

TO DRIVE BLACKBIRDS FROM KANSAS CAPITAL

Thousands of the Birds Infest Trees of City—Roman Candles Used to Drive Them Away.

Topeka, Kan., Sept. 30.—The city of Topeka has purchased a ton of Roman candles to see if the blackbirds cannot be driven out of the trees of the city. Thousands of the blackbirds some say millions, infest the city's big elm trees late in summer and make the streets dangerous and unsightly. Early each evening they fly into the trees of the parks and about the residences and especially into the 20 acres of forest at Bethany College in the center of the city. Prof. L. L. Dyche, state fish and game warden, told the city officials that Roman candles would drive them out. The city bought its supply and tried them. Four men fired the Roman candles singly and by volleys into the trees. As the flying balls of fire swept through the leaves of the trees the birds fairly screamed at their distur-

ers. A few would take wing and fly to nearby trees but most of them held to their roosts and chattered noisily. When the supply of fireworks was exhausted the blackbirds were still in the trees and noiser than ever. They kept up their clatter until a late hour and the residents of the neighborhood were divided regarding the efficacy of the fireworks method. Most of them favored waging a more bloody war with shotguns instead of Roman candles for weapons. The fireworks will be repeated for several successive nights. Then the birds will be given several nights quiet after which they will be subjected to nightly bombardments for several nights more.

Lesson of the Tomcat.
A tomcat sat on a backyard fence Singing "Meow! Meow! meow!" His vocal method was far from impressive, but he did it anyhow; Whatever you do, have no talents hid—Do the best you can, as the tomcat did.

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MAYOR SETS FIRE TO SLOT MACHINES

Burned Up \$5,000 of the Illegal Devices for Coaxing Pennies Out of People's Pockets.

West Hammond, Ill., Sept. 30.—Cheered on by 2,500 reformers, under the leadership of Virginia Brooks, West Hammond's mayor burned twenty-two slot machines worth \$5,000 confiscated in an early morning raid. West Hammond dives. As Mayor Wosczyński poured coal oil on the shiny devices somebody thought of the coins remaining in the pockets of the machines. The mayor sent for an axe and started smashing the glass that protected the pockets. Five hundred persons rushed to the pile of junk, and madly fought for the money. When the last coin was taken, the mayor started the fire. Inside of twenty minutes all that remained was a pile of twisted scrap iron.

MEXICAN COTTON GROWERS PROFIT BY TEXAS METHODS

Eagle Pass, Texas, Sept. 30.—The cotton growers on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande river held a trades day recently in which eighty-three wagon loads of cotton were in line. In all there were 620 bales valued at approximately \$40,000 in the parade and the display created considerable comment. The Agrícola Y Ganadera Compania, which operates a large tract of land about thirty miles north of this city was the participant. Later a banquet of Mexico in which the cotton was raised at one time was the banner crop country of the republic but owing to the devastation of the boll weevil the land has practically been abandoned, until recently, when Texas methods of combating the crop pests were introduced and since which the acreage planted to cotton has been steadily increasing.

Street Oiling in Galveston.
Galveston, Texas, Sept. 30.—Some 10,000 gallons of oil are yet to be sprinkled over the city streets before the existing contracts for May, July and September are completed, according to an estimate made by City Engineer A. T. Dickey. The May contract called for the oiling of 20,000 square yards; that of July for 14,648 square yards, while for September four appropriations, each for \$499 have been made. The approximate cost is 1-2 cents per gallon, each covering about 2-1-1 square yards.

SAN ANTONIO'S PLAN FOR HARVEST JUBILEE

San Antonio, Sept. 30.—Preparations for the Harvest Jubilee, to be held in San Antonio, October 19-28, have progressed so satisfactorily that the success of the celebration is assured. Already thirty thousand tickets of admission have been disposed of and money is in hand to insure every obligation being taken care of. The following tentative program for the ten days of the celebration has been adopted:

Saturday, Oct. 19: Texas German Day. 11 a. m. parade through streets of city. United States troops escorting Gov. O. B. Colquitt; 1:30 p. m., opening exercises at Jubilee Grounds, followed by reception to the Governor; 4 to 6 p. m., chariot and harness races; 4 to 6 p. m. concert by Ellery's band; 8 to 10 p. m., singing by German Choral Societies and concert by Ellery's band.

Sunday, Oct. 20: Beginning at 2:30 o'clock, chariot races, concert by Smith's band, motorcycle races and sacred concert by Ellery's band.

Monday, Oct. 21: School Children's Day. 3 to 4 p. m., patriotic songs by chorus of 5000 school children; 3 to 6 o'clock, athletic contests, track meet and football game; 4 to 6 o'clock, concert by Ellery's band; 8 to 10 o'clock, concert by Ellery's band and panorama, "Siege and Fall of the Alamo."

Tuesday, Oct. 22: 2:30 p. m., chariot and horse races and concert by Smith's band; 4 to 6 o'clock, concert by Smith's band; 4 to 6 o'clock, concert by Ellery's band; 8 to 10 o'clock, panorama "Siege and Fall of the Alamo."

Wednesday, Oct. 23: Army Day. 4 to 6 o'clock, concert by Ellery's band; 5 o'clock army gymnastics and concert by Smith's band; 8 to 10 o'clock, panorama "Siege and Fall of the Alamo."

Thursday, Oct. 24: San Antonio Day. Automobile races in the afternoon and concert by Smith's band; 4 to 6 o'clock, concert by Ellery's band; 8 to 10 o'clock, panorama "Siege and Fall of the Alamo."

Friday, Oct. 25: Good roads Day. 1 to 2 o'clock, free barbecue to all good roads delegates; 3 to 6 o'clock, fireman's contests and concerts by Ellery's and Smith's bands; 8 to 10 o'clock, panorama, "Siege and Fall of the Alamo."

Saturday, Oct. 26: Traveling Men's Day. 3 to 6 o'clock automobile races

THE CLOCK OF DEATH.

It Was the First Astronomical Timepiece Made in England.

The clock at Hampton court palace derived its unpleasant title by reason of a superstition that whenever any one long resident in the palace dies the clock immediately stops. It is of record that when Anne of Denmark, the queen of James I., died the old timepiece was striking four and that it stopped almost before the last stroke sounded. Since that time it is said to have repeated this grisly proceeding each time a royal personage within its jurisdiction died.

At any rate, the clock has an interesting history quite aside from this. It was the first astronomical timepiece made in England, being constructed in 1540 for Henry VIII. Thirty-two years ago it was brought out of a shed where it had lain neglected for nearly half a century, and by order of the then secretary of the office of works it was re-erected in the courtyard opposite the entrance to the state apartments. There is historical evidence to the effect that it was built by one Nicholas Cratzer, a German astronomer who came to England at the invitation of Cardinal Wolsey.

This old timepiece tells the hour, the month, the day of the month, the position of the sun and the number of days since the beginning of the year, the phases of the moon and its age, the hour at which it crosses the meridian and the time of high water at London bridge. The time required to wind it is half an hour every week. The weights have a descent of over sixty feet—Harper's.

THE VANISHING SEA COW.

A Marine Curiosity That Is Rapidly Nearing Extinction.

One of the largest fish that has inhabited the waters of the gulf of Mexico and the south Atlantic coast of this country and which is almost extinct is known as the manatee. It was found in great numbers a century ago, and even a few years back this creature was quite plentiful in certain localities.

It is very gentle for a large fish and easily captured in heavy nets, which are usually stretched across the mouths of rivers emptying into the south Atlantic or the gulf of Mexico. The flesh is very delicious and brings a high price, having a strong resemblance to the very finest veal. The skeleton is valued at \$100, and the skin if removed properly and cared for by those who understand its properties will bring a like amount.

This fish is often from ten to twelve feet in length and weighs about 2,000 pounds. It is so gentle it will not strike the light craft that happens to be near it, and when captured it shows no resistance whatever. It is safe to say that in the next quarter of a century this creature will become extinct unless specimens are preserved simply to prevent the complete loss of one of our most wonderful sea creatures.

It lives wholly on salt water vegetation and grows found in the mouths of the rivers emptying into the sea.—New York World.

FOOLING THE DOGS.

In the highlands of Scotland it used to be the practice for each shepherd to take his collie dog to church.

"These dogs," as Dean Ramsay wrote, "sit out the Gaelic services and sermon with commendable patience till toward the end of the last psalm, when there is a universal stretching and yawning and all are prepared to scamper out, barking in a most excited manner, whenever the blessing is commenced. The congregation of one of these churches determined that the service should close in a more decorous manner, and steps were taken to attain this object. Accordingly when a strange clergyman was officiating he found the people all sitting when he was about to pronounce the blessing. He hesitated and paused, expecting them to rise, till an old shepherd, looking up to the pulpit, said: "Say awa', sir. We're a-sittin' to cheat the dogs."

Thames Watermen.

The watermen and lightermen of London can trace their occupation back to a very remote past. In a statute of Henry VIII., passed in 1514, for regulating their fares, it is recorded "that it has been a laudable custome and usage tyme out of mind to use the river in barge or wherry bote." And the annals of the Watermen's company give an interesting account of a dispute as far back as 1293 concerning the charge for the conveyance of passengers from Gravesend to London. The regular fare was one-half penny for each person, but some unscrupulous boatmen charged passengers a penny. So the offenders were taken by the sheriff before the justices of assize, who admonished them and made each waterman give a bond of 40 shillings for future good behavior.—London Graphic.

The Supreme Court.

For the supreme court of the United States there is no exact precedent, either in the ancient or the modern times. In making the great constitution the "fathers" availed themselves of all past knowledge and experience, but it was probably from the French publicist Montesquieu that they got their idea of the supreme court. In his book, "The Spirit of the Laws," Montesquieu, after making a masterly analysis of all forms of government, uses these words: "There is no liberty if the judicial power be not separated from the legislative and the executive." The framers of the constitution knew Montesquieu's book well, and there is not any room for doubt about their getting the idea of the supreme court from that source.—New York American.

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Reckoning Time.

From the best information we have the calendar came into use 2330 B. C., with a week of seven days and a year of twelve months, named after zodiacal signs. The year consisted of 360 days, which probably suggested the division of the circle into degrees. Astronomical chronology was divided into cycles of 60 years, 600 years and the star, or 3,000 years. The "Observation of Bel," the great Babylonian work on astronomy and astrology, gave a record of eclipses of the sun and moon, conjunctions and phases of some of the planets, the time of the new year and many other scientific problems. Many of the calculations made in this ancient astronomy are of the utmost importance even in our day, and to it is due the era of Nabonassar, one of the most famous in the annals of chronology, the basis of all the computations of Ptolemy, and the dates in connection with Alexander and Aristotle. Since its epoch, Feb. 26, 747 B. C., it maintained its ground till after the commencement of the vulgar era.—Exchange.

True Art.

"Critics had praised me, academics had granted me exhibition space," said the artist; "still I was modest enough to think that I wasn't any great shakes as a painter. The thing that finally convinced me that maybe I was no dub after all, was the remark of a woman who knew a good deal more about bargain counters than she knew about art. She studied a picture that had made critics overwork their vocabulary in praising it, and her only comment was: 'My! I'll bet the cloth in that woman's tea gown cost every cent of \$2.50 a yard.' Just as a matter of curiosity I looked up my model and found that the dress she wore had cost just that a yard. Then I knew that I had been gifted with the divine fire. To depict values so faithfully that experienced shoppers can tell the cost of the cloth you paint seems to be hitting old art up at a pretty lively gait."—New York Press.

The Fire Eating Trick.

The first known fire breather was a Syrian slave named Eunus, a leader in the servile war in Sicily, 130 B. C. He pretended to have immediate communication with the gods. When desirous of inspiring his followers with courage he breathed flames and sparks from his mouth. In order to perform this marvel Eunus pierced a nutshell at both ends, and, having filled it with some burning substance, he put it in his mouth and breathed through it. The same trick is performed today in an improved manner. The juggler rolls together some flax while it is still burning. By this means the fire is retained in the ball for a long time. He slips this ball into his mouth unperceived and breathes through it. His breath revives the fire, and he sustains no injury so long as he inhales through his nostrils only.

An Appetizing Greek Dish.

Whatever may have been the secret of ancient Greek culture, it seems probable at least that it did not lie in the cuisine of the race, if the details of it that have been discovered by modern scholars are to be taken as accurate. A writer in Frazer's Magazine recently told of one dish that might have provoked a warrior to desperate deeds, but would hardly have inspired an artist or a poet. He says they mixed hog's lard and milk with thick gruel, making a paste of it and adding fresh cheese, yolks of eggs and beef brains. The mixture was wrapped in a fig leaf and boiled in the gravy of a chicken of kid. Then they took off the fig leaf and soured the morsel in a pot of boiling honey, then ate it.—Steward.

A Hundred Million Suns.

A peep into the heavens through a modern telescope is a peep into the very depths of mystery. With such an instrument one may gaze upon 100,000,000 stars, each of them a burning, blazing sun. From what little we know of creation we cannot but believe that each of those suns is giving light and heat to a train of planets, just in the same manner that our sun gives light and life to his little flock of worlds. Beyond those 100,000,000 suns there may be hundreds of millions more. Thus they may continue "system after system and worlds without end."

The Same Idea.

It is recorded that Napoleon, when asked to summarize the art of war, answered briefly, "The art of war consists in being strongest at a given point at a given time." This answer was terse and true, but that born but untaught fighter, General Forrest, expressed the same idea, yet more briefly and forcefully. When the grim old Confederate was asked how to win in battle he replied, "Get thar fust with the mostest men."

The best definition of nature is perhaps Mill's in his "Three Essays on Religion." In that work Mill says, "Nature is a collective name for all facts, actual and possible, or a name for the mode, partly known to us and partly unknown, in which all things take place." Continuing, Mill says: "The nature of a thing means its entire capacity of existing phenomena. As the nature of any given thing is the aggregate of its powers and properties, so Nature, in the abstract, is the aggregate of the powers and properties of all things."

Where He Balked.

"He has broken with her?" "So I have heard." "I hear that he told her he was unworthy of her." "Pshaw; all lovers tell their sweethearts that!" "I know. But she asked him to put it in writing and sign it in the presence of witnesses."—Atlanta Constitution.

RAILROAD TIME TABLE.

FRISCO TIME TABLE

Leave Brownsville to Houston
No. 102 4:05 a. m.
No. 104 4:00 p. m.
To Sam Fordyce
No. 124 10:00 a. m.
No. 124 3:00 p. m.
Arrive from Houston.
No. 103 12:15 p. m.
No. 101 11:40 p. m.
From Sam Fordyce
No. 121 6:00 p. m.
No. 123 9:55 a. m.

RIO GRANDE RAILWAY SCHEDULE

Effective Wednesday, Sept. 18.

DAYS OTHER THAN SUNDAY

BROWNSVILLE PT. ISABEL
Lv 8:00 a. m. Ar 9:30 a. m.
Ar 5:30 p. m. Lv 4:00 p. m.
SUNDAY
Lv 8:30 a. m. Ar 10:00 a. m.
Ar 7:30 p. m. Lv 6:00 p. m.

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