

RATS STEAL TOBACCO

Curry Of Whole Plants for Construction of Their Houses.

Myriads of Rats Traced to Musk... Over Well-Kept Path to the River.

A new enemy to growing tobacco has been discovered at Poquoson, which is one of the most important tobacco growing sections in the Connecticut valley.

"It's some kind of an animal," said Mr. Leamy, "and I think it's a muskrat."

PRaise of "SLANGAGE."

Prof. Triggs Says, in His Opinion, Street Vocabulary is a Necessity of Words.

Slang is the vitalizing force in the English language, according to an assertion made by Professor Oscar Lovell Triggs of the University of Chicago.

"So far as natural growth is concerned the English tongue has come almost to a halt," Professor Triggs declared.

"Slang is highly metaphorical and even poetic. I grant that the imagery is often of the homely sort, but it is nevertheless, as involved in its suggestion as the most polished phrase of the masters of diction."

GIBSON AIDS LOVE AFFAIR.

The Noted Illustrator Interceded in Behalf of a Former Model and Makes Young Man Happy.

Charles Dana Gibson, before sailing for New York, found one of his former French models at Paris, a bright girl of 22, on the verge of despair because her fiancé's family strenuously objected to his choice, and the fellow was inclined to break the engagement, rather than antagonize his aged mother.

"This affair has upset all my Paris plans. I have had no time for either business or pleasure, but I feel that I have done a good work, saved the girl from suicide, or worse, and given the fellow the best little wife he could ever get."

London View of "Invasion."

If we have not the sense to see that without anomalies, such as the present disorganization of the part of London, must be abolished completely and economical systems introduced in their place we shall deserve to have them Americanized, says the London Economist.

FRESH FEMININE FINERY.

Notes of the Modra for Those Who Keep Pace with the Latest in Dress.

Hosiery is again very simple, generally of fine silk or brown or black. Some of the smartest stockings are inserted with real lace, while with ordinary folk very fine hosiery thread or spun silk, in narrow ribs, is popular, says a dress authority.

Large collars of every conceivable description are being worn this summer with gowns of all kinds. In shape many of them are in the Van Dyke style, as well as in the sailor collar.

Petticoats of satin brocade, tulle and China silks have driven taffeta skirts out of fashion. Underwear of silk is possible only when it is completely looking in rustic.

A white muslin gown with black lace trimmings is charming; wide black lace forms the flounces and the bertha and finishes the elbow sleeves, while black lace applique in rose design strays the seams of the skirt and the waist in several lines up and down the front and back.

Women who consider style and durability a happy combination in a gown will do well to purchase just now material for a new gown of a superior quality of black voile and trim it with a herringbone of black silk.

Crepe de chine and liberty satins and silks are much used this season in place of the more perishable chiffons and tulle for many of the tucked blouse-necks and undersleeves. Flowered plain de sole is also employed, and white silk and satin stripes, the satin stripes flowered in black or white showing rows of fagot stitching along each edge, and often the plain stripe is slashed every half-inch and threaded with black velvet bebe ribbon.

Not a few of the newest evening waists have soft transparent folds going around the figure with horizontal lines of lace insertion showing between. Others, for fuller forms, are in surplus effects, with scarf ends delicately embroidered as a finish; and for the Junoesque type are the revived pointed bodices finished with closely fitted darts in the old manner, but cleverly draped in slightly bloused style in front and in close clinging fashion at the side above the straight-fronted corset to give the effect of length and slenderness.

The new shirred skirts are exceedingly smart, made both in dark and light plain chiffons or muslins, and there are rows of the shirring three together at regular intervals from just below the waist to the top of the gathered or plaited flounce. The waist to go with these skirts has three rows close together, just above the belt, and between these the material is arranged in full, graceful folds. These "shirred" gowns, however, can be worn to advantage only by a slight and graceful figure. Deep-pointed yokes on the waist and skirt, formed by shirring, are smart and can never become too common, as the work requires an expert dressmaker.

AVOID TALKING SHOP.

Do Not Make Your Business or Your Occupation a Subject of Conversation.

Shallow minds are always "talking shop." They are not large enough to be able to carry on conversation intelligently on subjects which would interest everybody. They must drag their listeners into their own little ruts, and hold them by the sleeve while they fill their ears with what interests only themselves and their companions in work. You never hear a really cultured, tactful man or woman "talk shop" in society, or anywhere outside of his or her office or place of business, says O. S. Marden, in Success.

If you wish to make yourself agreeable to other people, do not make your business or your occupation, whatever it may be, a subject of conversation with those whom it cannot possibly interest. Read, think, observe, visit picture galleries and museums, and learn to talk about things which other people will enjoy. You will be surprised to find how much more popular it will make you, and how much it will add to the joy and beauty of your life.

An Appetizing Dish.

Tomatoes, because of their pleasant acidity, are suited to a great variety of combinations. An appetizing breakfast dish is prepared with eggs and the vegetables. Wash as many round, apple shaped tomatoes as there are persons to be served. Cut a thin slice from the top of each for a cover, and scoop out a sufficient space to admit the egg. Put in each a little butter, drop in the unbroken white and yolk, salt and pepper, place a dot of butter on the top of the egg, replace the cover and bake for about 20 minutes, or until the tomato is tender. Grated cheese may be sprinkled over the egg before the cover is put on.—N. Y. Tribune.

Rice Lomon Pie.

Cupful of sugar, yolks of three eggs, one tablespoonful of butter, three tablespoonfuls of boiled rice, mashed fine, grated rind and juice of one lemon, beat all together, pour into a lined pan and bake; when done, spread with meringue of whites and sugars.—Good Housekeeping.

BUYS A NEW GUN.

United States Adopts German Model for Field Artillery.

Steve Ehrhardt, a Gunmaker of Düsseldorf, to Equip the American Field Artillery with His New Engine of War.

Through the efforts of Capt. Henry D. Borup, of the United States ordnance department, who was sent to Berlin for the purpose, the United States government has closed a contract with Herr Ehrhardt, a gunmaker of Düsseldorf, to arm the American field artillery with his new piece. Capt. Borup has thoroughly investigated both the working and construction of the gun.

Besides his large works at Düsseldorf, Herr Ehrhardt has a branch at Elsmach. He sold to the British government several hundred pieces after experience in South Africa had demonstrated the inferiority of the British artillery.

The gun which the United States has acquired the right to use is understood to be an improvement on the model supplied to Great Britain, being lighter and of longer range. The United States ordnance officers have long complained that their field guns were less effective than the French and German guns.

The United States ordnance department learned some time ago that the Krupp had a new light model, and they were invited to exhibit the piece to United States ordnance experts, but the Krupp declined, giving as their reason that if they demonstrated that they had the best piece in the world there was no certainty that the United States would take it. Herr Krupp recently made a gun of exactly the same bore as a certain best American type, but considerably lighter, and tested it a few days ago, throwing shrapnel effectively 6,000 yards, against the American gun's 2,900 yards.

Herr Ehrhardt established five years ago a branch at Pittsburgh, Pa., for the manufacture of cartridges and shells, but, proving unprofitable, it was closed and he brought the machinery back to Germany.

Capt. Borup is remembered among foreign ordnance officers as formerly attached to the Paris embassy of the United States and as having been recalled on an intimation of the French government such a step would be desirable, this being due to his unusual success in penetrating military secrets.

RANK FIXED BY SERVICE.

Naval Officers Appointed from Civil Life to Be Graded According to Previous Experience.

The navy department has made a decision which affects the rank of marine officers appointed from civil life under the naval personnel act. Under that act the president was authorized to fill vacancies in the marine corps from civil life, and several groups of appointments were made, the largest being 13, on May 23, 1930.

The appointees, after passing their examination, were commissioned by numbers, and took rank according to their standing at the examinations. In thus ranking these officers the navy department followed the law and practice in the case of cadets graduating from Annapolis, who rank according to standing.

Recently one of the marine officers, Lieut. Arthur J. O'Leary, questioned the action of the department, in view of section 1209 of the revised statutes, which provides that officers of the same grade, when appointed and commissioned on the same date, shall take rank according to previous service. Lieut. O'Leary himself, like most of the other marine officers appointed from civil life, had seen service as a volunteer during the Spanish war, and he claimed the benefit of the statute. The department, upon the recommendation of acting Judge Advocate General Hanna, has sustained his contention. This ruling will involve a readjustment of the rank of all marine officers appointed from civil life since the Spanish war.

THE UNION LABOR CHURCH.

Rev. George L. McNutt, Its Pastor, Hardly Favors the Label on Religion.

Rev. George L. McNutt, the Presbyterian divine who has been laboring in cognate in steel mills and factories throughout Indiana and other states, and who has been called to the pastorate of the church which organized labor is to build at Marion, Ind., talked freely about the prospects of such a church. He said that the idea of a labor church, such as is contemplated at Marion, raises some very intricate questions, for it might look like putting the union label on the religion of the Nazarene. On the other hand, he said:

"We of the cloth and commercialism have already put the dollar sign on the selfsame gospel, and between the dollar sign and the blue label which is the better?"

Landlords Get the Tips.

In Japan it is always the rule of politeness to pay a trifle more than the sum mentioned in your hotel bill. To settle the account net would be considered an insult, or at least a mark of great dissatisfaction. People who have traveled in Japan says that the Japanese always tip the waiter on entering a hotel.

Eat Onions to Cure Malaria. Onions are a preventive and often-times a cure for malarial fever.

THE FIVE-CENT CIGAR.

Average Life of the Ordinary Brand Has Been Fixed at Five Years.

"The average life of the nickel cigar is five years," said a prominent tobacco man, "and it is curious to note the differences which have enabled cigar men to arrive at this general average of the five-cent cigar's life. Many cigars of this class run through a long series of years, says the New Orleans Times-Democrat.

There are some brands now that have been running for more than a quarter of a century under the same name, and they are really the same cigars, made in the same way, having the same flavor and all that sort of thing. In this connection I have been impressed by the remark which we often hear about certain brands of cigars for two years, or longer, but that the cigar was getting so bad that he had concluded to quit buying it at all. It is nothing like the same cigar," he said; "the taste has changed, and it tastes like a mixture of cabbage leaves." Now, he was altogether wrong about that. I know the cigar, know how it is made, and all about it, and I know that no sort of change has been made in the process of manufacture. The trouble is that a man's taste changes. He may get up feeling badly, his stomach may be in bad shape, and, of course, the cigar will not taste as it did when his system was in better condition. The cigar is blamed, and he simply dashes the thing into the street, and quite buying it. Instances of this sort are very common. Mind you, I do not mean to say that some of the brands do not change. There are tricks in the cigar business, just as there are tricks in other trades. But in nine cases out of ten the trouble is with the smoker. But, recurring to the age of cigars, the average to which I have referred has been settled upon by tobacco men and is accepted throughout the country. It is reached by taking the two extremes—the good and the bad five-cent cigar, and figuring back to the middle. Some five-cent cigars close with the first lot made. They are failures, having nothing in them to recommend them to the public. The material out of which they are made would not make decent "three-fors."

The higher grades of five-cent cigars are made as carefully and with as much skill as the cigars that are sold at a higher price, and I do not mind saying that many of them are really far superior in material, flavor and method of manufacture. So many of them, however, are of the cheap kind that the average life of the higher-priced cigars will run to a much higher figure.

AN OLD RAILROAD TIE.

Did Service as a Grape Trellis After Thirty Years' Usage on an Illinois Road.

"I saw an old railroad tie the other day that was quite a curiosity," said a contractor, according to the Chicago Inter Ocean. "It was in the possession of a farmer near Springfield. It was one of the ties used in the construction of the first railroad built in Illinois, 'The Northern Cross,' extending from Springfield to Naples on the Illinois river. It was built, or at least begun, in 1836, and was of a construction now strange to railroad people.

"The ties were of red cedar and were laid farther apart than is now the custom. On the ties running lengthwise were laid oak stringers, as they were called, to support the rails. These stringers were timbers about six inches square and from 20 to 30 feet long. They were held in place by ash pins about an inch in diameter, which were driven through holes bored in the stringers and ties. The rails were mere strips of iron about 2 1/2 inches wide and a half to three-quarters of an inch thick. The straps were fastened to the stringers with spikes driven through their center and the heads of the spikes were counter-sunk so that the straps presented a smooth surface upon which the wheels revolved.

"The tie of which I speak had been taken from the track in 1860, after 30 years of use, had passed into possession of its present owner and been used as a post to support a grape trellis, where it has stood for 35 years. It is still sound, except around the holes near each end, around which are signs of decay.

"I think if enough material of this kind could be gathered it would be a good idea to construct a track after this old pattern as part of the Illinois exhibit at the St. Louis exposition."

First American Earthquake.

The fourth book printed in a European language upon the western hemisphere was issued in the City of Mexico in 1541, and gave an account of the terrible earthquake which occurred in Guatemala by which many persons lost their lives. Among those who perished was the wife of the governor, the famous Don Pedro Alvarado, who was one of the chief lieutenants of Cortez in the conquest of Mexico 20 years before the event described. The book was printed in the Spanish language.—National Tribune.

A Pessimistic View.

"The fools are not all dead yet," says the Alfalfa Sage, "and the death rate is not only small, but discouraging."—Kansas City Star.

Conversational Hair-Splitting.

Harriet—Don't you think mother is a good talker, Harry? Harry—Well, she's a fluent contradictor.—Detroit Free Press.

THE SMOKE NUISANCE

Consul General Mason at Berlin Sends Valuable Suggestion.

Recommends the Manufacture of Briquettes from Brown Coal, Peat and the Best of Coal Mines as is Done in Germany.

Relief from the smoke nuisance is suggested by Consul General Mason at Berlin in a communication to the state department. It is in the manufacture of the briquettes as fuel. He says: "Among the several branches of German industry which deserve the attention of Americans by reason of their economy, their recovery of utilization of some raw material which exists unused in our country, or because they involve the most intelligent application of scientific knowledge to technical processes, may be reckoned the manufacture of briquettes from brown coal, peat and the dust and waste of coal mines. Briquettes form the principal domestic fuel in Berlin and other cities and districts in Germany. They are used for locomotive and other steam firing, and are employed for heating in various processes of manufacture. For all these uses they have three tangible advantages: They are clean and convenient to handle; they light easily and quickly, and burn with a clear, intense flame; they make practically no smoke and are withal the cheapest form of fuel for most purposes."

"It need hardly be said," continued the consul general, "that the general use of briquettes for domestic fuel in a large, densely built city, as well as for generating steam in a number of electric generating plants and factories, must have a decided and beneficial influence in reducing the smoke, which in most American cities has become a persistent and oppressive nuisance."

Berlin, although a busy manufacturing city, ranks as one of the cleanest and best kept in Europe. One of the first things usually noticed by American and English travelers visiting the German capital for the first time is the absence of that cloud of dusty smoke which overshadows so many towns and cities in our country. The reason for this lies in three factors: the preponderant use of coke and briquettes, which are practically smokeless; the skillful scientific construction of boiler furnaces and chimneys; and, finally, the high standard of skill that is taught and enforced among firemen who stoke furnaces with coal for steam and manufacturing purposes.

EDWARD AIDS EDUCATION.

King Grants a Charter for the Establishment of New British Academy.

King Edward has granted a charter incorporating the new British academy for the promotion of historical, philosophical and philological studies. The charter names 49 gentlemen as original fellows of the academy. They include Lord Rosebery, Prime Minister Balfour, Lord Dillon, president of the Society of Antiquaries; Lord Reay, president of the Royal Asiatic society; James Bryce, William E.H. Lecky, John Morley, Sir Frederick Pollock, Leslie Stephen and other well-known scholars.

The institution of the new academy, together with the creation of the recent Order of Merit, is regarded as a striking experiment on the part of the king, and has provoked considerable comment and comparison to the French academy, which, it is recalled, has failed to enroll many of the greatest names in French literature. Satisfaction is expressed that members of the British academy are to be called simply "fellows" instead of the high-sounding French title "immortals."

Both Cambridge and Oxford universities are represented among the charter members, but a notable omission from the first list of names is that of Herbert Spencer.

TO PROTECT ILLINOIS PUPILS.

The State Board of Health to Have Early Examinations of Sight and Hearing.

Dr. J. A. Egan, secretary of the state board of health, has sent to all county superintendents of schools in the state a circular regarding the action decided upon by the state board of health for protection of the sight and hearing of school children. It was found from an exhaustive examination of pupils of the Chicago schools that one-third of the children had defective eyesight, and the board has decided that an examination of the eyes of pupils shall be made in every school in Illinois yearly.

Doesn't Prove Anything.

A New York man who is 104 years of age boasts that he has been in the habit of smoking, chewing tobacco and drinking whisky ever since he can remember. But, says the Chicago Record Herald, he can't remember much, and an old clay pipe is his limit.

Will Do Their Own Flying.

Santos-Dumont has left this country in disgust because New Yorkers would not pay \$25,000 to see him fly around their city. New York people fly high sometimes, says the Salt Lake Herald, but \$25,000 a fly is just a little bit too elevated for them.

Will Hesitate to Keep Warm.

The decision of an Indiana judge cuts off Chicago's supply of natural gas from the Indiana field. What with the coal prospect and lack of gas, says the Cincinnati Times-Star, the Windy City seems to be facing a cold winter.

A PERILOUS RIVER TRIP.

An American Scientist's Hazardous Journey Down the Euphrates on Inland China.

At the recent meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Pittsburgh, Ellsworth Huntington described the remarkable trip he had recently completed down the Euphrates on a raft constructed of inflated skins, being the second trip of the kind ever made, states an exchange of that city.

Certain parts of the Euphrates, along its upper course, are still almost unexplored. One of the least known sections is where the river, after the junction of its two largest branches, flows over great rapids through the Taurus mountains in an immense canyon.

In 1928 the great German general, Von Moitte, floated down this part of the stream on a raft of inflated sheepskins manned by Kurds, but the rapids are so formidable that for over 60 years no other European visited the region.

"In the spring of 1901," said Mr. Huntington, "with Prof. T. H. Norton, United States consul at Harput, Turkey, I made the same journey, using a raft of inflated sheepskins manned by Armenian fishermen. For the first 100 miles no great difficulties were met, although at one place the Kurds threatened the party because the strangers floated past the place where a Kurdish lord had the right of ferrage. In another place a crowd of Turkish villagers stoned the raft because the Armenian fishermen had no fish to sell. In both cases the natives refrained from further violence out of respect for the fact that the travelers wore hats and so must be men of consequence.

"Two small canyons were traversed, the second of which, nearly 2,000 feet deep, was the picturesque home of large herds of ibex. Below this is a holy mountain, with several shrines, at one of which rises an immense square altar of rough stone all covered with the gore of the goats and sheep which are here offered in sacrifice by both Christian Armenians and Mohammedan Turks. The main canyon is cleft through the mountains to a depth of from 2,000 to 3,000 feet, and the contracted stream thundered over rapid and rapid between towering walls of frowning basalt or castellated buff limestone.

"The difficulties became greater and greater as the party floated swiftly into the wilder parts of the canyon, where rapids were shot far larger than those around whose portages had been made a day or two earlier. The raftsmen's nerves were so completely unstrung one night that they dared neither shoot the rapids nor climb the mountainside to get help from the Kurds in making a portage.

"Next day the wildest of all the rapids was reached. The raftsmen dared not shoot it, and a portage was out of the question, so the Americans decided to shoot it alone, in spite of the entreaties of the servants, who fell on their knees and with tears in their eyes begged them not to go to certain death.

"The raft shot into the rapids over a long, smooth, tilting sheet of water; there was a wild, exhilarating slide, and the great waves broke over the explorers, drenching them to the skin; the raft whirled round and round. Soon the danger was passed, and the raft safely moored.

"That night was spent on a tiny ledge between an overhanging precipice and the water. The raftsmen were still determined to be afraid of something. 'If we sleep here,' said one, 'the bears will come to the top of the precipice and throw stones at us.'

"The next day was the last of the journey. More rapids were shot and in one of them a raftsmen was washed overboard, but his companions caught him. The journey lasted seven days, because of the numerous portages, although the actual time occupied in floating on the river was but 37 hours."

Fertility of Mindanao.

Backed by American capital, Mindanao would become a strong competitor of Java in its sugar plantations, having the most fertile soil in the world and being peculiarly adapted to the raising of this staple article. The region to the north of Lake Depao is a flourishing hemp country. Sugar, coffee and coconuts can also be raised in abundance. From Lake Lanao to the Pacific ocean the mountains are filled with gold, iron and coal. There are many miners here now, but they are keeping quiet and saying nothing. However, there have been exhibited rich specimens of gold taken from the hills about Parang Parang, grains about the size of wheat grains. In the popular mind Mindanao has been pictured as a wild, unexplored country, peopled by savages. Not so, however, and although some parts are unfit for development there remains a vast territory as fertile and as rich as any in the United States. Leaving out the west uninhabited parts, the south and east afford ample fields for colonization.—Manila Free-Press.

Right Up with the Times.

"Our missionary tells us that the automobile is even pervading healthful lands."

"So the benighted natives are learning to scorch, eh?"

"No, not to any great extent, but they have fitted the car of Juggernaut with a motor and a crack chauffeur, and the combination is doing great business."—Automobile Magazine.