

OLDEST MAN IN THE WORLD.

Californian Said to be One Hundred and Forty One Years Old—Has Prolonged Life by Magic.

Los Angeles, Cal., Aug. 23.—From Hernandez, aged 141 years, is declared to be the oldest man in the world. His neighbors in Rosario, Lower California, declared that he has prolonged his life by magic and by witchcraft.

Hernandez was born March 9, 1764, the figures being proved by the parish records at Nazas, Mexico, where he was born. That the man should live two lifetimes is remarkable, but that for fifty years he has appeared to grow no older, and that he has a secret of diet and lives in an extraordinary manner make him even more the object of interest that he is. His queer actions, his agility, his monthly climbs up the side of the volcano of the Virgin have added to his renown as a sorcerer, and the Spanish and Aztec, and even the Yaguis fear him, declaring he is deathless and in league with Tezcatlipoca, the god of the volcano.

Hernandez's grandfather followed Cortez into Mexico, and he lived to a great age, according to the story of his grandson. He married an Aztec woman, and lived in the city of Mexico, being attached to the staff of one of the viceroys. He left, according to Enrico, nine sons and five daughters, and one of these Ricardo, a half-breed, married an Aztec woman, who, according to the legend, stole from one of the temples where she served the undying fires.

From this union of the son of a Spanish buccaner and the vestal one child resulted, Enrico Hernandez.

At Nazas, where his birth is recorded, the death records of his father and mother are preserved. That he is the same man who was born then he proves by documents and by his stories of his boyhood in the town. He remembers well the reign of Don Juan V. G. Palmo, one of the viceroys, whose term expired in 1780.

HIS EARLY LIFE.

Hernandez settled in La Paz in 1828. He was then sixty-four years of age. He was strong, tireless, looking more like an Aztec than a Spaniard, being swarthy of countenance and blue of eye. He worshipped strange gods, or at least the Indians and half-breeds declared he did.

They charge that he has for half a century been in league with Centeoti, goddess of corn, who prospered his crops; with the Tlalacs, the gods of rain, who sent showers to him when drought existed elsewhere; and they whisper among themselves that he is familiar with Xipe, god of gold, and that the god points out to him nuggets on the volcano delas Virgenes.

Hernandez quit the region of La Paz about thirty years ago and went to live between Rosario and the volcano. There he built a strange house, square and of adobe, and surrounded by an adobe wall ten feet high inclosing a garden of perhaps a quarter of an acre. In this garden no corn grows, although the fields around are given to the raising of corn and to a pasture where a few goats graze.

The natives never go near this house. The priests go sometimes to call on the old man and urge him to make his peace. They come away crossing themselves as from an evil place.

MAGIC IRON BARS.

According to these people there are

seven great bars of iron running from floor to the ceiling on one side of the adobe house a few inches apart, and these pieces of iron are full of magic. They are polished by filing and rubbing with stones and are filled with the evil power that Hernandez obtained from the mountain.

One day while Hernandez was working in his maize a half-breed, inspired either by rapacity or curiosity, entered the house. There Hernandez found him, with one hand clasped to each of two bars, screaming with terror and pain.

The man confessed to his friends and relatives that he reached out his hands to touch the bars of iron, and they seized his hands and clasped them tight and shook him until the breath left his body, yet the bars did not move, but caused him to jerk about the floor, all the time holding his hands until Hernandez came and released him from the devil instruments.

When the curious ones trembling spoke to Hernandez about what had happened he only laughed grimly.

In the yard around the house grows a vine that Hernandez brings back with him from the mountain every time he goes there. He also brings sulphur that he gets from the crater. Curious neighbors who have watched him, say he takes away cane and some of the vine and boils them in a pot for hours, and then, when it has cooled, mixes in the sulphur and eats of this "devil's mixture" that makes his breath of brimstone and his body luminous at night.

Of course, none of the neighbors has ever seen his body luminous, although many have peeped over the adobe wall and seen him sleeping on a wooden bench in the open air.

The old man speaks no English and his Spanish is a mixture of Castilian and Aztec. He can read and write in Spanish. Several Americans interested in the man because of his age and superstitions of his neighbors regarding him, have tried to talk with him. He has sold them curiously wrought pieces of gold, trivets carved with his own hands out of nuggets of gold.

Despite the superstitions regarding him the Americans say they believe the seven bars of iron are merely magnetized by some process known to the old man, and that he has some idea of prolonging life through the use of electricity.

They declare his life is ordered to prolong his existence, and that his walks to the mountain are merely to get sulphur and cuttings of the vine, although they admit that he may have found deposits of gold on the mountain side. They say the drink he brews is merely another form of treacle—the sulphur and molasses of our forefathers mixed with the juice of the mountain vine that he cultivates so assiduously. His sleeping in the open air, they declare, is part of his system of prolonging life.

Whatever the man's system may be he tells no one, and nothing will drag his secret from him. Two Americans who had heard the story crossed the Gulf of California from Guaymas recently and held a long talk with the old man about himself, and while he told them in his strange language of his career, he only smiled when asked about the means employed.

twenty-five years would be of the utmost value.

FOREIGN OFFICERS IN GERMAN ARMY.

"On my way home from the East I witnessed the maneuvers of three army corps near Berlin, and was surprised to observe a number of foreign officers in command," said the American correspondent.

"They were in all probability foreigners under instruction," explained the German. "Our government is wonderfully generous and liberal-minded in the matter of aiding foreign military strategists. We have no secrets in the service, and invite everybody to copy our methods. It is a regular thing for foreign governments to send men to us to observe our military practice. We receive them with open arms, and put them into a regiment where they can learn and imitate to their heart's content. You will find nearly all nationalities there—Cossacks, Turks, Chinamen, Japanese—everybody, in fact, but Russians and Frenchmen.

"And by the way," he continued, "I find a most silly misapprehension here at Portsmouth and elsewhere regarding the relations between Germany and Russia. I observe by reading the papers that Emperor William is believed to be secretly urging the Czar to continue the war. It is the common belief that the Kaiser is pursuing this policy in order further to weaken his European rival. As a matter of fact, this is all wrong. Germany believes that she is no longer menaced by Russia. The fear of a combination by France and Russia against Germany has been dissipated by this war. If we were to have trouble with your two armies," and here he laughingly waved his hand at the Frenchman and the Russian, "we could send our schoolboys against the Czar's troops and put our soldiers against those of France."

"The Kaiser," wants peace because he believes a prolongation of war would merely strengthen Japan, and incidentally Japan's ally, England. We will probably have trouble with Japan over our Chinese interests some time, and we don't relish the idea of the Mikado securing too firm a grip in Asia. Then, again, the crushing of Russia leaves Germany as the only monarchical power of any consequence in Europe. It is just as well to preserve a few monarchies."

TIREDDNESS MEANS DANGER.

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The most marvelous success is Ferrozone, a nourishing tonic so scientific as to be the admiration of every physician. Ferrozone performs wonders for people in poor health; it acts directly on the blood, enriching it with strength and new life that is at once dispatched to all parts of the body. Ferrozone feeds the nerves and vital energies, supplies force, determination and joyous, buoyant spirits.

A case where there was lassitude and lack of strength is told by Mr. David Brown, of post-office box No. 30, Beeton, Ont.: "About a year ago my health commenced to fail. My hands and feet seemed always cold. I felt worn-out and exhausted, weak as a little child. My face twitched. My limbs and arms commenced to lose their sense of feeling and finally my left side was perfectly numb. All my color left. My appetite ran down. Ferrozone was the first to give me any help. I improved with it very quickly. It toned up the blood and started circulation, so that the numbness gradually disappeared. My condition was perfectly cured by Ferrozone, and I have been well ever since. (Signed) 'David Brown.'"

SPECIAL NOTICE.—To get satisfactory results be sure you get Ferrozone only. Fifty cents per box or six boxes for \$2.50 at all dealers, or N. E. Polson & Co., Kingston, Ont., and Hartford, Conn., U. S. A.

DISTINGUISHED CANADIAN.

Who From Farmer's Boy Won Wealth and Knighthood in Ireland.

Sir Thomas Cleve, formerly mayor of Belfast, Ireland; was in St. John Tuesday accompanied by Lady Cleve and Misses F. W. and C. E. King. The story of Sir Thomas Cleve's eventful life reads like a romance. Born in Richmond county, Quebec, on a small farm, he left his native province when a young man and went to Ireland, where by his industry and progressive methods he has amassed a large fortune in the condensed milk trade. The product of the great firm which he founded is sold in all parts of the world, and is extensively used in the imperial army. Sir Thomas received his knighthood some years ago in recognition of his great services in the interests of the people of Belfast, and his eminence in the world of commerce. Sir Thomas and party left in the afternoon for St. Andrews by the sea, where they will spend a few days.

TO STOP A CRYING BABY.

Babies cry because they are sick. It may be a pain in the stomach, colic, or cramps,—but in any case a few drops of Nervine soothes away the distress and allows the baby to sleep peacefully. When there are young children there should also be Nervine. It cures all the minor ailments just as promptly as the doctor. Nervine has been the great household remedy of Canada. Sold everywhere in large 25c. bottles.

13-YEAR-OLD GIRL LOVES MAN.

Her Father Has Him Arrested for Abduction, But She Says She Wants to Marry Him.

New York, Aug. 20.—Raffaello Franzisc, 24 years old, of 756 Liberty avenue, was arrested this morning on a charge of abduction preferred by Giuseppe Ambrosio, 40 years old, of 715 Liberty avenue, who alleges that his 13-year-old daughter Frances was taken away and held a prisoner for five days at the home of Franzisco's brother-in-law, 52 Montauk avenue.

Ambrosio came to this country with his daughter about two months ago, leaving his wife in Italy. He got employment as a laborer and got along nicely until August 22, when, it is alleged, Franzisco came to the house at noon while the father was at work and told the girl to go with him. When the father learned of his daughter's disappearance, he enlisted the aid of his nephew, who speaks English, and together they went to the Liberty avenue police station and told of the case.

Officer Bolger visited the Montauk avenue address and found the girl. When she arrived at the station, she said that she loved Franzisco and expected to marry him. She was taken in charge by Agent Dorr of the Children's Aid Society, while Franzisco was held in \$2,000 bail for examination on September 1.

NO SATISFACTION IN EATING.

Food does you no good. You can't digest—consequently you're afraid to eat; tongue is coated, mouth tastes bad, stomach is bloated. Pretty soon you'll be overcome by weakened and nervous prostration.

Best prescription for your condition is Dr. Hamilton's Pills of Mandrake and Butternut. For Dyspepsia and indigestion it is doubtful if a better remedy will ever be devised. These pills bring new strength and vitality to the stomach and digestive organs; they build up the general health and instil such vim and resisting power into the system that, sickness is impossible; Try Dr. Hamilton's Pills.

The largest winning owner on the English turf this season is Mr. W. Hall Walker, whose total is £20,119 of which Cherry Lass won the largest share, £12,669. Mr. Sol Jod won eleven races, worth £14,910 and Lord Derby has scored nineteen times, his horses earning £12,465. M. Blanc and Lord Rosebery come next in the list, M. Blanc having won only one race, the £10,000 Jockey Club Stakes, with Val d'Or. E. Wheatley has ridden the most winners, 76 out of 329 mounts, but Danny Maher has the best average, 63 in 247 chances.

The sum of \$40,000,000 will be spent by the Argentine republic with in the next five years on new railways and branch lines.

Lever's Y-Z (Wise Head) Disinfectant Soap. Powder dusted in the bath softens the water at the same time that it disinfects.

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SYSTEM SHOULD BE REORGANIZED.

No Hope For Success of Russian Arms Under Present Regime.

MILITARY FOUNDATION ROTTEN. NICHOLAS II SHOULD POCKET PRIDEAN COPY GERMAN SYSTEM.

Hotel Wentworth, Portsmouth, N. H., August 28.—It is night in the palm garden at the Hotel Wentworth. Soft rays from the screened electric lights filter through the hanging flowers and plants, and shed a low glow over the groups of brilliantly dressed men and women seated about the small tables. Snatches from a waltz song float out from the ballroom. During the lull in the music one hears the murmur of many foreign tongues as the drinkers sip from their glasses and speculate on the prospects of peace and war.

Four men are seated at one of the tables. One is a French journalist. Another is a famous American war correspondent, who spent four months with the Russian troops in Manchuria. He suffered incredible hardships, barely escaped blindness as a result of aggravated inflammation of the eyes, caused by exposure in alhali sand storms, and was captured by the Japanese at Mukden. He expects to rejoin the Russian troops in the field, being confident that the Portsmouth conference will end in failure. A German banker, who was for some years in the Kaiser's army, is the third member of the group, and one of the Russian attaches completes the party.

"The Russians will never whip the Japs until they reorganize their military system," remarked the American war correspondent. "I was with them long enough to find out some

of the fatal defects in the service. The officers are all right, but the system is hopelessly bad."

"You are right," replied the German banker, while the Russian, entered no denial. "And if the Czar were not too proud to admit that his military policy is based on a rotten foundation, he would copy the staff system of the German army. To my way of thinking, and I don't believe I am unduly prejudiced, the only thing that can save Russia is to start in at the bottom and reorganize the army all the way through. The Czar ought to swallow his foolish pride and engage some of the leading German officers to overhaul his military establishment."

"That's out of the question," ventured the Russian.

"Not at all," persisted the German. "There are a hundred brilliant officers in the Kaiser's army who would give up their commissions to-day if they thought they could secure corresponding positions in the Russian service. They are thirsting for battle. Fighting is their profession, and it has been a long time since they have had any work. Emperor William would be glad to let them go, for he knows he could get them all back if they were needed at home. Besides, it would be the very best training the officers could get, and the lessons they would learn while putting into practical execution the drills and study of the past