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-NEWSY NOTES-

THE MONKEY PUZZLE

On Mr. Oliver MacNeill's front lawn, at 70 West 15th Avenue, Vancouver, B. C., there is a very splendid specimen of the Monkey Puzzle tree. Many in this province will remember Mr. MacNeill, who after many years of successful farming in South Dakota, returned in his native province, and lived for a number of years on Summer street, in Summerside, P. E. I., before going to the west coast.

We did not learn why this tree is called the monkey puzzle, but have no doubt it is because of its stiff, flattened, sharp-pointed leaves, that are from one to two inches long, and have broad, overlapping (imbricated) bases. These leaves persist for many years on the branches, alternating branches, so close together, from the ground to the tree top, that it is doubtful if even a squirrel could climb the tree, which has proved to be too much of a puzzle for monkeys in lands where these creatures abound.

We saw quite a large number of individual monkey puzzle trees in various parts of the city of Vancouver and adjoining towns. When we were in Victoria on Vancouver Island, we saw great numbers of these subtropical trees, and on Cobble Hill there is the beginning of an avenue of these magnificent, evergreen trees.

The monkey puzzle is a coniferous tree belonging to the tribe Araucariaceae, known in some countries as Chile pine. (Araucaria imbricata), and under natural conditions in the Cordillera Mountains in Chile, its native habitat. It grows to a height of 150 feet. It is also found growing

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naturally in Brazil, Polynesia and Australia. It received its botanical name from the Arauco district in Chile, where it was first discovered. There are six other known species in the genus Araucaria, and all have wood that is hard and durable. We think, however, that it is somewhat of a puzzle to men as well as to monkeys, to make use of that tree due to the millions of sturdy, barbed leaves that cover the entire branches from the ground up.

The Arauco District is a large territory in Chile, South America, that belonged to the Araucanian Indians, at the time of their independence of Spanish and Chilean authority. It lies to the south of the Bio-Bio River, and includes in its territory many of the Cordillera Mountains in the Southern Andes.

The Araucanian Indians were a strong, warlike tribe, who stopped the Inca conquest of Maule, and opposed the full strength of the Spanish forces for two hundred years, with arms that consisted of only bow, spear and club. They were an agricultural and hunting folk who lived in small villages, and used wool and skins for clothing.

Monkey puzzle trees were introduced into Great Britain in 1796, and have been widely cultivated in Europe, in the Southern United States, especially in California. They require high, well drained land. They usually withstand the winter in Britain, but some years they are damaged by the cold. They are the only species of Araucaria that is cultivated outdoors in Britain.

Two of the other species of this genus are of considerable interest: One, A. Bidwilli, the Bunyava Bunya pine, grows in the mountains of South Queensland, Australia, between the rivers Brisbane and Burnett, about 27 degrees South latitude. It is a noble tree, about 150 feet in height, with a straight trunk and white wood. The cones of this pine are as large as a man's head, with very large seeds that are used as food by the natives; the other, A. Cookii, named for Captain Cook, who discovered it, is found in both New Caledonia and in the left of Pines, New Hebrides. It also grows to a height of 150 feet. It has a very remarkable appearance as it drops all of its primary branches from its trunk for about five-sixths of its height, which, for a mature tree, would be about 125 feet from the ground, and replaces them with a small, compact, bushy growth, giving the appearance of a tall column crowned with dense foliage. Captain Cook said: "It looks like a tall column of basalt."

Rather an amazing story is told of the way the Monkey Puzzle trees came to Vancouver Island. A British navigator, who sailed with Captain Cook on the first world voyage, conducted important exploring expeditions along the west coast of both North and South America, during 1791 and 1792. He surveyed Vancouver Island, which was later named for him, as were also the cities of Vancouver, B. C., and Vancouver, Wash., on the Columbia River, and published in 1798 his book, "A Voyage of Discovery to the North Pacific Ocean and round the World, 1790-1795".

Briefly the story tells of Vancouver's travels down the west coast of the Americas, and that he had with him a botanist, Prof. Alexander Menzies. When visiting in Valparaiso, Chile, they were invited to a banquet given in their honour by the Spanish Viceroy there. Menzies was offered, among other dishes, some boiled nuts or fruits that were unknown to him. They were said to be the food of the Araucanian Indians, who lived behind the city in the Andes Mountains, that is, they were included in their diet when they could gather them before they were taken by small pests that also ate these nuts. Menzies slipped a half dozen into his pocket, and though they were supposed to have been boiled, he planted them when he returned to the ship, and they grew. It is said that some of the older trees now in British Columbia are probably from the original seedlings grown aboard Captain Vancouver's ship. They would be only about 150 years old today, and there are many trees in British Columbia much older than that.

We counted the rings on the smallest of a group of over a dozen stumps of Douglas fir on the border of Cultus Lake, near Chilliwack, B. C., and found that it was at least 300 years old when cut.

Strange But True

A cardplayer's epitaph: His card is cut—long days he shuffled through. The game of life. He dealt as others do. Though he by honors tells not its amount—When the last trump is played his tricks will count.

Eve was the only woman who never threatened to go and live with Adam, and Adam was the only man who never lashed his wife about "the way mother used to cook."

On July 28, 1874, a small village near Pittsburgh, Pa., met with a disaster from a most singular phenomenon. Towards noon of that eventful day people of the district observed a couple of strange looking clouds approaching each other from opposite directions. As they drew nearer, they discharged vivid flashes of lightning, and the whole effect was that of a sea battle in the clouds. But, when they met rain fell in torrents. One hundred and fifty persons drowned and it is believed to be the worst flood ever to visit that section of the U.S.A.

Corsets appear to have originated in the Norman era. Certainly they appear in the dress of the Roman garment closely fitting the body, and having in its employment a strong likeness to the corset, but the wearing of these gadgets of torture by woman began, so far as is known, in the reign of Rufus.

A Maritime woman had the misfortune of having her husband hang himself on an apple tree. The wife of a neighbor immediately came for a branch of the tree, to have it grafted into one of her own orchard. "For who knows," she said, "but it may bear the same kind of fruit."

The oldest newspaper in the world, the King-pan, has been published at Peking, China, since May, 911 A.D.

A peculiar feature of this Chinese organ is that for the first five or six centuries of its existence it only appeared at irregular intervals. There were lapses of 50, 60 years and even a century, between the issues, so you could hardly call it a daily paper by any stretch of the imagination. China is not a progressive country even today, and a thousand years ago a newspaper that managed to get to press once in half a century was regarded as a marvel of journalistic enterprise. The paper was put out the editor could take such a nice, long rest. He could go fishing or golfing and stay as long as he pleased, and still have time to prepare some copy for the next issue. If a free lance writer approached him about an article he had written, instead of having to stand him off with a lame excuse, the editor could say "I accept your article with pleasure. It will appear in our next issue, 75 years and six months from today." That would just about settle the matter. In those days, when a person paid a nickel for a paper, being anxious to get the latest news, the mere fact that the last issue of the paper was published before he was born, did not matter.

We should think the editor might have mixed up in his dates. The editor never received any letters complaining that the last three issues of the King-pan had not been received, as that would cover no less than a couple of hundred years. Again, the country subscriber was not apt to get two issues of the paper at one and the same time. If the King-pan did not reach the subscriber after, say, one hundred years, talk unfavorable to its financial standing were aired, and there was some talk of a good opportunity to start a new publication. Another advantage to the ancient people of China who wanted to insert ads in the King-pan was that they did not have to hurry to get them in the paper, when there was seventy-five years or more in which to write them out.

During the latter part of the 12th century, to swarms of this old Chinese newspaper decided to push matters a bit, so it appeared regularly every 50 years. About the time Columbus set foot on this continent the King-pan began to appear every 25 years.

After a time the Western barbarians began to educate the Chinese to the English standard, and from that time on the old paper began to prosper. Here is what an exchange says about the present status of the King-pan: "Now it appears in three editions daily. The first issue rolls off the presses early in the morning and printed on yellow paper, is called a business sheet, and contains trade prices, exchange questions, and all manner of commercial intelligence. The second edition, which comes up in the early afternoon, also is printed on yellow paper, and is devoted to official announcements and general news. The third edition carries fashionable intelligence and general news.

Don't get confused about the difference between mushrooms and loadstools. There is no difference. It is simply a case of the one thing having two names. And don't worry about getting poisoned. You may pick up mushrooms with no fear of poisoning if you pick them as you would any other food—fresh specimens of the varieties you know are safe.

Dark Lightning

By Helen Topping Miller
CHAPTER XXX
(Concluded)

Half carrying the dazed man, Gary got him into the car and slammed the door, backed out swiftly, ignoring the frenzied shrieks of Grace at the door.

Kimball mumbled wrathfully, then slumped in a corner, his head in his hands, while Gary drove like a madman to the Mason ranch. Harvey came out, looking bewildered as he saw Oliver's battered face.

"I had to mark him up a little to make him come," Gary stated as he opened the door on Oliver's side. "But now I think he'll talk. Call Adelaide, Mr. Mason. I want you all to hear what he has to say."

But when they had steered Oliver into the house, he would not talk except to snarl, "Call the officers, he hit me—in my own house."

"Look here, Gary, this is going pretty far," Harvey objected. "I'll go farther," said Gary furiously. "I'll ruin him if he doesn't own up that Grice-Morgan hired him to get you to sell out—that he knew all about that Slide Ellis affair—he planned it. I got it all straight from Grice himself."

"I know that's true," Gary told me about it," Mona Lee said. "He knocked Grice down, too." Oliver got to his feet dizzily. He glared at them all. "So—you're all against me, huh?" he snarled. "Nice gang I married into—"

"That's enough," snapped Harvey. "Were you in with Grice-Morgan on this deal to bust me, or weren't you?"

"Sure I was in it!" Oliver barked, through swelling lips. "I was trying to keep you from losing your shirt, and this is the thanks I get."

Another car screeched in the driveway. "It's Grace," said Mona Lee, peering out, "and a policeman."

"I'll tend to this," said Harvey grimly, and went out. Gary went up the stairs, tossed the last things into his suitcase, and snapped the lock. He heard a car leaving below and hoped that Grace had taken her husband home after a little while. He picked up the suitcase and went downstairs.

Mona Lee and Harvey were standing in the hall. Harvey said, "Look here, Gary, I'm sorry about this business. I'd like you to stay."

"I'm sorry, too, Mr. Mason, but I'm going. I'm sorry I had to make a scene—make trouble in your family—I lost my head, I guess. Good-by. It's been pretty fine, being here. You've been swell to me."

"But look here—we've got all this misunderstanding settled now," argued Harvey, "and I'm ready to apologize—do anything you say to make it right—"

"Harvey, you're as blind as a bat!" snapped Mona Lee. "Gary isn't leaving on Oliver's account. I'll drive you to town myself, if you're so determined to go. Harvey, you find Addie and tell her Gary's leaving."

"Please, I'd rather not see her. Tell her I said good-by, will you? and thank you all again...."

The little station looked lonely. Gary bought a ticket to the nearest railway point in the Pecos country. Then he stooped and kissed Mona Lee Mason, who was watching him with misty eyes. "Good-by—and please don't wait. There won't be a train for half an hour. Take care of her, will you, Mrs. Mason? And tell her...."

"I'll tell her she's a fool!" snapped Mrs. Mason. "Gary, you write, now—and come back sometime—"

"Yes, I will. Good-by again...."

SUMMERFIELD W. M. S.

The regular meeting of the Summerfield W. M. S. was held at the home of Mrs. Crawford Sinclair March 11.

Theme for March was "The Church In Their House." Meeting opened with call to worship followed by singing "Blest be the tie that binds." Scripture 11 Corinthians Chapter 10 was read by Mrs. Harland Day. Mrs. Elmer Stewart led in prayer. The devotional period concluded with prayer in unison.

CLYDE RIVER PRESBYTERIAN W. M. S.

The March meeting of the Clyde River W. M. S. was held at the home of Mrs. James Hyde on March 4. Mrs. George Beer presided.

Opening hymn was "Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross." Scripture readings were taken from Isaiah 12 and Romans 5. Theme for the meeting was "In due time Christ died for the ungodly." Prayers were offered by the president and Miss Nicholson. "What A Friend We Have In Jesus" was sung.

A letter from Lillian Dickson was read by the secretary. Roll call was answered by a verse of Scripture. Roll call for next meeting is to be answered by a verse of Scripture containing the word "love". The night of meeting will be changed to the second Monday of the month.

It was decided to send for remnants to make a quilt for the Maritime Home for Girls.

Next meeting is to be held at the home of Mrs. Lloyd Murray when the lunch committee will be Mrs. Everett Murray, Mrs. Gordon McKinnon, Mrs. Keith Young and Mrs. Foster McKinnon.

The meeting closed by singing "Blest Be The Tie That Binds."

"Gary—wait!" She dashed up breathlessly, flung herself at him. "Oh, Gary, I can't stand it—I'm going with you. It's no use. I'm stubborn and spoiled and mean—but I do love you. I'll live in a shack, and I won't grumble. We can get married somewhere.... Oh, Gary—you've got to take me with you!"

He held her tight, standing there between the rails, oblivious to the menace of the approaching train till someone yelled, "Hey—you folks crazy?"

They jumped in time, and then Adelaide began to cry, clinging to him—and Gary was holding her and murmuring wild things, hardly knowing where he was, till someone shouted, "All aboard!"

"Oh, my heavens—Gary, we've missed the train. It's gone off without us...."

"Let it go!" Gary's exultation was like a song. "But I'll never let you go, never again. Come along. If you're going to marry me, we'll be married at home. With your mother and everybody."

He led her to the car and helped her in, but he took the wheel himself. "I'll drive," he said. "We might meet another white rooster." The End

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In order to meet current expenses, a full or part-payment of taxes due to O'Leary School District, must be made by March 31st; and the balance, if any payable by May 25th.

By order of Trustees.

NOTICE

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