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### FIRE WALKER OF SOUTH SEA ISLANDS

Interesting Exhibit in American Museum of Natural History.

The American Museum of Natural History of New York City has completed the installation in the south sea island hall of three large groups depicting Tahitian daily life and ceremonies.

The group illustrates a Tahitian fire-walker and coconut gatherer, a kava-drinker and roofer, and a third a Tahitian fire-walker, the most prominent of the groups which tells the story in detail of the previously unexplained problem of how these natives in their ceremonies walk over red-hot stones. The figure itself is a cast-

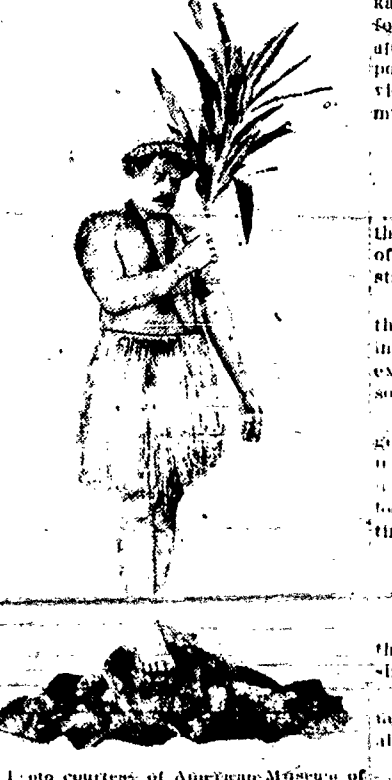


Photo courtesy of American Museum of Natural History.

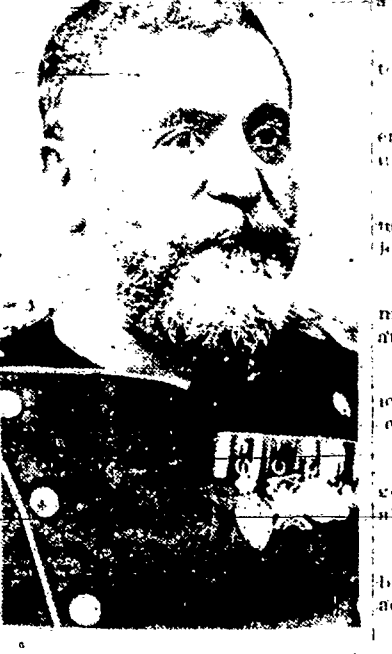
Photo courtesy of American Museum of Natural History.

made in the museum from a real Tahitian fire-walker during his stay in New York and represents a priest conducting his most interesting ceremony known as *umutu*. In preparing for this performance the natives dig a large shallow trench about 20 feet long and about two feet deep. Two layers of wood are placed at the bottom of the pit and set on fire through a tiny side opening. On top of the wood large rocks of porous basalt are heaped up in several layers. The fire is maintained for a long time so that the lowest layers of stone become almost red hot and occasionally will with-out reports.

The priest proceeds to walk directly across the surface of the pile of rocks, followed by his disciples. The experiment is repeated several times in their life, but without injury, which naturally impresses the native spectators with the mysterious nature of the fire-walk. The physical explanation is that the porous basalt rocks are very light and conductors of heat. The heat is absorbed by the upper surface of the stone but for a tough soled native to walk upon.

### HEAD OF SERBIAN FORCES.

General Poutnik is an invader, but Great Soldier Nevertheless.



General Radomir Poutnik, chief of the general staff of the Serbian army, is a certain soldier. He won high honors in the Balkan war, his name frequently appearing in the dispatches for his exploits.

Under him the Serbian army has been puffing up a wonderful fight against Austro-German and Bulgarian forces. Even the women are fighting in Serbia today, and over a thousand are with the army, and more are being organized. The women in the ranks are said to fight with all the courage of men.

### SIRES AND SONS.

Justice J. P. Clark of the New York supreme court sails his own boat, the *Ballette*. When his arduous duties give him a few spare hours you will be sure to find him on the water.

Samuel S. Fisher, a Philadelphia manufacturer, is also a practical philanthropist. He organized an art club where 200 poor boys study each year without charge.

The oldest officer of the French army, M. Saragne, ex-mayor of Auxerre, who is seventy-seven, is now serving as a corporal in the first line near Arras. He was a lieutenant of engineers in the war of 1870.

Herman Salken, the office manager, came to America a poor boy. Although he lives in New York, he has a wonderful private park near Baden Baden, Germany. Four villas for guests, forty-six gardeners caring for the 168 varieties of roses, and a beautiful park.

Mrs. Ritter, to whom the Gustav Mahler foundation prize has been awarded, is a well-known Vienna composer, known particularly in Germany and Austria for his operas "Der Musikant" and "Der Bergsee." The prize for which a fund of \$11,000 was set apart in the name of the lamented composer, was designed to provide financial assistance for creative musicians.

For the first time in the history of the French republic there is a coalition ministry of all the opposing parties and factions. The government of Aristide Briand, which came into power on the collapse recently of Viviani's cabinet, is a close imitation of the recent innovation of a British coalition cabinet of Liberals and Conservatives. There are many political parties in France, however, and the new government contains many divergent elements.

The French ministerial readjustment has brought to the surface of political France the most distinguished statesmen ever assembled in a cabinet of the third republic. There are De Frey, chief who has been seven times premier, besides holding a score of portfolios. Ribot, also a former premier and a distinguished foreign and finance minister. Bourgeois, another former premier who has also held as many portfolios as De Frey. Jules Cambon, who has distinguished himself as ambassador at Washington, Madrid and Berlin, the brother of Paul Cambon, now ambassador at the court of

### Dress Hints.

In sewing on a button, if you will put the knot of the thread on the right side of the article under the button, it will stay on much longer.

If your petticoat or princess slip is so thin that the form shows when standing in the light, instead of wearing an extra Petticoat line the front gore with some heavy material.

When ribbons are removed from lingerie if one has a medium sized mending tube at hand and rolls them on it, it keeps them in perfect condition and looking newer than to press them each time.

### Science Siftings.

Recent experiments in India indicate that the heat emitted by fireflies is similar in many ways to X rays.

A seismograph invented by a Japanese seismologist registers the velocity of all earthquakes two hundredfold.

Single nickel salts cannot be used alone for plating without the addition of a re-oxidizing salt such as sulphate of ammonia.

One seven-hundredth part of a grain of radium will thoroughly fertilize a ton of soil and cause grain to grow with great rapidity.

### English Etchings.

It is not lawful for a man to leave a British ship of even a share in one as a legacy to a foreigner.

A hundred years ago paper was so dear in England that butchers used to give their customers the meat wrapped up in a large vegetable leaf.

Swans according to the law of England, are crown property. Whoever steals or destroys swans' eggs forfeits his shilling, for every egg and whoever steals a marked swan of the crown commits a felony.

### Facts From France.

French people eat 280 pounds of bread a head per year.

Paris is the best protected country in the whole of Europe.

The cost of living in Grenoble, France, has nearly doubled within the last six months.

Paris plans to obtain fully 30,000,000 kilowatt hours per year by damming the river Rhone at a point 300 miles from the city.

### BRIGHT BRIEFS.

Altafina is wrong that is almost right.

It is the prettiest that wear away a man's stomach.

The man who knows it all is never full of information.

The water we give the man points us to the right time to stop growing.

Good jobs always seem to seek the men who have jobs rather than the jobs.

Some European statesmen might remark that it is not only republic that are in gratitude.

Rome wasn't built in a day and Mexico wasn't subdued in a week or at least hasn't been.

Just for a change try sometimes to gossip about yourself instead of about your neighbors.

Despite the rapid growth of their business, no phonograph company is advertising "All records broken."

A federal court has decided that to own powder is a cosmetic. Must we find something else for our innocent babies?

By the time a man finds out that he doesn't amount to anything and never will be it is too old to care anything about it.

The assistant treasurer of the United States is credited with saying that the average dollar bill lasts about three weeks, but isn't that a miserable minutes?

### RAPID CHANGES IN CABINETS

### Coalition In France and Reversals In Greece.

THE cabinets of certain European nations either actually engaged in the great war or tottering on the verge of entering it, have undergone some rapid and remarkable changes. In the case of France, Briand, a strong man has recently come into power as premier. In the case of Greece, Venizelos, a strong man, has gone out of power, but he still retains much strength, though out of office. He is, if not a power behind the throne, still a power nevertheless.

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ARISTIDE BRIAND AND ELEFTHERIOS VENIZELON



ARISTIDE BRIAND AND ELEFTHERIOS VENIZELON

St. James, two other former premiers, Doumergue and Dr. Emile Combes, the latter of whom, from 1902 to 1905, put through the measures of republic an defense made necessary by the Dreyfus case and devised by the cabinet of his predecessor, the late M. Waldeck Rousseau, and Jules Guesde, the well known parliamentary Socialist, who was a member without a portfolio in the late cabinet. Finally, General Gallieni, the defender of Paris a year ago, and Admiral Lazare, are both men who stand high in their respective professions.

Aristide Briand, the new premier, has two before him that office. He was the first Socialist premier when appointed in 1909 to succeed M. Clemenceau. The latter had to deal with the strikes of organized labor, but his methods had not been effective. With M. Briand a Socialist premier and minister of the interior, a great strike was organized. In 1910 all the rail way employees were called out. M. Briand was equal to the occasion. He ordered the strikers to join the colors for three weeks' training and assigned them as soldiers to run the trains. Since that time he has broken with the organized Socialist party.

After the election of M. Poincare in January, 1912, M. Briand formed the first cabinet since then, whether in or out of office he has meanwhile been minister of justice. He is the president's most energetic and faithful lieutenant.

The Greek cabinet has been turning such a lot of political somersaults and changing so quickly that Venizelos, strong as he is, has been unable to commit Greece to any settled policy. When he recently returned the Zaimis cabinet it was thought that he would return to power, but instead Stephanos Skoufandis was invited by King Constantine to become premier. If Venizelos returns to power the outcome is confident that Greece will at once join the allies. Venizelos has recently been quoted as saying that his resumption of the premiership would be followed by war upon Bulgaria.

### JAMES AND DAUGHTERS.

Mrs. Maria di Gavini of New York is the mother of nineteen children.

When Lady French was at school she won a prize in a knitting competition. The prize was a set of silver knitting needles, which are still in her possession.

Mrs. Yvette Guilbert is a great tea drinker. She drinks tea with and after every meal and without sugar or milk. Often before going on the stage and nearly always after she comes off she has a cup of her favorite beverage.

Mrs. Emma S. Fry, who as Emma Sheridan Fry was leading lady for the late Richard Mansfield, gives much of her time gratuitously as dramatic director of the Educational Dramatic League of New York. She helps to train actresses and stage their productions.

Mrs. Margaret Taylor, widow of the late novelist and one time American minister to Germany, is a native of Germany and has translated most of her husband's works into German. Because she disliked the American attitude toward Germany she recently left her New York home for her native land.

### The Royal Box.

King George of England plays an excellent game of billiards, a favorite pastime of his.

Vienno Schmitzel is a favorite dish of the emperor of Austria. The emperor is also fond of "alves" tongues in red wine.

King Victor Emmanuel always carries his camera on his frequent trips along the fighting line. He is the only Italian whose war pictures have not to be submitted to the censor.

King Ferdinand of Bulgaria is noted as the handsomest man now upon a European throne. He is profuse in decorating his person with all the insignia of the many orders that have been conferred upon him.

### PITH AND POINT.

It is in the movies that actions speak louder than words.

People who are always looking for trouble miss a lot of joy rides.

Did you ever notice that good winners are as rare as good losers?

Wonder how many people mean it when they say, "I'm glad to meet you."

If a man is smart he ought to be the first to find it out, then say nothing about it.

It is becoming more and more apparent that the Panama canal is built on a sliding scale.

It is not always the man who makes the most money who is best off at the end of the year.

You will be happier if you spend less time thinking about those you hate and more about those you love.

One comfort is left the man who begins at the bottom. He can sink no lower—unless the bottom falls out.

When some people get out of debt they feel so happy about it they immediately plunge right back in again.

The war is becoming so complicated that there is a growing suspicion that even the experts are not following it so closely as they pretend to be.

One of the impossible things to think out is as to what the great thinkers on the other side of the Atlantic think of themselves at this blessed moment.

### Echoes of the War.

Over in Europe they're getting crowded for ground to fight on. Atlanta Constitution.

The scariest thing in war is glory, and the present conflict seems to have even a smaller supply than is common. Detroit News.

When Europe recovers consciousness it will ask, "Where am I?" and nobody will be able to answer the conundrum. Chicago News.

It's difficult to realize that this same war was going on away back in the days when "It's a Long Way to Tipperary" was popular. Washington Star.

### Recent Inventions.

Either a solid stream at right angles or a cone of water toward the rear can be thrown by a new adjustable fire hose nozzle.

Curved bars of various lengths have been patented to suspend pictures at any desired height in a room from a picture molding without the use of wire or cord.

Concrete pipes have been patented with pipes running through their centers through which water can be pumped to wash away the earth and permit them to sink under their own weight.

### Fashion Frills.

Scientists have explained everything but feminine fashions. St. Louis Globe Democrat.

The styles of 1830 are decreed for 1915. Yet Fashion claims she is up to date. Detroit News.

And just think how much valuable time the poor girls have to spend in sewing far round the tops of their shoes. Indianapolis News.

What do you think of the short skirted, white stockings, three story beehive, white toed girl? Baltimore American.