

ODD THINGS IN ECUADOR.

Strange Commodities and Merchants With Queer Business Methods—So-Called "Panama Hats" Are Never Made in Panama.

Special Correspondence.

Guayaquil, Ecuador, April 25.—As this port is the commercial center of Ecuador—in fact the only place within its borders worth mentioning in connection with trade—its merchants carry considerable stocks of goods. Some of them claim to have half a million pesos, or more invested, with an annual trade of double that amount. Very few of them, however, are Ecuadorians. The heaviest importers are Chinese, then Germans, French, English and Italians in the order named. The Chinese, with their usual quiet persistence, have driven so many native dealers to the wall and continue their monopolies so alarmingly, that a few years ago the legislature of the republic, following the bright and shining example of Uncle Sam, passed a law forbidding the immigration of Mongolians to Ecuador. The Chinese, when they landed in this colonial climate, no longer confined themselves to the society of his own countrymen and women, as in California and elsewhere; but blossoms out as a leader of Caucasian society, leading to state his marital attentions, his opium-pipe and his washbasin with representatives of other nationalities. His several wives are generally low-class Ecuadorians, in whose veins circulates a regular admixture of Indian, Spanish, Negro and Anglo-Saxon blood, and whose leather-colored skin is not a bad match for his own saffron-hued complexion. The main difference in looking being in the eyes—those of the native women being very large, dark and expressive, and not set on the bias after the fashion of the flowery kingdom. As may be inferred, the offspring of this polygamous parentage have not much to boast of in the way of beauty. They are about as prepossessing in appearance as the people of the Creek nation in the Indian Territory, who are mixed Indians, Scotch and negro, and have kinky red hair, high cheek-bones, flat noses, light blue eyes with pinkish lids, and yellowish skin covered with dark brown freckles large as marbles.

The lower floors of all the buildings along the principal streets of Guayaquil are used for shops, while the merchants and their families live above them. During business hours the entire front of each house is removed, to allow free circulation of air and the better to show off goods, the ground floors having no windows. The upper stories are balconied, and during the day awnings are let down, permitting the inmates to look out from behind, but perfectly screening them from outside observation. At evening the awnings are furled, and then everybody rushes to the open air—all except the women who are wedded to Chinamen. They must still remain in virtuous seclusion, because their husbands are the greatest amount of business in their shops between sun-down and mid-night and are therefore unable to escort their wives abroad. But on fiesta days and Sundays you may find the Celestial husband walking ahead with the lordly air of a chancier, his seraglio of hens meekly following, in the order of their espousal—the oldest wife first, although generally his marriage shows that he prefers the latest acquisition.

Ecuador's exports bear no proportion to her real capabilities, and there is no excuse but business for the chronic bankruptcy of the country. The shipments of cocoa, coffee, India rubber, hides, china bark, nuts, vegetable ivory, orchilla-wood, sarsaparilla, tannins and other articles amounting to an average of \$3,000,000 pesos per annum. They tell us in Guayaquil that Ecuador imports upwards of ten million pesos worth every year—but perhaps we may be pardoned for doubting the statement. The government keeps no statistics of its commerce and the value of imports is based merely on the amount of duties collected. It does not seem reasonable that the most impoverished and backward country in all South America could long continue to purchase twice as much per annum as she sells. Most of the imports come from England; some from China and less from Germany. The United States furnishes little but lard. All the flour comes from Chili.

Ecuador is famous for only two things—for making the best straw hats and raising the finest pineapples in the world; credit for the latter being entirely due to Dame Nature, and for the former to the native women who weave them. The so-called Panama hats are mostly made in Guayaquil and the Indian villages along the coast, but few outside of Ecuador and none at all in Panama. The misleading name was given to them long ago, when Panama merchants controlled the trade. The best hats are made of Toquilla fiber, (caribbea palm), a most aromatic plant, which grows about five feet high and resembles the palm. Its yard-long leaf is plaited like a fan, and the stalk is three-cornered. The leaf is cut while young, the outermost veins removed, and then it is whipped into shreds, and immersed in boiling water. Afterwards it is bleached in the sun. Moons fiber is also used, from a tree that grows like a coconut, but more rarely, because it is difficult to work, its bark being extremely hard and horny. Its leaves are so long that one straw will finish a hat without splicing. Pita fiber—a species of cacti—is also much used. It is not so much matter what fiber is employed as how it is manipulated. The best hats are woven under water, by women who kneel beside a stream and keep the straw constantly submerged. It requires three or four months to make a good hat; and when finished it will bring all the way from \$15 to \$150. But it will last a lifetime, and can be rolled up and tucked into a vest pocket, cleaned as often as required and worn

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With the first warm days there is a large increase in the number of absentees from the public schools and just now the truancy officers have their hands full looking after the youngsters who have yielded to the superior attractions of out-of-door sports and have deserted the schoolroom. Mr. Jesse L. Heffner, who lives at No. 11 East Pike street, Goshen, Ind., is truancy officer of Elkhart county and can relate many interesting experiences. One of them should be of value to every reader of this paper. He says: "Last year I was so much run down in health that I was nearly able to keep on my feet and it was not until I took Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People that I began to feel like myself again. All my strength seemed to have left me and I was without ambition, my appetite failed, my kidneys became affected and my stomach got out of order. Doctors did not do me any good and I kept falling in health and strength until I decided to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People. They helped me very quickly and, after taking them faithfully for three weeks, I became well and strong again. I am out in all sorts of weather but have not experienced any return of the symptoms of my old trouble since Dr. Williams' Pink Pills cured me."

The best tonic medicine in the world is Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People. Mr. Heffner is only one out of thousands all over the world who have found this out by personal experience. This medicine, unlike any other, acts both on the blood and nerves, builds up the system and cures where ordinary medicines fail. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People cure only one kind of trouble but have cured such diseases as locomotor ataxia, partial paralysis, St. Vitus' dance, sciatica, neuralgia, rheumatism, nervous headaches, the after-effects of the grip, pale and sallow complexion, and all forms of weakness in either male or female.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People are sold by all druggists and will be sent postpaid on receipt of price, five cents a box, or six boxes for two dollars and fifty cents, by Dr. Williams' Medicine Company, Schenectady, N. Y. They are never sold in bulk. Try the dozen or hundred. Avoid imitations; substitutes never cured anybody.

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AN OWL'S FLIGHT FOR LIFE.

While the whaleback steamer Forest Castle, from Liverpool, was off the Newfoundland banks an owl as white as snow fell exhausted on the deck.

The owl made a desperate flight from an iceberg to the ship. It was "dead beat" when it floundered aboard, and without a great deal of trouble was made prisoner.

The sailors were utterly astonished at the arrival of the passenger. Some one saw the peculiar object coming laboriously through the air, making a line fly for the whaleback. Away off on the horizon line was a great iceberg, which had worked its way farther south than these terrors of the northern sea are wont to do. When the "berg" parted company with the ice field of the Far North it probably carried with it the owl, which clung to its raft of crystal until flight was useless, as each open sea forming a barrier over which the bird did not dare attempt flight. Like a sensible owl, it held to the refuge in sight, hoping for a better one by and by. When the Britisher Forest Castle appeared on the horizon the bird made its one last dash for life. It was probably half starved and ill prepared for such a long chase—a stern chase, too—for the vessel, well to the south, was also plying steadily in that direction. However, the race was won by the owl.—Philadelphia Press.

A Farmer Straightened Out.

"A man living on a farm near here came in a short time ago completely doubled up with rheumatism. I handed him a bottle of Chamberlain's Pain Balm and told him to use it freely and if not satisfied after using it he need not pay a cent for it," says C. P. Rayder, of Potters Mills, N. Y. "A few days later he walked into the store as straight as a string and handed me a dollar saying, 'Give me another bottle of Chamberlain's Pain Balm. I want it in the house all the time for it cured me.' For sale by all druggists."

WHAT TO EAT.

This matter will be found to be entirely different from and superior to the usual run of food articles, in that every item is a nugget of culinary wisdom and eminently practical. Conducted by Katherine Kurtz, Marquette Building, Chicago, to whom all inquiries should be addressed. All rights reserved by Banning Co., Chicago.

Menus for Next Three Days.

SUNDAY.		
BREAKFAST.		
Strawberries, French style		
Sprinkled Sweetbreads	Tomato Pricasso	
Waffles	Maple Syrup	
DINNER.		
Roast Loin of Mutton	Brown Gravy	
Browned Potatoes	New Peas	
Strawberry Charlotte	Coffee	
SUPPER.		
Crab Sandwiches	Cucumbers	
Oranges and Bananas	Cake	
Cocoa		
MONDAY.		
BREAKFAST.		
Cereal	Fruit	Cream Bacon
Creamed Eggs		Coffee
Drop Biscuits		
LUNCHEON.		
Broiled Smoked Salmon		
Baked Tomatoes	Coffee Cake	
TEA.		
Asparagus Soup		
Cold Slices	Cucumbers	
Scalloped Potatoes		
Strawberry Shortcake	Coffee	
TUESDAY.		
BREAKFAST.		
Cereal	Fruit	Cream Bacon
Creamed Beef		Coffee
Corn Bread		
LUNCHEON.		
Chinese Ragout	Rice	
Baked Apple Dumpling, a la Mode	Tea	

Valuable Suggestions for the Kitchen and Dining Room.

DINNER.
Clam Chowder
Baked Macaroni and Cheese
Tomato and Onion Farc
Soft Gingerbread
Cream Cheese
Soft Gingerbread
Coffee

Minced Veal with Rice.
Mince some veal and mix with thick white sauce. Boil a cup of rice in a large quantity of salted water until tender but not broken. Drain and put into a saucepan with enough stock to moisten. A small piece of butter and salt and pepper to taste; let it come to a boil, then place in the oven for 15 minutes; then place in a heated dish with the rice and put the mince in the center; surround with a ring of fried bread with tips dipped into minced celery.

Stuffed Onions.
Use the large Spanish onions for this. Peel them evenly so that the skin on the outside will be left; then cut out the center with a large vegetable scoop or cutter take out the heart. Cover the onions with boiling salted water and blanch for five minutes. Then remove them carefully and fill them with minced liver and onion, or kidney. Cover well with bread crumbs, place with a little stock to prevent burning. Cook until tender when pierced with a skewer.

Curry of Cold Chicken.
Take the fragments of cold roast or boiled chicken and cut into inch pieces. Chop fine a good sized onion and put it into a saucepan with three tablespoonfuls of butter and cook without coloring for five minutes, then add a teaspoonful of curry powder, a teaspoonful of salt, one tablespoonful of flour, stir and cook a few minutes, then add a cup of chicken broth, made from the bones and skin. Let it cook until it thickens, then add one-fourth of a cup of rich milk and a cup of fresh grated coconut, a sweet-sour pepper cut in narrow strips and blanch for a few minutes, and two cups of the chicken meat. Cook long enough to heat very thoroughly and serve with a border of rice.

Ventnor Pudding.
Take a pound of minced cold roast beef; add half the weight of bread crumbs soaked in a little stock; a tablespoonful of melted butter, a spoonful of curry powder, a small onion chopped and salt, pepper and celery, salt to taste. Mix all well together and turn into a buttered baking dish. Bake in a hot oven, season with pepper and salt and turn over the mixture and bake in moderately hot oven until brown.

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