

MASKS MADE IN GERMANY.

Large Establishments Devoted Exclusively to Their Manufacture.
 There is an extensive demand for masks throughout Germany for the carnival season and other merry-making occasions. In central Germany there are several large establishments devoted exclusively to manufacturing this article. They not only meet the needs of Germany's trade, but also supply a very large demand from foreign countries. The materials used in mask-making are chiefly pasteboard and gauze, with small amounts of silk and wire. Each establishment employs its own artists, and there is a constant effort to place novelties on the market. It is largely due to the great variety of these novel designs that a promising trade with the United States has grown up during recent years, which is reported to be steadily increasing.

Lamp for Dante's Tomb.

The Italian Dante Society is to furnish the tomb of the poet of Ravenna with a lamp which, it is proposed, shall be kept perpetually burning at the expense of the municipality of Florence. The lamp is in the fourteenth century Venetian style, its main feature being an octagonal cage surrounded at its greatest diameter by a circle of copper with ornaments of gems, lapis lazuli, and amethysts. The cup of the lamp will be of the finest Venetian Crystal. The work is pronounced worthy of the best traditions of Florentine craftsmen. It will probably be placed in position at Ravenna soon.

Use of "Your Humble Servant."

The use of "your humble servant" and of "your most humble and obedient servant," which have given way to the curt "yours truly," came first into use in England in conversation, and later in correspondence, on the marriage of Queen Mary, daughter of Henry IV of France, to King Charles I. The usual salutation before that time had been "God keep you," "God be with you"—this among the gentry. With the common people it was "How dost thou, Hodge?" with a thump on the shoulder.

Opium Shipments.

As an indication of the continued opium shipments from India to China Consul General Michael of Calcutta states that during the week ending August 20, 782 1/2 chests of opium were removed from the warehouse in Bombay. Of these 749 1/2 were shipped to China, 32 were bought for the Government of Madras, 1 1/2 for the Government of Bombay, 2 1/2 for the farmer at Bhowanagar, 3 by the farmer at Naik and 6 1/2 by the farmer of Poona.

Cobblers Proverbial Smokers.

Cobblers are proverbial smokers, and the Syrian shoemaker is no exception to the rule. He, however, smokes not a short pipe but a long-stemmed hookah while he works. He is properly a slipper maker, and to his skill in handling leather he must add a knowledge of embroidery in order that he may decorate with colored silks and bullion the gorgeous footgear of his feminine customers.

Imports of Cotton Seed Oil.

The imports into Hamburg of cotton seed oil increased during the four years from 1901 to 1906 from 15,700 to 18,400 tons, whereas those of cotton seed cake decreased from 176,000 to 148,000 tons. Approximately 250,000 to 280,000 tons thereof are annually imported into Germany, of which large quantities pass through that port on the way to the inland consumers.

Nile Failed to Rise.

Quite a sensation has been caused among biblical students by the discovery by Brugsch Bey, the great Egyptologist, of a monumental inscription telling how the Nile failed to rise for seven years in succession about 1,700 years before the Christian era, and a long and terrible famine was the result.

At a ball in Gotsborg, Sweden, a young lady was thrown down by her dress becoming entangled with an officer's spur and killed by a heavy hairpin which penetrated her brain.

The milk of human kindness comes skimed these days.

Everything comes to him who waits—except the waiter.

Farm Lands Going Up.

Farm lands in the United States have risen in value more than 38 per cent since 1900. This is the average rise for the whole country. In the South Central States the increase has been 40 per cent, in the Western States 40 per cent, in the South Atlantic States, 36 per cent, and in the North Atlantic States 13 per cent.

Cotton land showed the greatest increase, amounting to 48 per cent. Hay and grain land advanced 35 per cent, and stock farms 43 per cent.

The Department of Agriculture gives the following reasons for the increase: Rural free delivery, electric railways and good roads.

The movement of townspeople to the country.

The pressure of population and the scarcity of free land.

Better and cheaper transportation and market facilities.

Better cultural methods, resulting in improvement of the soil itself, by means of better fertilization.

CENSUS OF PARIS TREES.

Approximately 87,000, the Horse Chestnut the Commonest.

In the course of its annual stock taking the Paris municipality has gone the length of making a census of all the trees which the city owns and cares for. The total number is approximately 87,000, or roughly one tree to every thirty-two inhabitants, not enough to satisfy a "garden city" enthusiast, but ample to provide all honest republicans with plenty of the cheap yet artistic badge which Camille Desmoulins made popular.

The horse chestnut is the commonest tree planted by the municipality, after it comes the plane tree, followed by the Judas tree. In some of the more distant and secluded avenues limes and acacias are found, but variety must not be sought outside the gardens and parks, which belong to the State. There one may find almost every tree that may be grown in the Paris climate.

The municipality also excludes the trees growing in its own parks—the Bois de Boulogne, the Buttes Chaumont, the Parc Montrouge—from this census. The area of these parks and other public squares is about 1,500,000 square yards, and about half of it is grass grown.

The Red Death.

It will be remembered that Edgar Allan Poe, in his "Masque of the Red Death," described a plague, the main symptom of which was a bleeding from the pores of the body.

In Central America the Red Death is personified in the Blood Snake, or, as the Spaniards call it, Vivora Sangre. This snake is of a red-tinged black on the back, while underneath it is of a bright vermilion. Its deadly work is easily recognizable in the condition of the victim. An Indian cattleman, finding a cow bleeding at the nose, eyes, and ears, and perspiring blood at every pore, does not hesitate to blame it on Vivora Sangre. Unfortunately, the effect upon the human being is the same, and our Indian friend quite realizes it when he lights a cheroot, gathers his blanket around him, and stoically sits down to await the meeting with his forefathers.

Let Us Forget.

In the good old kaffir corn days of Blaine county, when Uncle John Dillon, the Geary banker, and County Clerk Tyler hauled cedar posts to El Reno and Oklahoma City and sold them to buy bread for their families, they would go to hear a good old preacher, who was a post hauler with them. This good old brother in his prayers would thank God for his goodness to them, and one season, when he was especially thankful for a good crop, raised, but not forgetful of the past, he said: "Dear Lord, let in days to come we forget, we thank Thee, O God, for the cedar in the canons."

Indian Cotton Tree.

The Indian cotton tree, it is claimed, is able to withstand long periods of drought, and has so far escaped the ravages of the troublesome boll worm. This tree does not appear to require much attention after it has been once planted, and it grows to a height of six or seven feet. Its greatest production is in its third year. An effort is now being made in England to organize a company for the production and exploitation of this cotton.

Josephine's Harp.

Now that Malmalson has reverted to the French nation possessors of objects once associated with it all the world over are showing themselves quite eager to restore them to the place so inseparably associated with the sad romance of Bonaparte's unfortunate Empress. The Bonaparte legend may be dead enough; the Josephine legend is not. Her harp is the latest object to find its way back.

Earliest Mention of Forks.

The earliest mention of forks was in "Crudities," a singular book of travels by Coryates, published in 1611. "The Italians, and most strangers that are cormorant in Italy, do always, at their meals, use a little fork when they cut their meat." Queen Elizabeth was the first English sovereign to use one, and her court condemned the fad as a silly affectation.

Color Photography.

The feature of the exhibition of the Royal Photographic Society, which opened recently in London, was the display of color photography by the new starch grain process. This is not yet regularly in the market, but a large number of amateurs have made or secured plates, and over 100 color pictures were submitted, 72 of which were accepted and hung.

Foreest of All European Kings.

King George of Greece is the poorest of all European Kings. His income is about \$700 a day, which is nothing to one obliged to maintain the state and dignity of a King. He would be poorer still were it not for outside help. England, France and Russia each subscribe \$20,000 a year toward his income.

Large Land Owners.

The Rocha family of the State of Durango, Mexico, are among the largest, if not the largest, family owners of land in the world. They count their wealth by millions of dollars and are in supreme control of a mountainous territory embracing about 10,000,000 acres.

Motor Roads in Africa.

In the Congo Free State, under the direction of a central automobile department more than a year's work has been done in the construction of special highways and the establishment of the forerunners of a network of automobile freight lines.

The road on which work is being most rapidly pushed, and on the completed portion of which freight is now being transported, will be the longest and most important of these enterprises. It will connect the Congo with the Nile at Rejaf, only a short distance south of Gondokoro, which is now reached regularly by passenger and freight steamers from Khartoum.

When the freight road is completed, in about two years, says the Motor World, the upper Congo will have automobile, steamboat and rail connections with the Mediterranean, as well as steam transportation to the mouth of the Congo and Europe.

Wages in Austria.

Wages in Great Britain average much higher than they do on the Continent, and in France and Germany wages are higher than in Italy, Spain or Austria. The District Court at Carlsbad, Austria, recently fixed the daily wages of laborers of both sexes for the years 1907, 1908 and 1909 as follows: Males—Foremen, 60 cents a day, others, 40 cents, and apprentices and boys, 20 cents. Females—Adults, 28 cents, and juveniles, 18 cents. Servants of the State 48 cents, except servants of the post and telegraph, who receive 44 cents.

The Bread-Fruit Tree.

Bread is not the only product of the bread-fruit tree. From it cement cloth, tinder and lumber are also obtained. A glutinous, milky juice oozes from the trunk of the tree which makes excellent cement when boiled with coconut oil. From the fibrous inner bark a kind of coarse cloth is made, and the big leaves make good towels. The lumber is used for building houses and many other purposes. Besides all this the dried blossoms are used as tinder when fires are kindled.

Standing Pine Trees.

The standing pine of the three old pine States—Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota—probably does not exceed 20,000,000,000 feet. Last year the total cut of pine in these three States was but about 3,292,000,000 feet. At that rate the stumpage will be exhausted in six or seven years. The original growth in these States was approximately 400,000,000,000 feet. The greater part has been cut off since 1873.

Forty-Volume Botany.

What is probably the finest work on botany ever published has recently been issued from a Leipzig press to the order of the Brazilian Government. It consists of 40 volumes comprising 130 parts, with 20,733 plates, dealing with 40,000 species of flora found in Brazil. The work was begun in 1819 by Martius and has been built up by 65 authors.

Utilized the Time.

Finding that his wife always kept him waiting a quarter of an hour after the dinner bell had rung the Chancellor d'Aguesseau, a French jurist who died in 1751, resolved to devote the time to writing a book on jurisprudence and, putting the project in execution, in course of time produced a work in four quarto volumes.

Little Strength in Alcohol.

Novel experiments by Professor A. Durig have proved that, while alcohol is theoretically a food, its efficiency is so small that half a gallon would be required to run the human machine for a day's mountain climbing. It diminished the amount of work performed by the body per minute about one-sixth.

The Building of Automobiles.

Consul-General Richard Guenther of Frankfurt, reports that Germany produced 22,000 automobiles in 1906, the United States 58,000, France 55,000, England 27,000, Italy 18,000 and Belgium 12,000. In 1902 the United States produced only 314 machines, against 24,000 for France.

"Hairpin Cemeteries."

The London Express says the golf links of the country are fast becoming "vast hairpin cemeteries" and that unfortunately most of the millions of hairpins in them are only half buried "with their business ends uppermost" to the annoyance and even danger of the players.

Seaweed Baling Industry.

The seaweed baling industry on the coast of Norway will probably create a demand for a machine capable of making a bale weighing from 180 to 230 pounds to be bound by wire the same as baled hay.

Student At 90.

At the age of 90 Sir Joseph Hooker, the eminent English botanist, is pursuing his researches with all the ardor of youth. He is endeavoring he says, to overtake arrears of work extending over many years.

Suggestion to Find Children.

It is suggested in London that all children be made to have their names written in the inside of their hats, so that they can be cared for by the police if they stray away from home.



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