

Knighted in a Train.

The Wellington (New Zealand) correspondent of The London Times telegraphed the other night: "Sir John McKenzie, who was knighted by the Duke of Cornwall and York in His Royal Highness' railway carriage during the Royal visit to New Zealand, is dead. Parliament adjourned out of respect for his memory." Sir John McKenzie was born at Ardross, in Rosshire, Scotland, in 1838. He went to Otago, New Zealand, in 1860, and soon acquired sufficient experience to become working manager of the Pakitapu Station, near Palmerston. Afterward he carried on farming on his own account in the Shag Valley. In 1868 he unsuccessfully contested Waikouaiti for a seat in the Provincial Council of Otago. Three years later, however, he was elected to the Waihemo seat, which position he held until the abolition of Provinces. Sir John McKenzie was Whip to the Stout-Vogel combination in 1884, and did good service for his party. He was appointed Minister of Lands and Immigration when the Ballance Government came into office in January, 1891. During the visit of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York to New Zealand the Royal train, while running between Christchurch and Dunedin, was stopped opposite the residence of Mr. McKenzie, who had been ill for a long time. Mr. McKenzie entered the Royal carriage, and the Duke conferred upon him the K. C. M. G.

Rare Jewels Sold.

Some rare jewels and gems, the property of a French woman of rank, whose name was not given, realized remarkably high prices at Christie's rooms, London, the other day. Among those who viewed the jewels were King Edward and many others.

The event of the afternoon came when a magnificent pearl necklace, composed of six rows of 424 finely matched graduated pearls, was put up. The pearls were of the highest quality, and had a circular open clasp and a fine, large rose diamond in the centre. The weight of the pearls was about 4,050 grammes.

The bidding started at \$50,000, and was sold to Robinson & Co., of Hatton Garden, for \$100,000. Next in importance was a beautiful rope of 234 graduated pearls, a fine orient, which was secured by E. J. Arbid for \$15,750.

Snails as Racers.

The new summer sport is snail racing, according to London Answers. While not quite as exciting as horse racing, it has the advantage of being enjoyed at the clubs or any place without moving from one's chair. Clubmen began by organizing races between snails, handicapping the fleetest by putting a weight on his back.

Then they tried to find out how much weight a snail can carry, but as it was difficult to fasten weight on the animal's back they harnessed a snail to a little doll's carriage by means of a wire and a strip of paper pasted to the shell. The result was surprising. The snail moved the carriage loaded with a weight of more than eight pounds. Good racing snails have changed hands at as high a price as £100 each.

Peers in the House of Lords.

England is interested in the pretensions of certain English women who are peeresses in their own right and believe that they can sit in the House of Lords if they choose and help govern the Empire. It is centuries since a peeress has done it, but there is to be a fancy dress coronation in London next year, and London gossip says that certain of these self-regulating peeresses propose to go to it as members of the House of Lords and have their trains borne by pages, as the peers do. It seems an exceedingly proper purpose and ought to be applauded, not by women suffragists alone, but by everyone who likes a noble show fitly ornamented.—Harper's Weekly.

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ALL THE WORLD OVER.

Interesting Paragraphs of Interest to Almost Everyone Who Reads.

France has 60 cities with more than 30,000 inhabitants, and 12 of these exceed 100,000.

The world has two and a quarter million acres under tobacco, which produce 850,000 tons a year.

The lowest tides, where any exist at all, are at Panama, where two feet is the average rise and fall.

The punishment for bigamy in Hungary is compelling the man to live with both wives in one house.

The death of Mr. John Kay, at Woodville, removes one of the oldest draught players in New Zealand.

The Egyptian Soudan has 12 provinces, with an area of a million square miles, and 10½ million people.

Patented processes have been devised in Germany for converting sawdust into charcoal and other products.

In Persia they sponge up their tears at funerals, and afterwards squeeze the fluid into bottles for preservation.

Four thousand nine hundred and sixty-eight of the present population of the United Kingdom were born at sea.

The Empress of Russia operates a typewriter, and assists her husband by taking down many of his letters from dictation.

London uses one hundred and ten pounds of ice yearly per inhabitant. New York one thousand three hundred pounds per year.

Germany, with one thousand and eighty-three paper mills, makes only half as much paper as England with but three hundred.

Four hundred and forty-eight British gales blew from the southwest in the last fifteen years, only ninety-six from the northeast.

The banking power of the United Kingdom has increased from one hundred and thirty-two millions in 1840 to over one thousand millions at present.

The Norwegian Parliament is called the Storting, that of Sweden the Riksdag, of Serbia the Skupshtina, of Greece the Boule, of Bulgaria the Sobranje.

By the "Australian Naval Force Act," passed in 1887, a fleet of five fast cruisers and two torpedo gunboats was equipped for service in Australian seas.

How They Met.

Bennet Burleigh, the English war correspondent, is authority for the following strange story: One day last autumn two officers, newly arrived from different parts of up-country, met at Cape Town. Rather lonely and a good deal bored, they scraped acquaintance and found one another agreeable. When the dinner hour came they agreed to dine together. The keen edge of appetites having been taken off by a good dinner, the senior officer became a trifle more expansive. "Do you know," said he, "I rather like you, and there's something about you that seems familiar, as if we had met before. I am Maj. S., of the ——" "Hello, are you?" said the other. "I'm Lieutenant S., just joined—your youngest brother!" There was an unheeded scene as the two khaki-clad warriors sprang to their feet and pounded each other on the back—which is the Briton's way of falling on the neck and weeping. They had not met for years, and the baby brother had meantime, sprouted into a tall youth with an incipient mustache.

About Chandler's Size.

Discussing international relations recently, Admiral of the Fleet Sir John Edmund Commerell said:

"I will tell you of a thing that occurred to me in America. There was a member of the Senate, Mr. Chandler of Michigan, whose abuse of England was of the coarsest possible description. Each session he started the same motion, which meant fire and sword for England. To my surprise, when I went over to America and dined at the Embassy, whom should I see there but friend Chandler. I said, 'Good heavens! have you got Mr. Chandler here?'"

"'Lord bless you,' said they, 'he is the tamest man possible.'"

"He told me the other day when I spoke to him about it: 'My dear sir, it is all talk. It does not hurt you, but it is a very good thing for my constituents, because they believe I am in earnest.'"

Novel English Lightship.

A novel sort of lightship is to be moored off the Otter Rock, Islay. It will have no crew, and will be worked by the compound gas system. Two large gas holders will contain as much gas as will light the lantern for several months. The gas escaping from the holders of the lantern will operate the clapper of a bell placed on a deck belfry, and the rocking of the vessel will set a tongue going as well.

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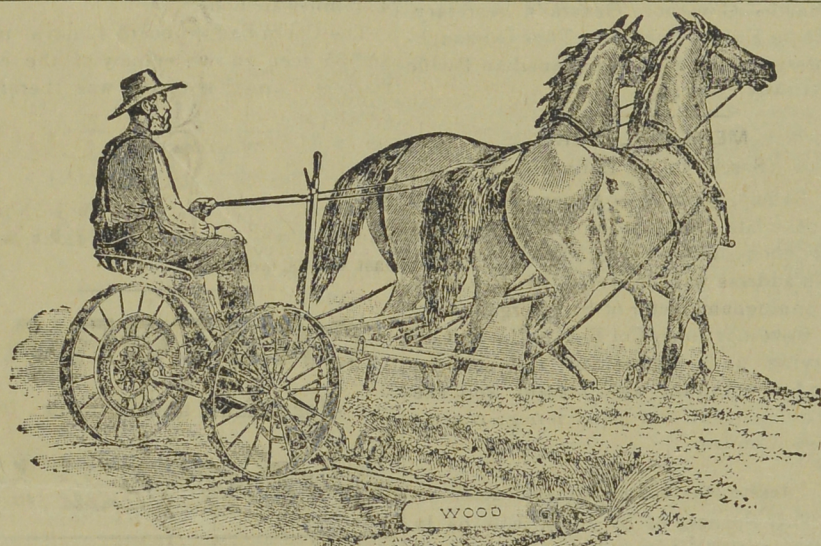
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