

HIS WAGES ONE CENT A YEAR

Early Carrier of Mails Certainly Not in the Business for Purpose of Making Money.

Maurice Proctor, a man of wealth, was so anxious for his coach to bear the distinguishing "U. S. Mail" sign of the postal service that he made absolutely certain, when a service line was established between Mineral Point (where he lived) and Dodgeville, Ia., he would be the lucky one allotted the honor.

There were 20 competitors and each turned sick with disgust when they heard of the bid of the wealthier man, says an early volume of the Strand Magazine. It was the custom then to ask prospective employees to bid for the job, as contractors bid now. Proctor bid 1 cent. Which is to say, he volunteered to do the job for a remuneration of 1 cent a year in wages.

Every day, rain or shine, he twice carried the mail between the two cities, proud of the "U. S. Mail" on the side of his coach. At the end of the year his enthusiasm had not worn off, so he renewed his contract, agreeing to do the work at the same rate for four more years—in all, for 4 cents. The government considered him financially responsible for this amount, and gave him the job. The 4 cents were paid to him in four annual installments.

His pay for the first year came in the form of a postal warrant signed by the secretary of the treasury and made out to the order of the carrier, Maurice Proctor. It was in payment for his services, and the amount was 1 cent. Needless to say, it was considered as a great curiosity, so the carrier sold it at once for \$36.

FOR SPORT WEAR

Sweaters in Delightful Weaves and Charming Colors.

Combination of Tints That Afford Prettiest Effect Proves to Be Chief Problem.

Everywhere one goes shopping just now there are to be seen the most delightful sweaters in all weaves and colors, and also the most attractive sport skirts in all the wanted shades of the new silks. But sometimes it is a problem to know just what colors to combine to obtain the prettiest effect.

A beautiful sweater, tuxedo model, of peach silk in a fancy weave, was worn with a canton crepe skirt of French blue, and the combination was very dainty. A rather large drooping hat of the blue crepe was faced with peach silk, and worn with this costume.

Of course, white is the most practical for a sport skirt, as it goes well with any blouse or sweater you may care to wear. If you have a white skirt from last summer, and it is a bit yellow from laundering, why not tint it one of the new shades? There are any number of good coloring powders on the market that require no boiling and but a few minutes' time.

You might tint your last year's skirt a lovely maize shade and wear it with a black slip-on sweater. If you run yellow ribbon through your black sweater the result will be very striking.

An unusual outfit was a coat-sweater of chocolate-colored wool with

How Hiram Won an Opera Star

By DOROTHY WHITCOMB

(© 1921, Western Newspaper Union)

"That big white house on the cliffs yonder, mister?" asked the old guide. "That's Hiram Smith's place. He's one of the richest men round here and we think a deal of him. We called that 'Hiram's Folly' once, but folks don't call it that any more, for now it's a house, and then it was a barn without a roof, and nobody thought Hiram would get the money to finish it. That bit of an old wreck there was the 'Patagonia' once, and she was a fine ship in the days when she used to ply between Boston and Portland. It was when she went ashore that we stopped speaking of 'Hiram's Folly.'"

In his vivid speech he drew the man's picture until I could visualize him—Hiram Smith, the young fisherman, baiting his lobster pots or acting as guide, during the brief summer months, to the visitors at Rundle's Bay. One summer there came a party of opera singers from New York who had taken the strange fancy to pay a week's visit to this little coastal village of Maine.

But even there the fame of Marian Kemper had spread. It was not her genius that was admired, but the fact that she, a girl of twenty-five, born in Iowa of simple farmer stock, had been so endowed by nature that she earned thousands of dollars in one evening by the gift of her voice. When Hiram Smith first saw her in his boat he stared at her till he nearly lost his wits. She was the most beautiful woman whom he had ever seen. And when she sang, the world seemed suddenly a thing of crystal and fire to him.

Marian Kemper was at first amused and then interested in the devotion of the young fisherman.

And on the last evening Hiram Smith offered her "his heart and hand." Those were his words, she told the laughing crowd at the hotel. He wanted her to share his cottage and his lobster pots! And when she had shelved his self-esteem with a few stately, yet cutting words, he said simply:

"I will win you yet."

Hiram Smith never followed the sea again. He disappeared for two years. When he returned he deposited a thousand dollars in the bank and bought the piece of ground on which, stone by stone, he erected "Hiram's Folly." It grew as his bank deposit increased, but Smith became known as a master of finance. In a small way, the greatest man in New England, and the shrewdest at bargaining. He built a store that ousted all others.

The years passed slowly. Hiram was a man of thirty-five, and Marian about his age, when the tragedy of her life happened. For ten years she had been a "star." Now her voice failed her. She had never married. At first she lived in the hope of regaining her vocal powers. Then, forced to earn a living, she went on the stage.

One day when she was at the end of her resources, a stranger introduced himself to her. He wished to start a company of his own. Would she be the perpetual "star," and let him bear the expense and take what profits there were? She consented. Marian Kemper had become the pensioner of an unknown man.

About this time "Hiram's Folly" was completed. The empty house stood on the hill. Hiram was often to be seen upon the cliffs, spy-glass in hand. People said that he was waiting for some ship that never came in.

The summer after his retirement the order went out that Marian's company was to tour New England, especially the coast towns. It played from Newport to Bangor and back again. The next year the same itinerary was scheduled. And that was when the Patagonia found her end upon the rocks of Rundle's reef. It was a wild winter's morning when Marian's company found their vessel stranded off shore, in danger of breaking up. Hiram Smith was first to volunteer in the lifeboat crew. And the first person whom he encountered upon the vessel's deck was Miriam. He drew her to his side.

"There's plenty of time," he said. "The ship don't look like breaking up for a while. You wouldn't be sorry if the company broke up with her, I reckon?"

"No," she said, looking at him.

"Some folks' lives break up like ships," said Hiram, and that was the wildest flight he ever made into metaphor.

"Yes," she said, laughing and shivering in the wind. "You're right."

"You don't remember Rundle's Bay?" asked Hiram. "You were never here before?"

"Yes," she answered with sudden remembrance. "That was long ago, though—fourteen years and more."

"It's been longer for me," answered Hiram Smith. "You don't recall that boat ride down by the reef and how I said I'd get you again? I've got all I've wanted but you, Miriam. Now I'm going to have you as well. That's our house on the hill. Now we'll get into the boat."

That was all the guide's story. But, knowing the paths that underlie the calm exterior of the New England nature, I suspected that there was more. And I pictured Hiram, whose 14 years were rewarded, and his relentless quest that was crowned with success. Then, looking up, I saw children on the steps of "Hiram's Folly" and heard their distant laughter, and then I knew that the story had not been told in its completeness.

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Elizabeth W. Godville, whose mother was Hecquetta of Luxembourg, was the first English Elizabeth on record. Elizabeth of York is another famous English woman of that name, supposed to be the object of the political courtship of Henry of Richmond, but the most famous of all the English Elizabeths was of course the famous queen whose personality and achievements are immortal in the world's history.

Freeze Fruit to Keep It. Strawberries, grapes, cherries, raspberries, and other small fruits, as well as tomatoes and some other vegetables, can be kept a long time intact from the germs that bring about decomposition. Germs may be present in the air and in the fruits, but their activity is suspended by freezing.

The department of agriculture has found that fruits frozen to a temperature as low as 10 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, up to 32 degrees, and then stored in a temperature not above 16 degrees, will keep for several months. —Popular Science Monthly.

Mark Twain said: "Don't stare up the steps of success; step up the stairs."

People who are really "happy in their own way" are those who have a hobby.

Were it not for the nickel, you might not get anything back in change.

BUNGALOWS BUILT BY BIRDS

Are Not Used as Nests, but Seemingly Only Constructed as a Matter of Decoration.

Arbor-like bungalows are built by Australian bower birds. These bungalows are decorated by the birds with flowers and other bright objects.

Sometimes one bird will move a flower placed in position by a fellow. The result is a free fight, for none of the birds will tolerate interference or criticism.

There are several different kinds of bungalows, and each is built by a variety of the bower bird. These structures have nothing whatever to do with the birds' nests. There is a garden in front of the bungalow, and great attention is paid to keeping this fresh. Some of the birds prefer shells as a garden decoration; others use gaily-colored beetles and other insects, while one bird lays out a lawn of moss, which it decorates with all kinds of odds and ends. As soon as any part of the garden becomes faded, the moss, leaves, or flowers are carried to a rubbish heap behind the bungalow.

Dancing displays are given on the lawn, especially at courting time, when the males adopt all kinds of queer attitudes and sing songs to attract the attention of the opposite sex.

Cultured Slovakian People.

The Inn at Turciansky Sv. Martin in northern central Slovakia is a real social center. Here the inhabitants of this cultural center of Slovakia assemble for song and gossip. In spite of the antiquity of their get-up, the peasants of the region are among the most cultured people in Europe; their little town is a center of the printing industry and boasts a most interesting museum. The women of Slovakia, although the difficulty in obtaining linens and colored thread with which to make their embroideries is now great, still work with the same care and reverence for traditional craftsmanship as formerly. Indeed the peasant woman of Detva, Slovakia, both in the work upon which she is engaged and the beautiful clothes she wears, would seem to be a living model for her sisters in the neighboring villages. It is in their gardens that these women work, surrounded by their children.

The Osci, Early Occupants of Italy.

The Osci, or Oscans, were an Italian people who appear to have been the original occupants, at the earliest known period, of Central Italy from Campania and the borders of Latium to the Adriatic. The Oscans were subdued by the Sabines, a people from the Apennines on the north, of whose previous history little is known, and who probably adopted the language and customs of the conquered, with what modifications cannot be ascertained. The Oscan language was closely allied to the Latin, of which it was probably a parent stock. It appears to have been spoken in the provinces long after Latin became the official language, and it was used officially long after the Roman conquest.

Birds "Discovered" Baldwin Apples.

The famous Baldwin apple was discovered by Col. Loamm Baldwin, a distinguished resident of Woburn, Mass., during the latter half of the Eighteenth century. While surveying land in Wilmington, Mass., Colonel Baldwin observed a tree on the land of James Butters, which appeared to be much frequented by woodpeckers. Curiosity led him to examine the tree, and he found that it bore apples of an excellent flavor.

The next spring he took cuttings from the tree to graft into trees of his own, and the experiment was so successful that it was not long before the apple was extensively cultivated in many sections of the state.



Dainty Sweater-Blouse of Silk, With Blocks of Cubist Coloring.

a long-tasseled giraffe, worn with a skirt of light rose baronet satin. A rose silk soft sport hat, embroidered in a few tan wool motifs, completed the charming effect.

MOUNTINGS ON HANDBAGS

Much Elaboration Given to the Get-up of Both Afternoon and Evening Purse.

The envelope handbag is not the only shape in frequent use, nor is red leather the only material. There is great variety in the shape, the size and the colorings of the new French purses. There are large caselle purses of black suede carrying handsome monograms and tiny evening bags of elongated shape made of bright colored failles, molres and oddly striped silks mounted on small, square tops. Much elaboration is noted in the mountings of afternoon and evening purses, many being studded with costly jewels.

For those who hold to the fashion for black or black and white, eschewing all bright colors for the time being, there are beautiful little pocket-books of black silk with pearl-studded mountings or with the wearer's monogram outlined in pearls.

KEEP WORK BASKET CLOSED

Silk or Thread Becomes Shabby and Faded if Continuously Exposed to the Light.

Silk or thread become shabby and faded if kept in the light or in an open work basket. To overcome this and to have them convenient for use, take a good sized square pasteboard box and fit a board inside. Then put nails in the board at various intervals in rows far enough apart to allow space for the regular size spool silk or thread to stand easily side by side. When not in use slip the spool over the nail, after making sure that the end of the thread is fastened so it cannot unravel. Cover it and keep it in a convenient place in the sewing room. The advantage is that at a glance you know which silk you need without disturbing the others, and they are always fresh, clean and right there.

Evening Gowns.

The dyed lace evening gown is often accompanied by a square cape of the same lace lined with taffeta.

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