

RATS.

It is doubtful if anybody will dispute the general agreement that rats are noisome creatures. Nobody wants them around, says the Philadelphia Press. They are voracious, they are destructive, they are dirty—they are a nuisance generally wherever they congregate. They plague the farmer whose feed bins they invade; they gnaw holes where there ought not to be any holes; to men below decks they constitute one of the few drawbacks of life at sea; to women who encounter them in dark corners at home or abroad they are a source of terror, though not necessarily of danger. In short, they are unquestionably one of life's pests, serving no useful purpose—useless, or at best superfluous, even as scavengers, for they prefer good food to bad and thus play a not unimportant part in boosting the cost of living. They sustain life and health at the expense of their betters. Therefore from the standpoint of social economy, to say nothing of the public health and comfort, to exterminate them is a public as well as a private duty. There are amply good and sufficient reasons for warring against rats. They ought to go. As has been fully demonstrated in the past, they perform no useful services any more than do flies, an equally pernicious pest. But apparently they are not so grievous a menace to health as some have feared.

The Milwaukee Physicians' association, having formally decided that kissing is "a menace to health and decency" as well as "a blot on civilization," will attempt to secure legislation making it a punishable offense. This action is wholly in accordance with the modern spirit of regulating the behavior of other people, says the New York World. In the unenlightened times before there were "protections," any one who thought a habit or custom objectionable stopped practicing it and left it to others to do the same or not, as they pleased. But passive action of the kind is no longer regarded as sufficient. Everybody is now the steward of somebody else's welfare, and the proper thing is to prevent others by law from doing what some individual or set deems offensive. Never before, in fact, was there so much prying about personal liberty along with so little regard for it in others.

On account of the serious decline in the birth rate of Prussia—from 35 per 1,000 in 1901 to 20 in 1910—all the provincial governments have been instructed to make inquiries into the cause, which are thought to be economic and social, rather than purely physiological. The more small flats and tenements the more babies. The increase of prosperity in the more fortunate classes, the more strenuous and nerve-racking urban life and the spread of education all tend to lower the birth rate. The chief cause of fewer births in Prussia and throughout Germany, where the total of 2,000,000 is the lowest in the past 13 years, is believed to be in the housing conditions. Recent statistics showed that 600,000 Berliners are living in tenements of one or two rooms, with from 5 to 13 persons in each room. Babies born in such an environment naturally die early. Such conditions conduce to race homicide, as well as to race suicide.

The improved farm land area of this country increased only 15 per cent. in the decade from 1900 to 1910. That is not enough to satisfy social and economic demands, or even to keep pace with our increase in population, which was 21 per cent. To get the right perspective one must differentiate between farming land and improved farm land, says the Omaha Bee. Half of our territory is in farm land, but when it is stated that half of all our improved farm land lies within the states of Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa, Missouri, Minnesota, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and North and South Dakota, the need for a wider area of cultivated soil may be appreciated. Allowing land to yield less than it is capable of yielding is rank waste, and this waste is one of the vital elements in the advanced cost of living. It is not altogether a matter of getting people "back to the farm," that is important, but getting those on the farm to adopt more effective methods of tilling the soil is quite as necessary.

That it is an ill wind which blows nobody good was proved in a most startling way by the experience of a Connecticut cottager who lost a wall and then found it deposited at his door by a storm which blew it three miles across the water to its owner.

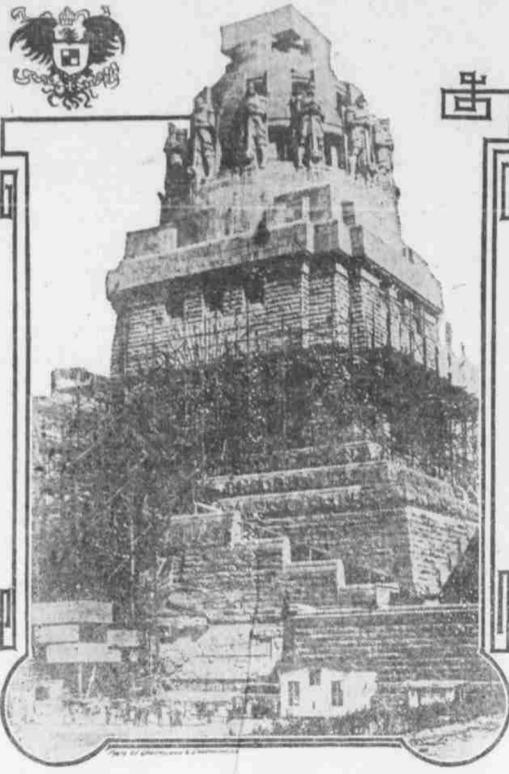
It is a shame to think what American athletes may be expected to do with the Olympic games when this country gets a chance to entertain the champions of the world.

After all, the spectators at the Olympiad won't know what real sport is until they see the games in a world's series.

Green peas are said to promote frivolity. But with the man who tries to balance them on a fork, they promote something else.

Between the going and the returning vacationer is all the difference between anticipation and realization.

LEIPSIG'S GREAT BATTLE MONUMENT



This magnificent monument which is now nearing completion, is being erected in the city of Leipzig, Germany, in commemoration of the one hundredth anniversary of the battle of Leipzig, which will be celebrated in October. The monument is built on massive lines, and the figures around the dome are of huge dimensions. When completed, this battle monument will have cost \$1,500,000.

REBEL'S MIXED ARMY

How Zapata Recruited His Followers in Mexico.

Every Outlaw and Fugitive From Justice Was Enlisted by "The Attila of Mexico," as Peons Call Him.

Mexico City.—When Zapata first recruited his followers they told me he had drawn to himself every outlaw and fugitive from justice who up to that time had been hiding in the Morcos hills or in the vast underground caves of Cuernavaca, near Cuernavaca. Later, when Zapata and his men took Cuernavaca, Zapata opened the jail and penitentiary, and, putting a good rifle and a handful of cartridges into each convict's hands, he bade them help themselves to horses wherever they could find them. As there are several horse ranches and rich haciendas with celebrated racing studs in the immediate vicinity of Cuernavaca, it did not take long before all those new recruits went mounted on the best of horses, as was here to be seen.

After the great review of Zapata's bandit forces, Senor Madero committed the colossal blunder, as it turned out to be, of paying off all of Zapata's men for their alleged services in the Madero revolution, without putting an armed guard over them to see that they actually turned in their rifles and cartridges before returning to their homes.

The result of this was that Emiliano Zapata simply drew the sum of 50,000 pesos set aside for himself and his followers, without bothering to turn in more than a few stacks of arms, after which he announced that he and his men would not give any more arms unless they received twice the amount of the originally stipulated sum.

After this the misunderstanding between the newly constituted government authorities and the Zapata brothers grew apace. Zapata was summoned to the capital. He came defiantly, surrounded by an armed bodyguard. In his brief stay at one of the principal hotels in Mexico City he lived things up by shooting out all the windows of the cantina because they would not serve him with drinks after 3 in the morning.

On the following day he and his companions commandeered some half dozen city taxicabs and rode back to Cuernavaca, about 75 miles away. After this Zapata and his men in Morcos became quite unmanageable so far as the newly constituted authorities were concerned. Francisco de la Barra, Mexico's president at the time, tried to temporize with the Zapata brothers for a while, after which Senor Madero, in his capacity as leader of the revolution, pending his election as constitutional president, made a special trip to Morelos to "smooth down" the enraged Zapatistas.

But the "smoothing down" did not last, for within a week Zapata's followers were "shooting up" the columns of regular soldiers who had been sent to garrison the most important towns of Morelos, in response to the frantic appeals of the bandit harried inhabitants of that state.

From this time forth the campaign between Zapata's bandit forces and various expeditions of government forces has been in full swing. All this so-called "campaign" on the part of the Zapatistas, was marked by acts of unbridled murder, arson and rapine.

When the government forces reported to savage reprisals, such as burning down villages, imprisoning women and children and hanging or shooting all men believed to be in league with Zapata, the warfare in these unhappy districts of Mexico naturally took a turn for the worse, and the whole region became almost uninhabitable.

The railway traffic between the capital and Morelos has been brought to a standstill since the recent bid-up and massacre of railway passengers and their escort of armed soldiers half way between the City of Mexico and Cuernavaca, when forty persons were killed.

Since this event several of the railway stations and bridges along that line have been burned down by the Zapatistas, only a few hours from the City of Mexico, so that the railway service between the capital and the states of Morelos and Guerrero has had to be suspended altogether.

MAN SEEKS "STANDARD" WIFE

Doctor Who Says He is a "Standard" Man Appeals to Preacher Who Ventered as Matchmaker.

Minneapolis, Minn.—In a sermon recently Rev. G. L. Morrill of this city offers to aid bachelors to get wives. Now he is seeking a "standard" woman for a "standard" man, the latter having written him a letter in which he describes just the kind of a woman he wants to make his home a paradise. The "standard" man is a Janesville (Wis.) physician, and declared he, as a "standard" man, is one-tenth above the female sex.

The letter in part follows: "I have just read your marriage offer. I lost my wife last winter, leaving a lonely void in my home. Am just past forty and have no children. Have a fine home. I have no infirmities and no bad habits.

"Now, if you have any lady bachelor from twenty-five to thirty-five that would like a first-class home, with a large, fine garden, one that will come near physical standard and has good health, you may give her my address. A standard woman in stature is 5 feet 4 to 5 inches. When arms are extended the measure from tip to tip of fingers would be equal to height. She should have chest measurement near 35 inches and weigh near 130 pounds. Must not have shoulder blades prominent like wings or have short legs from knee down. Must not have pug nose or thick lips. Upper lip must be short with upper teeth projecting.

"She must not have lop-ears. Rather fine hair and fine features preferred, and a well developed chin. Good cooks and good nurses are generally preferable and make best wives." The name of Dr. A. P. Burns, Janesville, Wis., appeared on the envelope.

Or Rah-rah Socks. "How are we to get the plain people this year? All the candidates are college graduates."

"Our side has its plans mapped out. We're going to tell 'em that our man never wore a clambell cap when he went to college."

werp, who is spending his first day in America with a woman companion and her eight-year-old daughter.

SEEK PAN-AMERICAN CODE

Two United States Delegates Are Encouraged by Work of Rio Janeiro Conference.

Washington, D. C.—Henry L. James and Frederick Van Dyne, two delegates from the United States to the international conference for the codification of public and private international law, which recently finished its work at Rio Janeiro, Brazil, have returned to this country. Mr. James, who is assistant chief of the Latin-American division of the state department, reported that the delegates from this country are convinced that a substantial foundation has been laid in the Rio Janeiro conference for the development of a form of proceeding which will insure uniformity of laws and practice in American international relations.

While the task is a monumental one, owing to the difficulty of reconciling and unifying practices based on principles so widely variant as the Latin code and the British and American common law, it is expected that tangible results will come from work to be performed by a number of sub-committees. To these committees have been assigned some of the most vexatious problems of international relations which will be considered at meetings to be held in the following six capitals: Montevideo, Lima, Santos and Washington, at dates to be determined by the chairman.

SCHOONER TO BE FISH BOAT

Ship of Adventure in Which the Poet-Navelst Sailed "In the South Seas" to Be Remodeled.

San Francisco.—Four lines of agate type, buried in the water-front news of the day, carry the announcement that the schooner Casco, immortal as the ship of adventure in which 24 years ago Robert Louis Stevenson sailed over the sky line of romance, never to return, soon will be remodeled "to enter the fishing business."

Stevenson sailed from San Francisco in 1888. Cruising through Oceania on the Casco, in search of health, he gathered the materials for "The Ebb Tide," "The Wrecker" and "In the South Seas."

CLAM GETS PICNICER'S \$5 How Louis Ludden of Winnet, Conn., Lost a Gold Piece and Found It in a Shell.

Winnet, Conn., Aug. 15.—Louis Ludden, member of a clam-bake party here, stood beside a barrel of clams which was partly covered. In taking some matches from his trousers pocket, he pulled out a \$5 gold piece, which dropped into the barrel. The barrel was emptied, but no coin was to be found.

AUTOS AND SHOE LEATHER

What the Modern Luxury Will Cost the Poor of All Countries in Foot Wear.

New York.—The tremendous growth of the motor car industry is producing a scarcity of leather so great that in a little over four years, according to the leading authority in the New England shoe trade, the price has advanced 72 per cent. The Toronto Globe writes. This advance, he stated, must inevitably result in an increase of 20 per cent. in the cost of shoes all over the world. The interdependence not only of nations in matters of trade and commerce, but of the rich and poor, is strikingly illustrated by the statement of the New England expert. Poor folk in the remotest corners of civilization, who rarely see a motor car, will be forced to spend a larger part of their scanty income upon shoes, a necessity of existence, because rich people are pouring out money upon a new luxury.

GIRL WIFE GETS DIVORCE

Mrs. Guide of Trenton, N. J., Spurns the \$3 a Week That Recent Spouse Offered.

Trenton, N. J.—Special Master in Chancery Ayers has recommended a divorce for Mrs. Elizabeth Guide of Newark, who sued George Guide for divorce on the ground of desertion.

Mrs. Guide, who is scarcely out of her teens, declared in her bill of complaint that she had spurned her husband's "offer" of \$3 weekly for her support.

The couple were married after a three weeks' courtship and three days after the marriage he went to Newark, telling his wife a "cousin" wanted to see him. Returning the next day, he said his "cousin" did not approve of their marriage and that he had better part. He then took his belongings and left.

Whereupon, a copy of a scandalous report concerning Philadelphia cats was shown to him.

Philadelphia has had her post-office supplied with a collection of high class cats. As soon as these cats reported for duty at Uncle Sam's office there they immediately contracted a bad case of Philadelphia hookworm.

Although on the official pay roll, so runs the story, they fell into line, formed a union, and announced themselves old-time Philadelphia conservatives. The mice have recovered from their scare and the cats are taking graft.

"Is this a good town?" "Naw, rotten! I had 't'ree jobs offered me in one day."

WASHINGTON GOSSIP

Treasury Clerks Are Caged Like Camorristi



WASHINGTON.—When one looks on the picture of the Camorristi in their cage in Viterbo, where they were being tried as instigators of crimes and members of criminal organizations, it comes right home to the clerks who work in the treasury department in Washington. Since the economy cranks do not work they have turned the old treasury department upside down. The secretary of the treasury has a little walk of his own, a little elevator of his own and a driveway made through a portion of the treasury plaza purposely for him, none of these to be used by the clerks or any of the assistants about the treasury department. Before the economy commission got in their heads there was a sort of placita in the heart of the treasury, the white stone walls being built up around it. When so many of the corridors and other rooms had to be taken up by private elevators, drive ways and runways for higher officials, this placita was fixed up as a sort of a glass house, and several hundred clerks fired out into that. Of course, the sun beats down on this glass house from the time that it rises until it sets, and the result was that about half the clerks were ill all of the time from the heat last summer. So this summer they gave put a great canvas over this glass house, and the poor clerks that work under this are turned in in the morning, and the iron gates are closed like a stone prison, and to get out to get a bite to eat in the 30 minutes they have at noon they have to tell their name, age, nativity, place of residence and a lot of other family history. At least those who have to eat say that it seems to them it takes up enough time to give their pedigree from the Revolution to now before they get out without having to do the same things to get back in, and that takes up at least 10 minutes from their scant half hour for eating. It is said the iron cages are necessary for the safety of the money which the clerks are counting, but the treasury department has been running for about 100 years with no such safeguards, and there hasn't been \$100 lost in the whole 100 years. So, after all, the clerks in that section of the treasury department haven't anything over the Camorristi who were shut up in steel cages every day.

Alexander Bluffs Ajax In a Hymeneal Mix-Up

ALEX Power and Ajax Tobey, two leading members of the colored back alley 400, who were related by marriage, inasmuch as Alex had had Ajax's sister to the hymeneal altar and promised to provide board and lodging for the rest of her natural days, were arraigned before Judge Douglas of the police court on a number of charges ranging from "cussing" to "scrapping."

The statement made by Alex was, that the lightning defer invaded his domicile and in the presence of his copper colored spouse had used language of a very tabascotic variety. Alex further testified that he had picked up a stick of stove wood with which he persuaded Ajax to desist. Unlike his famous prototype, who defied the unseen, Ajax willed when he saw that piece of timber in the muscular hands of the brawny Alexander, and bent it. He didn't take time to leave by the door, but jumped out of the back room window, which, in his precipitate flight he did not stop to open. The result was disastrous—to the window—and the smoky Ajax sought protection of the police.

"What brought about the difficulty," queried the Highland chieftain, who is presiding over the police court in the absence of Judge Hugo (to 1). "Do language dat nigger used was so wust ah is ever heard."

"What did he say?" "He say d—n an' h—ll an' er heap mo' sick words."

"What did you say?" "Wat did ah say, why Judge I tell him dat ah'd w—red if ah'd stand hit, an' dat ah would give him h—ll if he didn't quit."

Uncle Sam's Official Fish Guesser Is Let Out

THE official guesser for the United States government has lost his job. For years the government has sought live salmon upon the good eye of a veteran fisherman, who took a squint at each fish and then put down in his book what he guessed to be the right weight. The bills were paid accordingly—thousands of dollars.

Every year the government buys from 600 to 1,000 live salmon for breeding from the weir owners on the Bucksport, Verona, Orland and Penobscot shores. The price paid is the market rate, from 20 to 35 cents a pound, with 60 cents bonus for each fish for the trouble of keeping them alive.

To get at the exact weight of a live salmon is practically impossible, for it is very delicate work at best in dipping them from the "pound" in the weirs to the "car," which is an old dory filled with water, carefully lined with cotton flannel and covered with a netting, which is covered outside with canvas. The utmost cau-

Capital City Post-Office Cats Always on Job

"ARE the post-office employes here doing their duty?" "Yes," said Postmaster N. A. Merritt curtly.

"How about the cats?" he was asked. "They are on the job, too."

Then Mr. Merritt stopped to consider whether Washington had any cats on the official pay roll or not. He wasn't sure, but insisted that they were working overtime, provided they were recognized civil service employes.

Whereupon, a copy of a scandalous report concerning Philadelphia cats was shown to him.

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4 MILES FROM CORK

Location of Famous Blarney Stone in Ireland.

It Has Curious History—Some Say Kissing Rock Gives Eloquence—Others Merely the Ability to Bluff.

Dublin.—The story of the Blarney stone is surrounded with a careless vagueness of historical detail characteristic of its comity of origin and quite appropriate to the nature of the yarn itself.

Blarney is a village four miles northwest of Cork, with 800 inhabitants. It is situated on the Blarney river and has some celebrity for its tweeds, but the castle and its stone are, of course, the main glory of the place.

The castle is little more than a square tower 120 feet high, with machicolated battlements, and it was the stronghold of the McCarthys. The famous stone is of triangular shape, and it lowered from the north angle of the castle, about 20 feet from the top. It bears the following inscription:

"Cormac McCarthy Fortia Me Fieri Feit, A. D. 1446."

How the stone acquired its reputation is disputed, but the version given by Wheeler's "Familiar Allusions" holds the field, probably because it is the only connected story offering anything like an explanation.

"When or how it first got its singular reputation is not known, but the supposition concerning it is firmly fixed in the minds of the Irish peasantry, hundreds of whom resort to the castle every year for the purpose of kissing a stone endowed with a property so marvelous.

The story runs that in 1602 Cormac McCarthy, the lord of Castle Blarney, concluded an armistice with Carew, the lord resident, on condition of surrendering the fortress to the English garrison, but whenever the fulfillment of his pledges was demanded he invented some smooth and plausible excuse for delay, till Carew became the laughing stock of Elizabeth's ministers.

"Thus," says Wheeler, "the term 'Blarney' became a byword and was used to denote a soft, insinuating and deceitful manner of speech."

It is said that Queen Elizabeth herself was the first to use the phrase "It is all Blarney."

Samuel Lever has written about the Blarney Stone. The best known verse is:

"O say, would you find this name 'Blarney' There's a castle not far from Willarney. On the top of its wall "(But take care you don't fall) There's a stone that contains all the Blarney. Like a magnet its influence such is, That attraction is gives all it touches;" "If you kiss it, they say From that blessed day, You may kiss whom you please with your Blarney."

The exact position of the stone is another matter of considerable dispute and the doubt is much too remunerative to be disposed of.

The general supposition is that the stone is the one fixed by iron to the parapet of the large square tower (which used to be the donjon or keep of the castle) some feet from the top.

In order to kiss the stone it is necessary "to lie on your back over the machicolation."

Others maintain that this is not the stone at all, but that the right stone lies loose on the ground. So far there is no record of the Lancet having drawn attention to the danger of promiscuous osculation such as Blarney invites, a curious omission.

RAISE MANGO IN FLORIDA

Government Experimenters Succeed With Tree Given to Official by Prince in India.

Washington.—President Taft has been presented with a fine basket of East Indian mangoes raised in the United States. The bureau of plant introduction, which is experimenting with hundreds of foreign fruits in the effort to find new varieties that will grow here, raised the mangoes in Florida. They came from a tree presented to David Fairchild, chief of the bureau of plant introduction, when he was in India some years ago, by one of the princes of that land. Mr. Fairchild says mango growing in the United States can be made a commercial success.

Dies of Lion Bite. Ottawa, Ont.—John Carroll of New York, an employe of Hag's circus, is dead at Moncton, New Brunswick. He had his arm mangled by a lioness and blood poisoning followed.