

HAD TOUCH OF COMIC OPERA

Chinese Armies Stopped Fighting to Let United States Vessel Pass Down the River.

Easton William H. Galbraith, navigating officer of the United States destroyer Hart, attached to the United States Asiatic squadron in Chinese waters, in a letter tells of the intensified work placed on the hands of the vessels of the squadron in the Far East by the operations of the Chinese civil war now in progress between the Pekingese and the Cantonese sections of the nation.

Recently the Hart received a radiogram call from an officer of a United States merchant vessel, stating that his vessel 50 miles up one of the Chinese rivers was being detained. The captain was anxious to put to sea, and would the Hart see that it was permitted to depart? The Hart got on the job at once and found when the scene was reached that there was no governmental authority holding the United States ship up, but the Cantonese army was drawn up on one side of the river and the Pekingese on the other and a battle was in progress, with the river, through which the United States ship must pass, between them.

SUCCESS SLOW IN COMING

Discoverer of Vulcanized Rubber Was at One Time Compelled to Beg Money for Bread.

Charles Goodyear, who became a millionaire and was the inventor of vulcanized rubber as well as many other forms of the tree sap products, at one time was forced to beg for \$5 to keep him from starving. In 1834 he discovered that rubber could be vulcanized. It was an accident. He attempted to remove some bronze dust from a bit of rubber cloth, and after trying several chemicals tried aqua fortis, a chemical largely composed of sulphuric acid. It failed also, and he threw the cloth away. A few days later he picked it up by chance, and noted the spot rubbed by the aqua fortis had hardened and would stand a degree of heat that would have melted it in its former state.

He applied his discovery, and soon was wearing rubber shoes, coats, hats and other garments, and had a small fortune by the right of his discovery. But a year passed, and his goods were discarded and returned, rotting and broken. He was ruined. He started in again to discover a method that would vulcanize the rubber, and for ten years he kept at it, his life a long misery of hunger and cold and crushing poverty. His success came suddenly and soon he was rich beyond his wildest dreams.

Wonderful Poison Gases. Canned, solidified, poison gas, which is claimed to be absolutely foolproof and mobile, has been perfected for use by the American soldier, according to Popular Mechanics Magazine. That two studies—defensive and offensive gas research—go hand in hand already has been demonstrated, for, in addition to the development of new forms of gas, army experts at the Edgewood (Md.) arsenal, have had to improve the gas masks to make them effective against some of the new gases brought into existence there. In technical military progress, every new weapon means a call upon the armorer for a new defense. As a result, this country today has not only gases which surpass anything used during the World war, but a mask which, in recent tests was worn 24 hours a day for a week, except at mealtimes, without any discomfort whatever. Breathing was normal, speaking was simple, and it kept out all the gases thus far known.

Women Smokers "Under Cover." The mystery of where women cigarette smokers obtain their supply is solved, in part at least, by an up-town druggist, who was asked why nearly all such stores keep their tobacco stands in inconspicuous places, says the New York Sun. He said the reason for doing so is because the druggists cater to women smokers, and this class is rather timid about purchasing in the open. The women, it seems prefer to glide back to some out-of-the-way corner, where nobody will see them. Of course, there are exceptions.

Not Much of a Party. Seven-year-old Jean and her mother were invited to an informal party. They went. There the guests talked and talked, and finally the hostess passed for refreshments some wonderful fruit and candy. Little Jean ate with the others but looked expectantly for something else. But nothing came. On the way home she voiced her disappointment to mother. "I don't see why they call a thing like that a party," she complained. "I don't think much of a party you don't have a drop to drink."—Indianapolis News.

It Was Suggestion. "So she refused you?" "That's the impression I received." "Didn't she actually say no?" "No, she didn't. All she said was 'Ha-ha-ha!'"—San Francisco Chronicle.

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Fresh buttermilk at the Wolverine Dairy.—adv 1w

No Tips in China. The Chinese are not accustomed to tipping the barber. As a matter of fact the Chinese barber is very modest in his prices, and his patrons can obtain a haircut, a head shave, a face shave, and in addition have the shoulders and back massaged, all for less than five cents. The razor used by Chinese barbers is a triangular-shaped blade with straight handle, folding up as does the American straight razor. The blades are made from old rails or any other crude steel which has outlived its usefulness for other purposes.

Term "Four Hundred. This term was originally applied by a well known society man of New York, Ward McAllister, to the wealthiest residents of that city. For a ball given by a millionaire in New York city, McAllister was in charge of the invitation list. When questioned by a reporter, he stated that only 400 cards were to be sent out, adding "After all, there are only 400 persons in New York who count in a social way." The reporter was able afterward to obtain the list of guests and had their names printed as New York's Four Hundred.

No Fox; No Fables. Foxes have figured in the fables of every race of men on earth since the dawn of history, writes Dr. R. W. Shufeldt in the American Forestry Magazine. Take what the fox did out of the fables of Aesop and other writers of fables and their work would be robbed of four-fifths their interest.

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Man Cannot Sense Coming Rain. It is somewhat extraordinary, but man is the only animal that cannot naturally perceive approaching rain. All other animals show uneasiness when rain is coming. At such times dogs get restless, cats sneeze and wash their ears, frogs croak with a loud, harsh noise, owls screech, peacocks scream and ducks and geese are unusually noisy. This is said to be due to the relaxation of their nerves by the damp air, which makes them uneasy.

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Preparing for the Future
is one of the most interesting subjects that ever comes to ones mind. It requires much faith and this faith is justified by the experience of others. Faith in the worth while tasks yet to be accomplished causes thousands of our young men and women to go to college every year. Faith in our homes and in our country caused 1,000 of Gratiot county's boys and girls to offer their all on the alter of patriotism a little while ago. We want to keep faith with them now by giving a living memorial in the form of a Gymnasium and Auditorium to be erected on the campus of Alma college. We believe an investment in this memorial will pay big dividends in the future. The soldiers have been loyal to us. Lets show our appreciation in this practical manner now.
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