OH, KANSAS, YOU SURE HAVE ARRIVED!

AT ANY RATE, YOU ARE SHOUTING ABOUT IT.

Say You, "My Hogs, Hens, Alfalfa, Men and Women Are Best on Earth."

Sonnets on hens, herbs and hogs, odes on alfalfa and dithyrambs on Kansan men and women are contained in the thousand-page latest biennial report of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture. A document full of hog and human nature, more fascinating than any work of fiction, it is infinitely different from the academic dulness expected from an agricultural board, and suggests an uplifted condition of the Kansas farmer that leaves nothing to be desired. The secretary of the board, F. D. Coburn, prepares the mind of the reader for this monumental document with the following epical whoop:

"In Kansas the Hog finds the favored zone—his El Dorado—and here he always makes both ends meet; for Kansas is a corn orchard parked with grasses and fragrant with the bloom of alfalfa, the greatest forage plant vouchsafed by Providence to men, growing here in a profusion elsewhere unknown. Hence it is that Kansas possesses more of these latest model, self-lubricating mortgage removers than all New England and fifteen other states and territories.

"Uncle Sam, our foremost connoisseur of pork, but with no especial partiality for Kansas, recorded in a report for January, 1907, that the Kansas Hogs are worth 'per capiter' 15 per cent more than the Missouri Hog, 36 per cent more than the Kentucky Hog, 56 per cent more than his Virginia compatriot, 97 per cent more than the Arkansas Hog and 148 per cent more than Florida's favorites.

"There is probably no other territory of the same area as Kansas where the conditions of climate, soil, food and care are more congenial to the Hog's health and wholesome development, and he is nowhere found so developed except among and by a high order of people. High class swine are unknown and impossible among a low class people.

KISMET! KANSAS KINE.

"Kansas swine, coinage of Kansas grass, grain and brain, in the world arena at Chicago, and then at St. Louis, met the world beaters and beat them. She has given Poland, China, Chester County, Berkshire and New Jersey a thousand years the lead and easily distanced the namesakes of all.

"The Kansas Hog, in his sphere typifying the good, the true and the beautiful, is a joy even to the Hebrew, and, like the state that lends him as a solace to humanity, is in but the morning of his career. His one passport, everywhere demanded and always sufficient for entree to presidents, potentates or peasants, is—

"'KANSAS' ON THE RIND."

We learn that "in corn Kansas is a billionaire; in the last twenty years the state has raised 3,069,126,374 bushels, worth on the farms where grown over $943,216,115. In Kansas, corn is the monarch cereal and prosperity's barometer, and 'whosoever will may come!'"

Also "Alfalfa's affinity is 'out there in Kansas.'" Vast quantities are raised. There is no other hay so good for all kinds of livestock, and "an alfalfa pasture is said to be a hog's idea of heaven."

Oh, you alfalfa! It is "'a perennial blessing. Kansas seems to be its happy habitat."

Anent the Kansas fowl: "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. It is easier to get rid of a thousand lice than a million. They multiply with alarming rapidity in hot weather. A louse that is hatched to-day will, if allowed to live, be a great-grandparent a week from to-day, with progeny galore."

Speaking of hens: "A buzz-saw is all right for the purpose for which it was intended, but it can't be used for shaving a man's beard. All these things are very practical in their way, but making these things answer for all purposes is very much like corralling a cyclone—something no man has succeeded in doing."

A little connudrum: "If you were going to be a chicken, which would you choose for a mother, an incubator or a hen?"

The following poem ends a fowl subject:

MARY'S LITTLE HEN.

Mary had a little hen
Upon her little farm.
Against the wolf before the door,
It proved to be a charm.

Each day it laid a little egg,
Which Mary sold at town,
And thus she bought her groceries,
And now and then a gown.

The years passed, and Mary paid
The little mortgage due,
And sent her girl to boarding school,
Her boy to college, too.

She has a nest egg in the bank,
And even keeps a cook,
And everything about her has
A thrifty, wellkept look.

Says she, to those who daily fail
With needle, brush and pen:
"If you would do as well as I,
Just keep a little hen."

—Daisy Field.

THEY DO RAISE MEN.

After due attention to Kansas cattle, horses and mules, the state Board of Agriculture reports on the chief product of the Sunflower State—man. Mrs. L. D. Monroe, of Topeka, is commissioned to propound the following on page 706:

"Kansas, agriculturally speaking, is the silo of the universe, the home of balanced mental, moral and physical rations for man.

"In following out this most interesting argument I take it that you are going to help me by making deductions, supplying inferences, finishing comparisons, and forgiving if the deductions seem too sweeping or the investigations too superficial, bearing in mind that necessarily much must be left to you because of lack of time. That is to say, my argument lies almost wholly along the line of comparison and contrast. I am not afraid to leave it with you. You will pursue it to its rational conclusion.

"Then let us think of a perfect ego, a finished home for the soul, an ideal animal man, whom we are to educate. He is to be the frontispiece of our argument.

"Educate: 'e,' ex, out; 'ducere,' to lead, or draw out.

"Webster marks out four parallel lines along which we must travel to educate: To train the mental powers, the intellect; to inform and enlighten the understanding; to form and regulate principles and character; to prepare and fit for any calling, business, or for activity and usefulness.

"Because we have a perfect man with which to deal we may do all this. He has been given mental power, understanding, basis for character and ambition to do.

"What a boon to the teacher could we turn over to her the capable, conscientious, ambitious and active child. So few are balanced. One is bright, but it is a shrewdness which leads to cunning. Another has the understanding, but lacks ambition to excel. Another is bright and active, but utterly devoid of character foundation. My Apollo, who is not a Frankenstein (we will naturalize by calling him, if you allow, John Doe), is not to be wrecked upon the Scylla of defective and delinquent forebears or the Charybdis of vicious environments. He, by the application of Bacon's rule, may become full, exact, ready.

"Conceding all this, then how are we to proceed? What shall be his balanced diet? What the approved—tried, tested and reduced to figures—intellectual and moral food? And is it obtainable in Kansas?

"Taking as a basis the table of the justly celebrated Wolff-Lehmann standard, we adduce that John requires:

Dry matter.... 15.05:—R. R. R. (reading, 'riting, 'rithmetic);
Protein..... .29:—Sacred history, religion;
Carbohydrates. 7.10:—Sciences, languages;
Other extracts. .15:—Products of imagination, art, music;

making a total representing the balanced mental and moral ration, the desideratum, the last word in building the perfect intellect, sensibility and will of John Doe. . . .

"I make the assertion that Kansas is the silo of the universe; that here we have all of the ingredients for the making of a balanced man. He has the chance for those most desirable of all things, the balanced mental, moral and physical rations of a triune entity, this John Doe, of Kansas, U. S. A."

The gifted pen of Mrs. Monroe goes on and on, culling gems from anthologies and sketching the abysmal misery of the inhabitant of New York, Coney Island, Philadelphia and Washington, all to glorify the perfections of the silo-fed John Doe, of Kansas, one of whom is her husband, and never asks her how much money she is abstracting from his wallet.

BACK TO THE LAND OF ISRAEL.

Let John Doe speak for himself:

"To be sure," says Joseph G. Waters, of Topeka, "the first farmer was the first murderer; with the curse upon him, he fled from the then state of Kansas to the then state of Missouri, on the east, to far away Nod, or Nodaway County, where, in a fit of emotional insanity, he married one of the hog-and-hominy-fed girls of that commonwealth; since which time, to even up on this handicap, he has been engaged, without any rotation in his crops, in the culture of democracy. We must not judge Cain too harshly; there was not a lawyer on the face of the earth to defend him; to suggest an alibi, or to rabble-rouse one of the jury into the belief of a reasonable doubt.

"It has been chronicled that after Noah had planted a vineyard he got drunk. I am not throwing these things up to you, nor do I intend to covertly insinuate that the criminality or dissipation existing in the line to-day is ancestral or hereditary.

"At the first county fair held on the face of the earth after it had cooled, it appears that the livestock interests, with the firstlings of their flocks, took the cash prize and first premium, and the tiller of the ground, with all the fruits of the garden, had to be content with an unframed, verbal diploma and the promise of a red ribbon when they carried them in stock. Fred. Wellhouse could have done better than that with a Ben Davis from his Osage County orchard.

"Away back in Israelitish antiquity there lived a man who must have been an advertising agent of a railway land grant; an F. D. Coburn in evolution and development. His ads have been continued to this day, in every Bible printed, King James's version, revised or not, by a full page engraving of the two spies returning from Canaan, with a single bunch of grapes strung on a cottonwood pole, while each of the husky men strains and stoops under his heavy load, sucient to make him bowlegged and give him a lateral curvature of the spine. Not a grape had been knocked off in the long and rugged journey, and each one of them is represented as large as a nihilist's bomb seems to the Czar's dilated eyes. We can, of course, raise as good a crop in Kansas; it is a land,

Where the sun with a golden mouth can blow
Blue bubbles of grapes down a vineyard row,

but some deputy attorney general would halt the crop by injunction before it could reach a wine press.

* * *

"The trouble with all of us Kansans, men as well as women, is that we have no enduring philosophy by which we keep new and fresh the continued blessings showered on our heads. We forget that we are not web footed; that we were not born in Kansas. We forget that we have bins full, barns full and banks full, and should be thankful. The young man chases a girl for five years and when he has landed her in the matrimonial net forgets his possessions; he forgets to remember that he has snared a piece of dainty dimity that is the sweetest specimen of a tangible heaven that ever came from the skies, that ever rode astraddle or manipulated a javelin hatpin.

* * *

"Privation and vicissitude in Kansas have at last flowered into blooms that smell like prosperity and happiness. No millionaire, mendicant, Mormon or mugwump in all our borders; all is now buckwheat cakes and maple syrup (with sugar beets for its base). There is nothing in the heart of a Kansan to vinegar his lips. He is the best man in the solar system, but the women folk are still better than he is; he has the highest civilization of the world, the greatest prosperity and the utmost attainable human happiness; he has the most superb laws of any state or nation. The mud on his boots that stuck to them when he first looked in hope at the stars is there now, and the scars of past conflict with nature and the Missourian show freshly healed cicatrices on his person."

BIG TESTING MACHINE

Bridges Can Be Made Absolutely Safe by Its Use.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, April 24.—Engineering in this country, though having reached a high state of efficiency, and rivalling that of all other countries in the world for the wonderful progress made in the last century, has been minus a most important machine, and the erection of such a machine by the United States Geological Survey in Pittsburg—one for testing the strength of structural materials—brings to light a grave lack of knowledge on the part of engineers. It has been the practice of engineering experts to allow a certain amount of weight to a prescribed sized beam, and in cases where beams twice that size were used engineers have figured that they should carry twice as much weight as the single one. Here is where they have erred. The Quebec bridge disaster demonstrated this fact. Not many months ago, through lack of knowledge concerning the strength of great columns used in such structures, too much weight was allowed to bear on the bridge supports, and as a result the bridge collapsed, causing the death of eighty persons and adding thousands of dollars to the loss column. This is one of the many instances which might be cited where the need of more expert engineering knowledge has been found to be an absolute necessity for safety in erecting large structures.

The new machine, which is being built at the Geological Survey testing station in Pittsburg, is the largest testing machine in the world, weighing more than two hundred tons. It towers in the air to a height of eighty feet above the foundations, and exerts a maximum pressure of ten million pounds, which is equivalent to placing a load of five thousand tons on the beam or column to be tested. It was made for the survey by Tinius Olsen, of Philadelphia.

With the introduction of this machine the engineering world finds itself advanced one step nearer to the erection of large structures without fear of their tumbling down because of too much pressure on the supports. This machine was not built with the idea of testing steel columns only, but large blocks of stone and columns of concrete and brick as well. The survey took the matter up not only for the public generally, but for the use of the supervising architect of the government and his large force of assistants, who make plans for public buildings representing a yearly outlay of from $12,000,000 to $15,000,000.

Joseph A. Holmes, expert in charge of the technologic branch of the Geological Survey, who is to supervise the investigations, says that "the testing in this machine of the stone, concrete and brick columns will determine the relative safety, adaptability and durability of those materials, and how the quantity of each material used may be safely diminished, thus reducing the cost of the construction work. In the past it has been necessary to determine the strength of large columns on the assumption of the values obtained from testing smaller columns. In the case of stone, the small pieces tested were without the usual quarried effects and seams which are to be found in large pieces of stone, and such tests as have been made show that the strength of the stone decreases as the size of the stone increases. In the erection of large buildings the strength of these columns becomes a very important matter, and it is absolutely necessary that there be accurate data as to the strength which may be expected from these materials when used in larger masses.

"In the rapid development of this country the enormous locomotives of constantly increasing size and the heavier tonnage have demanded a constant increase in the size of bridges, with built-up structural members of such size that we have been unable to keep pace with experimental data to serve as a guide for such structures. As a result, to-day we have practically no knowledge of the strength of these structures from actual tests, and must base our information on the tests of very much smaller members. Bridges such as that which collapsed at Quebec, composed of a number of members held together by riveted connections, depend largely on the design and workmanship, and this failure has demonstrated that it is absolutely necessary that tests of large sized members be made that the engineer may know to what extent the built-up structure is affected by the workmanship; that he may know what strength to allow for these riveted connections. There is no machine in the world that could test a chord of the size of that which failed in the Quebec bridge at the present time, or of the size of the recently completed Blackwell's Island Bridge. A machine of the capacity which we are building in Pittsburg would test pieces of one-half the full size of these large chords to within the elastic limit of the material, and would give the necessary information which is desired by the engineer."

SPRING IN CANADA.

Ice blocks floating out of the Red River at West Selkirk, Manitoba. "Our Lady of the Snows" never liked Rudyard Kipling's chilly compliment. We only publish the above photograph from a stern sense of duty, lest our readers be deluded into thinking that Canada is a land of sun-parched prairie and blistering heat. The Red River of the North rises in Elbow Lake, Minnesota, near the sources of the Mississippi, forms the boundary between Minnesota and North Dakota, and flows into Manitoba and through a flat country to Lake Winnipeg. The course is 665 miles (525 miles in the United States). —The Bystander.

FOAM AS A FIRE EXTINGUISHER.

Consul Thomas H. Norton, of Chemnitz, gives the following description of a new German mechanism for fighting fire:

"Fire chiefs and insurance companies are familiar with the dangers and difficulty inherent to combating conflagrations where petroleum, gasolene, benzine or other liquid hydrocarbons, lighter than water, are involved. As is well known, the attempt to extinguish with streams of water in such cases results usually in a spreading of the inflammable liquid, an increase of the area of combustion and a greater intensity of conflagration. The use of steam or of a current of inert gas is available only for incipient conflagrations in well closed rooms. It presupposes, also, the permanent location on the spot of stationary apparatus for the purpose.

"A distinct step forward in the means of battling with such conditions has been made in Germany, where the use of a tenacious foam, dissipated with difficulty, has been found of great value in cutting off the supply of air necessary to maintain combustion, and thus extinguishing flame. The method and the requisite apparatus have been perfected by a well known Prussian manufacturing company at Salzkotten, near Minden, Prussia, and have been submitted to exhaustive tests by fire chiefs and others interested in the question of protection against the dangers from combustible liquids. The apparatus employed consists of a simple metal cylinder, provided with a long spout, and divided into two chambers. One chamber is charged with an aqueous solution of potash alum and sodium sulphate, the other with a similar solution of sodium bicarbonate, sodium sulphate and licorice root extract.

"The cylinder is so arranged that on being inclined or reversed the two solutions mingle as they issue from the spout. There is no pressure evolved, and consequently the liquid does not issue with sufficient force to cause a spattering of the burning hydrocarbon upon which it may be poured.

"The result of the chemical reaction between the alum and the bicarbonate is a prompt evolution of carbon dioxid, which, in contact with the licorice solution, forms an exceedingly stiff and persistent foam.

"Such a layer of foam containing an inert gas upon the surface of a burning liquid effectually cuts off all access of air and combustion necessarily ceases. The temperature of the liquid may have reached a sufficiently high point, so that through evaporation bubbles of the vaporized hydrocarbon rise for a time through the stratum of foam and tongues of flame flutter over its surface. These soon cease, for simultaneously with the evolution of the carbon dioxid there is a loss of latent heat, the temperature of the foam-yielding solution falls, and this, in turn, cools down the combustible liquid. The solution acts thus in a double manner as a protective agent."—Consular Report.

CIGARETTES IN BRITAIN.

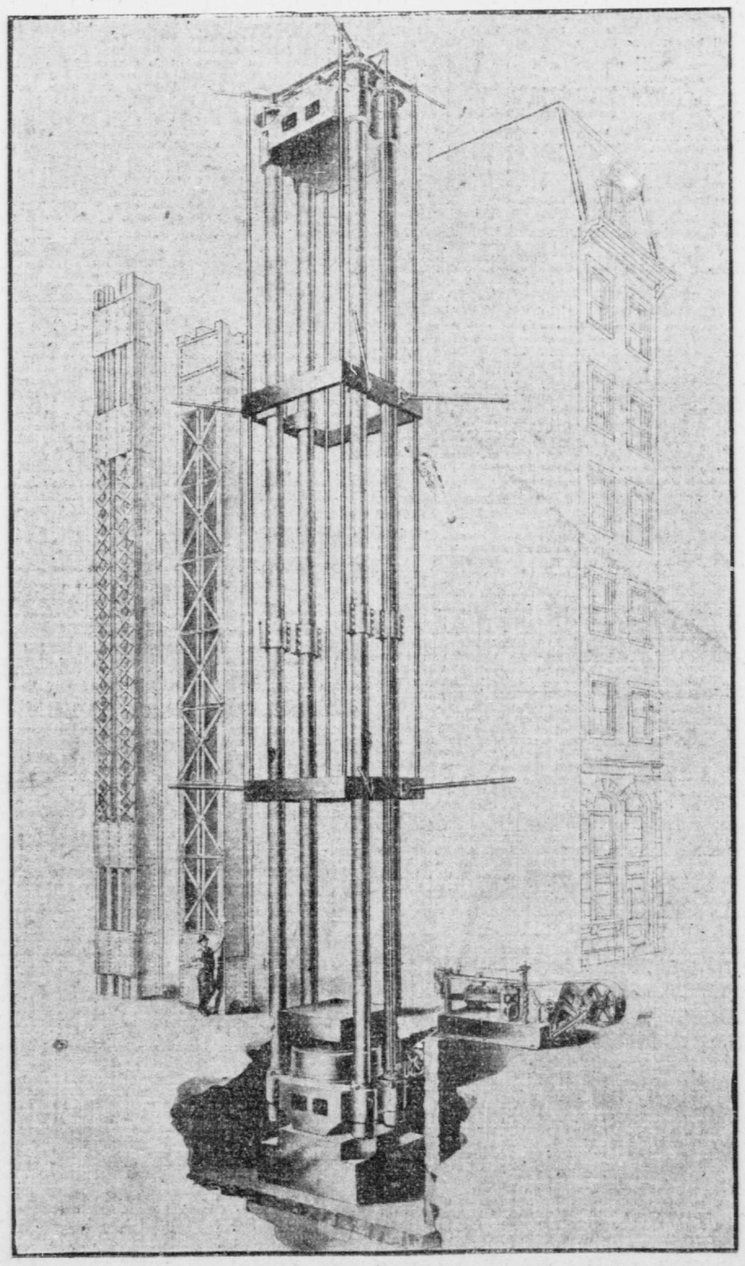
Britain's cigarette industry is of comparatively recent growth. The pioneer of ready-made cigarettes in that country was the late John Theodoridi, a Greek, who at one time served as an officer in the Russian army. He imported a staff of cigarette makers from Odessa, and set up an establishment in Leicester Square, London, in 1861. All the early cigarettes introduced by Theodoridi had card mouthpieces, fully an inch long, following an old fashion still prevailing in Russia. He afterward produced a cigarette with one end turned in, but without a mouthpiece, and this was the first approach to the present form of cigarette, which, however, was not evolved until 1885, when another Greek started a shop in Regent street and sold cigarettes as they are known now.

It was some time before plain cigarettes interested the public. When card mouthpieces went out tips came into fashion. Of these, many varieties were tried, including those made of amber, tobacco leaf, silver, bronze and aluminum imitations, glass and even silk tips, rose leaf tips and violet leaf tips. These were all eclipsed by the gold tip, which came in about 1891, and still holds the field among expensive cigarettes.

Virginia cigarettes were introduced in 1875, and with the invention of machinery that can turn out 180,000 a day cigarettes became cheap and popular. The annual consumption of cigarettes in Great Britain now runs into billions, and of penny (2-cent) packets alone (each containing five) the weekly output is 60,000,000.—Chicago News.

EUROPE EATING UP ITS HORSES.

The prediction, sometimes made, that the increasing use of automobiles will finally destroy all demand for horses does not chime with the growing fondness in Europe for horseflesh as food. In France last year over sixty thousand, and in Germany thirty thousand horses were butchered for the table.—Leslie's Weekly.



LARGEST TESTING MACHINE IN THE WORLD.

Now being erected by the Geological Survey to supply a grave lack of knowledge in the science of engineering.

MELODRAMA ACTED IN COURTROOM

"PROPS" AND CASTS FOR EVERY CASE.

Moving Pictures, Bloodhounds and Even an Elephant Have Figured as Parts of Stage Settings.

"There is more art than science in law, and our courts of justice are nearer to the theatre than most people imagine," remarked a veteran of the New York bar the other day. "The cast of our legal drama often shows a villain, who is either the accused or the prosecutor; a spotless heroine, a few juveniles, and some walking comedians. The judge plays the role of the first old man. The jury are speechless supers. Many different parts are enacted by the versatile lawyers, who are also stage managers and property men. You didn't know we had properties in the courts? Why, the things exhibited at some of our trials are so well selected and arranged that Belasco might profit from the spectacle. Moving pictures were on the bill at a Brooklyn trial not long ago—a damage suit case in which an injured boy was shown playing outdoor games—and there was an attempt to fortify the acting in the Hains trial with models of yachts and floats."

Real evidence, as it is called, means every variety of material objects, including pictures, diagrams, books, documents and even the wounds or visible diseases of a witness. A wart is classified as an exhibit, although it is not marked by the stenographer nor filed with the records of the court. Among the documents may be the pencilled shingle of a country merchant or the notched stick on which an illiterate person keeps his accounts. When real evidence is too cumbersome to be brought into court the jury may be allowed to view it out of doors. Legal theorists attempt to distinguish between objects illustrative or experimental and those which serve as silent witnesses, but the lay mind mostly fails to grasp the distinction.

David Paul Brown, a famous old Philadelphia lawyer, had a client who, in a fit of jealousy, had killed a woman. The lawyer told his client that it was lucky for him that the woman was dressed in black at the time of her demise, for such a garment exhibited by the prosecution could not arouse the emotions and prejudice of the jury. In fact, at the trial the jury saw unmoved the exhibition of the black dress, though it showed the punctures of the fatal knife. But, unfortunately for the accused man, there were also displayed white undergarments, a corset and so on, smeared with blood. At this affecting spectacle "there was not a dry eye in the courtroom," and the defendant was speedily convicted and hanged.

SOME EXHIBITIONS BARRED.

It is, of course, the endeavor of the courts to debar unfair and spectacular exhibitions and the presentation of irrelevant objects which may "play upon the passions of the jury." In the suit of a husband against the Lehigh Valley Railroad it was held to be a reversible error that a photograph of the wife, which represented her as a very handsome woman, was put in evidence. However, the higher courts have not yet forbidden plaintiffs in breach of promise suits to adorn themselves as living pictures and visions of injured beauty. A lawyer for a man charged with sedition made a vigorous protest against the government's exhibition of miscellaneous weapons and tools of violence, arguing aptly that the jury would feel that these things might have been used against them as citizens in a revolutionary uprising, and therefore they would be prejudiced against the accused.

Among the experiments allowed in court are trying on clothes to see whether they fit, operating a machine, sticking a pin in the leg of a paralytic to show the insensibility to pain, playing musical instruments, singing operatic airs, working a cash register and donning a burglar's mask. It is usually the prosecutor who brandishes a pistol and waves a blackjack over the heads of the jurymen so that they may have a vivid sensation of being in the place of the crime's victim. In a murder case it was held that the jury should have been allowed to handle the skull of the victim to trace the bullet's path, and to witness an experimental shooting at blotters. The request of another murder defendant to try a shotgun and show that it did not scatter shot in the way shot was scattered over the body of the dead man was denied. In Alabama a man charged with murder was allowed to make tracks on sawdust on the floor of the courtroom to show that his footprints did not correspond with those of the guilty person in a sandy field. A Connecticut court refused to accept as an exhibit "a section of a human body, cut from a woman about the plaintiff's size and age," on the ground that the exhibit was of doubtful utility and offensive in its nature. This piece of human flesh was intended to illustrate an anatomical point which could have been illustrated by charts and wax models, but the lawyer argued that the rule of "best evidence" required the real object.

An Ohio jury was permitted to witness an experimental reconstruction of a fatal accident at a railroad crossing. In this outdoor scene there were a locomotive and train and a horse and buggy, with a man seated in the vehicle. Cats and dogs are not infrequently brought into court. Bloodhounds figure personally or by proxy in Southern and Western courts, although an authority says "there is no certainty in such evidence. It is really the dog that is the witness, and the evidence would seem to be hearsay in this view." It must be established that the bloodhound witness is of pure breed, keen scented and trained in tracking human beings, and that he was started on the right trail. Some judges will not receive a bloodhound either as a witness or as an exhibit. It is debated also whether living human exhibits are permissible to establish age, race or color. Babies are commonly offered in evidence to show their resemblance to an alleged father. Such an exhibit makes a good deal of fuss in the courtroom, and, of course, it is impossible to attach it to the record for the consideration of a higher tribunal, which is the standard argument against all exhibits. One judge warmly defended this class of real evidence, saying that there was "no good reason why a jury should be compelled to base their decision upon a second hand view." Human beings put in evidence for their wounds or diseases may have the privilege of a private examination by a committee of experts, but elderly spinsters are forced to tell their age in open court. Bald heads and false teeth may be tagged with numbers or letters of the alphabet and referred to by learned counsel as defendant's exhibit so-and-so.

FRENCH SHOW ORIGINALITY.

A baby elephant was once taken into the high court of justice in London before Baron Pollock and a jury. The plaintiff was a young woman, who was driving a pony cart to a wild animal show, when the horse ran away through fear of the baby elephant, and the woman was injured. The so-called infantile pachyderm, which weighed about two tons, marched into the courtroom with bells on his head, following his keeper and behaving in an exemplary manner. The beast stood before the jury, and counsel remarked, amid laughter: "I have no questions to ask." This exhibit put every one in such good humor that the case was soon settled, the judge observing that the elephant had come to court to offer apologies in person. In another English trial the plaintiff was ordered to produce in court Running Rein, a Derby winner, whose parentage was in doubt, and, the horse not being produced, the case was non-suited.

Juries are forbidden to try experiments in private, and when they inspect premises they must not gather fresh evidence. The latter ban is more theoretical than practical, since men are bound to obtain original impressions and draw original conclusions from what they see. The theory of excluding evidence which cannot be transmitted to the higher court for review is negatived by the fact that ordinary testimony is a record of bare vital attitudes and intonations of witnesses. If the higher court wished a perfect record it would require the use of phonographs and moving pictures.

The dramatic and artistic gifts of the French people make their tribunals highly picturesque. The stage setting is always fine and the properties well chosen. The eloquent advocates hark back in literary allusion at least a thousand years earlier than Anglo-Saxon attorneys. American pleaders quote Shakespeare, but the Frenchman more or less aptly refers to Homer and Rameses. The austere gowns of the Gallic court heighten the dramatic effect. Almost anything may be introduced in evidence, including copies of New York yellow journals, but it is said that undue weight is not attached to trifling exhibits—they are merely allowed to complete a pleasing ensemble. A dressmaking trial gives the courtroom the appearance of Paquin's establishment and brings out the exquisite taste of Frenchmen in feminine apparel, while an action involving art transforms the chamber of justice into a studio filled with voluble connoisseurs. Grotesque and horrifying exhibits are brought into court in criminal cases; sometimes the jury visits the scene of a murder and witnesses a reconstruction of the grewsome deed by official actors. Reconstruction, however, is usually a third degree measure practised on a suspected person to extort confession. A recent instance was the case of Mme. Steinheil, accused of the murder of her artist husband, and said to be concerned in the death of President Faure some years ago.

Edmond Kelly, who was counsel for the American Embassy in Paris and is an authority on French law, said that the Gallic courts had advantages of their own. Among these are the services of the "huissier," an official like a notary public, who visits the scene of crime or civil litigation and writes an official description of the surroundings, which is admitted in evidence practically without question. This procedure obviates many disputes and the unnecessary calling of witnesses. The testimony of a huissier was practically conclusive in the celebrated Fair case, in which it was a question whether husband or wife died first through an automobile accident. Mr. Kelly represented the successful contention of the husband's relatives. As to sensational criminal cases, the lawyer recalled the trial of a man and woman for the murder of an employe of the Bank of France. The victim had been lured into a room, and while he was in bed a noosed rope connecting with a pulley in the ceiling was slipped around his neck; then he was hauled up to his death. Afterward the body was packed in a trunk. The entire apparatus was exhibited in court and its operation explained to the jury. The man who pulled the rope was executed, but his woman accomplice escaped the mortal penalty on the ground that she was under hypnotic influence.

An odd exhibit in French courts is the photograph of a man who is tried and convicted of some crime in his absence. Probably the fugitive from justice is not worried very much by the sentencing of his picture to a term of imprisonment.

WHERE "PROPERTIES" ARE KEPT.

In the dim attic of the New York Criminal Courts Building, amid criss-cross steel beams, elevator machinery and the litter of smashed gambling apparatus, are stored the legal properties which are used to deprive men of life or liberty. Some of them have played their part, others have been rejected by the stage manager. Just now one of District Attorney Jerome's young men, who has been arranging a life and death drama in a courtroom three floors below, comes with a requisition upon Property Clerk Fitzsimmons for a revolver, two knives, a silk handkerchief, a woman's dress and a package of love letters. An indexed book tells just where to find the articles among the hundreds of brown paper packages on shelves behind a heavy wire screen. A drawer contains a large colored diagram or scene plot of the crime, made by W. H. Voelckening, the official topographical draftsman, and there may be a few official protographs. The bundles on the shelves are mostly too well wrapped to betray their contents, but one package shows the broken crown of a derby hat, another a pair of shoes and a third a pair of ice tongs. In a dark corner stands part of a human skeleton on an iron rod, and beside it the model of a woman's bust. These are ancient properties whose history is almost forgotten. Something fresh and affecting is a roll of bedding on which an unknown woman called Flora, slaughtered by an unknown man, lay dead for two weeks in an East 11th street lodging house before the police discovered the crime last December. Perhaps twenty years from now remorse or the mischance which hounds murderers will bring the unknown man to the bar of justice, and then the bedding will be unrolled before a jury and the dark old blood spots will demand retribution. If the murderer knows that this bedding is stored up against him, it is impossible that he should be at ease for the rest of his life, however far he may be removed from the scene of the crime.

Without being a Sherlock Holmes, one may deduce the nature of many crimes by looking over the stored exhibits. Take these sample lots:

Keys, gas jet, brass cock and scissors; drug bottles, medical books, photos, syringe, checks; bottle of beer, whiskey flask, broken soda bottles, towels, bludgeon, chisel, check book, photo; three daggers, two revolvers, two thermometers, three bottles of prussic acid, china box, wooden dumbell, wire, empty iron bomb, white crêpe paper, glass rod (case of Jellalian, a Syrian murder); revolver and stiletto; lock, jimmy, chisel, three staples, box of stolen furs; broken banister post, laundry and picnic tickets, revolver, photos, diagram; blackjack, revolver, counterfeit money, Chinese laundry ticket, pawn ticket; marriage certificate and brass knuckles, nightshirt, bottle of chloroform, mask and slungshot.

MANY EXHIBITS DESTROYED.

Exhibits offered by the prosecution in General Sessions are in the custody of Clerk Carroll, and they are kept in a basement room. Among the grisliest of these objects is an alleged garrote—a short rope, covered with chamois leather, and having rings at the ends for the convenience of the presumptive strangler—and a blood stained tub, in which an Armenian, Aram Tashiran, packed the dismembered body of this brother after killing him. The coroners have their own creepy or grotesque properties stored on the first floor of the Criminal Courts Building. There are many bottles of poison and suicidal implements. A coroner's jury lately examined with interest the feminine frills and furbelows of one Louise Becker, who dropped dead at a West Side address and was then discovered to be a man. He or she had been making a living as a woman cook.

The District Attorney shows a neat exhibit in prosecutions for violation of the refilling act. This is a liquor bottle, with a small black star on the label at a point below the height of the contents. A man goes into a saloon and calls for a drink of choice whiskey. As he takes the bottle in his hand to pour out a drink he presses his thumb, inked from a pad in his pocket, on the label at the height of the liquid within. He comes back an hour later, calls for another drink, and, seeing that the whiskey has risen above the mark, knows that the bottle has been refilled. Of course, he appropriates the evidence on the spot.

"That's the greatest crime of all," feelingly observed a clerk in the property room, "to rob a poor man who pays 15 cents, thinking he's getting a good glass of liquor."

Exhibits in the bomb line are made safe by the bureau of combustibles before they are taken into court. Most properties are kept about a year after the termination of the case in which they are used, on account of the possibility of appeal, and are then turned over to the property clerk at Police Headquarters to be sold at auction. Dangerous weapons, including knives, revolvers and slungshots, are not sold, but are periodically destroyed by the police authorities. Several thousand dollars' worth of these articles were taken to sea and dumped overboard by the police a few years ago. Valuable properties may be returned to their owners twenty days after the end of a trial.

HOW EASTER IS FIXED.

Whether Easter falls in chilly March or sunny April is a question of importance to every holiday maker. The earliest day on which Easter can fall is March 22. Only once in the last century, and not once in this century, was this early date Easter Day. Twice in the nineteenth century it fell on March 23, and this will be the date only once in the present century—in the year 1913. The latest possible Easter Day is April 25. This was the date once in the last century, and will be once in the present—in 1943. Five weeks separate these extremes, so that the question of date involves about two hours of daylight and a considerable difference in temperature. Most Easters fortunately happen in April. During the next twenty years there will be sixteen April Easters and only four in March.

Originally the Christian Easter was the same day as the Jewish feast of the Passover, but in early Christian times a change was made. The Passover is the fourteenth day of the Paschal moon, and Easter was fixed as the first Sunday after the fourteenth day.

The fixing of the day is a complicated and difficult process. It must follow the vernal equinox, and so the solar wear has to be taken into account. It must follow the fourteenth day of the Paschal moon, and consequently the lunar month has to be considered, and with these conditions the days of the week have to be reconciled, as Easter Day must be a Sunday.

The rule observed is that Easter shall be the first Sunday following the fourteenth day of the calendar moon, which happens on or after March 21. This calendar moon is not the real moon of the heavens, but an imaginary moon, created for ecclesiastical purposes.

Nor is March 21 always the date of the vernal equinox. It is usually the 20th and sometimes the 19th. The date of Easter is therefore quite artificial.

On the date of Easter most of the great Church festivals depend. The beginning of Lent, Ash Wednesday, is determined by the date of the next Easter Sunday, and so is Whit Sunday, the seventh Sunday after Easter Day.—London Express.