

SLAUGHTER OF THE ROBINS

Thousands of Little Songsters Killed in Tennessee and Sold at Ten Cents Dozen.

Louisville, Ky.—Robins are numerous at Lofton, Tenn., and are selling readily on the local market at ten cents a dozen, according to a Murfreesboro special. It should be explained that the robins are not so numerous as they used to be, for the fact that they sell for ten cents a dozen has induced many men and boys to engage in the wholesale slaughter of the birds.

Thousands of robins, the special song-gatherer in the cedars to roost, and hunting parties go in the night and capture and kill them in large numbers. One party caught 2,600 birds in one night. One hunter caught 377 birds in one tree. It is estimated that 150,000 have been killed within the last three weeks. It is great sport—and the robins sell for ten cents a dozen. That is the way in which wild bird life is being protected in some parts of this great country.

The robin is a beautiful and harmless bird. He is an indefatigable destroyer of insect pests. Any one who has ever watched him on a lawn can testify to his industry in searching out bugs and worms and his capacity for putting them where they can do no harm. If there is a cherry tree handy he will visit it occasionally, but he much prefers to forage after living things. He is a cheerful, happy bird and rather likes to make himself handy around the premises, rearing a family while in the boughs of the old apple tree. He is not much of a singer so far as the quality of his music goes, but he is always willing to give you a sample of the best he can do in that line, and the effect is not unpleasant to the human ear. In fact, the robin is an all round good fellow and is always ready to be friendly and serviceable if given half a chance.

It is to be regretted that our neighbors in Tennessee are not giving the robin even half a chance, but are murdering him in cold blood. There really seems to be no reason for it except that robins are worth ten cents a dozen. That also would seem to be about the proper market quotation for men who engage in such slaughter, either for pleasure or profit.

SURE CURE FOR THE "BLUES"

Motto Craze Gains Much Ground in England as Its Tendency is Toward Optimism.

London.—The motto craze has gained ground and flourished lately. Everything from the calendar on the wall to the handkerchief in the pocket, is ornamented with a cheerful adage. The tendency of the moment is optimism, and the latest cure for the "blues" is to go through a thorough course of motto treatment.

Cheery sentences meet our eye in the morning, as we survey our calendar over the bed. Cheerful calendars are hung over the bath, and a large motto, such as "Hitch your wagon to a star," or "Patience—and shuffle the cards," is hung in the hall.

"The motto craze is extraordinary," the manager of an Oxford street fancy firm said. "At first it attacked old men and our milk jugs, and told us to 'Take a drop of milk and be thankful,' while encouraging sentiments were inscribed round the teapot.

"Jewelry with mottoes is the latest. It has taken the place of the old-fashioned type of 'Dearest' or 'Good Luck.'

"A pretty fashion is to have a bracelet formed of two slender gold chains between which are depended gold or jeweled letters.

"Short mottoes must be chosen for these, such as 'Sun's Shining,' or 'Sunny Hours.'

"Dainty little mottoes are embroidered on pocket handkerchiefs. In fact, it is becoming quite the rage to choose your own motto, and have it inscribed on everything you value, such as silver brushes, boxes or on the name plate of a book.

"It certainly is a good tendency, and a cheerful bit of advice suddenly brought to light on a brooch or bracelet might save one-half an hour of miserable 'blues.'"

DEPLORES HABIT OF TREATING

Professor of University of Berlin Asserts Code of Honor in America is Low.

Chicago.—The code of honor among American students is lower than in Germany, according to Prof. Eduard Meyer, of the University of Berlin.

The professor deplored this situation recently in an informal talk at a reception given him by members of local chapters of fraternities in Evanston.

"I believe much of this can be traced to the practice of treating among American students gathered in bodies for various purposes," Prof. Meyer said. "The German student does not know what the word 'treat' means. If he wishes anything he purchases it and pays for it. I believe the American student is the loser by not following the same plan."

English Authors Get Poor Pay. London.—Sir Alfred Bateman, at a meeting of the Royal Literary Fund stated that remuneration for literature among the rank and file was worse than ever before in England, while more persons were engaged in writing than hitherto. He said the fund barely paid its way, as the claims upon it were so heavy.

FARM BY DYNAMITE

Explosions Break "Hardpan" and Conserve Season's Rainfall.

State of Kansas Conducting Experiments on Suggestion of Former Governor Crawford—Method Will Probably Be Successful.

Topeka, Kan.—Dynamite farming may become a very common agricultural method in Kansas and other middle western states. The state of Kansas is working out some experiments with dynamite farming on the farm of Samuel J. Crawford, war governor of the state. Most of the farming sections of Kansas are underlaid with a soil foundation known as "hardpan." It is not so hard as stone, but it is harder than common soil, and the roots of plants cannot go through it. In some sections this hardpan appears close to the surface, and in other sections it is down 20 to 50 feet. When at great depth the hardpan has no appreciable effect on crops.

On Governor Crawford's farm the hardpan comes close to the surface, and as this condition is the only one where the experiment is likely to prove successful, Governor Crawford gave the state the use of some of his ground for this year.

"I have done some experimenting with hardpan and dynamite," said Governor Crawford the other day. "If this formation is close to the surface it forms a perfect floor and the moisture cannot get down to the subsoil.

"Roots of growing plants go down to the hardpan and can go no further, and when bad growing weather comes they curl up and die. If we break up the hardpan it stores the water as in a reservoir, and in dry weather this reservoir gives up its moisture to the crops."

The state, through the agricultural department and the agricultural college took up the scheme of dynamiting the hardpan at Governor Crawford's suggestion. The powder mills were asked for a low grade explosive, and they are turning out a dynamite for breaking up the hardpan at a cost of about \$1.50 per acre.

Early this spring a field was taken as the test field. Holes were drilled 25 feet apart and in rows 100 feet wide. The sticks of dynamite, containing 25 per cent of nitrate ammonia powder, were put down to a depth of three feet. Half the sticks were set off by a battery and half by fuses. The battery explosions seemed to be the best. The hardpan was thoroughly pulverized for six feet each side of the drill holes and large cracks ran for considerable distance in all directions from the holes, showing that the explosions had broken out fissures through the hardpan. Around each hole a large reservoir was created where several hundred gallons of water was stored during the spring rains for use in the dry summer months.

Corn, oats, and other spring crops are being planted. Part of the field was not dynamited, and this is being planted also to demonstrate the efficiency of the new farming method. It will show whether or not the dynamiting did any good. The rows were 100 feet apart, and if the crops are not as good in the middle between the rows, it will show that the dynamiting should be in narrower rows.

Dr. William Hamm of Vienna was the discoverer of the dynamite method of farming. He has found that in Europe it is not necessary to treat the ground oftener than once in three years.

The state agricultural college and the state agricultural department are making the experiments on Crawford's farm and the government agricultural experts are watching the experiments just as closely as the state.

KICKING MULE DELAYS LINER

Beast is Finally Dragged on Big Vessel With Steam Winch—Was Star Performer.

New York.—The departure of the Atrato, a Royal Mail Steam Packet liner, for Southampton by way of the West Indies was delayed the other day by a Kentucky mule, one of twelve shipped to Savannah. All were true to tradition, but this particular one was a star performer. The mule simply wouldn't.

Drivers tried to persuade the beast with clubs; he only kicked the harder. Then the mule was placed in a large box, which was soon kicked into kindling wood.

A hawser was next bent on. The mule squirmed out of the loop. Then the legs were made fast and another hawser was slipped around the neck. The mule was blindfolded, the line was carried to a steam winch, and Mr. Mule was dragged aboard.

Howard Lang and John Clark Ridpath sailed on the Atrato. Each is nineteen years old and a Texas cowboy. They are going, each with \$3,000, to Santiago, Chile.

They will raise cattle on the Chilian plains and ship them here on the hoof by way of the Panama canal. They sold out their shares in a Texas ranch. Ridpath is a cousin of the historian of his name.

Value of Seal Catch. St. Johns, N. F.—Reports from the steamers engaged in the seal fishery just ended show that the catch is the most valuable of any for 30 years. The 15 steamers that returned brought 333,341 seals, valued at \$627,535.

POKES HIS HEAD IN BEEHIVE

New Jersey Lad on Wheel Hits Wagon Carrying Insects and Disastrous Results Follow.

Clinton, N. J.—"How doth the little busy bee improve each shining hour?" was answered to the full satisfaction of Rudolph Perrot when he poked his face into a hive Jacob Trautwein was conveying home from a neighbor's. Trautwein was driving down Caldwell hill. The hive was in his wagon. Perrot, who is 17 years old, was behind the outfit on a bicycle. The youth was pedaling hard and going some. When Trautwein's nag backed at a frog in the road, Perrot, who was bent over the handle bars, tried in vain to slow up with his brake.

The first thing he knew he shot over the handles of the bike and slid head first into the back of Trautwein's wagon. He smashed the beehive up against Trautwein, which made the driver rise up and yell. Perrot, however, kept right on until his head was in the midst of the hive.

The head of Perrot did not stay long in the hive, but when it came out it was covered with bees, and every bee was up and doing. It was hard to tell for a few seconds which was worse hurt, Trautwein or Perrot, for both were yelling and plucking bees off themselves with all their might. Some bees lighted on the horse, too, just for luck, and that added to the commotion.

Perrot and Trautwein are both home in bed, but Perrot's head is swelled up much larger than Trautwein's and each is saying things about the other that would not go in print. As for the bees, they got home, somehow, and are looking for real blossoms.

WAR ON RATS IN YOKOHAMA

Encouraging Case and Maintenance of Cats for Caseless War in Infection-Carrying Rodents.

Yokohama.—"This is the cat that ate the rat," is a phrase familiar to all, and it has a special significance in Yokohama.

Early last year a census of the cats in Yokohama was taken, and it was found that there were 7,000, but that they were not increasing with normal rapidity. The reason was doubtless that the newborn kittens in too many cases found a watery grave.

This seemed regrettable, when it is remembered that the extermination of the rat is a sanitary ideal, and that pussy wages ceaseless war on these infection-carrying rodents. The municipality therefore offered a cash payment to each family proving the birth and maintenance of a kitten of 50 sen per kitten.

The scheme worked well. There are now in Yokohama 13,000 cats and the municipality has already paid out 1,975 yen to families preserving kittens. As for the cause of rat extermination, it is noteworthy that last year the greatest number of these pests caught in one day was 1,200, but that these figures have now decreased by about 300. This is confidently attributed to the fact that the cats have reduced their enemies' numbers, and it is to be hoped that his reading of the statistics is a right one.

FIRST AID TO THE FARMERS

Report of New York Bureau Shows What Was Done to Supply Labor in Year 1909.

New York.—In its efforts to help the farmer, who usually lacks farm workers when he needs them most, the labor bureau of the New York department of agriculture has been very successful during the first year of its existence. More than twelve hundred single men and 90 families have been put to work on New York farms.

Only one case of swindling occurred. One stalwart, who needed money more than he wanted work, received a railroad ticket to his destination. Instead of going to the farm, he left the train at the Harlem station and sold the ticket. To obviate any further loss in trusting human nature the officials of the bureau now make sure that the candidate for employment has baggage worth as much as the sum paid for his ticket. The baggage is then checked and the check mailed to the farmer for delivery to the man on his arrival at the farm.

The work of the bureau is done without charge; money for transportation is advanced by the employers. Requests for help are constantly received. The United States department of commerce and labor, several foreign consulates and various societies have sent to the bureau applicants for whom work was found.

Strange Squirrels Appear

Tacoma, Wash.—The wide stretch of prairie country south and southwest of Tacoma is experiencing a novel visitation of a species of flying squirrel.

The squirrels are almost as large as the red timber squirrel, but instead of a red hair cast have a bluish black furry covering. The settlers believe they are a migrating contingent following the red fox squirrels that came northward from eastern Oregon and northern California two years ago.

L. F. Nixon of Roy, who was here the other day, says numbers of the animals have been seen in the vicinity of that place, along the McKenna branch of the Tacoma eastern line, and in the Muck creek country. The squirrels have also been seen in numbers in the region of Sherlock and Deport.

DANDELION AS FOOD

Is Real Delicacy and Surpasses Spinach in Salad.

Recipes Handed Down From Mother to Daughter Among Pennsylvania Germans Make Savory Dishes From Despised Plant.

Philadelphia.—Notwithstanding the general increase in the cost of living there is one dainty which the Pennsylvania Germans are enjoying now just as in the springtime of past years. That dainty is the dandelion.

Pennsylvania German housewives are famous not alone for their skill as cooks, but also for producing savory dishes at the least possible cost. Among them the preparation of the dandelion for the table has become an art. Usually it is cooked as spinach or eaten as a salad.

Some of the favorite recipes have been handed down as legacies from mother to daughter for many generations. Like most recipes of Pennsylvania German cookery, they are not written out by those who invent them, nor do the women who possess them seem able to impart their mysteries with any degree of precision to persons not imbued with the Pennsylvania German culinary instinct.

Pennsylvania German cooks are born and not made, and they do not reduce their art to cold mathematical formulas. In explaining a certain concoction to one deemed worthy of their confidence they say: "I take me as much salt as will go on the end of a knife—so," or "You just take not quite a cup of flour," or "Just pour a little molasses into it and mix it until it is ready—so."

It seems, so far as an outsider may penetrate the secret, that the usual way of preparing the dandelion is to cut off all roots and wash the leaves thoroughly, then place them in a sauce pan full of boiling water, permitting it to boil for an hour, after which the leaves are drained and placed in a frying pan with butter, salt and pepper, and the mixture is stirred until thoroughly heated. It is then served with an egg or with sliced hard boiled eggs.

Another method is to beat one egg until light, add half a cupful of cream, stir this over the fire until thickens, then add a small piece of butter, two tablespoonfuls of vinegar and salt and pepper. The dandelion leaves are washed and cut up, after which the hot dressing is poured over them, the mixture being stirred over the fire until the leaves are wilted.

As a salad dandelion usually is prepared like lettuce, though instead of the mayonnaise dressing popular elsewhere a dressing of hot bacon fat is sometimes preferred.

Dandelion is also made into wine, which is held to be a remedy for a variety of ills. A firm belief exists among the Pennsylvania Germans that the dandelion possesses great value as a tonic, and many a farmer would not feel himself fit for his coming summer's work without partaking of dandelion at least once a day for a month or more. Its chief worth no doubt is that it constitutes a wholesome variation in the diet of the country people, who for months have subsisted largely upon pork, mince pies and similar food.

So long as the leaves are young and succulent the dandelion is in daily demand, but when the plant begins to flower the leaves become tough and bitter and it is held to be a nuisance. Some rural churches with large burial grounds set apart a day in June when all the members join in warfare upon the dandelions growing upon the church property.

Though the dandelion grows in almost any place where vegetation can subsist there are indications that even its abundance may not save it entirely from the spirit of commercialism. Several experiments have been made in the Pennsylvania German country in the cultivation of the plant for market.

A man living at Rittersville, Lehigh county, has laid out several large beds on the slope of a hill. The dandelion patch evidently is as enticing to certain Pennsylvania Germans as the watermelon patch is to certain individuals of a darker race, for this spring the owner of the Rittersville plantation had a man arrested on a charge of surreptitiously digging up two bagfuls of the greens and selling them for \$6.

Hotbeds are used to force the crop, just as with other salad greens. To keep the leaves in marketable condition all the year every bud is nipped off and the leaves are blanched by bunching them and heaping earth over them or covering them with a pot. After the leaves of the plant have given full service the roots may also be sold, being used in the drug trade under the name of taraxacum.

No doubt the Pennsylvania Germans inherit their liking for the dandelion, along with other economical traits, from their forefathers who fed from the Rhine country a century and a half ago.

Woman Aids Setting Hen

Bangor, Pa.—Mrs. Michael Ross of Portland carries off the palm for chicken hatching records.

Out of a hatching of three dozen eggs the mother hen walked off the nest with 35 chicks.

Mrs. Ross placed the thirty-sixth egg in her bosom, completing the incubation of the egg, and the chick thus produced is the liveliest of the lot.

OLD GLASS AIDS BAD EYES

Amethyst Tinted Lenses Made From Sun-Baked Panes Cure Certain Kinds of Blindness.

Philadelphia.—A discovery of great value to those whose sight has been impaired by working under artificial light has been made in this city. It was learned the other day that amethyst tinted lenses made from window pane glass taken from houses in Walnut street would cure blindness caused by working on bright metals and under artificial light.

The glass is simply ordinary window panes that have been in use for more than 75 years. In that time it has been turned an amethyst tint by the direct rays of the sun.

Philadelphia eye specialists are optimistic in their contentions for the glass, which is termed by the oculists and opticians "the Philadelphia glass." Some of the most widely known physicians in the city are using it in their daily practice and say that it has proved wonderfully effective and that the eye disorders that it will relieve and cure are many.

Although the first announcement of the good results from the use of this glass was made only six months ago, it has received widespread attention and Philadelphia physicians who were among the first to give it a trying out have received letters from other doctors in all parts of the globe asking for samples of the glass with which to experiment.

Houses in Walnut street that were erected in the early part of the last century are being examined closely by enterprising opticians. Many staid Philadelphia families who have lived in the same house for several generations have been surprised recently by offers to put new glass in their windows free of cost. Upon close examination it was learned the window panes that the seemingly charitable persons wanted to replace had the precious amethyst tint.

Among the Philadelphia oculists that have been working with the amethyst tinted lenses is Dr. L. Webster Fox, professor of ophthalmology in the Medico-Chirurgical college and an oculist of wide repute.

Dr. Fox has been able to cure many cases of temporary loss of sight and badly strained eyes when the amethyst tint was incorporated with correcting lenses. He has been particularly successful in the case of printers, typewriters, students and newspaper men, all of whom are required to apply the eyes closely under artificial illumination. After wearing the violet glass the patient as a rule refuses to go back to the colorless glass, wearing the other indefinitely. The glass has been prescribed with great relief to those whose eyes are exposed in an X-ray laboratory.

LANDS STURGEON WITH LINE

Monster Fish Puts Up Game Fight, But Oregon Fisherman Finally Conquers It.

Portland, Ore.—Captain Ames of the steamer Ewa, with an ordinary hook and line, captured a 42-pound sturgeon in the Willamette river off the Stark street wharf. The skipper embarked in a rowboat to tow the fish ashore, and it put up a game fight. As he hauled the big fellow to the surface the line gave evidence of snapping. So the captain reached down and secured a firm handhold in the gill and a tug-of-war followed. For awhile it was hard to tell which would get the best of the argument.

In the midst the captain lost a pikepole with which he tried to rap the monster over the head. His crew also came near going overboard. The dorsal fins had edges as keen as a razor, and to keep from being cut by them great care had to be exercised. The fish snorted, blew and waved his tail in defiance and blood showed in his unblinking eyes.

When he was finally buried onto the slip he sprang about five feet high and struck his head against the side of a boathouse. The force of the blow took all the fight out of him and he was soon lying peacefully.

His Small Congregation

Hagerstown, Md.—The Rev. Dr. P. J. Baber, pastor of the Waynesboro Reformed church, had an engagement to preach in the Reformed church at Salem the other evening. He was at the church on time, but no congregation was present.

He left the church and was making his way to the station to take a car for Waynesboro, when he met a woman and two children on their way to attend the services.

The minister returned to the church, ascended the pulpit and preached a regular sermon to his very small but very appreciative audience of three.

Sword With Interesting History

Reading, Pa.—Levi Quier of this city has received from Captain Edgar A. Burpee of Rockland, Me. a sword which he had not seen for almost 46 years. Mr. Quier was a lieutenant in the Fifty-fourth Pennsylvania volunteers.

While acting as quartermaster his sword was placed in a warehouse at Martinsburg, W. Va., where it was confiscated by Confederates. Later Captain Burpee found it at Spottsylvania courthouse. In 1858 he wrote to Lieutenant Quier, reciting his experiences, and recently the correspondence was renewed.

French Army in Morocco

France still has 11,000 men camped on Moroccan soil.

RECORD IS UNIQUE

Total Number of Frog Legs Consumed in Detroit is Immense.

Supply Comes From Professional Hunters in Michigan and Other States and Those Who Raise Them for the Table.

Detroit, Mich.—A tour of the commission houses who handle frog legs at wholesale and of the restaurants who deal them out rolled in cracker crumbs with a dab of tartar sauce on the side reveals the fact that Detroiters are the largest consumers of frogs' legs in the United States, and that Paris would probably be far down on the list if complete statistics were available.

Twelve and a half tons of frog legs were eaten in this city and immediate vicinity in the past year. Those well acquainted with the frog, alive and dead, estimate his legs at about one-fourth of the weight of his entire body. Four times 12½ is 50, is it not?

Now, a composite frog made up of all the frogs who contribute their legs to the delectation of local gourmets would be some frog, yes?

Or if all the frogs that died in the last year on the altar of Epicurus to supply legs to Detroit and the road-houses adjacent thereto were to be resurrected there would be 6,000,000 of them, and were they to hop in a mob on the city hall Police Commissioner Croul's mounted men would have their troubles dispersing the cold green horde.

Now, just suppose they were all to return to this earth and emit their various croaks and peepings. They could easily keep awake all who have been in any way responsible for their slaughter.

Frog legs have been known to the French as a delicacy of surpassing sweetness for many years, and it may be that Detroit, being a city of French descent, has inherited a tooth for frogs. St. Louis, which claims second place as the city where frog legs are popular, gets away with 140,000.

The market is kept supplied with frogs by the activity of professional hunters in Michigan and the southern states, and by those who raise frogs for the table. A lake near Lulu, Mich., is the birthplace of 50,000 down a year. The sole care of the proprietors of this frog ranch is to keep it from being the mecca for all the black-snakes, hawks, owls, raccoons, skunks, mink and stray cats in the lower peninsula.

A mother frog lays between 4,500 and 5,327 eggs at a time, perhaps a few more or less.

Some frog fanciers go out and dip up the baby frogs and fatten them in their own door yards. The hunters pounce on the little meadow frogs as they leap innocently through the marsh hay or creep up on the following bullfrogs, dashing them with search lights as they sit on a sucking log and boom the moon.

There are frogs of such proportions that they can be dressed like chickens, not only the saddles but the fore-quarters and back being available. But the flesh of these giants is not esteemed by the cognoscenti. A little, tender young meadow frog is said to have the sweetest lower limbs of all.

Here and there on the outskirts of civilization are persons who would as gladly eat turkey buzzard as frog. They are poor, ignorant natives who need the home missionary efforts of some good chef to convert them to the proper way of thinking.

City dwellers who steer delicately shy of frog legs profess to do so on sentimental grounds.

"The dear little things, with their cute sparkling eyes—it seems a shame to destroy their happy, care-free lives," remarked one young woman, tears welling in her lustrous eyes.

Have cheer, fair one! A frog is the meanest, greediest, most vicious animal that hops, walks, crawls, flies or swims. Dangle a hook with a bit of red fannel attached in front of a frog and he will probably stuff it down his throat with his front feet. Give him his liberty and repeat the experiment and he will continue to grab the hook as long as he has any mouth left to grab with. That's how greedy he is.

Capture a large frog of trust-worthy appearance and cut into his tummy. Here will be found the remains of small frogs, dear little fish, pretty moths and even a small harmless snake now and then.

Among the active enemies of the frog is the man who uses him for fish bait. He fastens a kicking frog to a bass hook and then slips him carelessly through the air, smacking him against the water and pulling him in again until a fish snatches him and the hook or the poor frog tire and refuses to kick any more. This is very trying to a frog, especially on a hot day. But what annoys the true lovers of frog legs is that the frog, once used, is tossed away to be gobbled up in his worn-out condition by some marine foe. A movement is afoot to compel the substitution of rubber frogs in fishing.

Deery Elixir of Life

London.—There is a skepticism among the British medical profession over Doctor Doyen's claim to the Paris doctors that he has discovered the elixir of life and called it mycolysine.