

ICONS ARE RUSSIA'S DEVOTIONAL TABLETS

There is not a home in Russia that does not possess its icon, the devotional tablet in the rustic power of which every Russian believes. These icons vary in size, quality, and decoration, many of them being of great value and antiquity. There is an interesting collection of them at the Victoria and Albert Museum. The word "icon" is really the Latinized form of a Greek word signifying portrait.

The portrait may be small enough to carry in the pocket, or it may be life size, and the icons in the Russo-Greek churches are often of wonderful workmanship and costly design. The raised halos of the portrait figures are specially enriched with precious stones and in the case of the portraits of the Virgin the robes are encrusted with set pearls and the fingers and neck adorned with jewels.

Some icons take the shape of a square or oblong box, set in metal thickly enamelled and hinged, which when open, reveal figures of religious interest. Some curious examples of icons of finely carved horn are also to be found, the effect being more beautiful when hung in a position which admits of the light being thrown through the carving. A small but exceedingly fine specimen of an icon is minutely carved in the shape of episodes in connection with the birth of Christ. The setting is of silver-gilt, chased in a pattern, and the whole hangs on a suspended head. One may also come across the icon of carved boxwood, fitted for the sake of the protection of its fragile beauty into a case of precious metal, enamelled and studded with precious stones.

KING-AS HERB GROWER

New Industry to Replace German Supply

"Will the Government protect belladonna growers by a tariff?" was one of the inquiries at a conference of medicinal herb growers in the Carlton Hotel, London. They had met to discuss the organization of various societies for producing home-grown herbs to replace supplies formerly received from Germany and Austria. The inquirer explained that 6 pounds of fresh belladonna leaves produce only 1 pound of dried leaves, and for this 50c is offered. "It is impossible to produce them profitably at that price," he said.

"I have got 7 pounds of foxglove leaves and 3 pounds of dandelion roots." What good was that to a man who had orders by the ton, asked Mr. Latimer, whose point was that it was a huge industry. Sir Sydney Olivier, Permanent Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, intimated that if any reliable organization was founded with prospects of supplying medicinal herbs in remarkable quantities the Development Commission would doubtless give favorable consideration to the question of a grant.

"Both the King and Queen have taken the greatest personal interest in the movement," stated Mr. H. C. Cust, the chairman of the Central Committee for National Patriotic Organizations, who presided. At their Majesties' request there had been a consultation with the head gardener as to what could be done in growing the herbs in the royal gardens, and he (Mr. Cust) had since received a letter from the Queen's secretary stating that the matter was being proceeded with. Many owners of large gardens had started to grow medicinal herbs, some putting down 15 to 20 acres.

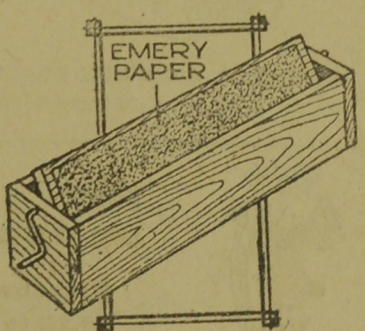
HUGE RAILWAY SHOPS

Efficiency in Repair Work Sought by Canadian Roads

The principal car repair plant of the Grand Trunk Railway for the lines west of the St. Clair River at Port Huron for many years, was destroyed by fire during the winter of 1914-1915. Their old plant was of limited capacity and located at what was the old terminus of the line previous to the construction of the tunnel under the St. Clair River. After the fire negotiations were carried on between the town of Port Huron and the railroad, resulting in the acquisition of the property vacated by the Port Huron Thresher Company, which property was very much more advantageously situated, being near the tunnel line.

The plant was first planned to consist of a power house containing 6 150 h.p. boilers serving double turbo-steam generating units of 300 k.w. for developing the electric power for lighting and operation of machines, all motor driven; a passenger car shop accommodating 27 modern passenger cars; a freight car shop accommodating 70 freight cars; and other buildings. These buildings, including trackage, were to take a space of approximately 55 acres; arranged for economical operation, special attention having been given to this feature to ensure maximum efficiency. The total cost was estimated at \$700,000.

Cleanly Pencil Sharpener



Pencils may be pointed without spreading the dust from them by the uses of the device shown in the illustration. A piece of emery paper is fixed to one side of the cover of the box. By turning over the cover with a handle, after a pencil has been pointed, the dust may be dropped into the box and removed from time to time.—Popular Mechanics.

NATURE IN PICTURE; CAMERA SHOOTS WELL

Wild Life May Furnish Many Interesting Snaps When Gun Cannot be Used Legally

A sportsman writes: While going through an old album some time ago, I was astonished to see so many different subjects represented. There were pictures taken during fishing trips, duck and partridge shooting outings, quiet camping and canoeing trips, and even long walks, and as I turned over page after page of photographs many pleasant and sometimes humorous reminiscences flooded my mind. The writer has not arrived at the stage where he would be willing to entirely put aside the gun for the camera but he considers the camera almost as important as the gun.

Squirrels and Birds

Much pleasure can be derived during closed seasons with a camera. If you are fortunate enough to possess one that could be used to photograph birds on the wing, you can enjoy yourself immensely by visiting the breeding grounds of shore birds and ducks. Even a picture of our friend the Red Squirrel chattering from a branch of a tree is a great addition to the album.

I have found that the vest pocket camera is ideal when you wish to get "light" as on account of its small size and its small bulk it is readily slipped into a pocket and forgotten until needed.

What He Missed

Once when paddling up a swampy creek in a canoe, I came suddenly upon a great blue heron standing in the middle of the stream not over twenty feet away. What a beautiful picture it would have made the great blue-grey bird standing there doubtless half asleep! Of course, as luck would have it, my camera was at the other end of the canoe, and it would be useless to attempt to reach it without disturbing the heron. However I had a try and as a result the magnificent bird rose and majestically winged his way across the marsh.

Once while on a tramp through a bush I heard a sound of rushing water. Upon investigation it proved to be a piece of "white water," a part of some river, of which I have forgotten the name, so swift that a canoe could not run its rapids. It was but the work of a moment, but I returned home with a picture of those rapids that was really beautiful.

A NEW BREED OF CATTLE

Dexters may be said to be a new breed of cattle, at least they are not largely known, which is shown by the fact that the 26 head which comprised an exhibit of this stock, at a fair in British Columbia, is said to be the largest of the breed ever shown in America. In fact, it is said that no Dexters or French-Canadians have ever been shown at any of the Eastern fairs. The Dexters while little known comparatively, are said by people who have studied their characteristics to be the coming cattle in British Columbia for the small farmer and the householder. They are a little black animal, seldom ranging more than 40 inches in height, docile, easily kept, hardy, and excellent milkers. They are also good beef cattle in spite of their smallness, the steers maturing early, and the meat usually commanding from two to three cents more per pound than other breeds.

DOUKHOBORS THRIVE

Strange Communists Make Good as Fruit Growers in British Columbia

The Doukhobors of British Columbia who are in a sort of "get together" movement are known as "The Christian Community of Universal Brotherhood," and it is claimed for them that they live in peace and contentment which is not enjoyed by any other sect of people in the world. M. Veregin claims they would all have been enormously wealthy had the Dominion Government, in 1907, not cancelled the 3,000 homesteads in the Yorkton district which the "community" had improved. The reason for this cancellation was because the brotherhood could not by reason of their religion, take the oaths necessary to be taken in obtaining a homestead.

The religion of the brotherhood prohibits them from partaking in war, and consequently no members ever enlisted. When they found it impossible to secure homesteads, the brotherhood decided to purchase 20,000 acres of orchard lands in British Columbia, and they have since about one-quarter of this land in a splendid state of cultivation, and have erected on it a jam factory, saw mills and other industries. About 30 carloads of fruit each year are shipped from the community.

Mr. Veregin has a proposition to have the fruits from his orchards sold in markets on the prairies which have previously been stocked with United States fruits. The crops from the Saskatchewan and Alberta brotherhood farms have been very good and the whole brotherhood is experiencing increasing prosperity.

No Railway Tickets

In the early days of railways in Great Britain the Chancellor of the Exchequer would not have been able to tax tickets, for the simple reason that they did not exist. The adventurous traveller who desired to journey by rail presented himself at the booking office about an hour before his train was due, and a clerk leisurely took down his name and address and other particulars, which he entered on a way bill like so much goods. He then gave him a receipt, and this constituted the contract note for his journey.

The average is less than 100 eggs per hen per year. First aim to make that average 120 eggs. Then go to 150 eggs. And, finally, if that is possible, reach the 200-egg record.

THAT TICKLING IN THE THROAT

CAN BE QUICKLY CURED BY

DR. WOOD'S
NORWAY PINE SYRUP.

This trouble is most distressing and is caused by a cold settling in the throat. The hard dry cough causes that nasty, tickling, irritating sensation and keeps you from enjoying your night's rest. Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup, which is composed of the most soothing and healing expectorant herbs and barks combined with the lung-healing virtues of the world-famed Norway pine tree, will give almost instant relief in all cases of this nature.

Mrs. Alex. Durward, Athelstan, Que., writes: "I have used Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup for a number of years, and find it the only thing that will help me when I have a severe cold. It helps the soreness and stops the tickling sensation in my throat, which is so irritating. I always use it for both myself and the children, and would not be without it in the house."

The thousands of testimonials we have received during the past twenty-five years prove that Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup is an excellent remedy for all coughs and colds, so see that you get "Dr. Wood's" when you ask for it.

It is put up in a yellow wrapper, three pine trees the trade mark, price 25c. and 50c., at all dealers.

Valuable Accessories

An extra electric horn or light fuse is a very valuable accessory to the supply kit of the modern motorist. It is an easy matter to install a new fuse, but a very difficult matter to improve one. A piece of copper wire may do temporarily, but when the fuse box is not very accessible it is not a very pleasant job.

From France comes a new perpetual calendar by which can be determined without calculation the week-day on which any date has fallen or will fall.

Gear wheels and ratchet mechanism connected to the blades open and close twice each time the handles are pressed together.

A machine to sterilize table ware in hotels and restaurants by electricity has been invented by a Frenchman.

Don't throw ashes against wooden fences or buildings.

Don't use an open light when looking for escaping gas.



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Both in Ivory and Ebony,

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Price low enough to place
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Would make a Sensible Gift during war times. Serge Dresses \$5.00 to \$10. Silk Dresses \$10 to \$18. Velvet Dresses \$10 to \$18. Girls Dresses in serge, velvet, etc., ages 8 to 14 -- \$4 to \$8.00. All Coats clearing at Special Prices. Sweater Coats \$1.75 to \$10. Childrens Sweaters 50c to \$2.00. Silk Crepe de Chene Waists, pretty shades, latest styles \$2.98 to \$6. Lots of Pretty Waists from \$1.00 to \$8. New Silk Hose in navy, champagne, blue, etc., put in Fancy Boxes. We Will Help You Select Your Gifts.

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DAINTY BOXES OF CUT FLOWERS FOR THE SICK.

WEDDING BOUQUETS and FLORAL DESIGNS A SPECIALTY.

LARGE COLLECTION OF FANCY FERNS, PALMS, ETC.

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VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME.

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BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGE RETURNS

All clergymen, doctors and parents are particularly requested to send in before the end of the year returns as required by law of all Births, Deaths and Marriages in their possession. Dated 13th December, 1916.

HENRY B. RAINSFORD,
12-14 Division Register, York.

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Wood's Phosphorine,
The Great English Remedy.
Tones and invigorates the whole nervous system, makes new blood in old veins, cures nervous debility, mental and brain worry, despondency, loss of energy, palpitation of the heart, falling memory. Price \$1 per box, six for \$5. One will please, six will cure. Sold by all druggists or mailed in plain pkg. on receipt of price. New pamphlet mailed free. THE WOOD MEDICINE CO., TORONTO, ONT. (Formerly Winstar.)

When you read, "a curtain of fire"
it means one of two things:

Either that the tremendous expenditure of munitions saved thousands of our soldiers' lives by protecting them during an advance, or that the enemy attack was smothered before it reached our defences.

These "curtains of fire" use up more munitions in an hour than were used in a month during 1915.

This may help you to realize the importance of munitions to our soldiers.

Remember, Every Shell is a Life Saver

MARK H. IRISH,
Director of Munitions Labor,
National Service Board,
Canada.