surpassed the swiftness of the birds both in its power of sustained speed and in its maximum speed. From 100 to 120 miles an hour can be maintained by many of the standard machines, and we know that last year the racing speed was carried up to from 180 to 190 miles per hour, while recent models are credited to be even faster.

Where the birds still greatly surpass the human flying machines is in the matter of taking off and alighting. The seabirds, and all birds in fact, by changing the angle of incidence of their wings, are able to reduce their landing speed at a rate which the airplane and the seaplane cannot at present approach.—Scientific American.

### Cool Phones Hold Customers.

The canny manager of a Times Square drug store has hit upon a plan to get business in this hot weather, trade which ordinarily was lost, according to the New York Sun. By the simple plan of installing a battery of electric fans near every telephone booth he claims he has been able to keep the store's business up to the level of the cooler months. As he puts it:

"When I saw people leave the booths after a hot session of telephoning and rush to the street for air, I found I lost business. It was a case of complying with the cardinal principles of business: 'Never let them get away without buying something.'"

"Most stores have their phones situated in the closest part of their interiors. Artificial air to cool them off has been an excellent method of persuading them to stay after they make their calls in coolness and comfort. The idea paid for itself the first three hours of operation on one of the hottest of recent days."

### Not Needed.

Secretary of War Weeks said at a dinner in New York:  
"Your pacifist is of course wrong when he declares, like Tolstol, that there is no science of war—that soldiers are idiots. I heard a pacifist tell a story the other day.  
"He said that a surgeon once apologized humbly to a man whom he had trephined. It seems that the surgeon in the course of this trephining operation had taken out the man's brains and then forgotten to put them back.  
"But the man was not at all disturbed about the accident. He smiled and said:  
"Oh, that's all right, doctor. You forget that I am a general.'"

### Gorgeous Fountain for Indian Garden.

A gorgeous electric fountain has been designed and built in this country for the garden of the Maharajah of Mysore, India, which will cost that distinguished gentleman about one-quarter of a million dollars before it is completed. It was designed by Walter D.A. Ryan of the General Electric company, and built by the latter company. It is constructed of translucent glass lighted from within by hundreds of electric lights projecting colored rays, the lamps being hidden from view. It is said to be the most beautiful electric fountain in the world.

Disappointed in Charles.  
"Charley, dear," said young Mrs. Torkins, "I am sorry about the way you acted at the baseball game."  
"You refer to the fact that I threw a couple of oranges at the umpire?"  
"Yes, it was inexcusable. You not only destroyed some perfectly good fruit, but you missed him both times."

### Used to That.

Ifton—I hear wireless telephones may be a commercial possibility within the very near future.  
Prapston—I wonder if the exchanges will then tell us that the air is busy.—London Answers.

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