

The River Press

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EVENTFUL CAREER OF DIAZ.

Porfirio Diaz, who announces his intention to resign from the Mexican presidency, was born September 15, 1830, on the anniversary of Mexican independence. Oaxaca was his birthplace. His father was a Spaniard and his mother was of Indian extraction. His mother at first intended that he should enter the church, but finally yielded to his desires so that he pursued the studies then required for a lawyer's career. While thus engaged the invasion of Mexico by American troops occurred, and young Diaz, with other fellow students, offered his services to the governor of Oaxaca. The governor accepted their offer but did not require the students to go into the battlefield. Diaz served in the revolt against General Santa Ana and supported Juarez in his war of reform, which began in 1855 and ended in 1858. At the age of 29 he was general of a brigade fighting the French when Napoleon III. tried to place Maximilian on the Mexican throne. Maximilian and his generals were captured by him in 1867 and soon after Mexico City capitulated.

Diaz was regularly elected president of Mexico for the first time in 1877. He was succeeded at the end of his term by General Manuel Gonzalez. His crowning achievement in the Gonzalez administration was the abrogation of the law against the presidential re-election and in 1884 he was elected president for the second time. There has been no other president in Mexico since then and until last summer the opposition to him never attained serious proportions. He was elected president for the eighth time June 26, 1910.

Francisco I. Madero, a member of one of Mexico's wealthiest families, was candidate for the presidency against Diaz, the principal plank of his platform being anti-re-election. In November, 1910, Madero was convicted of inciting the people to rebellion and was put in jail. He escaped into Texas and called upon his followers to join in a general revolt on November 20.

Already there had been scattered disturbances throughout the republic, but the insurrection took its first definite form on this date. The Maderistas issued a manifesto in which they said the recent election had been enforced at the point of the bayonet; charged Diaz with responsibility for the uprising and declared his election null and void. The principle of no re-election was said to be the supreme law of the republic and Diaz declared a usurper.

On November 23 Madero proclaimed himself provisional president of Mexico and was formally inaugurated on his estate at Coahuila on December 1, the same day that Diaz began his eighth term.

POLITICAL STRATEGY.

If anything further were needed to demonstrate the chimerical character of democratic statesmanship the "farmers' free list" bill now pending in congress would furnish a final convincing lesson. The debate on the bill has not only exposed its deceitful nature, but developed the fact that its authors have no intelligent idea as to the results it would produce if it were adopted.

The bill is so loosely drawn, so vague and indefinite in its terms and so contrary to the lessons of past experience as a tariff measure that the good it will accomplish is purely a matter of conjecture, beyond the ken of the wisest leaders of either party in congress, while its harmful effects are definite and clear. The democrats admit that it will curtail the revenues of the government at least \$10,000,000 a year, but experienced republican legislators have made it pretty clear that it will go far beyond these figures, effecting a reduction of probably \$50,000,000 in annual revenues without any certain compensating benefit.

That the bill, if enacted, will reduce the cost of living is by no means certain. Experts who are familiar with such problems declare that it will not; that the "trusts" will absorb the reductions in duties by importing parts of machinery made more cheaply abroad and having them assembled by cheap labor here, and the only consequence would be that American mechanics and other skilled labor would be thrown out of employment. Whether or not the bill reduced prices, it would certainly reduce wages and the capacity to buy the products of the farm, mill and forge.

The Wilson-Gorman tariff bill in 1894 was a glaring instance of this sort. Prices of all kinds fell after the passage of the bill, but wages fell still lower and in many cases stopped altogether. Hundreds of thousands of workers were thrown out of employment, the farmers could find no profitable market for their products, corn was burned for fuel throughout the west because it did not pay to ship it, and the industries of the country

generally suffered an almost complete paralysis.

It is by no means certain that the bill was conceived in a sincere desire to help anybody but the democratic party. Colonel William J. Bryan unwittingly let the cat out of the bag the other day in a speech at Des Moines, Ia., when he said that the bill was "the most strategic party move that had been made in thirty years."—Kansas City Journal.

"Mary Had—"

Mary had a leg o' lamb,
It cost a lot of dough,
For everywhere that Mary went
The butchers soaked her so.
She took it home to roast one day,
And as I'm a living stoner,
Her kith and kin from far and near
Came flocking in to dinner.
But Mary could not turn them out,
And so they lingered near;
It was a doleful sight to see
That poor lamb disappear.
Did Mary love that lamb? Ah no!
The guests all got their fill—
But all our dear friend Mary got
Was just the butcher's bill.
—Springfield Union.

Must Brand Diseased Cows.

HELENA, May 24.—Tuberculosis cattle must be removed from premises of dairymen, branded with a "T" on the left jaw, and detained in a building where they cannot come in contact with other cattle, nor from which they can escape, is a ruling adopted by the state livestock sanitary board. They must be placed in a building where it is impossible for such cattle to infect other domestic animals.

The veterinarian quarantining such cattle must satisfy himself that the place selected in which to detain such cattle is perfectly secure, safe, and so located that other domestic animals cannot become exposed, infected or endangered by the quarantined animals.

This is the order against which Great Falls dairymen have been objecting, and on which it is said they will test the constitutionality of the sanitary dairy law.

To Improve Public Roads.

MISSOULA, May 24.—On June 27 and 28, at Missoula, will be held the second annual convention of the Montana Good Roads congress, where 545 delegates from all cities and counties in Montana will convene to devise ways and means to bring about the building of roads. Some of the very best speakers in the United States will attend this session, and all phases of road building and constructing will be illustrated.

Among many other things, an effort will be made to secure the adoption of a resolution endorsing the creation of the office of state roadway commissioner, and the state educational institutions will be urged to include courses under which scientific road building and repair will be taught. The mayor of each city and the county commissioners are allowed to appoint five delegates each, while Governor Norris will select five from each county.

J. M. Howell, a popular druggist of Greensburg, Ky., says, "We use Chamberlain's Cough Remedy in our own household and know it is excellent." For sale by all dealers.

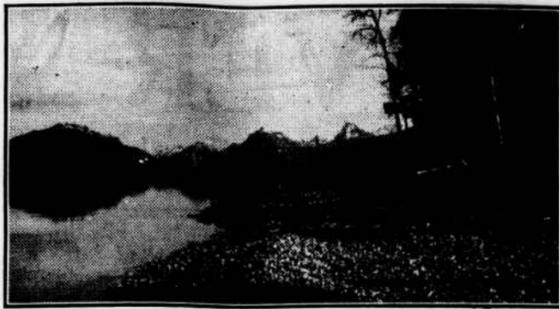
KNIFING AN ERMINE.

Cold Trick That Traps the Shy Little Fur Prize.

You are doubtless aware that the ermine of which your muff is made has been the emblem of royalty almost since royalty began, in Russia, until very recent years, its use being forbidden to those not of noble birth. But I wonder if you are likewise aware that it is brother, or at least first cousin, to the weasel. Ermine, as a matter of fact, is nothing more than the weasel or common stoat in its northern coat, for, like other arctic and subarctic animals, the weasel turns white in winter in order that it may be as inconspicuous as possible in its environment of ice and snow. Yet so abnormally keen of sight are the Siberian trappers that they can distinguish at almost incredible distances the little black tip of the ermine's tail as it whisks across the dazzling plains.

It is very shy, is the ermine, and special snares must be devised by the trapper to avoid injuring the delicate skin. Even the smallest of the steel traps are too heavy for such tiny animals as these, and here it is that the trapper's fertility of resource is most strikingly displayed. Smearing a little grease on his hunting knife, he lays it across the succession of dots and dashes which show that an ermine has passed that way. Along comes the tiny white form on its erratic course again. The grease appeals to it, and it begins to lick the knife blade, which in those far northern lands, where the mercury drops to 20, 30, 40 degrees below zero, is inconceivably cold. Did you never as a child on a winter's morning put your tongue to some piece of metal only to find that it did not easily come away? So it is then with the ermine, whose tiny red tongue is instantly frozen to the steel as though with glue. The knife being too heavy for the little animal to carry off, it can only wait until the trapper comes upon his rounds, and you, my lady, have a muff of snowy unmarred skins.—E. A. Powell, F. R. G. S., in Everybody's.

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Lake McDonald, Glacier National Park

Lake McDonald, conceded to be one of the most beautiful water spots in the world, is located in Glacier National Park in northwestern Montana. This district was created into a National Playground by the Sixty-first U. S. Congress, and since that time has been given much publicity through the columns of the leading newspapers and magazines as well as the Great Northern Ry. in its "See America First" movement.

Lake McDonald lies in the southwestern part of the Park, is 12 miles long and 1 1/2 miles wide and is surrounded on all sides by high pine covered mountains. The principal accommodations in the Park at the present time are those located on this lake, and arrangements can be made at these hotels for one day, two day or longer trips through this wonderful region with competent guides at reasonable rates.

This new Park sooner or later will surely come into its own as a big drawing card for tourists.

WASP WAIST CONTESTS.

Curious Course of Training in Old Time Girls' Schools.

A letter recently unearthed from a trunk shows that in the sixties of the last century principals of girls' schools thought they were fitting the girls for society by urging them to retain small waists. Accordingly they offered prizes to the girls having the smallest waists. The girls were put through a course of training for reducing their waist measure. The conditions of the contest were that the corset should not be removed on retiring at night and that each pupil must be inspected every morning to make sure she had not loosened her corset. One of the persons who engaged in the contest afterward wrote of it:

"Some of us tried hard to be permitted to retire from the contest, but we were rebuked for stultifying ourselves and accused of making fools of our principals. On the following morning the undergown, with her maid, came as usual to superintend the toilets, and after satisfying herself that each lace was drawn in to the utmost she fastened it in a knot at the top and, passing the ends through a piece of card, placed her own seal on them, so that any attempt to loosen the corset during the night might be infallibly detected in the morning."—Detroit Free Press.

WHITE DEER SKINS.

They Passed About as Banknotes at One Time in China.

In China, the first country in the world credited with using banknotes, certain skins were so valuable that they were accepted as cash and passed from hand to hand in the same way as banknotes are at the present day. The negotiability of these skins arose thus:

The Emperor On Ti, being in want of money, gave his treasurer to understand that such a state of affairs must not continue. At that time it was customary for princes and courtiers on entering the royal presence to cover their faces with a piece of skin. Taking advantage of this custom, the treasurer ordered a decree to be issued forbidding the use of any other skins for this purpose except those of a certain white deer in the royal parks. Immediately there was a demand for pieces of these skins, which, being a monopoly, were sold at a high price and the royal coffers refilled. The steady value of the skins thus secured made them readily pass and acceptable as an equivalent of coin of the realm.

In the Russian seal fisheries of Alaska the workmen were formerly paid in the currency stamped on squares of walrus hide.—London Tit-Bits.

A Stenographer's Stumble.

A judge in one of our middle west states advertised for a stenographer with experience in legal work. A number of applicants called at his office for the purpose of making application for the position. Each applicant was given a trial to test her speed, accuracy, etc. Among the applicants was a young lady whose anxiety to make a good showing evidently unnerved her. The judge dictated to her a few sentences in legal language, one of which was, "That would give him time to complete the devastation of the assets." The sentence as transcribed by the young lady on the typewriter read as follows: "That would give him time to complete the devil's station with a hatchet." Although much amused at her ludicrous blunder, the judge permitted her to go away without telling her of her mistake.—Case and Comment.

Madrid's Fearful Climate.

Madrid is afflicted with the most changeable climate of any European capital. The temperature varies from as much as 107 degrees in the summer to as little as 10 degrees in the winter, and at all seasons of the year it indulges in violent fluctuations. It is by no means uncommon in December to wake up with the thermometer registering about 20 degrees and to find it mount to more than 60 degrees by the afternoon. Some years ago an oscillation of 37 degrees was registered in one day. No wonder, therefore, that lung troubles are far more prevalent in Madrid than in St. Petersburg.—London Chronicle.

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THE HALL OF FAME.

ULYSSES S. GRANT—American general, eighteenth president of United States. Born Point Pleasant, O., April 27, 1822; died Mount McGregor, N. Y., July 23, 1885. Was graduated from West Point in 1843. Served through Mexican war as officer. Left army in 1854 and settled near St. Louis. Removed to Galena, Ill., in 1860. Offered services when civil war began and was appointed colonel of Twenty-first Illinois infantry June 17, 1861, and received commission as brigadier general at Ironton, Mo., Aug. 7. After capturing Forts Donelson and Henry early in 1862 was made major general of volunteers. After taking Vicksburg July 4, 1863, was made major general in regular army. March 2, 1864, and commander of all the Union armies March 12. Took up headquarters with Army of the Potomac. Received surrender of Confederate General Lee at Appomattox April 9, 1865, virtually ending the war. Commissioned general July 25, 1866. Elected president on Republican ticket in 1868 and re-elected in 1872. Made tour of world 1877-9.



Flight of the Locust. Locusts in South Africa are very tiny creatures, at most two or three inches long, yet giant jawed and shelled in a grim brown mail so hard that as they strike it causes a sharp smart. They travel in such numbers that it takes them four or five days to pass over. The scouts alone, hovering in patches like red dust clouds, are numerous enough to destroy the vegetation of a district, while the main body, high up in the air, a host of little black specks, stretches out into an interminable screen between heaven and earth. The fanning of their wings brings a fresh coolness over the hot earth even in the depth of summer. There seems to be a fresh breath of ozone as of the sea.

How Music Affected Boswell.

Boswell had a good deal more feeling for music than Dr. Johnson and suffered at his master's hands. Once in a moment of expansiveness he told Johnson that music "affected him" to such a degree as to agitate his nerves most painfully, producing alternative sensations of pathetic dejection, so that he was ready to shed tears, and of daring resolution, so that he was inclined to rush into the thickest of the battle. "Sir," replied Johnson, "I should never hear it at all if it made me such a fool."

A Human Tendency.

"You approve of economy, don't you?" "Yes," replied Senator Sorghum; "only too many of us are apt to economize on the cigars we hand our friends instead of those we smoke ourselves."—Washington Star.

The Influence of the Trees.

When we plant a tree we are doing what we can to make our planet a more wholesome and happier dwelling place for those who come after us, if not for ourselves.—Oliver Wendell Holmes.

Sheriff's Sale.

Isaac Hedges vs. R. H. Houser, defendant. To be sold at sheriff's sale on the 5th day of June, 1911, at 2 o'clock p. m., at front door of the county court house, county of Chouteau, state of Montana, the following described property, to-wit: All of the right, title and interest of the defendant named, in and to the W 1/4 NE 1/4, SE 1/4 NW 1/4, NW 1/4 SE 1/4, section 34, township 33 north, range 15 east, Montana meridian, in Chouteau county, Montana, together with all the buildings, structures and improvements situate thereon. Dated Fort Benton, Montana, May 16, 1911. GEORGE BICKLE, Sheriff. By CHAR. CRAWFORD, Under Sheriff. R. E. O'Keefe, attorney for plaintiff. First publication May 16, 1911.



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