

INJURY BY RODENTS

Well Fed Rats Breed Often and Have Very Large Litters.

INJURE PRODUCE IN STORES

Not Only Foodstuffs and Forage, but Textiles, Clothing and Leather Goods Are Often Ruined—Cut Off Food Supply.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

The effect of an abundance of food on the breeding of rodents should be kept in mind. Well-fed rats mature quickly, breed often, and have large litters. Poorly fed rats, on the contrary, reproduce less frequently and have smaller litters. In addition, scarcity of food makes measures for destroying the animals far more effective.

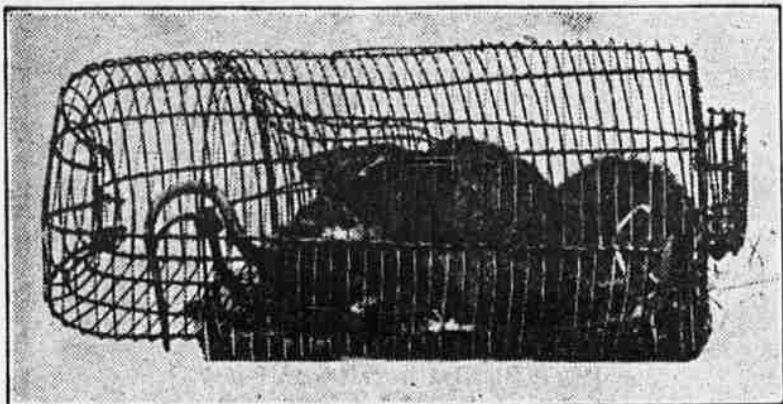
Merchandise in Stores.—In all parts of the country there is a serious economic drain in the destruction by rats and mice of merchandise held for sale by dealers. Not only foodstuffs and forage, but textiles, clothing, and leather goods are often ruined. This loss is due mainly to the faulty buildings in which the stores are kept. Often it would be a measure of economy to tear down the old structures and replace them by new ones. However, even the old buildings may often be repaired so as to make them prac-

unloaded at wharves or depots, food liable to attack by rats may be temporarily safeguarded by being placed in rat-proof cages, or pounds, constructed of wire netting. Wooden boxes containing reserve food held in depots for a considerable time or intended for shipment by sea may be made rat-proof by light coverings of metal along the angles. This plan has long been in use to protect naval stores on ships and in warehouses. It is based on the fact that rats do not gnaw the plane surface of hard materials, but attack doors, furniture and boxes at the angles only.

Packing Houses.—Packing houses and abattoirs are often sources from which rats secure subsistence, especially where meats are prepared for market in old buildings. In old-style cooling rooms with double walls of wood and sawdust insulation, always a source of annoyance because of rat infestation, the utmost vigilance is required to prevent serious loss of meat products. On the other hand, packing houses with modern construction and sanitary devices have no trouble from rats or mice.

Garbage and Waste.—Since much of the food of rats consists of garbage and other waste materials, it is not enough to bar the animals from markets, granaries, warehouses and private food stores. Garbage and offal of all kinds must be so disposed of that rats cannot obtain them.

In cities and towns an efficient system of garbage collection and disposal should be established by ordinances. Waste from markets, hotels, cafes and households should be collected in covered metal receptacles and frequently emptied. Garbage should never be dumped in or near towns, but should



CAGE TRAP WITH SPLENDID CATCH OF RATS.

tically rat-proof; and foodstuffs, as flour, seeds, and meats, may always be protected in wire cages at slight expense. The public should be protected from insanitary stores by a system of rigid inspection.

Household Supplies.—Similar care should be exercised in the home to protect household supplies from mice and rats. Little progress in ridding the premises of these animals can be made so long as they have access to supplies of food. Cellars, kitchens, and pantries often furnish subsistence not only to rats that inhabit the dwelling, but to many that come from outside. Food supplies may always be kept from rats and mice if placed in inexpensive rat-proof containers covered with wire netting. Sometimes all that is needed to prevent serious waste is the application of a defective part of the building.

Produce in Transit.—Much loss of fruits, vegetables, and other produce occurs in transit by rail and on ships. Most of the damage is done at wharves and in railway stations, but there is also considerable loss in ships' holds, especially to perishable produce brought from warm latitudes. Much of this may be prevented by the use of rat-proof cages at the docks, by the careful fumigation of seagoing vessels at the end of each voyage, and by the frequent fumigation of vessels in coastwise trade; but still more by replacing old and decrepit wharves and station platforms with modern ones built of concrete.

Where cargoes are being loaded or

be utilized or promptly destroyed by fire.

Rats find abundant food in country slaughterhouses; reform in the management of these is badly needed. Such places are centers of rat propagation. It is a common practice to leave offal of slaughtered animals to be eaten by rats and swine, and this is the chief means of perpetuating trichinae in pork. The law should require that offal be promptly cremated or otherwise disposed of. Country slaughterhouses should be as cleanly and as constantly inspected as abattoirs.

Another important source of rat food is found in remnants of lunches left by employees in factories, stores and public buildings. This food, which alone is sufficient to attract and sustain a small army of rats, is commonly left in waste baskets or other open receptacles. Strictly enforced rules requiring all remnants of food to be deposited in covered metal vessels would make trapping far more effective.

Military training camps, unless subjected to rigid discipline in the matter of disposal of garbage and waste, soon become centers of rat infestation. Waste from camps, deposited in covered metal cans and collected daily, should be removed far from the camp itself and either burned or utilized in approved modern ways.

Ingredients in Eggs.

Lime, nitrogen and phosphoric acid are the principal ingredients in eggs.

GIVE FEED ANIMALS RELISH

While Preference for Certain Food Is Formed by Habit, It Is Better to Cater to It.

Animals are much like human beings in that they have their own individual preference for certain foods. While this preference is formed by habit, to get the best returns with the feeds, it is best generally to cater to the animal's appetite.

Some horses will not do well without oats in the ration. Others do not especially care for oats, but require corn, some require more hay than others, some must have ground feeds. To get the best results such animals should be humored.

Our problem in feeding is to watch the animals and see that they get the feeds they require and no more. Feed left in the trough or scattered on the ground out of reach of animals does not produce.

Even in feeding cattle a skillful feeder will soon learn the different animal's peculiarities and meet their requirements in such a way as to get

economical gains. If he does not watch closely he is likely to waste feed while some of the animals are not getting enough.

DRY FEED INSTEAD OF SLOP

Doesn't Freeze Up to Insult Appetite of Hog in Winter—Germs and Odors Are Avoided.

The farmer whose pigs have lost their avidity for slop should try feeding the slopstuff dry. Many a time pigs may be found fastidiously nosing through thick slop, when if dry middlings be placed in a trough hard by they will devour it in fierce competition. Some men like milk toast, and some men don't like milk toast; that is the way with pigs. Try raising a bunch of pigs on dry middlings instead of slop of middlings, and the chances are that the pigs will demonstrate the success of the experiment. Germs and odors don't accumulate around a trough in which dry feed is provided; dry feed doesn't freeze up to insult the appetite of a hog, like slop may do in winter.

ORIENTAL TURBAN IS HAT NOVELTY

New York.—It has been said that women are divided into two classes: those who think of the hat first and the gown afterward, and those who think of the gown and pay little attention to the hat.

The difference in these attitudes of mind toward essential parts of costumery is a topic that artistic dressmakers never fail to find interesting. Interview a milliner and he will tell you that a woman may wear an un-



In this street suit of green and gray, the milliner has made cap, cape and muff to match of bright green broadcloth, after a fashion of a quarter of a century ago. It is trimmed with gray fur, and the cape is fastened with one gray button.

Important gown and rise to heights of sartorial success if she wears an important hat. Interview a dressmaker and she will insist that the gown should be purchased before any other part of the costume and that all other things should be added thereto, with or without care.

In looking at the whole scheme of dressing from the point of view of a reporter of clothes, the safe assertion is that the milliners are right. No gown can justify itself, or its wearer for choosing it, if it is marred by the wrong hat. On the other hand, a good hat which is admirably posed and which brings out all the best there is in a face, can redeem a gown that would otherwise be a deplorable failure. That is the way to judge the merits.

Standards Have Changed.

There was once a time when women and the public gave more attention to the face than to the figure, or to that vague and elusive thing called style. A woman had to be pretty, and her prettiness of the kind that women understood and men admired. Her figure might be unshapely, her gowns chosen at random and often ill-fitting, but the lovely face was featured and exploited above everything else.

Surely, but imperceptibly, the viewpoint of the world toward good-looking women changed. People demanded more than a lovely face; they grew artistic and wanted a lovely silhouette. Then they grew insistent and announced that they cared little for prettiness in the face, unless it was accompanied by, and often overshadowed by, style and well-fitting clothes. In short, women today have a greater task forced upon them, if they would commend their appearance to the public. A woman was born pretty in other centuries, and she used art and nature to continue this facial attraction, but she left the choice of her clothes, the lines of her figure and the making of her corset to chance. To-

day, it is not the least necessary for her to be born with a trace of beauty to commend herself to a far-flung public and be considered a woman of striking appearance.

The silhouette is the thing.

This is accentuated, or probably, it is better to say, it is nearly embodied in the hat. The woman who does not strike the top note clear and strong might as well consider herself out of the running in fashion and in attractiveness of personal appearance.

Marred by a Hat.

If women in mass could only be made cognizant of the truth concerning hats, the milliners would talk less and women would look better. It is the ignorance of the majority of women as to what kind of hat they should wear that gives the milliner who must sell hats a chance to mar a face that might be made attractive and ruin a gown that has been admirably executed.

It is not possible to lay down laws for the buying of hats. The tilt of a nose, the droop of an eyebrow, would smash every rule conceived and expressed. If a woman cannot learn how to buy a hat, she should take up the study until she is letter perfect and she will save time, vitality, temper and money—a quartette that is sorely needed for more serious affairs in these days.

There is no limit to the variety of hats, when one refers to shape, but there is little variety when it comes to startling inspiration. The immense oriental turban is the novelty and is worn by women who care to preserve the Eastern look in their costumery whenever the occasion permits it.

The original turban is of black satin with a black paradise, in front and a crystal buckle to hold the spreading feathers. It is worn low on the head, showing not a flicker of hair, except a tab on each ear to fill in the hiatus between the brim of the hat and the pearl earrings.

One thing should be well fixed in the mind regarding this oriental headgear, which is that it should be kept for ceremonial occasions. It is not the kind of hat to wear on the street in the morning on a windy day. It may be worn indoors for any day affair, and it has been adopted by smart women with half-low gowns for dinners and suppers at restaurants.

The Restaurant Hat.

The milliners are enchanted over the prospect of selling more hats through the new custom, which calls for a covering on the head, no matter how low the gown, for evening usage in restaurants.

The new fashion of adding an ornamental hat to a distinguished gown when one dines in public has been taken from the French, who have worn hats in the evening for a century, regardless of the English habit of uncovering the head and shoulders the moment the clock strikes seven.

These restaurant hats are quite a feature of new millinery, and with the exception of the sumptuous oriental turban, they are so broad of brim that they suggest the days of the Merry Widow. Usually they are of black velvet, although satin has an accepted place. The trimming is as near an aigrette as a woman can afford, and if she can run the blockade of the Aubon society she will use a bit of the real thing, if she is the possessor of it.

As to colors, it is difficult to get away from black. It is accepted by every class of society for every hour of the day. The trimming is inconsequential. Women have been educated beyond the point of thinking that a feather, a flower and a ribbon are necessary to the accomplishment of a good hat or the reason for its price. (Copyright, 1917, by the McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

SLEEVELESS BLOUSE IS NEW

Garment Which Is Cross Between Negligee and Peplum, Is All the Rage in Paris.

The cry that Paris has not made anything new must be hushed for a time, if one considers the sleeveless blouse. Whether or not it is good or practical, it is undoubtedly a novelty, and as such will be eagerly seized upon by some.

These sleeveless blouses are all the rage in Paris. Everyone has at least one, and often several, in different bright colors; for it is an easy way to achieve a change of costume.

The sleeveless blouse is really a cross between a negligee and a peplum blouse. One of the models seen is developed in French blue satin, and is nothing more than a long, straight piece of the satin, with a hole in the middle for the head. There are no side seams at all, the blouse being held together under the arms by narrow bands of satin slipped through bound eyelets.

The neck is rounded, and there is an

open slit in front, which is held in place by satin covered-buttons and silk eyelets. The shoulders are also slashed at each side, and buttoned in the same way, in order to enable one to slip on the blouse without disarranging the collar. The entire neck and shoulders are embroidered in a conventional Persian design in rose, gray and black. This blouse must, of course, be worn over some sort of fluffy, lace underwaist.

Brocades.

Brocades are more effective because they are not so common as they have been. They have been fashioned with skill and care and they show it. Black brocades with leaves of silver, pale gold brocades with great flowers of dull blue and black, midnight blue brocades with spreading leaves of silver and mauve, are some of the designs that are built into evening gowns that have waists made of a different but harmonious fabric. These brocades can be draped into skirts of great dignity, and then a medieval waist built from a solid gold tissue band and a jeweled net over the shoulders.



Newfoundland's Sailing Fleet.

Losses of sailing vessels in the Newfoundland trade through storms, German raiders and submarines since the war started have been more than made up by building within the colony and purchases abroad, observes a correspondent. The Newfoundland sailing fleet now numbers 125 vessels, and 17 more are on the stocks, the total of 142 making the largest locally owned fleet in a generation. This is exclusive of boats used only in the island trade. The fleet, made up of schooners ranging from 100 to 400 tons, has a capacity which will enable the colony to take to foreign markets in Newfoundland bottoms the entire catch of cod in island waters, estimated at about 1,500,000 quintals or 188,000,000 pounds.

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Heard at the Sales.

I don't absolutely need it, but just think what a bargain!

That woman's got that dress I've had my eye on all week.

I don't know whether to have this skirt shortened or lengthened—you can't tell what the styles will be next winter.

Isn't this great? All it needs is the skirt shortened, and the sleeves lengthened, and a little taken up on one hip and the buttons set over and some weight put to the back and and—

If I take this one I'll have to buy a new hat, and if I take that one I can't wear my gray shoes with it.—Hutchinson (Kan.) Gazette.

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Playing Cuckoo Clock.

They had just moved, and Felix had crawled into the empty bookcase. At frequent intervals he would open the door and poke his head out, and when asked what he was doing he replied, "I'm the cuckoo clock, and when I stick my head out I'm striking."

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