

THINGS WORTH KNOWING

Berlin, with 1,315,600 people, has only 26,800 dwellings.

Of the twelve largest cities in the world three are in Japan.

A sunflower in a season will produce 12,000 seeds, while a poppy bears 32,000.

The French make paper umbrellas, rendered wholly waterproof by gelatine d bichromate of potassium.

We lose two pounds of water in twenty-four hours by perspiration, and the more we perspire the cooler we become.

England has more women workers than any other country, in proportion to population; 12 per cent. of the industrial classes are women.

In one year 50,000,040 bushels of apples were gathered from American orchards and fruit farms. One million acres are planted with apple trees alone.

The continent of Europe was named after Europa, the daughter of Agenor. Europa was carried off by Jupiter into Crete under the form of a white bull.

It was recently stated in the German Reichstag that there are at present 11,000 persons in hospitals and insane asylums who are suffering from delirium tremens.

The first practical use of wrought-iron plates as a defence for the sides of vessels was by the French in the Crimean war in 1853, to be used against the Russian forts in the Baltic.

When a man marries in France he becomes legally responsible not alone for the support of his wife, but for the support of her parents should they become destitute. This law is older than the divorce law, and there seems to be some defect in the provisions of the latter.

The average size of families in Europe, France, 3.03 members; Denmark, 3.61; Hungary, 3.70; Switzerland, 3.94; Austria and Belgium, 4.05; England, 4.08; Germany, 4.10; Sweden, 4.12; Holland, 4.22; Scotland, 4.46; Italy, 4.56; Spain, 4.65; Russia, 4.83; Ireland, 5.20.

In speaking of gold, a carat is simply the 24th part of any particular mass of it, and does not denote any fixed weight. Thus, 22-carat gold consists of 22 parts of pure gold and 2 parts of other metals; 18-carat gold consists of 18 parts of pure gold and six parts of other metals—an alloy of 25 per cent. The value of gold varies slightly. Pure gold is at present worth £4 11s 10d per ounce, and 22-carat gold £3 17s 10d per ounce.

It is estimated that at least 1,000,000 pounds of rubber are annually used for bicycle tires.

The census men found in the United States 14,056,750 horses, 2,296,532 mules, 16,019,591 cows, 36,875,048 oxen and cattle, 43,431,136 sheep, 50,625,106 swine.

In Australia, where deadly snakes abound, it has been discovered that strychnia is almost an infallible cure for their bites. The antidote acts quickly, snake poison slowly. All physicians use it.

The estimate of the world's population in 1890 is as follows: Europe, 380,200,000; Asia, 850,000,000; Africa, 127,000,000; Australasia, 4,730,000; North America, 89,250,000; South America, 36,420,000; total, 1,487,600,000.

The Chilean men are small, wiry, with marvellous powers of endurance, and fight like bulldogs, when they are fighting; at the same time they take life happily, and are well endowed with mother wit. The women are most beautiful; they are small and delicate, with fine, clear-cut, straight features and good mental abilities, though their opportunities for education are small. Their manners are extremely gracious, dignified, and modest.

The annual coffee crop of the world is estimated at over 11,000,000,000 pounds, worth at first hands over \$135,000,000. This enormous quantity is grown in islands between the parallels of 30 degrees north and 30 degrees south latitude, mainly in British India and the neighboring islands, in Liberia and other parts of Africa, in the West Indies, Mexico, Central America and Brazil. The domestic consumption of the United States amounts to 561,132,100 pounds, which is valued here at \$72,140,000, and of which 90 per cent comes from countries geographically belonging to this continent.

By the census of 1884 the population of Newfoundland and Labrador was 197,589, showing an increase of 22.43 per cent during the decade ending in that year. The population of Labrador is but 4,211. Along the coast of Newfoundland from Cape Race to Cape Race are 33,752 inhabitants, and of these 10,455 are engaged in fishing and curing fish; along the coast from Cape Race to Cape John are 147,399 inhabitants, of whom 43,950 are likewise engaged, and from Cape Race to Cape John are 11,973 people, of whom 3,217 are engaged in the fisheries. As to the religion of the people the church of England numbers 69,000, the Roman catholic church 75,254, the presbyterians, 1,495, the methodists 48,767, and other denominations, 1,470.

Harvard university has 365,000 bound volumes in her library; Yale has 200,000, Cornell 150,000, Columbia 90,000, Syracuse 75,000, Dartmouth 68,000, Lehigh 67,000, Bowdoin 84,000, university of Virginia 40,000.

The average height of an old man over eighty is 5 feet 6 inches, and of an old woman of about the same age, 5 feet 3 inches. The pulse-rate in the man is 73, and the breath 18, while in the woman it is 78 and 22 respectively.

In Austria it has been found that the slanting of letters in writing causes curvature of the spine, due to the position maintained at the table or desk, and a supreme council has recommended that upright letters be cultivated in schooling.

The first account we have of an armoured ship is in 1530. It was one of the fleet of the knights of St. John, entirely sheathed with lead, and it is said to have successfully resisted all the shot of that day. At the siege of Gibraltar, in 1782, the French and Spaniards employed light iron bomb-proofing over their decks.

The first American expedition to the Arctic region was made in 1850, when the ships *Advance* and *Rescue* started in search of the lost explorer, Sir John Franklin. In October of the following year, after an absence of nineteen months, they returned, having discovered only supposed traces of the objects of their search, and leaving in entire uncertainty their actual fate.

The longest bridge across the Danube is 1,900 feet in length, the Waterloo bridge over the Thames is 1,240 feet, the Westminster bridge over the Thames 1,220 feet, the Saratov bridge across the Volga 4,872 feet and the Freiburg in Switzerland 1,095 feet. One-half million dollars is to be expended in improving and extending the approaches to the Brooklyn bridge on the New York side. In usefulness it exceeds them all.

The telephone, like most inventions, has developed by stages. The principle of the telephone was first recognized in 1860 by Reis, of Frankfurt; but, though his instrument reproduced a sound corresponding in pitch and rhythm with the original, the quality of the sound was entirely lost. There are several claimants for priority in the discovery of the principle of the articulating telephone. The articulating telephone of Bell was first shown at the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition in 1876.

According to Homer, the lotus eaters were a people who lived on the northern coast of Africa, visited by Ulysses in his wanderings, and who endeavored to detain his companions by giving them lotus to eat—whenever ate of this fruit wished never to depart. The Arabs call the fruit of the lotus the "fruit of destiny," which they believe is to be eaten in Paradise. The lotus is a shrub two or three feet high, and its fruit, which is produced in great abundance, is a dwarf of the size of a wild plum, which has a pleasant, sweet taste. The name lotus has been given to several beautiful specimens of water lily, especially to the blue water lily and the Egyptian water lily.

The jelly fish hasn't any teeth, but uses himself just as if he were a piece of paper when hungry, getting his food and then wrapping himself about it. The star fish, on the contrary, turns himself inside out and wraps his food about him and stays that way until he has had enough. The prongs of the star fish look like teeth, but in reality they are not, being nothing but ornaments to his person.

A curious plant grows in Arabia called the laughing plant. It is of moderate size, with bright yellow flowers and soft, velvety seed pods, each of which contains two or three seeds resembling black beans. The natives frequently dry the seeds and reduce them to powder. It is said that a dose of this powder produces a similar effect to that of laughing gas. It causes the most sober person to dance, shout and laugh in an extremely boisterous manner, and to run about doing the most ridiculous things for an interval of half an hour or more. As the effects of the powder wear off exhaustion sets in, and the person falls into a deep sleep. When he awakens several hours later he has not the slightest recollection of anything he did while under the influence of the drug.

The figure nine is curiously and intimately connected with all the great gold mining excitements of the nineteenth century. The great Algerian gold bubble formed and broke in 1809. Next came the Mantana Mountain craze in 1839, when solid boulders of gold as large as flour barrels were reported. The California gold fever broke out in 1849, and raged until counteracted by the Pike's Peak boom in 1859. Ten years later, in 1869, "Old Virginia," the celebrated miner, struck the lucky lead which made Virginia City and Nevada famous in the mining annals of the world. Eighteen hundred and seventy-nine came in on time with the Leadville frenzy and the famous "carbonates" of Lake County, Cal. Eighteen hundred and eighty-nine broke the charm, but 1899 may make up for lost time, there being two nines in that date.

Between Venezuela and Brazil and extending for 740 miles along the northeast coast of South America are the three distinct but adjoining colonies, owned respectively by England, France and the Netherlands, and known as British Guiana, French Guiana and Dutch Guiana. The British colony adjoins Venezuela, the French colony lies alongside of Brazil, and between them is situated the Dutch colony. Geographically, topographically, geologically, and as to their flora and fauna, they may be considered together. The coast line is low, and in some places, where the land has been cultivated, the water has to be kept back by embankments. Beyond is a flat country, the surface gradually swelling to an elevation of 200 feet, forming the northern line of the Guiana table land, which plateau is intersected by ranges of hills. The highest point is Mount Roraima, which rises 7,500 feet. This mountain is one of the most remarkable in the world—a solid mass, flat-topped, the upper part presenting a precipice 1,500 feet high, down which plunge numerous cascades. The average temperature for the year is 80 degrees F. and the climate is healthier than that of some

of the countries nearby. Hurricanes do not occur, but slight earthquakes are occasionally felt. The country is peopled by English, Dutch, French and other Europeans, negroes and mulattoes and the remnant of some aboriginal tribes. It is said a few of these latter are still cannibals. Guiana was discovered by Columbus in 1498. Sir Walter Raleigh landed there in 1595.

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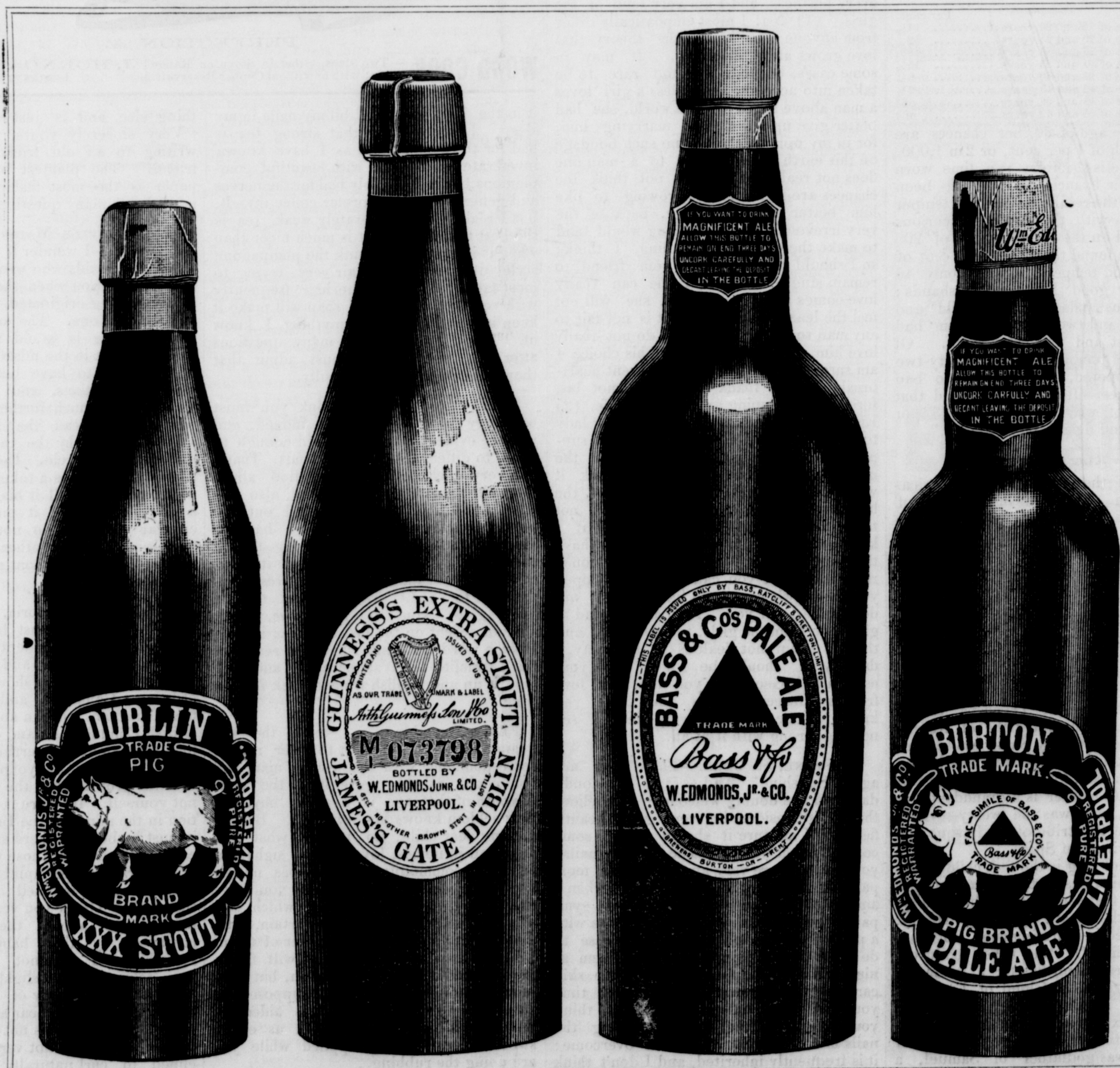
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