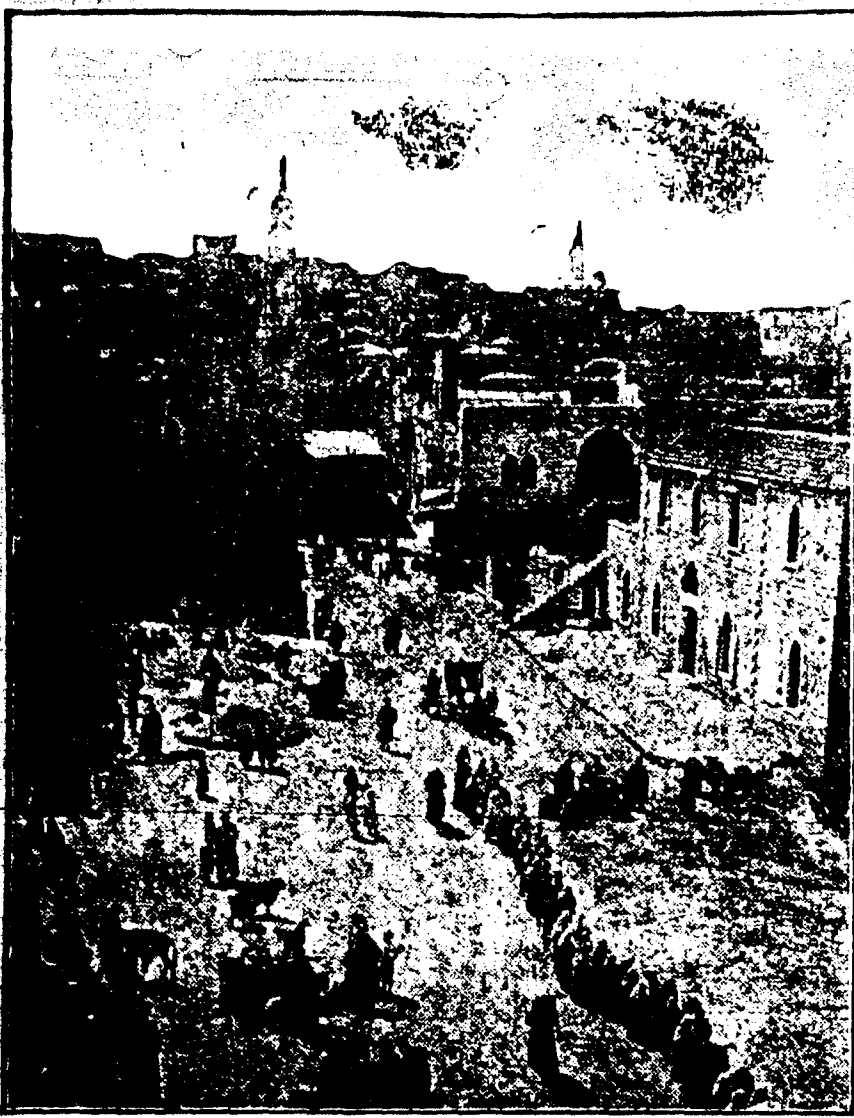


BETHLEHEM OF JUDEA



From stereograph, copyright by Underwood & Underwood, N. Y. Street scene at the birthplace of Jesus, looking west from the church of the Nativity.

PUMPKIN IS MONSTER

GROWS FROM SEED CAST AWAY IN GARBAGE.

Shell of Vegetable Colossus in Rhode Island Used by Men as Brooding Place and Fourteen Chicks Are Hatched Out.

Providence, R. I.—Those good and tract people who may have doubted that Cinderella, after all, had a pumpkin as a chariot, are respectfully referred to a Prudence island production in the pumpkin line, which residents of that part of the state proudly claim was the largest and heaviest ever raised in New England. They are sure the princess could have ridden in it.

After rats had cleaned the shell of the Prudence island colossus of its contents, a hen took possession and established her nest, with a lot of room to spare, and hatched out a brood of chickens.

The vine on which the monster grew came up, of its own accord, on a spot where Joseph Wilson, steward of the island station of the Rhode Island Yacht club, threw a pan of garbage and vegetable parings, which doubtless contained the seed. The vine was of phenomenal growth, being, by measurement, 28 feet from root to tip, but was slow in maturing and the pumpkins did not ripen till after a light frost had pinched the vine.

All of the pumpkins were large, but the largest was three feet, eight inches in diameter, and of proportionate weight. Charles Smith, of the Narragansett Bay Oyster company, and David Buffman, Jr., of the Twin Beach Inn farm, carried the pumpkin to a shed near Mr. Smith's dwelling. It was his intention to place it on a high shelf, out of reach of rats, but the great weight of the fruit made this impossible and it was left on the floor. The fondness of rats for pumpkin seeds is well known, however, and it was not long before they had gnawed a hole into the side of the mammoth and completely excavated the soft interior which contained the seeds.

The pumpkin seemed destined to have a domestic career. Some three weeks ago Mr. Smith missed a choice Rhode Island hen from his flock and soon found her in the pumpkin with 14 chickens. When discovered the chicks were busily consuming the floor and wall of their dwelling, and the bird was so thin in spots as to show that their mother had subsisted largely upon it during the period of incubation.

Thinking that the pumpkin may have been of some unusual variety, the friends had notified the secretary of the Portsmouth Grange Agricultural society, asking that a committee be sent to Prudence to make official measurement and record of its dimensions, but the unpleasantness of winter boating caused the examination to be postponed from time to time and the pumpkin is now in such a state of collapse as to make verification of existing measurements impossible. It is a matter of regret that some of the seeds was saved.

Big Fresh Water Pearl. Barleeville, I. T.—Thomas Cook and George Henry, who recently established a pearl fishing station a few miles south of this city, have found the largest pearl ever discovered in this country.

It is about the size of a pigeon's egg. Robert Henry, president of the Henry Oil company, has offered \$1,500 for it, but the owners have been informed by local jewelers that it is worth \$3,000.

Many oil drillers are leaving work to dig for muscels along Cancy river.

POWER PLANT INSIDE DAM.

Unique House Near Baltimore Constructed Under Water.

Baltimore, Md.—An absolutely unique power plant has recently been completed about 15 miles below this city on the Patapsco river. It is built within a dam and is entirely under water. It is the first of its kind ever built, and cost much less than it would have if built in any other known way. The dam is 220 feet long, 40 feet thick at the base and 26 1/2 feet high. The spillway is 168 feet long, but at present only 108 feet of this distance is used for housing the power plant. The dam is of re-enforced concrete the shell being 18 inches thick at the bottom and tapering to ten inches at the top.

The apron extends only half way down from the crown, the remaining down stream portion being entirely open and provided with windows by means of which the interior is lighted. The shape of the apron is such that the water is thrown some little distance away from the windows.

The part used by the power house is fitted with a false ceiling hung five feet from the inside of the dam, so as to protect the apparatus from any water that might seep through the outer shell of the dam. The dam is built of a fine and rich mixture, which was laid very wet. Aside from this no precautions were taken to eliminate water.

The water is fed to the turbines through steel pipes passing through the upstream spillway shell, and discharged by draft tubes into the base of the dam, dropping into a well sunk some three feet below the river bed. The water passes thence by way of a channel constructed in the river bed out of the dam. The intake is five and one-half feet below the crest of the spillway, so that the trash racks are kept clear of driftwood, etc.

PITCHER SAVES LIFE OF GIRL.

Bullet Fired by Accident Warded Off by Receptacle She Carried.

Oakland, Cal.—A granite iron chocolate pot probably saved the life of Agnes Snow, a chocolate dipper employed at a candy factory. The utensil acted as a foil between her and a bullet accidentally fired from the office of an electrical company.

Miss Snow was at work in the factory when a steel-capped bullet suddenly thudded against the pot of chocolate which she was carrying in front of her. Immediately there was a sound of three other shots, a panic being created among the employes of the factory, many of whom are girls.

A telephone call was sent to Police headquarters. Detectives investigated the case and traced the course of the bullets from the electrical concern's shed any light on the subject. Then the detectives recovered one of the bullets, and a little investigation furnished the information that a revolver using such projectiles had been sold by the proprietor of the electrical concern. Then the detectives found that Houson had been examining the weapon, when an employe volunteered to show him how to work it, with the result that four shots were accidentally fired. No arrests were made.

Baby Its Own Uncle.

Bucyrus, O.—A son born to Mr. Charles Kuenble is his own uncle. The child's father is also its grandfather. When Kuenble's first wife—a widow with several daughters—died he married one of her daughters. He is his wife's stepfather as well as her husband. The new baby is a stepbrother to his mother's brothers and sisters, as well as to her. Kuenble is the brother in law of his stepsons and stepdaughters.

LOST BURIAL MONEY GAMBLING.

Protected Games Get Cash Sent to Pay for Wife's Funeral.

Denver, Col.—Another victim of the gambling heels of Denver has reaped the rewards of the system.

The gamblers' syndicate has unblushingly taken the very money from its victim which was to pay the last cost for conveying the dead body of a woman to its grave.

A man by the name of Brees, who was here from Auburn, N. Y., for his wife's health, was the last victim to fall into the clutches of the syndicate. Bred of every dollar he possessed, desperation stared him in the face when his wife died from consumption. Without even money to pay for her burial shroud, he went to the last ditch when friends in Auburn sent him \$100 with which to purchase a ticket for himself and the remains of his wife back home.

The temptations of the open gambling den with its unchallenged invitation to ruin were too strong. The \$100 went to the men who never lost. His baggage followed. His watch and everything he possessed fell into the gaping jaws of the syndicate and the remains of his dead wife lay in local undertaking rooms. Every effort was made to hush up the case for fear of exposure. The money was provided to get the victim out of town, and he was sent on his way where they thought his tale would never be known.

MODEL HUSBANDS TO ORDER.

Aim of New Benedict's Club Just Formed in Gotham.

New York.—Model husbands are to be made while you wait (you may have to wait a long while) by the Benedict's club, which has just been formed.

It is called the Benedict's club, but is really a training school for matrimony. At present it numbers 20 members, who have banded themselves together for the purpose of studying how to make themselves into ideal husbands for their ideal women.

The club meets every Tuesday night in the Harlem branch of the Y. M. C. A., and a lecture is delivered by a specialist on whatever branch of the art of being happy though married in which he happens to be versed.

Some of the members are actual benedicts who have joined the new training school for husbands in the hope of becoming more proficient in living up to their wives' ideals, but the majority are still unmarried and have entered the club merely as possible candidates for matrimony.

Among the actual benedicts in the organization is its vice-president, F. W. Wheeler, who is connected with the Interborough railroad. The president, W. F. Randolph, a lawyer of about 30, is unmarried, however. And so, too, is the secretary and treasurer, W. H. Stillman.

SMALL BOY SHOOT BIG WOLF.

Is Only 11 Years Old, But He Protects Farm with Parents Away.

Crookston, Minn.—For cool-headed heroism Henry Just, the 11-year-old son of a farmer living southeast of St. Hilaire, deserves a medal.

As proof of his bravery and prowess he has the carcass of a big timber wolf which he will have mounted. When his parents drove to town he was left on the farm alone to keep the fire going and look after things generally. Toward nightfall he heard the shepherd dog making a big fuss back of the stable, and upon investigation saw a big timber wolf in a small pasture fenced in with woven wire. The wolf had retreated to one corner where it was being worried by the dog.

Returning to the house the boy got his 22 rifle and shot the animal several times, but the small bullet did not seem to hurt the brute. The lad then obtained a shotgun loaded with buckshot, but was afraid to shoot for fear he would kill the dog, which was closing in on the wolf.

Finally the lad returned to the house and secured a big rifle belonging to his father and with the first bullet shot the wolf through the heart.

Marriage by Mail Fails.

Marysville, O.—A mail order wedding, which took place in Columbus on December 17, 1907, uniting Frank L. Denman of this city and Cornelia Doud of New Jersey, came to grief the other day, when Denman secured a divorce from his wife on the ground of extreme cruelty and gross neglect of duty.

Denman inserted an advertisement in a newspaper for a wife, and, after corresponding a few times, Denman sent Cornelia Doud \$40 to come to Columbus, where he met her and they were married on sight. In a few weeks the couple quarreled and separated.

Denman says his short matrimonial experience cost him nearly \$1,000.

Shovel Snow on Ship.

New York.—The first marine corps of white wings in the history of transatlantic travel was organized on the Hamburg-American liner Graf Waldersee, which arrived here after a trying experience with wind and snow storms. The snow came down so thick that Capt. Frohlich could not see 50 feet ahead of the bridge, and the decks were covered to a depth of two feet.

At the suggestion of a New Yorker the captain asked the Italians who were in the steerage if they would not like to shovel off the snow. They said they would, and in a short time 900 men were digging up the snow from the steamer's decks and pitching it into the sea.

EARL CAN'T GET JOB

TRAMPS STREETS OF ST. LOUIS, BUT FINDS NO WORK.

H. A. Wilton Vanreede, Holder of Irish and Dutch Titles, University Scholar and Former Beer Captain, Down On His Luck.

St. Louis.—For three months H. A. Wilton Vanreede, claiming to be earl of Athlone, Baron Vanreede, former captain in the Boer army, a graduate of the University of Bonn and master of four languages, has tramped the streets of St. Louis in an unsuccessful search for work.

Early in November he obtained employment polishing stoves in a furniture house. But his employer learned that the stove polisher was of noble blood and highly educated, and turned him adrift at the end of two weeks in order to employ some one who would be permanent in the stove polishing business.

That was the last work of any kind that the soldier-nobleman has been able to obtain. He has applied for everything from a railroad clerkship to a ditch digger. Mr. Vanreede, in describing his experiences, said:

"I arrived in St. Louis about three months ago, having been in this country about seven months, working at odd jobs. I have the Irish title of Earl of Athlone, bestowed on my great-grandfather by William III., whom he accompanied to England. I also have the Dutch title of Baron Vanreede. There are no estates attached to either title. I care less about this rank now than I do about getting some kind of work, day labor or anything else. I have made application for about 300 different jobs.

"I was in the railroad business in South Africa for 16 years, and I understand all branches of railroad clerking. I have applied for positions of this kind at the offices of all the big railroads in St. Louis. In one instance I even secured admission to the office of the president of the road and made my application to him personally. He told me that he could do nothing for me in the first place on account of my age. I am 52."

Despite his age, Mr. Vanreede looks young and is possessed of a vigorous and robust physique and a soldierly bearing.

"The only thing I see to do is to apply for domestic employment," he continued, "tending furnaces or horses or something of that kind. If I had known how bad things were going to be I would have written home for funds. I have written, but it takes at least 24 days to get a letter to Holland and back, so it will be some time before I get any return from my message to my brothers and sisters."

MADE TALLER BY STRETCHING.

Candidate for Police Force Adds Quarter of Inch to Height.

Springfield, Mass.—In order to land a berth on the Springfield police force Charles Martens, prominent throughout the east as a professional basketball player and all-around athlete, has added one-quarter of an inch to his height.

The Scriptures say that it is impossible for a man to add one cubit to his stature. "But if you can't add a cubit, whatever that is, you might add three-sixteenths of an inch," soiled-ouized Martens. And he did.

"If anybody thinks it is easy," said Martens to a reporter, "just let him try it. I don't want to say much about what I have done, because I might even now fall to pass a second examination."

The police regulations say a policeman must be at least five feet seven inches tall in his bare feet. Dr. Downey, of Boston, found Martens in splendid physical condition, but short three-sixteenths of an inch of the standard height, although he is about five feet eight inches in his shoes.

Martens asked if it would be allowable to stretch himself. Dr. Downey said it would be. So Martens went to work.

Three weeks' training in the gymnasium did the job. Martens literally "won in the stretch."

"All that is gained in height," he declared, "must be gained in the neck and body. Nothing can be gained in the legs. For an hour each day I have lain in bed, stretching and going through certain exercises. Then I have trained in the gymnasium, taking exercises to stretch my body. If I pass the test I will tell just how it was done."

Martens has been measured by the Turn Verein gymnasium instructor, who helped him do the job. He gained four-sixteenths of an inch, when he is only needed three-sixteenths.

SAVINGS IN HIS SHIRT.

New York Man Carries \$60,000 Where Hold-Up Men May Get It.

New York.—Afraid of banks and fearful of investments, there is a man walking somewhere about Queens Borough each day with \$60,000 in bills pinned to his undershirt. He has carried the money about in that manner since the October financial flurry, ignoring the advice of his friends, he carries the money about with him, believing that it is safe only under his eye, or, more literally, under his shirt.

County Judge Burt Jay Humphrey of Queens, who lives in Jamaica, told some of his friends of the man. "I hope some one will hold him up and steal his shirt and put the money in circulation," said one of his friends.

FISHING BIG INDUSTRY

REPORT SHOWS 76,100 MEN IN CANADIAN WORK.

Their Apparatus Represents an Aggregate Capital of \$14,555,565—Lobster Plant Valued at \$1,500,000.

Ottawa, Ont.—Seventy-six thousand one hundred men are engaged in the Canadian fisheries, not including the thousands employed in the lobster industry, according to the report just published. These fishermen used 7,000,000 fathoms of gill nets and seines, besides other fishing gear, representing an aggregate capital of \$14,555,565, being an excess of more than a million and a half over the outlay of the previous year.

The lobster plant alone is valued at \$1,500,000, comprising equipment and canneries. The industry placed on the market crustaceans valued at \$3,422,900.

The great lakes fisheries, which, of course, are covered in the Ontario report, amounted to \$1,734,856. The salmon fisheries of the Pacific coast with equipment, and 77 canneries, are valued at \$1,757,000, and gave employment to 14,865 persons. These marketed a product worth \$5,000,000.

Not including the government's sealing fleet, which is valued at \$393,000, the government's invested capital in canning and other industries is given at \$2,205,000.

Ontario's yield of whitefish in 1907 amounted to 2,875,450 pounds, an increase over the previous year of 58,030 pounds, which does not include 52,200 pounds sold as salt fish. The herring catch amounted to 4,543,700 pounds, being an increase of 688,500 pounds. The trout catch amounted to 7,931,260 pounds, an increase of 1,174,640 pounds. The pickerel yield of 2,956,200 represents a decrease of 280,740 pounds less than for 1905. The total value of the fish catch for Ontario is set at \$1,734,856.

The Ontario hatcheries have not been working to their capacities, although they have been doing good work. The Sandwich hatchery distributed 61,500,000 whitefish fry and 41,500,000 pickerel fry; Ottawa 877,000 salmon trout fry, 525,000 whitefish fry, 95,000 Atlantic salmon fry and 55,000 speckled trout fry. The Newcastle hatchery produced 1,807,000 salmon trout fry.

The breeding of black bass in the enclosed ponds near Belleville has been continued, and from the adult specimens of this fine game fish, numberless fingerlings or advanced fry were reared and distributed in suitable waters in the province of Ontario. The Sandwich hatchery cost \$5,593.91 to maintain. Ontario gets \$12,505.03 out of a total general expenditure of \$118,681.62.

EGGS IN A NEW STYLE.

Australian Devises Unique Method to Preserve Hen Product.

Ottawa, Ont.—Australians have devised a scheme to turn fresh-laid eggs to powder for preserving and shipping purposes.

In a recent report the trade commissioner for Canada in Australia makes special reference to a process for desiccating eggs now being carried out there, for which high claims are made, and which the commissioner thus describes:

Desiccated eggs are not substitutes for eggs, but newly laid eggs and are treated by a process by which only the shell and water contents of the egg are removed, and the whole substance of the egg, yolk and albumen, converted into powder.

It is claimed to have been proved that this powder will keep for years, and only requires the addition of milk or water, when the powdered eggs will reconstitute and be ready for use for any purpose just the same as a newly laid egg. The powder is rich and attractive looking, and is reported by the government analysts of New South Wales and Victoria to contain no chemical preservative. No part of the egg except the water has been removed in the process.

GIFTMAKERS IN CONTEST.

Rockefeller and Carnegie Seem to Vie with Each Other.

New York.—What promises to be a highly interesting and, from the public's point of view, a highly profitable "war" between the country's two most prominent multimillionaires is that apparently being waged between Carnegie and Rockefeller for leadership in the field of philanthropy.

Although there is no avowed rivalry, it was considered noteworthy that directly following the announcement of Mr. Rockefeller's gift of \$2,000,000 to the Institute for Medical Research, which bears his name, Mr. Carnegie came to bat with a \$2,000,000 addition to the endowment of the Carnegie institution at Washington.

According to records so far as they have been made public the great steel master has given away \$136,329,950 to the various objects of his beneficence, while the oil king has parted with \$106,356,000 for philanthropic purposes. This leaves Mr. Carnegie with a lead of a trifling \$29,984,950. With the resources of Mr. Rockefeller, however, this handicap is by no means insuperable, as indicated by his single gift of \$2,000,000 to the general education board.

HINDOO VASE IS HOODOO.

Misfortune Befalls Women of Iowa to Whom It is Presented.

Waterloo, Ia.—The feeling is growing that some strange hoodoo attaches to a certain vase that has been in the possession of the Women's Relief corps in Iowa for several years past, for bad luck seems to have persistently followed its possessors.

A few years ago at the national gathering the presiding officer was presented with a huge bouquet of roses, and as there was no proper receptacle on the stage some one left the hall and returned with a vase. When the gathering closed no one claimed the vase and the Iowa delegates carried it off to their state headquarters. There it attracted much interest because of its strange design and mystic markings, which bespoke its Hindoo origin.

The ladies regarded it with longing, but as one claiming it, the presiding officer, with mock ceremony, presented it to one of the unmarried members with the hope that it would bring her a husband before the next annual meeting. It was stipulated that the vase should again become the property of the organization, when the charm should be effective. When the member returned the next year, accompanied by her husband, interest in the curious vessel became tremendous, and there was a keen rivalry among the spinster members as to who should receive it.

The second disposition was made by a vote of the delegates, who christened it the "loving cup." Strangely enough, the experience of the first custodian was repeated by the second and third, and last June at Dubuque it was voted to a Waverly girl. Only a few hours after receiving the vase she suffered an accident which laid her up for several months. Two women who received the vessel lost their husbands within a year of their marriage, and the health of the husband of the third is said to be failing.

DIES FOR LOVE OF PET DOLL.

Little New York Girl Burned with Her Treasure in Her Arms.

New York.—Four-year-old Nanina Leone is dead, all for the love of her Christmas doll. Nanina was the daughter of a well-to-do contractor who lives in the suburbs. On Christmas she received a beautiful wax doll, which at once became the joy of her baby heart. A few days ago she accompanied her mother around the corner and there told the grocer's wife all about the doll.

The woman expressed a desire to see it and the child insisted on being allowed to run home and get it. She would only be gone a moment, she explained. Mrs. Leone remained to finish her purchases, but as the minutes passed and the little girl did not return she became anxious and started back to the house. There was a crowd in front of the building, smoke was coming out of the windows and a fire engine was on the corner.

Mrs. Leone rushed to her apartments to find her daughter. Nanina was not to be seen. One of the fire men looked in under the bed and then they led the woman away. There lay the child, dead, her doll in her arms. The doll had been placed under the bed and the room was dark. Nanina probably lighted a match to find it and set fire to her clothing. The doctor in the ambulance which responded to a call said the little girl had inhaled the flames and died almost instantly.

GOAT MEAT AS VENISON.

Consumers Enjoyed It Until They Knew What They Ate.

Galeston, Pa.—For two or three days Frank Mandl was peddling alleged venison to his customers. It went like hot cakes, for the price was reasonable and one has not the opportunity to buy deer meat in the open market every day.

The news reached the ears of a game warden at Bradford, and he came in great haste. He went to Mandl's premises with authority to arrest him for violating the game laws. Upon finding Mandl, the warden asked:

"Have you been selling deer meat?" "Sure I have," says Mandl. "Do you know that you are liable to arrest and a fine of \$100?" again asked the warden.

Mandl by this time was frightened and admitted that he was guilty, but declared he did not know he was doing wrong.

"Let me see the head of the animal," said the warden. Mandl couldn't find it, but after considerable search in the barnyard Mr. Mandl brought it forth, horns and all. "That isn't a deer, it's a goat," said the warden. "That is so," said Mandl. Then it was all off. Mandl was the first to tell the joke, which was not only on him, but his customers, who thought they had been eating venison.

Cat Loves Her Roving Mome.

Danville, Ill.—About two months ago a cat came aboard one of the McNally company's big steam shovels at the Big Four works here and remained there, being cared for by the engineer. When the shovel was loaded on a car for shipment to Poughkeepsie, N. Y., the big Maltese refused to vacate her home.

When last seen pussy was in full charge of the shovel and traveling east on a fast freight train, with provisions enough on board to last her until she reached the classic banks of the Hudson.