

**THE CURIOSITY SHOP.**

When and Where Rapid Transit of News Was Introduced into Europe.

The first posts are said to have originated with the regular couriers established by Cyrus about 550 B. C., who erected posthouses throughout the kingdom of Persia. Augustus was the first to introduce this institution among the Romans, 31 B. C., and he was imitated by Charlemagne about 800 A. D. Louis XI was the first sovereign to establish posthouses in France, owing to his eagerness for news, and they were also the first institutions of this nature in Europe. This was in 1470, or about 2,000 years after they were started in Persia.

In England, in the reign of Edward IV (1481), riders on post horses went stages of the distance of 30 miles from each other in order to procure the king the earliest intelligence of the events that passed in the course of the war that had arisen with the Scots. A proclamation was issued by Charles I in 1631 that, "whereas to this time there hath been no certain intercourse between the kingdoms of England and Scotland, the king now commands his postmaster of England for foreign parts to settle a running post or two between Edinburgh and London to go thither and come back again in six days."

**Distinguished Old Men.**

Titian, the Italian painter, was 100 years old when he died at Cadore, Italy. Dandolo, when past 90 and utterly blind, stormed Constantinople. Isaac Newton was president of the Royal Society at 83, and Landor finished his "Imaginary Conversations" at the age of 89. Brougham was a debater at 80, and Lyndhurst, when over 90, spoke in the house of lords. Franklin was governor of Pennsylvania at the age of 82. Marshal MacMahon was 85 when he died. Neal Dow is now in his ninetieth year. David Dudley Field was 89 when he died. Chevreul, the French chemist, was 102 when he died in 1889. Cassius M. Clay, now living in Kentucky, is 84.

**Famous Inns.**

A fire which started in it recently brings to note again that time worn New York hostelry, the "Bull's Head Tavern," at Twenty-fourth street and Third avenue. It is a three story frame building and was built in 1825. At that time what is now Twenty-fourth street was "out in the country," and a stage line connected the hotel and New York City. It was the headquarters for drovers and



THE OLD SARACEN'S HEAD INN.

horse traders in the early days. The phrase "from the Bull's Head to the Battery," to denote a considerable distance, was once a familiar one.

Around many old English inns lingers a halo of historic picturesqueness. Famous among old London inns was the Saracen's Head, standing on Snow hill.

In the days before the railways many stagecoaches started from and returned to the Saracen's Head. Charles Dickens makes poor Nicholas Nickleby set out from this inn on his journey to Dotheboys Hall. The house is now pulled down, but a picture made in 1855 shows its old time look. This inn was not far from Newgate, and about 1700 it was a great resort on what were known to our not oversensitive English ancestors as the "Hanging Mondays," when crowds waited in the streets all night to see poor wretches swung on the gallows.

**The Line Invisible.**

How strange our ideas of growing old change as we get on in life! To the girl in her teens the ripper maiden of 25 seems quite aged. Twenty-two thinks 35 an "old thing." Thirty-five dreads 40, but congratulates herself that there may still remain some ground to be possessed in the 15 years before the half century shall be attained, but 50 does not by any means give up the battle of life. It feels middle aged and vigorous and thinks old age is a long way in the future. Sixty remembers those who have done great things at threescore, and one doubts if Parr, when he was married at 100, had at all begun to feel himself an old man.

**The Yeast Plant.**

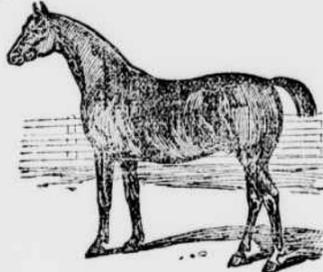
It was not until 1880 that the cause of fermentation was known, when the yeast plants were discovered in the dregs of beer by Liebig, a German expert, with a microscope, and it was nearly 300 years later, in 1837, that Cagniard de la Tour followed this up and found that it was really the yeast plant that produced fermentation and made alcohol of sugar. Today more than 100 different yeast plants are known and recognized. They are as different from one another as the individuals in a crowd and as various in their dispositions and effects.



**POLO PONIES.**

Two Popular English Sires, One a Thoroughbred, the Other Arabian.

Polo ponies are not bred to a great extent in America, but there is no reason why they should not be now that the bottom seems to have fallen out of prices for the most other kinds of horse-

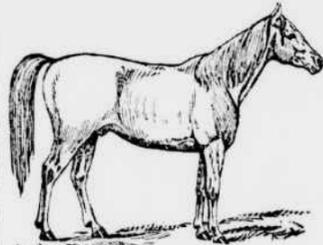


THOROUGHBRED PONY SIRE.

fresh. The best polo ponies in this country at present are of the stock of the mustang. Many of the tough little creatures used by Indians and cowboys are taken east every year for the games. If the blood of the Indian pony could be crossed with Arabian, it would apparently make the ideal polo beast. For this game a horse must be only 14 hands high or under.

The first illustration shows a well known English polo pony sire of thoroughbred origin. It is unusual, however, to find a thoroughbred sire that is small enough for this purpose. Where one is sufficiently diminutive he is apt to be runty and worthless in other respects.

The Arabian makes the best polo pony sire because of his good feet and extraordinary intelligence. The polo pony is not altogether worthless for other pur-



ARABIAN PONY SIRE.

poses, since it can be used to draw phaetons and light carriages. There is certainly money in the polo pony. There is money in anything that ministers to the amusements of the rich and idle.

**Gelding Hogs.**

Except with those selected out either to keep for breeders or to sell to others for this purpose, there is no possible advantage in allowing this operation to be delayed at the outside more than two months after farrowing, while in many cases one month old would be better. The younger the pigs are when the operation is performed the less the liability to loss and really the less suffering occasioned. Then if the mark is delayed there is the other risk of pernicious breeding. Young, vigorous thrifty, well fed pigs often do service when very young, and this is another reason for performing the operation early.

Moderate weather is rather the more favorable, neither too hot nor too cold. Yet if care is taken the operation can be done at any time without loss. If the weather is cold, a warm, dry bed must be provided, with good feeding. If the pigs are inclined to bury themselves in their bed and not come out when fed, care should be taken to start them out. Many a stunted runt gets the start from being allowed to bury itself in a pile of bedding and to miss its meals for a time or two. The longer it lays the less inclined it will be to get out, and a pig will starve itself to death rather than turn out of a warm bed on a cold day. But if made to get out and eat whenever it shows an inclination to remain in bed it can readily be kept thrifty.

In performing the operation make the cuts sufficiently low to admit of thorough drainage, and in cutting the cords make a ragged cut rather than a smooth one, as this lessens very materially the bleeding. Vaseline is one of the best ointments that can be used. Ordinarily one application will be all that is necessary, and this can be given when the operation is performed. All things considered, the best time is when the pigs are about a month old. There is less risk, and the pigs will mind it less than at any time later.—Southern Live Stock Journal.

**Facts.**

The highest prices paid this year in Chicago for beef steers was \$6.40 per hundred pounds for a lot of 30 head of 2-year-old high grade Shorthorns, averaging about 1,400 pounds each, bringing about \$90 per head.

The pork packers are claiming that the hogs fattened on wheat make a much better bacon than those that are fed upon corn. Pretty soon we shall expect to see the "pure wheat grown bacon" advertised.

An exchange says the skim milk from each good cow is worth \$20 per year for feeding to hogs. By the addition of clover and grain it can be made to grow and fatten two pigs a year. To do this we think the pigs should not be kept until over 7 months old, the first being finished off while the second was small and killed when the other was weaned. We think the figure is a little high, but not very far out of the way either.

Lately there has been no profit in keeping a hog until midwinter before killing him, if he is decently fat at the beginning of the season. Usually pork is as high in eastern states in November as it is later on.—American Cultivator.

**Habit.**

Take a young man who has been living civilized all through his youth and compel him to subsist on restaurant fare for two or three years, and you make him a dyspeptic, a hopeless martyr or a married man.

He becomes so accustomed to reading the column beginning "small steak, sirloin steak, extra sirloin," etc., and ending with "squab," which is always out, that when he gets into a place where he doesn't have to order his food and wait for it he becomes wholly irresponsible.

One of these young men was recently invited to take dinner with a friend who lived in a suburban town. He accepted with an alacrity that was not understood until he began on the dinner.

The old passion for "home cooking" was so strong that he ate voraciously and long, to the amazement and delight of the hostess.

He complimented everything that was served and asked himself the question, which has never yet been answered, "Why can't they do things this way in a restaurant?"

As he and his friend were chatting over the coffee he began to fumble around his saucer as if in search of something.

"What are you looking for?" asked the friend.

"The check."

Then he remembered where he was and wished he could disappear through the floor. He says he will rehearse before invading another private family.—Chicago Record.

**The Surprise of It.**

She was a dainty and beautiful thing as she tripped into the shoe store.

"I want a pair of shoes," she said to the clerk.

"For yourself?" inquired the smiling man.

"Yes."

"What number, please?"

"Four."

The clerk's eyes flew open. "I beg pardon," he gasped.

"I said No. 4," she repeated in a tone of slight annoyance.

"For yourself?" still queried the astounded clerk.

"Certainly. Is it such a surprising thing that a woman should wear a No. 4?"

"N-n-no, miss," stammered the clerk.

"but it is that she should say so."—Detroit Free Press.

**A Conflicting Interest.**

City Boarder—Don't you see that you could make this place a great deal healthier by draining that swamp across the road?

Farmer—So the boarders all say, en I'd dew et in er ermit of 'twern't for my son John.

City Boarder—Why does he object?

Farmer—Waal, yer see, he runs ther drug store down tow ther village.—Life.

**Conscientious.**



Biddy—I'm sorry to say, sor, Miss Giddy ain't at home.

Mr. Colds (facetiously)—Why sorry, Biddy?

Biddy—Because it's the biggest story I ever told in my life.—Once a Week.

**The Correct Tip.**

Young Gent (attending his first ball to old stager)—Whatever am I to talk about to my partner?

"About her beauty."

"But suppose she is not good looking?"

"Then talk about the plain looks of the other ladies."—Fleegondo Blatter.

**Starting Him Up.**

Mrs. Birge—I wish I could break my husband of lying abed mornings.

Mrs. Kingsley—Why don't you do as I do—get up and look in his trousers pocket?—Clothing and Furnisher.

**The Practical Side of It.**

"You haven't read Brown's last ode, have you?"

"I think I have. It seems to me he last rved me \$10."—Atlanta Constitution.

Mrs. Robinson Hill of Austin, Tex., on entering the dining room one warm day, saw something that shocked her, and to the colored lady, Matilda Snowball, whom she employs, she said, "Matilda, is that a handkerchief you have put over the butter?"

"Yes, mum. I put hit dar ter keep do files off. Don't be skeart; hit's my own handkercher."—Texas Siftings.

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**FARRELL & VARNEY**

Range from Meadow Creek to Henry's lake on both sides of Madison river. Brand as shown in cut. Cattle branded on left ribs, same brand. Down cut dulap. Post office address, Virginia City, Montana.

**Alex. Metzler.**

P. O. address, Puller Springs, Montana. Cattle and Horse brand circle A on left shoulder. Thoroughbred cattle and American horses are branded J on left jaw. Vent, same brand on left thigh.

Cattle mark, down-cut dewlap in brislet. Range, upper Ruby valley, from lower upper canyon including all tributaries.

**\$200 Reward**

For the apprehension of and sufficient evidence to convict any person or persons guilty of stealing one or more cattle or horses belonging to me. ALEX. METZLER.

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President and Manager.....ALEX. METZLER. Secretary and Treasurer.....F. S. METZLER. Foreman.....W. O. METZLER.

P. O. address, Puller Springs, Montana.

Cattle brand as shown in cut; horses same brand on left thigh. Vent for cattle same on left thigh; for horses, same under mane. Cattle cropped on right ear, and with down-cut dewlap on brislet.

Range, upper Ruby valley, from lower to upper canyon, including all tributaries.

**Jack Taylor.**

P. O. address, Virginia City, Montana. Horse brand, circle T on left shoulder. Cattle brand as shown in cut. Range, Madison divide.

**JACK TAYLOR.**

**A. K. PRESCOTT.**

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The regular term of the District Court of the Fifth Judicial District, of Montana, in and for the County of Madison, is fixed as follows:

Third Monday of February, May, August and November.

**FRANK SHOWERS,** Judge.

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