

ODD FORMS OF TAXATION

Ways of Raising Money Resorted to in European Countries. Though Great Britain is content with the revenue raised from income taxes, dog and game licenses, letters patent of budding baronets, armorial bearings, man-servant and similar taxes, says Pearson's Weekly other countries have far more ingenious ways of raising the wind.

ORE SIDE OF LONDON LIFE

Little Things That Impress the American While Abroad. The stranger in England is bewildered by the redundant thanks which greet him or assail him, according to circumstances, on every possible occasion. It is "thank you" if he does and "thank you" if he doesn't.

THE HIDDEN SIDE OF CASTE

Founded on the Belief of Reincarnation—Four Classes Recognized. The hidden side of the oriental caste system, as originally conceived, reveals a colossal scheme for the ordering of society in such manner that the normal operation of the national functions should contribute to the culture of the individual souls which constituted the population.

RICH MEN OF A MONTE

How Some Suddenly Acquired Fortunes Have Been Squandered. The sudden acquisition of unaccustomed wealth is responsible for many strange freaks on the part of the newly enriched. Thus, a Durham collier, after inheriting the sum of £20,000 from an uncle who had emigrated to Australia, purchased a male and female elephant from a traveling menagerie.

LAZIEST MEN IN THE WORLD.

Stories Told of a Hill Tribe in India—Women Who Build Huts. In these days of push and energy it sounds strange to talk of people as being lazy, and still the Todas, a hill tribe of India, are the laziest people in the world.

ANCIENT USAGE OF THE FORK.

On Being Invited Out One Furnished His Knife and Fork. The first mention of the use of forks in history was at the table of John, the good Duke of Burgundy, and he only possessed two, one of gold and the other of silver.

Origin of Auctioneers.

The auctioneers of the United Kingdom cannot claim to belong to a very ancient profession, so far as this country is concerned. Though auctions were familiar institutions in ancient Rome, the first in these islands is said to have been held about 1700.

Why Mustaches are Worn.

The Paris correspondent of the London Mail writes: An investigation by the Gaulois is the reason for the wearing of mustaches has elicited very varied replies. Of one hundred men questioned six replied that it was too much trouble to shave, one declared that it was to hide his teeth, another that his long nose without it gave him a bad appearance.

A Lesson in Economy.

Every residual product has its value today. There is absolutely no waste in nature, and very little in modern chemistry. Street offal and washings of coal gas reappear in the lady's smelling bottle, or are used by her to flavor her blanc-manges.

Curious Almshouse.

The most curious almshouse is England is St. Mary's Hospital at Chichester. There eight old ladies live actually in the church, which is a fine old building, dating from 1680. It was originally a monastery, but when Queen Elizabeth came to visit there she turned it into an almshouse.

The Japanese Parliament.

Perhaps the greatest sign of the westernization of Japan was when it formed its parliament, only sixteen years ago. The first meeting, a somewhat stormy one, took place in the winter of 1890-1. Japanese members of parliament are paid about £20 a year as salary, in addition to traveling allowances, which they are not at liberty to refuse even if disposed to do so.

Underground Wonder.

At Medina, Italy, is a large tract in which, when the well-diggers got sixty-three feet from the surface, they came to a bed of chalk. Through this they bored with an augur just five feet. They then withdrew from the pit before the augur was removed and upon its extraction the water burst through the aperture with great violence, and quickly filled the newly made well, which was afterwards affected neither by rain nor drought.

Why Toll Was Paid.

On one of the old turnpikes yet remaining in the South a big touring car had twice rushed through the gate without paying toll. The third time it made the attempt the negro toll man shut his gate and brought the car to a stand.

Buying Cheap.

A well known actor, shortly before his bankruptcy, invited a friend to dine with him. The walnuts were washed down by some rare sherry. "That's a delicious wine," his friend exclaimed: "it must have cost you a lot of money."

Edison's Obvious Inventions.

Why He Would Like the Aid of Some Judges. Thomas A. Edison recently made a suggestion by which a common failing of judges may be turned to account. The patent law demands that an invention shall show more evidences of imagination than are required in the ordinary makeshift improvements that are made every day in machine shops.

Work of the Guango Tree.

Its Presence Makes Life Easy for Other Plants. The Guango, or rain tree, which is indigenous to Brazil and Central America, has been successfully introduced into Australia, but the attempts to acclimatize it in corresponding latitudes in America have been unsuccessful.

Didn't Want to Be Bothered.

H. A. Fuller, of the Pennsylvania Bankers' Convention in Wilkesbarre, introduced with this story the banker who responded to the toast, "Our Depositors." "A depositor in a neighboring trust company is an eccentric farmer of middle age. This farmer, though he is wealthy, overdrew his account one day to the tune of five hundred dollars."

Whisky Drinking in Scotland.

It is reported that the Highland Scotchman is ceasing to drink whisky. A visitor to Scotland says that the typical Highlander, as he saw him this season, takes an occasional "nip," as before, but that beer is gradually ousting usquebaugh from its supremacy. He saw many Highlanders take their "meridian"—a ceremony still religiously observed—and in the majority of cases beer was the drink.