

It ought to be
STAMPED on the
frying
pan



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THE CLEVER ZIPP

A Fortune From a Fastener

An American millionaire, Colonel Lewis Walker, has just left behind him the millions he made from the zipp fastener.

He did not invent it. It was an Englishman who first hit on the ingenious idea, and he made so little out of it that his very name is forgotten. But this hookless fastener was on show at the World's Fair in Chicago 45 years ago, and nobody thought enough of it to venture money for marketing it. Certainly the inventor could not find either a capitalist or capital.

For twenty years the idea languished in obscurity, and then Colonel Walker, who had seen it at Chicago, started a tiny factory to make it. The factory began with 20 hands.

The manufacture of the zipp today employs thousands of hands in the United States alone. It would not be too much to say that it is now being made all over the world, and is put to so many uses, and attached to so many garments, that the hook-and-eye is already a thing of the past, and buttons are going the same way.

The Triumph of Simplicity

Like many inventions which have made fortunes, the zipp is simple in idea.

Rows of tiny pieces of metal, like teeth, are fixed on each side of the opening to be closed, each separated by its own width. Each faces a gap between corresponding teeth on the other side; and every tooth has a knob on one side and a cup on the other.

A slider fits over all, and when it is pulled in one direction over the opposed rows of teeth it draws them together so that each knob fits in the cup of its opposite number, and the opening is closed. When the slider is pulled in the opposite direction it unlinks the linked teeth in turn.

One drawback has long persisted in the metallic zipp, and has not yet been entirely banished. The teeth may become entangled among their knobs and cups, and hard pulling only makes the confusion more confounded.

Two years ago Imperial Chemicals, put on the market a tough material, more supple than metal and lighter, which could be moulded like a metal. It has worked very well as a zipp for light garments, but is not yet equal to the task of dealing with heavier material.

In this new age of plastics some inventor will certainly come along with a material which will rival the metal zipp; but before his fortune is made, the zipp may itself have gone out of fashion.

The Sad State of Steel in America

The abysmal fall in American steel production which marked the closing months of 1937 has not yet shown any great recovery, but the figures are better.

For every 100 tons of steel capacity only 52 were produced at the end of last October, and by the end of November output had fallen to only 30 per cent. In the last week of 1937 the figure was only 19 per cent. Since there has been a little recovery, to about 30 per cent. This is better, but still exceedingly bad.

The argument about American poverty continues. The President blames the big capitalists, the big capitalists blame the President, and meanwhile the number of the unemployed has been rising.

It is all very sad; disgraceful in our scientific age, in what is naturally the richest land in the world.

A tin of food was the price of admission to a kinema show in Halifax, Nova Scotia, the other day, the idea being to collect food for poor children. Over 2000 tins were collected.

HOW TO LEARN GEOGRAPHY

Dulwich Shows the Way

The burghers of Camberwell (and this includes Dulwich and Peckham) turned up in their hundreds last week to see what 250 of their boys and girls had done for the borough.

The L C C Central School has for the past two years had a Geographical Society of which the president is Mr Leonard Brooks, who in the early days of the C N helped to create its World Map. This society is very much alive, and realises that Camberwell in the County of London is not the only place on the map, though its members have placed it more effectively on the map than ever by means of maps and models displayed in last week's exhibition at the South London Art Gallery.

The members, aided by their secretary and founder (Mr J. Dempster), have established contact with those other Camberwells, Peckhams, and Dulwichs which have sprung up in the Empire, and when Lord Sandon opened the exhibition he was supported by the daughter of the Mayor of the City of Camberwell in Victoria and a local councillor who had been educated in that city.

In the gallery, too, were exhibits from the Dulwich in Saskatchewan and the Dulwich at Adelaide in South Australia, while the Kent village of East Peckham sent contributions.

The society has, of course, adopted a ship, but it has also adopted a farm, whose owner month by month sends a map showing the work done. Children visit this farm just as they visit factories and public buildings near their homes.

The C N sends its congratulations to the society and its president, and hopes that in the near future every school in the Empire will have a geographical society on these most admirable lines.

A Mill for the Guides

The Girl Guides have given Coleshill Mill in Bucks a new title to a place in the Island Story.

They have bought it as a local headquarters, and while they have it in their care it will remain an enduring monument to one of the most influential movements among the young people of the Twentieth Century. It is a fine old brick mill, with revolving cap, and our picture shows the assiduous attention they bestow on it. They have entirely removed the danger that anyone would pull it down or that it should be allowed to fall down.

Before they took possession of it, another distinction belonged to Coleshill which it adorns. John Milton dwelt for a time not far away, at Chalfont St Giles, and while there he gave the manuscript of Paradise Lost to his friend Ellwood to take home and read at Coleshill, a mile or two away. Paradise Lost thus made its first public appeal to a reader within a few yards of where the Guides have their own paradise for work and play.

Picture on page 3

Pleasure and Profit

An enterprising young Epsom reader of the C N has collected £8 for the R S P C A during his school holidays.

Since he was six he has been carving farm buildings, fences, and other objects and fitting them together as a model village on a table 15 feet by five. A year or two ago he decided to charge sixpence admission, with the result that the charity which has done so much for the animals in farm and field has benefited from his enthusiasm, and will, we hope, continue to benefit. The model will again be on view during the Easter holidays.

We congratulate Master Hampton, who has not yet reached his teens, on the excellent use he has made of his clever fingers in his spare time.