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Salted Whale in Demand.

The preservation and exportation of whale meat is becoming a big industry in parts of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. For some time past the fishermen of Gaspe have been in the habit of salting down portions of the meat of the whale for their own use when short of other food, but now it is found that the article is eagerly consumed by some of the South American peoples and consequently it is becoming quite an article of commerce.

One company has established a large plant on an island in the region known as Seven Islands, in the north of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and maintains a regular whaling steamer to kill and tow in whales to the factory. Two species of whales are taken, the humped back and the sulphur bottom. They are so plentiful that there is no difficulty in killing and towing to the factory one a day, which is all that the present capacity of the factory can accommodate. Each whale is valued at about \$2000, so that the business is a very lucrative one.

Formerly all the flesh went into guano, which is worth \$30 to \$85 a ton. Now, however, the prime meat is all salted down for food, and excellent eating it makes, too, for those who like it, many contending that it is superior to the coarser grades of beef salted in barrels, especially when used in stews and hashes, or served up as corned beef.

China is said to offer an excellent market for the meat, but at present the initial company in the St. Lawrence, which is likely to be soon followed by several others, has a demand for all that it can ship to South America.

DR. A. W. CHASE'S CATARRH CURE ... 25c.
is sent direct to the diseased parts by the Improved Blower. Heals the ulcers, clears the air passages, stops droppings in the throat and permanently cures Catarrh and Hay Fever. Blower free. All dealers, or Dr. A. W. Chase Medicine Co., Toronto and Buffalo.

Fifty custom house inspectors met one of the big transatlantic liners on her arrival at New York last week, and after searching 300 passengers and their luggage, collected \$2 50 in duties. This was for a watch which a second cabin passenger had.

SOME INVENTIONS MADE BY WOMEN

On Exhibit at Washington--Peculiar Mechanical Contrivances. (Scientific American.)

Prominent in the exhibit of models in the Museum of the Patent Office at Washington, are several thousand grouped together in separate cases, being the inventions of women. One would naturally suppose that these would lie in the sphere of a woman's work, and many of them do. Sally Rosenthal invented a pocket sewing machine, which she could take along with her when visiting, and thus improve each shining hour with both work and gossip. Mary Carpenter invented a machine for sewing straw hats, and is reputed to have made much money out of it. Margaret Knight invented a feeding machine for making paper bags, and is credited with considerable profit therefrom. Frances Dunham was the inventor of a machine for making honeycomb, shrewdly recognizing the assistance this would render the bees. Not all of the women, however, have confined themselves to lines of feminine thought. Mary Montgomery, with the memory of the civil war fresh before her, invented in 1864 a very mechanical double-hull construction of war vessel, and Sarah Mather in 1845 devised a submarine telescope, while Mary Woodward in 1849, probably with an eye to the comfort of a bald headed spouse, invented a fan to be attached to the rocker, so as to keep off the flies as well as fan the occupant.

Prosaic as is the work of mechanical evolution, many curious and amusing lines of thought crop out in the work of the inventor. Two men in 1862 together invented a plow gun, in which the beam of the plow was fashioned as a cannon. One of the inventors was perhaps a farmer and the other a soldier, and the implement in the field was ready for either peace or war. Another in 1887 secured a patent for an aerial car with live eagles for a team. Naturally a working model could not be supplied, and we must take the patentee's word for the operativeness of the invention. A melancholy philosopher in 1880 molded the ashes of the cremated dead into a memorial statue or vase. An industrious man who attempted to follow out Franklin's custom of rising early, in 1855 patented a bedstead adapted to throw the sluggard on the floor at getting up time. A Beau Brummell in 1896 patented a self-tipping hat which makes a polite salutation. Here, too, a model was dispensed with. A tender hearted man in late years has patented an eyeglass for chickens, another in 1854 patented a tape-worm trap, which was to be swallowed and the trap then removed. A recent inventor coats the dead body with glass for preserving it, another has an electric device for stopping runaway horses. Another attaches a parachute to a man's head and weights to his feet, so that he may jump out of the window in time of fire and land safely. A lover of feminine beauty has provided a dimple maker. An anti-snoring device is supplied by one whose trials are thus expressed with mute eloquence. An anti-searching device for chickens was the basis of an application for a patent by a lady in 1863, but was never issued. An illuminated keyhole surrounded by luminous paint which shines at night was the subject of another patent, unexemplified, however, by a model. This enables the unsteady man to find the keyhole. A cheek expander, a hair parter, and an electric lamp to be swallowed so as to illuminate the interior anatomy have all been patented, and many more amusing instances might be found. Many of these are, of course, not represented by models, but are here mentioned as instances of the humorous side of inventions.

Yet these exceptional lines of thought do not all represent absurd or ridiculous vagaries, as most of them are useful, and many of them make valuable contributions to the sum total of knowledge.

The Axe in Ontario.

(Toronto, News, Independent.)

The axe still swings in the villages and along the side lines and concessions, and day by day good Conservatives pass into the land of plenty. It is just announced that John Brown of Rockdale, fishery overseer for Belmont and Methuen, has been dismissed by the government by order of the local patronage managers, and that his successor has been duly appointed. It seems that no complaints were laid against Mr. Brown in the department, that he has been a magistrate since 1884, that he has been warden of the county, county councillor and reeve of Belmont and Methuen, and yet, singularly enough, is incapable of the efficient performance of the duties of fishery overseer. What a lot of hungry Tories there were in this province and how freely and lavishly the bread of patronage is being broken to the hungry and needy of the flock.

For a feat of dexterity and nerve it would be difficult to surpass that of the Boesjeman of South Africa, who walk quietly up to a puff adder and deliberately sets his bare foot on its neck. In its struggle to escape and attempts to bite its assailment the poison gland secretes a large amount of venom. This is just what the Boesjeman wants. Killing the snake, he eats the body and uses the poison for his arrows.

Flynn's Goat.

A man named Flynn
Once had a goat that had a way,
Which sad experience could not stay,
Of butting in.
He would begin
At early morn to look around
For butting in.

A goatly grin,
Would overspread his features when
His found occasion now and then
For butting in.
His precious skin
Fate takes a special care,
It seems, for those who can't forbear
From butting in.

Repeated sin,
However, always gets pay.
He saw a small plain box one day,
And butted in.
Altho 'twas lettered clear in sight
He couldn't read. 'Twas dynamite.
He butted in.

Poor Mr. Flynn
Is goatless now. No more he'll see
His Caprian pet in capering glee,
He butted in.
And as he tells the tale he notes
Its moral, warning men and goats
'Gainst butting in!

She Didn't Sleep Well.

A woman who lives in an inland town, while going to a convention in a distant city, spent one night of the journey on board a steamboat. It was the first time she had ever travelled by water. She reached her journey's end extremely fatigued. To a friend who remarked it she replied;

'Yes, I'm tired to death. I don't know that I care to travel by water again. I read the card in my stateroom about how to put the life preserver on, and I thought I understood it, but I guess I didn't. Somehow I could't go to sleep with the thing on.'

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For the year ended Dec. 31st, 1905.

Standing as at Dec. 31st, 1905:

Insurance in force	\$37,827,606.00
Income	1,663,854.13
Assets	6,958,013.66
Net Surplus	570,010.43

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Jan 9 1906

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