PRIME MINISTER OF ENGLAND

The Right Honorable Herbert Henry Asquith, prime minister of England in succession to the late Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, is the first lawyer who has been prime minister since Spencer Perceval held office from 1809 till 1812. Mr. Asquith is 55 years of age, was born at Morley, Yorkshire, and has had a long and brilliant career at the bar. He first entered parliament in 1886, as member for East Fife. He was secretary of state for the home department from 1892 till 1895, and was ecclesiastical commissioner for the same period, and has been chancellor of the exchequer and lord rector of Glasgow university since 1905. He was educated at the City of London school and at Balliol college, Oxford.

BRADY IS EGG KING

RUSH (IND.) MAN IS CHAMPION HEN-FRUIT PICKER.

Leader for Many Years in Unique Contest Gains Victory by Using His Teeth to Select the Hard Shells.

Cumberland, Md.—There is a custom at Rush, a village 12 miles east of here, which has been in vogue from time immemorial and has no counterpart anywhere else so far as can be learned, consisting of an egg-picking contest, which takes place annually on Easter Monday.

The interest in the event centers around William Brady, who styles himself the "egg king," having held the championship for the last 25 years or more. Brady has earned the title from the fact that he has been able to break all the eggs that were brought to him in fair egg-picking contests.

At these annual contests Brady is pitted against the field. For weeks before the event he visits all the stores for miles around, where eggs are kept, and goes through the baskets of eggs, selecting all the hard-shelled ones, and hoarding them up, until he has 50 dozen or more. He judges whether an egg has a hard or soft shell by jarring it against his teeth.

Having selected all the eggs which he deems worthy of employing in the battle royal, he takes a day off, usually the Saturday before Easter, in which to color the eggs. For the latter purpose he uses onion hulls steeped in water, declaring that all other dyes soften the shells.

Loaded down with eggs, early Easter morning he goes to the village grocery store, dressed in a suit made of striped bed-ticking, which he styles his Easter suit and which he wears on no other occasion. He also wears a hat made out of the same material, ornamented with a roster feather. As soon as the crowd commences to gather Brady mounts the store porch and makes a speech, in which he reviews his past record and winds up by saying that he is ready to meet all comers.

In these egg-picking contests the eggs are picked against each other "for keeps," the owner of the successful egg taking the broken one. When once the contest starts it is kept up until a late hour at night, or until all the eggs offered are broken. After the contest Brady has often to secure a wagon in which to haul home the eggs that he has won in the day's battle.

Brady says he intends to retire from the contests now, as his teeth are in such condition that he cannot tell for certain whether an egg has a hard or soft shell.

He is a unique figure when attired in his "Easter suit," and struts around seemingly as proud of the honors which he has won as if he were really king of the settlement rather than the "egg king." That the later title is not looked upon lightly may be judged from the heroic efforts that are made to wrest the honor from him.

Kangaroo Rat Killing Crop.

Santa Cruz, Cal.—One of the most destructive pests with which vineyard owners have to contend, known as the kangaroo rat, appeared in the vineyards on Ben Lomond mountains. The rats are appearing by the hundreds and are feeding on the young buds of the grape vines. If some means of killing them is not found they will destroy the entire crop. The cause of their appearance in such numbers is attributed to a recent wholesale slaughter of rattlesnakes.

WOULD RATHER BE MARSHAL.

Oklahoma Man Making $15,000 to $20,000 a Year Quits for an Office.

Afton, Okla.—If you owned 2,200 acres of land and were possessed of a fortune estimated at from $75,000 to $100,000, besides conducting a business that netted you a profit of from $15,000 to $20,000 a year, would you give it up to accept a political job that paid $4,000 a year?

That is exactly what Grant Victor, the new United States marshal for the eastern district of Oklahoma, did.

When asked why he accepted the appointment Victor said:

"I got into politics as a sort of a joke, but now that I have been appointed marshal I am going to make good, even if it does cost me $10,000 a year."

Victor is a native of Illinois. He was born in Ulin 40 years ago. His parents died when he was an infant. While a youth he served an apprenticeship at the bricklayer's trade at Cairo. From 1886 to 1891 he worked at the brick mason's trade in Kansas City.

In 1891 Victor went to the Cherokee nation to claim Miss Delida C. Hastings, a beautiful Cherokee Indian girl, as his bride. They took up their abode in Afton, where six children were born, all of whom were given allotments when the affairs of their tribe were wound up by the Dawes commission. This land, together with the allotment of Mrs. Victor, has been converted into a stock farm which covers an area of 2,200 acres. During the past two years Victor has marketed more than $30,000 worth of cattle. His country home at Afton is one of the finest in the new state.

Victor has turned the management of his business interests over to a nephew, who will have charge of it as long as Victor holds his job as marshal.

SEEKS A PERFECT GRAPE.

Covernment Completes Plan for Important Tests in New Jersey.

Vineland, N. J.—The final papers have been signed by Secretary Wilson of the United States agricultural department for the establishment here of an experimental grape vineyard for the middle Atlantic states.

An entire vineyard of more than 100 acres will be conducted on lines suggested by the department, and ten acres will be absolutely under the control of Prof. Husman, viticulturist, and Mr. Scheer, pathologist of the department, assisted by Dr. E. B. Voorhees of the New Jersey experiment station, who will look after soil conditions and fertilizers.

It is the intention to cultivate some 50 varieties of grapes to determine the very best to raise in the middle Atlantic states. The department will also experiment on the manufacture and preservation of grape juice.

This project is hailed with delight by grape growers in this section. The Ives seedling and Concord grapes raised in the middle Atlantic states are said to be the best flavored in the United States, but the government thinks they can be improved in quality and the production largely increased per acre by adding science to the natural advantages of soil and climate.

Freed for Inventive Genius.

Kenosha, Wis.—Michael Rossington, a Kenosha county inmate of the Wisconsin asylum for the insane, escaped from the institution with a companion by making a screwdriver out of a cent. The men were captured and brought back, but when the officials learned how they gained their freedom Rossington was given his liberty.

ENGLISHMAN COULD BE POLITE.

Proof of Fact Seemed to Surprise Prince Gortschakoff.

Anecdotes of great statesmen and orators are apt to prove interesting to the general reading public because it is expected that they will reveal something of the working of a great mind. In the "Life and Letters of Sir Richard C. Jebb" is told a story of Mr. Disraeli which is worthy to be called historical.

Mr. Disraeli, after one of his best speeches, left the house with Mr. Montagu Corry.

"I was wondering," Mr. Corry afterward confessed, "what a great orator would talk about just after a successful speech. 'Corry,' said Mr. Disraeli, 'do you know how to get into a cab? Very few men know. I was at Vienna once when I was a young man, with Prince Gortschakoff and another Englishman, a military man who was there on the same business.

"A royal carriage was there to conduct us. When we came to it, the Englishman walked straight up to it, and got in with his back to the horses. Gortschakoff said to me, 'That is the politest thing I have ever seen an Englishman do.'"—Youth's Companion.

BROTHER BUNKUM MAKES PLEA.

Matter of "Heenyusness" Put in Somewhat New Light.

"Yassah, I 'knowledges dat I steals, yo' honah—now and ag'in," confessed Brother Bunkum, who had been dragged up before the bar of justice on the charge of embezzling sundry fowls. "I steals, sah, but on'y dess part o' de time—not all de time. De rest o' de time I sawtuh projects around amongst de diffunt 'ligious 'nomerations, eatin' dinner wid 'em and uh-makin' out like I was mighty nigh on de keen edge o' j'inin' deir church; and I 'umblesomely axes you', sah, to lemme down easy, if yo' please, uh-kaze I does muh heenyusness dess some o' de time, as I says befo' and not all de time, like dese yuh trust gen'lemen dat we-all yeahs tell so much about now-uh-days. And, 'sides, all dat, yo' honah, what'd dese yuh good folks, dat's allus tryin' to 'suade me over to deir way o' thinkin', do widout me? If I was to go to jail dey wouldn't have nobody to practice on; and yo' organizes yo'se'f, sah, dat dey kain't keep well less'n dey has some ripperbate to be everlastin'ly up-pickin' at."—Smart Set.

Struggle with a Tiger.

Two brothers, Khuda Bakhs and Shaikh Abdul Ghani of Moradabad were dispatched recently to Rampur on an errand, and while entering a grove at Ghadpura a tiger sprang upon Khuda Bakhs, who, being an athlete, warded off the blow aimed at him with his right hand and caught one of the paws with the other and maintained his hold, though the tiger was mauling the other hand.

Abdul Ghani now rushed up with a stout stick, which he forced down the tiger's throat, making it release his brother's hand, when Khuda Bakhs seized another paw with his wounded hand, forcing both the paw's back. He wrestled with the tiger, keeping it down by sheer force, while Abdul Ghani belabored it with his lathi and killed it.

The tigers was carried by the brothers to his highness the nawab of Rampur, "who kept the skin as a memento and sent Khuda Bakhs to the state dispensary for treatment." — India Daily Telegraph.

By His "Piers."

Much feeling has been introduced into a by-election for a councilor at a Lancashire seaside resort, says London Tit-Bits. The gentleman who engenders much of this controversy was formerly on the council, and was mainly instrumental in inducing his colleagues to spend huge sums of money in the erection of two large but badly constructed piers. At a meeting the other night one of his opponents had permission to propose an amendment, and after virulently abusing the candidate exclaimed: "I have tried him in the balance, and I have found him wanting." Whereupon a member of the audience shouted out: "Try him again, then. Try him by his piers."

"Howlers" Better Than "Healers."

Rokitansky, the father of the well-known operatic singer, was professor of pathology at the Vienna university. Besides the two singers he had another couple of sons, who had acquired a certain celebrity as medical men. One day, when the old professor was asked how his sons were getting on, he replied, shaking his head:

"You see, friends, two of them heal and the other two howl, and the howlers earn four times as much as the healers."

The Gentry.

"She's engaged, ain't she?" inquired the haughty blonde at the ribbon counter.

"Yes," replied the lady who sold laces, "she's engaged to that new saleslady's brother."

"Where's he employed at?"

"He's a night-watch-gentleman over to Bargen & Co's."—Philadelphia Press.

Shattered Hopes.

Me (anxiously)—I understand your father speaks very highly of me?

She—Yes, but he doesn't mean a word of it.

He—Are you sure of that?

She—Certainly. He does it just to torment mother.

FLEAS FEED ON THEIR OWNER.

Trainer Explains How He Provides Sustenance for Pets.

The little booth was decorated with gay cards, and, since it was a holiday, the show of educated fleas drew well.

"How do you feed your fleas?" a man asked the trainer at the end of the flea funeral that concluded the performance.

"I feed them on my arm," the trainer answered. He turned back his sleeve and smiled at the multitude of tiny dark pricks in the skin. "You might think I was a morphine fiend, eh? They look like needle marks, don't they?

"I feed them once a day," he went on, "in the evening, before bedtime. Their supper occupies 25 minutes. During it I read the paper. At first feeding hurt me, my arm was red and swollen, and it itched like the deuce. Now I don't mind it at all."

He turned down his sleeve and buttoned his cuff.

"Feeding my fleas," he ended, "I am as heroic a figure as the pelican mother that tears her breast open that her young may nourish themselves upon her blood."

SOCIAL LAW THAT IS ADAMANT.

Impossible to Be Absent-Minded and Make a Success.

There are some rules for social success that it is wholly impossible to ignore nowadays.

It is the fashion to say everyone is bad-mannered, and, alas, it is quite possible to be atrociously rude in some ways, and yet be popular, but there are one or two things one cannot do with any hope of achieving social distinction or even being merely tolerated. These things are hidden, however, from those who fondly imagine they can imitate all the faults of society with impunity.

It is the infringement or ignorance of these esoteric by-laws which betray the "outsider." One such decree, for example, is that in no circumstances whatever is absent-mindedness permissible. One may leave notes unanswered, but one must not be absent-minded. This is a distinction with a difference.

At a Chinese Funeral.

The London Saturday Journal, in describing the weird rites at a Chinese funeral, remarks that in the usual topsy turvy way of the Orient the Chinaman enjoys himself even at obsequies. The Journal adds: "The coffin is placed beside the grave and food placed upon it. A white rooster, alive or dead, is usually there, to lure the spirit of the man who has died abroad back to the home of his fathers. Whisky and tea and a bowl of rice with chopsticks are there, so that the corpse may not starve in the next world. Gin and tea are then sprinkled over the coffin, and the bottles thrown away. The mourners stand around laughing, enjoying the fun. The coffin is lowered, candles are lit, a suit of paper clothes is burned, and some paper money. Thus the corpse is assured of clothes in the next world, and pocket money to put in them."

First Aid to Farmers.

A farmer in Ohio wrote to the department of agriculture that he had struggled for 20 years on an 80-acre farm heavily mortgaged but had been unable to reduce his debt or rise above a poverty that made the bringing up of his family a humiliation.

He asked if there was any hope for him upon the farm or if he might as well give up the fight. The department requested that he make a detailed report of his farm and its soils and upon this it based a plan of farming which he was recommended to follow to the letter. According to a writer in the World To-Day, there was a profit the first year of $2,000, and the department believes that ultimately the despised 80 acres can be made to yield $5,000 a year.

Artificial Gems.

Last year a German association caused surprise to some scientists and disbelief in others by the announcement that a process had been discovered by which most of the precious stones could be produced by artificial means.

Recently several official experts have made an examination of about 40 of these artificial gems. In their report to the Museum of Natural History they say:

"Of all the stones we examined, we can only call the artificial rubies a direct success, but the imitation of this species is no new invention. We therefore declare that there is nothing new or sensational in the new invention."

Real Honesty.

A story is related of a young man who was recently married to the daughter of a wealthy merchant. The groom did not have a penny, but he was honest. He was so honest that he would not even prevaricate in the marriage ceremony. He was repeating what the minister said.

"With all my worldly goods I thee endow," read the minister.

"With all thy worldly goods I me endow," replied the groom.

This was real honesty.—Sketch.

Early Training.

"How do you account for Casey's wonderful success as a politician?"

"The fact that he used to work in the ditch."

"How does that account for it?"

"It made him proficient in the art of throwing mud.—Illustrated Sunday Magazine.

MUSIC OF BENEFIT TO SICK.

No Doubt That Sweet Sounds Have Good Effect on Nerves.

In the Berlin charity hospital, on every Sunday, in the afternoon, concerts are given for the benefit of the patients. The good effects of the music are said to be extraordinary. The British Medical Journal recalls that a St. Cecilia guild was founded in London some 15 years ago on the initiative of the late Rev. Frederick Kill Harford, then a minor canon of Westminster. The movement was supported by some prominent persons, among whom was Sir Andrew Clark, and its efforts in a few hospitals and workhouse infirmaries were watched with a certain amount of languid interest by a few members of the medical profession. But the enterprise came to nothing. Our medical contemporary thinks it a pity that the St. Cecilia guild was allowed to die, and says it might be worth while applying the experimental method to the determination of the effects of music on the circulation and on the nervous system, and thus indirectly on other functions of the body, in a more serious and systematic way than has yet been done.

BEECH TREES AND LIGHTNING.

Wrong Belief as to Safety during a Thunderstorm.

A widespread belief is that during a thunderstorm safety may be found under a beech tree, and that the danger from lightning is 15 times as great under a resinous tree and 50 times as great under an oak. Dr. A. W. Borthwick, the British naturalist, finds this view to be entirely without foundation. The beech is not avoided by lightning, which selects one species as readily as another, but the taller trees in the neighborhood appear to be the ones liable to be struck. The effects of lightning also are commonly misunderstood. The cells of a tree are not ruptured or torn by the formation of steam, as so often stated, but they collapse, or shrink up, without tearing. The roots seem to escape damage.

Dene-Holes in England.

A large group of the singular excavations known as dene-holes was recently discovered in the forest between Woolwich and Erith. Their positions were indicated by cup-like depressions in the ground. Two of the holes have been explored. Each possesses a circular shaft about three feet in diameter, with holes in the sides, apparently intended for the support of ladders. The holes run down about 50 feet through earth, then pass through four or five feet of chalk, and expand into caverns 18 feet in height. Each cavern has six chambers, grouped radially round the bottom of the central shaft. This is the ordinary arrangement found in dene-holes, which have been thought by archeologists to be secret receptacles for the storage of grain used about the time of the Roman occupation of Britain, or earlier.

Few Hotel Keys Returned.

"Well, there's the first one in a long while," said the hotel clerk, as the postman slapped down the mail on the desk.

"The first what?" asked the guest.

"The first key we've got back in a long time," replied the man behind the counter, as he picked up the key, with a stamp affixed to the big tag on it. "You know they take them away all the time and we have tags made with a direction printed thereon to stick on a stamp and they'll come back to us. But I guess that the percentage of returns is small.

"Almost no one takes away a key with the intention of stealing it, but some folks keep them as souvenirs when once they get them home."

What's in a Name?

That the sea has no favorites, neither regard for vessels whose names might be supposed to entitle them to special consideration, is shown by the fact that during the last year the following-named vessels were lost: The Archangels, Guardian Angel, Galilee, and Leo XII. The R. P. Chase was wrecked on a reef in Maine called Jordan's Delight, the Ohio was lost in Port Safety, the Dart struck on Holy Island, and two vessels of the name of Glad Tidings were wrecked. The following ships were burned at sea: Thorn Hill, Silver Ship, Milos, Thistle, Sophia, Fortunatus and Taifu Maru.—Marine Journal.

Not All Hawks Chicken Thieves.

The hawks have as bad a reputation as the crows, and all hawks are called "hen-hawks" by those who are ignorant of what they do live on, but the majority of the hawks do not live on poultry, by any means. A great many of them live on insects, and mice form a large item in their bill of fare.

The sparrow hawk is the one that is to blame for the hard name given to his brethren, and it is he who kills the chickens and hens. When hard pressed for food other hawks rarely may carry away a hen or chicken, but this is the extreme rather than the average case.

Pipe and Cigarette.

A cigarette is especially devised for tilting nicotine into the mouth, but applies the poison so insidiously that it is unfelt. The punishment would aptly fit the crime if every boy found cigarette smoking were compelled to smoke a new clay pipe filled with strong tobacco. Such homeopathic treatment would be the most effective of cures.

IS ASHAMED OF NATION'S DEBT.

English Woman Mortified at Huge Sum Owed by Country.

An English gentleman rather plaintively confides to the London Outlook that he no sooner flatters himself that he has turned his otherwise perfectly satisfactory wife into something approaching an economist than he finds out that he has done nothing of the kind.

He had, or he so believed, firmly implanted in her mind the fact that England has the greatest revenue ever known, when she learned, through a lecturer at her club, the figures of the national debt.

"John," she said, on her return, "didn't you tell me that England has the greatest revenue ever known?"

"Yes," he said.

"Then how is it," she said, keenly, "that we have such an enormous debt? Do we really owe that terrible sum?" She named it with great deliberation and awe.

He admitted that the figures were correct.

"Well, if that is so," his wife said, firmly, "I will never again admit abroad that I am an Englishwoman. I could not travel in comfort known as one of a nation so shamefully indebted."—Youth's Companion.

MARRIAGES AT SECOND HAND.

Peculiar Ceremony Believed by Many to Be Legal.

"Second-hand marriages," said a clergyman to a Philadelphia Bulletin writer, "are believed legitimate and binding by many ignorant people. In fact, during my slum work, I found a number of worthy couples who claimed to have been married second-hand. Of course, such marriages have no existence in law.

"To marry second-hand, you and your lady attend an actual wedding, and silently make the responses which the real bride and bridegroom make aloud.

"Second-hand marriages are popular on account of their cheapness—they save all fees. Their secrecy is another great advantage—none can find them out. In fact, everybody would probably marry second-hand, but for the unfortunate fact that the ceremony doesn't legally hold."

Men Carry the Pins.

When the tall woman entered the car it was seen that her skirt was badly torn. The glances of others caused the woman to notice the rent in her garment and she felt for a pin to hide the damage. Finding none she appealed to her next-door neighbor.

"Have you a few spare pins about you, madam?" she asked.

The woman had none, but passed the query on, and in a few moments every passenger was looking along concealed edges and turning back lapels. At last four pins were produced. All of them were contributed by men.

"We never need them as much as the women," said one of the men, "but somehow most of us carry them, and they don't."

Useful Medicine Bottle.

In Europe there is in common use a medicine bottle with a glass stopper, which has a tiny groove running down one side of it, which corresponds to a tiny groove in the neck of the bottle. These are used for medicines that must be dropped, such as nux vomica and strychnine, and, when the stopper is turned with the groove toward that in the bottle, the medicine drops out easily and not too rapidly, but, when finished, the stopper need only be turned back so that the two grooves do not coincide, and the medicine is protected from the air.

Thus it is not necessary to remove the stopper from the bottle from the time it is filled until the medicine has all been used.

Mistake, Maybe.

A young man who boards on the West side doesn't know whether his landlady made a mistake or meant to give him a quiet dig. He told the story of one of his own exploits at the dinner table the other evening—he has a hearty appetite, by the way—and concluded with the remark:

"That may sound awfully exaggerated to you folks, but I give you my word it's perfectly true."

"Oh, Mr. Tawker," the lady of the house hastened to assure him, "I'm sure no one who knows you would ever doubt your voracity."—Kansas City Times.

To Keep Flies Outside.

For those who object to wire netting in the windows during the summer, a new idea has been found to prevent flies and such annoying pests from entering the house. This new preventative is a window-box of mignonette. It seems that the insects do not care to face the odor of this charming flower, so that it is an effectual barrier against their invasion. It sounds like a very pretty idea, and we may expect to see ugly wire screens entirely discarded and the windows decorated with dainty boxes filled with the sweet blossoms.

His License for Being Born.

"As I was about to enter one of the schools the other morning," said Dr. Luther H. Gulick, the superintendent of physical training in the New York schools, "I met a little chap who was crying bitterly. After a lot of questioning to learn the cause of his distress he informed me: 'The principal won't let me go to school. He sent me home because I forgot to bring my license for being born.'"

L'ABEILLE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLÉANS

... commande en Louisiane et dans tous les Etats du Sud. Le publicité offre donc aux commerçants des avantages exceptionnels. Prix de l'abonnement par Poste : Edition Quotidienne $12.00.

Edition Hebdomadaire $3.00.