

HEN TIES UP TROLLEY LINE

Biddy Was Bound to Lay That Egg and Passengers Joined Her in Cackling—Time Limit Placed.

New York.—Trolley traffic on the Avenue C line, in Bayonne, was blocked twenty minutes by a speckled and rosy-combed hen that scooped for herself a nest between the car tracks...

Henry Wilderman, the motorman, who knows much about cold storage and fresh eggs, but little about strictly fresh ones, ran his car close to the hen before he stopped it, and leaning over the dashboard, yelled "Shoo!"

The hen simply looked up at him and winked and settled herself all the closer on the nest. Passengers near the front of the car looked out and saw what was blocking traffic. They laughed at first, but when those in the rear of the car yelled to the motorman to go ahead, those who could see the hen protested.

"Give her a chance," one old man said. "I haven't seen a strictly fresh egg since I left the farm fifteen years ago."

"And I was raised in the city, and never saw one," the motorman replied. "The always ready to look at outcrops."

Minute after minute elapsed, and soon every one became interested, including those in a car that lined up behind. Finally the hen flattered off the nest and began cackling as though she had laid a creature of eggs instead of only one. The motorman leaped from the car, seized the egg, held it up so that all might see it, and put it in his lunch basket. Then he put his car in motion and the trolley of the line ended. When officials of the company ascertained what had caused the block they posted a notice in the car barn warning motormen that in future they must not allow a hen longer than five minutes for egg laying without special orders from the executive offices by telephone.

WOMAN NEARER SAVAGE TYPE

Professor Sargent Says She is of Lower Order Than Man—Has Not Developed as Rapidly.

Boston.—That woman is a lower order of being than man and that she has not developed so rapidly from the barbaric state as man is the latest assertion by Prof. Dudley A. Sargent, head of the department of physical culture at Harvard, and well known as a writer upon subjects pertaining to woman's development.

Are women constitutionally tougher than men? This is the question upon which Doctor Sargent was asked to pass judgment. It was also a question which was brought up by Prof. John M. Tyler of Amherst at the meeting of the American Physical Education association.

"It is a question which is difficult to answer," declared Doctor Sargent, "perhaps because the word 'tough' is one capable of so many interpretations. Taken in the sense of meaning more enduring, I should be inclined to believe that women were in that regard superior to men."

"It stands to reason that since they are constructed on a plan better suited to cope with physical forces of a certain kind, they should be able to withstand conditions which man, who is built with an entirely dissimilar object in view, is unable to contend with."

"Briefly, we may say that woman is nearer the savage state. Her development is more primitive than man's, just as the Indian is more primitive than a white man."

"Woman being biologically more of a barbarian than a man, she has greater proportion of physical endurance. She can undergo many strains that a man can not."

"Women accumulate energy while men expend it. Women have been developing their muscles while men have been developing their brains."

TIES UP ESTATE 60 YEARS

Farmers Will Give Family Only Life Interest—Children Are All Comparatively Young.

Trenton, N. J.—Because of the provisions of the will of the late Henry Wood it is likely that \$17,000, the proceeds of the recent sale of the Wood farms at Hokewell and Pennington, will be tied up in the court of chancery for at least sixty years. A life interest in the farms was left to Mrs. Wood and the children, and upon their deaths were to go to the grandchildren.

The sale of the land was made under a statute which permits the court of chancery, where real estate is left by will and where it is considered wise to do so, to convert the property into cash and invest the cash for the benefit of the legatees.

Under this law the proceeds of the sale have been invested and the interest will be paid over to the widow and children. As the Wood children are comparatively young it is likely that it will be sixty years or more before the money passes over to the grandchildren and out of the control of the court.

PYTHON IS FINICAL

Will Not Look at Anything but White Rabbits.

Black Bunnies Placed in Big Reptile's Cage Are Unharmed—Zoo Store-room Full of Many Choice Things to Eat.

Chicago.—The lion house at the Lygonia park zoo has been in a turmoil the past few days because of the refusal of the python to break its fast. The python's refusal was not due to the fact that it was not hungry. It was, but, being an epicure of the first order, it had to have its food as it wanted it or not at all.

Cy De Vry, head animal keeper, tempted the snake with rabbits, and when it refused to employ these as a means to stay its hunger he tried guinea pigs. They also were refused, and it was thought the python would starve itself. The problem was solved in an unexpected manner when one of De Vry's assistants told the head keeper he was going to try again to tempt the snake and was given permission to do so.

All of the rabbits used in the former meals served to the particular reptile were black and, although the keeper who had the snake had no intention of discriminating, as far as color was concerned, he chanced to put a white rabbit in the cage. The moment the python saw the newcomer it darted toward it and gulped it down. A black rabbit was next, but it was spurned as all of its color had been eaten. The problem was solved, it was white or none for the snake and its wishes were gratified.

Before the first meal for the coming season was finished the snake had done away with four pretty white bunnies, and for the time being everything is quiet about her cage. De Vry says it is the first time in all his experience that he has known a snake to discriminate in regard to the color of its food.

A story going the rounds of the zoo makes De Vry the butt of sarcastic comment by the park employes. In reply of a complaint made against him by a woman who recently visited the zoo, he wrote a letter to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, saying there were live animals in the snake's body and that she wanted them to investigate it.

It is one of the peculiarities of members of the reptile family that they contract the muscles of their bodies when they are digesting food and as the snake mentioned had been fed only a short time previously the movement of its body was caused by a large effort on its part to digest a heavy meal of guinea pigs. The society sent Agent Nolan to investigate the case, and when he asked De Vry if there was any truth in the statement made by the woman, De Vry told him he was privileged to enter the cage occupied by the snake and see.

The agent did not enter the cage. The other residents of the zoo are fed with the best of food, and if the citizen who finds it difficult to supply his table with enough meat and vegetables should see the storeroom of the zoo he would open his eyes in amazement.

In the icebox there is always a supply of the finest beef and fish. The beef is used in feeding the lions, tigers and other large beasts. The fish is fed to the sea lions and water fowl. All of the meat is bought from a large Chicago market house and a fresh supply is brought in every morning.

In the storeroom a full line of the choicest vegetables is kept, including celery, lettuce, cabbage and potatoes. All of the smaller animals are fed from the supplies in this room, and the monkeys and lions are given a dog biscuit occasionally.

JAPS HAVE GROANING TREE

Crowds Assemble Nightly to Listen to Sounds Resembling Human Voices—Extraordinary Story.

Tokyo.—Another of the many extraordinary stories which the vernacular newspapers fill their columns daily has just found its way into print. It is about the discovery of a tree which nightly emits sounds resembling human groans.

The account is quite circumstantial. It is to the effect that the tree is an oak, something akin to the oak; this particular specimen standing in the garden of one Mr. Ozawa, at Nishiyashiro.

The tree is several hundred years old and so large that it requires the outstretched arms of five adults completely to embrace its trunk.

In the last few years this tree has acquired the habit of groaning at night for a certain stated season. I. e., from the beginning of winter till the cuckoo begins to make herself heard. The same phenomenon has been noted this year, the ancient tree having groaned regularly every evening since early in December. Crowds are said to assemble nightly in the garden to listen to these weird and ghostly sounds.

Speaking generally, the current social craze in Japan is for the occult, the newspapers almost without exception devoting a special section to matter of this description, and more particularly to the doings of the so-called "clairvoyants," who are springing up in every direction all over the country. The craze may be expected to die a natural death like its numerous predecessors in the course of a few more months.

WOMEN SEARCHING FOR GOLD

Clergyman's Widow and Authoress Plan to Aid Poor With \$20,000, 900 Cocos Treasure.

San Francisco.—Although numerous tales involving the search for hidden treasure on the little island called Cocos, off the west coast of Costa Rica, have been related, none is as strange as that told upon the arrival here of the steamship Stanley Dollar from Ancon.

Seven men and two women were taken from Ancon aboard the Stanley Dollar and landed upon the treasure island, which for over half a century has been the Mecca for adventurers from all over the world. The party possesses two tons of supplies, boats and a chart of the treasure.

Not only is the band of adventurers led by the women, but in case the search for the reputed \$20,000,000 treasure is successful the entire amount is to be used for the benefit of the London poor. Mrs. B. Till, commander in chief, is the widow of a noted London clergyman, while Miss L. B. Davis, the chief aid to Mrs. Till, is said to be a literary woman of note.

Intensely religious, both women have been connected with philanthropic work in London for the last decade, and it is with the expectation of so expending the vast loot wealth of the Peruvians that the expedition was organized. The women believe it especially appropriate that the treasure should be used for religious purposes, for the bulk of it was taken from the Lima cathedral when the Peruvian capital was threatened by Chileans.

For safe keeping all the altar pieces, consisting of the rails, images, the Madonna and the 12 apostles, were placed on board the American ship Mary Deer. The figures were all of solid gold and life sized. Besides there were millions in precious gems.

The manner in which the chart came into the possession of the women is strange. Cared for during his last illness in London by Mrs. Till and Miss Davis, an aged and dying former pirate confessed his complicity in the stealing of the treasure when he and the crew of the Mary Deer mutinied, killed the officers of the ship and sailed away from Callao. The mutineers hastened toward the Galapagos islands, but, being intercepted by a man-of-war, went to Cocos island, where the treasure was hastily cached, and the pirate sailed away. The Mary Deer was overtaken by a Peruvian war ship, and with the exception of two men all were put to death. One of these was the dying pirate.

In proof of the truth of his story, it is said, the aged man surrendered to his nurses a portion of one of the Madonna's ears, which was found to be made of pure gold.

BUY ANYTHING IN CHICAGO

Order is Received for Twenty Live Rats—Rodents Used to Lay Telephone Cables.

Chicago.—"You can buy anything in Chicago from steel work on an Eiffel tower to a menagerie—and even rats," said Deputy United States Marshal Edward Marales the other day.

"The rat market was a new one to me, however until today, when Frank Ebey, a friend of mine at Rockford, sent me word that he wanted twenty live rats. I couldn't fill the order at once, but I will get the rodents tomorrow and send them to him."

The rats that Mr. Ebey, who is manager of the Rockford (Ill.) telephone exchange, wants are to be used in telephone work and they will perform a function of wire laying that the highest-priced men in the employ of the company are powerless to do. Mr. Ebey, over the long-distance telephone explained this.

"We are laying several miles of wire underground in Rockford," he said, "and the conduits are all laid. Now we have to find some way to fish these wires through the conduits from one manhole to another. The quickest way that we can do it is with rats."

"We take a live rat, the one end of a ball of string around its neck and turn it loose in the conduit. It makes a straight shoot for the other end of the conduit and what it thinks is liberty, and there we trap it again. Then we pull a heavier cord through with the string and with this heavier cord we pull our cable of wires through the conduit."

"There are other ways of doing this, but that is the quickest and least expensive way that we know of. I hope Marales gets those rats here in a hurry."

MAN'S TIME IS WORTH MONEY

Swiss Stranger Made Two Hours and Half Stay of Montana Rancher Cost Him \$1.72 a Minute.

Chicago.—It cost John Kafman \$168 to stop 150 minutes in Chicago the other day. He was here from Alberta, Mont., on his way to Pittsburg, where he was to meet his wife. This is his time table:

Arrives at Central station 7 a. m. Meets a Swiss stranger 7:30 a. m. Takes a drink with him, 7:45 a. m. Has his pocket picked, 7:47 a. m. Discovers the fact 7:55 a. m. Talks to the police, 8:30 a. m. Back to Montana, 9:00 a. m.

"The stranger made a hit with me because he said I looked like a western breeze," said Kafman. "I guess he meant a saphy—something soft and easy. I'm going back to Montana to wire my wife to come on alone and call the police as soon as the train gets into Chicago."

TO TEACH FARMING

Commissioner of Massachusetts Board of Education Approves.

Hoped to Disseminate Principles Broadcast Throughout Commonwealth and Bring About Reclamation of Abandoned Farms.

Boston.—After many years of discussion a definite program, arranged by David Snedden, commissioner of the state board of education, has been submitted to the legislature whereby it is proposed to have scientific farming taught in the public schools and its principles disseminated broadcast throughout the entire state.

By his program the commissioner hopes to bring about the reclamation of abandoned farms and a general development of agriculture along expert lines. His recommendations call for the establishment of six state agricultural schools and an agricultural department in every high school in the state.

Not only is this sweeping addition to the system of the state approved by the educational authorities, but it is supported as a thoroughly practical measure by Secretary J. Lewis Ellsworth, of the state board of agriculture, whose knowledge of farming conditions and possibilities is unquestioned.

That the farming population will be increased and that the "back to the land" impulse will be gratified with a certainty of success by the city bred high school graduates of the next few years are results to be expected. Also, it is the most practical step toward utilizing small plots of land in intensive farming.

On this point Secretary Ellsworth says: "From the agricultural standpoint the recommendations of the state board of education are very welcome, and they bear out the conclusions that progressive farmers have arrived at. The scientific instruction in farming as a life work is needed just as much as the vocational instruction in other lines."

"The farmer today knows this, and with the teaching of boys in high schools or separate agricultural schools we will receive recruits for the farm work of the future."

"General instruction in agriculture will be of special value in fitting the students for working profitably small plots near our large cities where there is a ready market. This calls for intensive farming to achieve the fullest profits, and the graduates of these schools will be fitted for such work."

The importance of his recommendations is dwelt upon by Dr. Snedden, who has spent the last year in investigating the special needs of agricultural education. One of the most important of these as it is set forth in the carefully considered report of the board, is:

"The growing commercial and industrial school facilities open to boys and girls fourteen years of age and older tend to lure away from the land and into congested centers. In the absence of competent and attractive agricultural education, many young people whose natural aptitudes would make them, if properly trained, better and more prosperous citizens in the country."

"Financial aid for agricultural education suitable for adults and for college students has for a half century been furnished by the commonwealth and by the federal government. State aid for vocational training of the secondary grade in agriculture is, moreover, entirely in keeping with state aid for independent industrial school work and to some extent has been provided for."

"The slow development of secondary agricultural schools, the testimony of farmers throughout the state, and the demand for the investigation which was made by the legislature of 1910 are evidence of the need of additional legislation providing for this kind of agricultural education."

TO BATHE AT TOWN'S COST

Request of Innmate of Connecticut Poorhouse Still Officials and Request Be Granted.

Hartford, Conn.—The clean years are to follow the foul years in Manchester for Walter Jackson, the venerable negro, who, in addition to being prominent as the only inmate of Manchester town house, is now noted state-wide as the only person in the commonwealth who has escaped a voluntary or enforced bath in the last six years. He is to enjoy a long deferred swim.

During his stay at the poorhouse Jackson never had a bath in any way more than could be held in a small basin, but the past week the selectmen received a respectful petition from him requesting that facilities be afforded for at least one more bath before he died.

Much excitement was caused by the receipt of this extraordinary petition, and, after long wrangling, arrangements were agreed to by the selectmen.

Would Have Real Utility. Champ Clark proposes an inquiry to determine the direct and incidental cost to the United States of all the wars waged since 1776. Among the many ways in which such figures would have utility would be in affording instructive comparisons between expenses on a war footing and expenses on a peace footing under standard control.

HEDGEHOG FIT FOR EPICURE

Maine Advocates Say Bounties Caused Great Waste of Good Food—Preferred to Skunk or Muskrat.

Maine, Me.—"It is a shame," says a lover of hedgehog meat, "that the people of Maine have remained in ignorance regarding the delights of eating roasted hedgehog for so long. If they had been utilized as food those 150,000 dead hedgehogs for which Maine has paid out \$38,000 in bounties would have kept two regiments of soldiers in meat for six weeks. It was a cruel and wanton waste of precious food."

The advocates of hedgehog meat as part of the regular bill of fare assert that in England the average poacher prefers a hedgehog to a hare for breakfast. In Michigan the legislature has placed a perpetual close time on hedgehogs, so that persons lost in the woods and without food may find meat to satisfy their hunger and kill it without the aid of shotgun or rifle. It is asserted on good authority that more than 30 men are saved from starving in Michigan every year because hedgehogs are abundant and easy to capture.

When a Maine Indian has his choice of a hedgehog, a skunk, a woodchuck and a muskrat for dinner, he will select the first named invariably, and take the skunk as second choice, leaving the woodchuck, which is the only one of the lot a Maine white man will taste, to the last. Unlike the skunk and the woodchuck, which are lean and unsavory except for a few months in the fall, or the muskrat, which is never fat, and which has a strong flavor in spite of parboiling, the hedgehog is always in an edible condition, and has meat that is as tender and white as that of a spring chicken.

The method of cooking a hedgehog is so simple that a novice can learn in one short lesson. When the epicure is permitted to make choice he should shun the large, old males, which at times weigh 30 or 40 pounds. The preparation consists in removing the viscera, washing out the interior and filling the cavity with slices of fat pork, peeled raw potatoes, sprigs of spearmint and wild celery from the brook.

Then, without removing the quills of skinning, the body is plastered thickly with wet clay from the nearest bank. The muddy, bulky mass is thrust into live coals and covered with blazing faggots, to be roasted for two hours.

On removal from the coals, the clay is found to have been baked into a hard and solid mass, which must be broken open with an ax or a heavy stone, whereupon the skin and quills of the animal cling to the clay wrapping and fall away, leaving the clean, white meat ready to be eaten.

Ten years ago the Maine legislature passed a law providing for a bounty of 25 cents a head on all dead hedgehogs brought to the town clerks. An appropriation of \$500 for each of the years 1901 and 1902 was made, but when the total for the two bounty years reached \$38,000, the legislature quickly repealed the law.

RULES FOR REDUCING TIPS

President of Servitors' Organization in New York Advises Cutting Down Gratuities.

New York.—Arthur Matson, former head waiter in the palm room of the Waldorf and now president of the New York General Association, an exclusive and powerful waiters' association, says there are times when one should not tip, and lays down these rules for tipsters:

"If the waiter doesn't greet you cheerfully when you approach his table and take your hat and coat quickly, let it down on your mind and deduct five per cent from the tip."

"If he shows annoyance because you are a party of only one or two and take his table when he might have caught a party of four or five, deduct five per cent from the tip."

"If he lays your pet walking stick against a chair so every passing waiter and bus-knocks it down, deduct ten per cent."

"If he elaps the dishes about and jingles the knives and forks in an irritating manner, deduct ten per cent."

"If he makes himself scarce throughout the course of the meal and is generally at the other end of the room discussing politics or the shortage of the French wine crop, deduct ten per cent."

"If he is supercilious and makes remarks about you to a foreign tongue to his partner, deduct ten per cent."

"If he is careless and spills the soup on your woman friend's frock or a few raw oysters down the back of your neck, deduct 20 per cent and collect from the management."

"If he has done all these things, deduct 100 per cent, and tell the head waiter about it. He will thank you."

WOULD PUT HOBOS ON FARMS

Governor Dix of New York Suggests New Use for Abandoned Lands in State—Place for Tramps.

Albany, N. Y.—The use of abandoned farms owned by New York state as farm colonies for tramps and vagrants will be urged by Governor Dix. Many unused farms have come into the possession of the state through nonpayment of mortgages given to secure state loans at the time of the Civil war, and a bill providing for their use as farm colonies for tramps will be introduced in the legislature. At present the state is paying thousands of dollars a year for the maintenance of tramps in penitentiaries.

LOOK AT SHILLINGS

Why England's Big Race Track Proved a Failure.

Those in Control of Brooklands, Automobile Course, Have Experimented for Years in Attempt to Make Sports Pay.

London.—The problem of how to make Brooklands, England's big automobile track, pay, or at least prove self-supporting, at last seems near solution. For four years, ever since this, the largest racing track in the world, was opened to the public, those in control of it have been experimenting and out of bitter experience and the loss of much money they have slowly but surely learned that its appeal is not to the man in the street, however good a sportsman he may be, but to the rich and well-to-do.

When the track was first opened only automobile races were held on the great oval. Later on motorcycling was introduced and finally aviation. Now all three are combined at every meet. But attempts to get a popular class crowd to witness the events have been abandoned and the 3,000 of more men and women who gather to see the races are recruited almost entirely from the upper crust of English society—owners of motor cars and flying machines of their own. As a matter of fact many of the races put on are arranged for amateur drivers and airmen piloting their own machines.

Motorcycling has become a popular pastime in England and interest in racing is intense. If Brooklands were more accessible to London it is safe to say that the motorcycling races there would attract large crowds. But it is a 60-cent train ride from Waterloo station, there is another charge of 60 cents to enter the grounds and by the time a man has paid for his tea, a programme and a few other incidental expenses he has put the equivalent of a \$2 bill out of commission. The London sport can get so much for \$2, or eight shillings. It is not strange that he does not rush to Brooklands on meet days no matter how keen he may be on motorcycling.

These facts have on their influence, of course, on the incentives that are offered to the riders who compete in the motorcycle races. In the United States the men race for substantial purses and hold out for them if they are not forthcoming. In England they are willing to race for a silver mug of little or no value or almost for a sheet of paper stating that they won such and such a race on such and such a day at Brooklands. That, of course, has been the trouble in trying to match De Rostier against Collier, the English champion rider. Quite naturally De Rostier wants to race for a fair sized purse, not being in business to collect mugs or diplomas of merit, and efforts are being made to get one of the clubs in England to put up a bag of sovereigns for a match between the Englishman and the American.

Of the three sports now in full swing at Brooklands aviation undoubtedly draws the largest crowd. It still possesses the elements of novelty and danger which have to a large extent disappeared from automobile racing and motorcycling. The flying contests held at the big track are not what one would call exciting. The fights made at each meeting are added to the distance covered by the same aviators at previous meets and the one who completes the greatest total before the close of the season is to get the prize. Thus, unless one is keen enough to follow the progress of the several aviators from meet to meet the flying resolves itself into nothing more than an exhibition of aeroplaning. Nevertheless, it attracts a goodly crowd of spectators.

Interest has been added to the flying by the fact that a growing number of spectators have been up in the air themselves. When races are not being held at Brooklands there is a corps of professional aviators camped steadily on the grounds for the purpose of taking passengers on more or less lengthy flights. Booking offices have been opened in London as well as on the grounds and a flourishing business is done.

STUDENTS EARN \$85 A MONTH

New York University Men Also Devote-Eighteen Hours Each Week to Different Classes.

New York.—Students of the New York University School of Commerce, Accounts and Finance, according to a statement issued by Dr. George C. Sprague, the university registrar, earned during the year 1910 an average salary of \$85.54 a month. There are 1,150 students in attendance at the school and the total earnings of the student body amounted to \$1,121,000.

While earning this amount the students devoted an average of nine hours a week to classroom attendance and a like amount of time to preparation for recitations. Those who reported included bookkeepers, bank clerks, accountants, stenographers, teachers, salesmen and interpreters.

Possibility of the Future.

The nation is glad congress is going to investigate the steel trust and the woolen monopoly. If congress keeps trying and trying it may ultimately get a committee that will really investigate the subject assigned to it.