

RECORD IN PICTURE TAKING

Remarkable Achievement of Mr. F. Dundas Todd, a Victoria (B. C.) Photographer.

Victoria, B. C.—What is stated to be the longest distance photograph ever produced was recently taken from Victoria, the subject matter being Mount Baker, distant from here 75 miles. The photographer, F. Dundas Todd, spent 18 months before he finally was successful in taking his subject, walking each morning during that time to the top of Reservoir hill. On a clear, calm morning, when the towering summit of the Cascades was clearly defined against the sky-line, 12 photographs were taken from Shot-bolt's hill, Mr. Todd having decided upon this point after many futile visits to Reservoir hill.

The record longest distance photograph previously taken was one in Switzerland, over a distance of 65 miles. The present picture covers 75 miles, and whereas the former was taken over land the latter possesses the drawback of having had to shoot across 40 miles of water, which produces a mirage effect in photos. In Mr. Todd's photograph eight or nine planes of different values are clearly defined. First is seen the land below Shotbolt's hill, then a sheet of water broken by Discovery and Chatham Islands; beyond these more water, and then the end of San Juan island, on which a house is distinctly visible. Further away still a portion of Lopez island is discernible, then come the foothills of the Cascades, while crowning all, standing out in clear and distinct relief in all its snow-capped majesty, is Mount Baker.

The picture was taken at midday during two hours of absolute calm. The camera was an old one, invented some twenty years ago. The focal lens was 68 inches in length. Special plates were used. The ray filter with which the photograph was taken was designed by Prof. Wallace of Yerkes Observatory, who presented it to Mr. Todd.

Mr. Todd has won several medals for photographs he has taken in Scotland, England and the United States.

ADDS TO CONSCIENCE FUND

Tennessee Preacher Sends Forty Two-Cent Postage Stamps to Street Car Company.

Syracuse, N. Y.—"Conscience money" came to C. Loomis Allen, general manager of the Syracuse Rapid Transit Company, in the form of 40 two-cent stamps, purporting to have been forwarded by Rev. H. E. Tower, a Tennessee clergyman.

The letter, which was the first instance of restitution for evaded car fares on the local street railway company, read:

"Maryville, Tenn.—Dear Sir: Some time ago, while a resident of your city I evaded several fares on the street car. Inclosed please find 40 stamps refund.

"I am serving the right Master now and desire to make all things right as far as possible. If you are not the right official to pay kindly pass it on to the proper official. Yours in his service,

"REV. H. E. TOWER, (Evangelist)."

DIVORCES HER DEAD HUSBAND

Peculiar Decree Secured by Woman to Bind Her Hold on Homestead—Collects Insurance.

Grangeville, Idaho.—A peculiar divorce suit was decided by Judge Steele, who granted a divorce to Mrs. Anna G. Murphy, whose husband, J. W. Murphy, has been considered dead for five years.

Six years ago Murphy suddenly disappeared and has not been heard of since. Mrs. Murphy recently exercised her widow's right to file on land, and to make sure that no complications arise, instituted action for divorce.

Mrs. Murphy has also continued during her husband's absence to keep his life insurance assessments paid up, and at the expiration of seven years, and at the time of his disappearance will be able to collect the insurance.

War Declared on Fly.

Washington.—A concerted country-wide attack is to be made on the house fly this year, according to Chief Entomologist Howard, who testified the other day before a house committee.

When spring begins hundreds of scientists, aided by laborers, drugs and chemicals and mechanical "killers," will try to drive the household pest out of existence.

Dr. Howard says the campaign will be opened in the country districts and the department will issue a farmers' bulletin giving advice as to the flies which the flies are responsible and how to eradicate the pest.

Busy Blind Workman.

Beverly, N. J.—So nearly blind that he can scarcely distinguish daylight from darkness, James J. Carr is working at the Wall Rope works in the midst of machinery where one false step would mean his death, yet he is one of the ablest workmen in the place.

Carr has no fear of making the false step, for with an acute sense of touch he is more careful than those with good sight.

Before Carr lost his vision he was recognized as one of the best ropemakers in the business, and when he applied for his old job, although almost totally blind, the foreman hired him.

MENACE TO PLAGUE

Ground Squirrel and Common Rat Aid Bubonic Plague.

Federal Experts Trace Death of Boy and Alarm Health Department Chief in Chicago—Asks Aid of Government.

Chicago.—Extinction of the ground squirrel as well as of the rat may be necessary if Chicago is to avoid the bubonic plague, according to Dr. W. A. Evans, head of the city health department.

Dr. Evans has received the health bulletin of the federal government, which contains an alarming report on the spread of bubonic plague by fleas that infest these animals. He renewed his advice for the killing of every rat in the city.

Up to August 13, 1909, government inspectors found 173 squirrels in Contra Costa county, California, infected with the plague. Orders were given afterward to poison every squirrel in that county. The government will send out free poison for this purpose.

Two cases that caused Dr. Evans to renew his warning for the extinction of rats in Chicago and that may place the squirrel in the same category are as follows:

"July 15, 1908, a boy who lived on a ranch in the northern part of Contra Costa county, died of the plague. Later in the same month a young woman of Pinole canyon succumbed.

"Infected rats were found on the ranch adjoining that on which the boy lived, according to the government report, and an infected squirrel was found near the house where he had lived. The boy had been shooting squirrels several days before he died and thrust his arm down into a squirrel burrow to get one of the animals he had shot. His arm was bitten by fleas, according to the government physicians, and the disease communicated in that way.

"There is always a constant menace of the bubonic plague anywhere in the United States," said Dr. Evans, "now that it has got a hold in California. If it should ever be introduced into Chicago the conditions would be alarming, owing to the prevalence of rats and the difficulties of exterminating them.

"The building regulations of most places in California call for rat-proof cellars, but here it is too late to take such precautions. We would also have to provide for rat-proof garbage cans and keep the rats away from all food in the alleys and cellars.

"The government officials recognize the danger of the spread of the plague and are taking every means to prevent it. Prevention is better than cure, and Chicago must assist in the work.

"If the squirrel is in the same class as the rat he must also be exterminated. Following Dr. Evans' first warning to exterminate rats, many large business houses in Chicago called in rat catchers. It is estimated that since the crusade against rodents was started a year ago nearly 200,000 rats have been killed in the city.

BABY LIVES ON HEN'S EGGS

Peculiar Diet of Washington Infant as Cure for Indigestion—Treatment Costly.

Dayton, Wash.—Seven eggs daily—nothing else—is the peculiar diet of the ten-month-old infant of Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Warwick, ranchers living four miles southwest of Dayton.

When the child was seven months old physicians pronounced it incurable. It was suffering from indigestion and at one time weighed several pounds less than at birth. While looking through an old "family physician" book one day Mr. Warwick read that eggs were good for indigestion in infants. Immediately the parents commenced feeding the baby fresh eggs.

From that time the infant was given seven eggs each day, and now it promises to develop a robust constitution. The child wants practically no other kind of food, but it is growing fat and healthy on this diet. Mr. Warwick said that the child is nearly over its indigestion, although with eggs at 40 cents it will cost \$95.65 a year for the child's nourishment.

Demand for Old Organs.

New York.—An agent for a western piano house is making a tour of New York churches on a curious errand. "I want to buy up all the old cabinet organs that have been used in chapels and missions here to send to country churches in the west," he said.

"We find that these churches are willing to pay almost as much as for a new organ, provided we can assure them that the old instrument has been used in a New York church.

"There seems to be a wonderful potency in the phrase 'New York church organ.'"

Day Just Like Night.

New Orleans.—Volcanic dust, blown from three craters in eruption in Mexico and Central America, mingled with clouds of unusual density, was responsible for "the darkest day" in New Orleans, chickens going to roost several hours ahead of time, according to Capt. John C. Soley, in charge of the local United States hydrographic office, and a seismographic expert. Almost at midday houses were lighted, and outside there was twilight.

GRATITUDE OF A STRAY DOG

Collie Finds Missing Heifers and Sheep for Farmer in Return for Kindness.

Jacksonville, N. J.—Kindness extended to a stray collie dog by Ferris MacWilliams in this village brought its reward when the dog recovered for MacWilliams two heifers and 11 sheep which had strayed off in the blinding snowstorm long before daylight and were stalled in a huge drift a mile from home and on the road to Pompton.

"He's the smartest dog in northern New Jersey," MacWilliams said to a neighbor. "He will bring the sheep and cattle in at night and do everything connected with it except put up the bars. He tried to do that one day. I went out to the barnyard and saw him tugging away at one end of a fence rail and trying to lift it in place. When he saw me he barked for me to come and help him."

The heifers and sheep were put in a field near the MacWilliams home. When MacWilliams awoke a blinding snowstorm was raging, so he called his sons to go out with him to find the animals. The heifers and the sheep were not in the field and no trace of them could be found. The quest was abandoned until after breakfast. On the second trip Santa, the collie, went out with the men. Chilled to the bone by the bitter cold MacWilliams and his sons returned disheartened. They discovered, however, that Santa had not returned with them.

An hour afterward he appeared, barking delightedly. The kitchen door was opened, but he refused to enter. Seizing MacWilliams by the trousers leg he tried to pull him away from the house. That was his end of the matter. He told his son Leonard to go with the dog. It was a cold and wearisome trip, but at the end of it the missing animals were found. Two wagons were pressed into use and the heifers and the sheep soon were under shelter.

DEAF "LISTEN" TO TOASTS

Chairman of Annual Banquet of English Club Terms It a "Babble of Fingers."

London.—Speeches in silence, toasts proposed without an uttered word—such were the features of the proceedings at a dinner at the annual banquet of the National Deaf club, attended by about 100 members and their friends.

Yet throughout the meal and the following proceedings conversation never waned. "A babble of fingers" was how the chairman, A. J. Wilson, described it. One would notice the fingers of a diner working and twisting with wonderful quickness. Then his companions would smile broadly or utter a half chuckle. Evidently an amusing story had been related. Members talked gayly of their present enjoyment of the club's progress, of the day's sporting results and of the hundred and one topics of a public dinner, all in dumb show, or in the oral system, the forming of words by the lips without making word sounds.

Wilson has been deaf since he was a boy of 12, but he can speak and make a neat after-dinner speech. Out of respect for the guests present, he used the spoken words. He talked slowly and well, while behind him, on a chair, stood a man interpreting the speeches into the sign and finger language, while another, an expert in the oral system, made the speech with his lips without speaking.

NOT A SPINSTER AFTER ALL

Hidden Will Shows Pennsylvania Woman Had Kept Secret of Marriage for Years.

Lewistown, Pa.—Miss Rhoda Taylor, whose friends believed her to be a spinster, died recently, and in settling her estate the administrator advertised the farm, an old homestead with stock and implements, at public sale.

On the morning of the sale, when the auctioneer mounted the block, he announced that the affair was postponed indefinitely.

The supposed spinster's last will and testament had been found, and in it she bequeaths all her worldly goods to her husband, and attached to the document was a marriage certificate, showing that she had been married to Samuel Gilliland more than five years previous to her death.

Valuable Fox Pelt.

Averill, Mass.—A local hunter had a very successful day recently. Offered \$900 for the hide of a black fox he killed, he is holding out for \$1,000. This is the first black fox seen in this part of the country for over 25 years.

The man was hunting 25 miles north of here when his dog began baying. He found the animal standing at the entrance of a hole, into which he instantly retreated. The hunter blocked the entrance, then walked two miles and borrowed a spade. After digging 227 feet he found the fox and killed it with a blow on the head.

Draw Lots for Honors.

Traverse City, Mich.—To decide the honors of the class of 1910, Traverse City high school, it was necessary for Miss Bertha Stewart and Miss Corneille Morrison to draw lots. For four years these two girls have been tied in their standings, both having maintained the remarkable average of 97 per cent in their studies. Miss Stewart won and will be valedictorian, while Miss Morrison will give the salutatory.

CAVES THEIR HOMES

Peasants of Roumania, According to Report, Are Very Poor.

Austrian Economist Finds Six Million Persons Existing in Physical and Moral Misery—Meat and Milk Are Unknown.

Vienna, Austria.—Stray cases of peasant disturbances in Roumania come as a reminder of the intolerable conditions under which a vast majority of the population there are dragging out a wretched existence. According to the reports of Dr. C. Racowski, a prominent economist who has just visited Roumania, 6,000,000 peasants are living in the greatest physical and moral misery. From competent sources Dr. Racowski ascertained that no less than 54,772 peasant families were living in holes and pits, which they themselves had dug out of the ground, like the troglodytes or cave dwellers of ancient times. Out of 1,088,954 cottages in the villages, only 74,655 were built of brick or stone. The majority of the dwellings consisted only of one room, lighted through the door or through a window, with paper stuck in the frame to take the place of glass.

In these miserable habitations thousands of peasant families subsist upon eight or ten cents a day. Of course, these people don't know the taste of meat nor even of milk. Having no pasture lands they are compelled to work for the landed proprietors and have no opportunity of raising cows. Only recently a prominent Roumanian writer stated that many Roumanian children know no other than mother's milk. This assertion would seem to be quite justified, for in the commune of Blaska, for example, which has a population of 2,706, there are only three cows to be found.

The principal nourishment of the Roumanian peasantry consists of maize, or corn. This too monotonous and insufficient dietary explains the enormous spread of pellagra in the country, which, destroying the body and the nervous system, frequently drives the sufferer to insanity and suicide. In the year 1899, 21,822 cases of pellagra were reported and five years later the number had risen to 43,687. In seven years there were nearly a quarter of a million cases. The rate of infant mortality, too, is appalling, 48 per cent of the children dying before the end of their seventh year. In fact, the degeneration of the population is clearly proved through official inquiries and the yearly reports of the recruiting commissions.

Morally and mentally the condition of the people is equally low. Even when the town population is included less than 15 per cent of the inhabitants are able to read and write. With a population of 7,000,000 there are only 4,000 schools and 6,500 teachers. At the end of the first or second school year the great majority of the children leave to go to work on the land. In one village where 180 children were enrolled every year on the school books only two girls and one boy could be found who had completed the full school course.

That peasant revolutions break out under such conditions can scarcely be wondered at. And they are suppressed with ruthless military force of gendarmes, infantry, cavalry and even artillery. In the outbreak of two years ago between 12,000 and 15,000 peasants were shot down and many villages leveled to the ground. The government has always refused to give out figures, but these are quoted from a reliable source.

Industrial progress is slow. In the larger branches like the petroleum works, there are altogether between 50,000 and 60,000 workmen employed in the medium and smaller trades, the number ranges from 120,000 to 150,000. Roumania unfortunately has only two classes of people, the rich and the poor. Out of a quarter of a million grown-up persons who died in four years only 15,099 left behind them more than \$100 worth of property of all kinds. In the same period 42 rich men left some \$25,000,000, or more than one-third of all the property left in that time. This absence of a middle class is greatly to be deplored, as it is responsible for much of the misery existing in Roumania.

IS BIGGEST FISH HATCHERY

Troughs on Columbia River to Have 80,000,000 Egg Capacity—Largest in World.

Boonville, Ore.—The biggest salmon hatchery in the world has been opened here. It will be the central plant for the state and is located on the Columbia river, where most of the fry will probably be liberated. The building is 56x230 feet and is equipped with 248 16-foot hatching troughs, having a capacity of 60,000,000 eggs. There are now 20,000,000 eggs on hand ready for hatching.

Water is supplied from a nearby creek through a 12-inch pipe, the flow being 3,000 gallons a minute. Nursery and feeding ponds are supplied sufficient for feeding 3,000,000 young fish.

Eighty-Year-Old Sprinter.

Bloomington, Ind.—Perley Pearson, one of the largest land owners of this community, has just celebrated his eightieth birthday anniversary by sprinting a quarter of a mile in 2:19 flat. Mr. Pearson, who is unusually active for a man of his years, wore a pair of heavy rubbers when he made the run.

HOMELY GIRL A NECESSITY

Has Many Qualities That Make Her More Popular Than Her Beautiful Sister.

In these days the homely girl is an absolute necessity, for she is like a cooling, quieting draft. She comforts tired workers on their return from the whirl of busy towns; she can make a humble home—or a mansion—a place of happiness.

Her simplicity is her greatest charm. She pursues neither ambition nor ideals, but confines herself to the essentially useful things of life. Man, under her benign sway, becomes again as a little child; he drops the world for a time, and revels in the delight of domesticity, and returns again to the fray like a giant refreshed.

All her arts, too, are simple, easily fathomed; she practices no deep-laid wiles; yet she is a final and all-powerful factor in human affairs. The very directness of her purpose gains her end.

The "homely girl" is seen at her best, of course, in the home, smiling happily and wearing a big apron. She dusts and cooks with quiet enthusiasm and manages her household as if it were an important principle. Her cooking, be it whispered, is divine, and thus she claims reverent admiration from many masculine minds.

Her work seems a genuine delight to her. She toils with a merry heart, and when the time comes for play, she disports herself with an equally simple and delightful pleasure. Artificially shrinks from her presence.

As a wife, the "homely girl" is, let it be known, pre-eminent. She wraps her heart and soul around home and husband. No detail is too small for her ardent attention.—Philadelphia Press.

UNIQUE IDEA FOR GATEPOST

Constructed of Stones, Each One of Which Represents a Friend of the Owner.

"Unique and interesting adornments to a suburban home are the entrance posts leading to Cheerybrook, a bungalow on Long Island," said the returned visitor. The low stone dike which surrounds the property is terminated by two huge pillars, which seem to welcome the coming guest. Each stone in this gate post represents a friend of the owner. While the dike was being built I was invited out to spend the week end. I was taken down to a heap of boulders in the back garden and asked to make a selection. After that my host took me to his toolroom, where, with instruments of all sizes, I was requested to carve my name, the date and place of birth on the stone. I was invited out again last week and found that all the carved boulders from various friends had been set into the gate posts, and I must say they have formed a truly interesting monument to friendship.

City and Country Children.

According to William S. Sadler, M. D., a well-known Chicago physician, the child that is reared in a suburban town is much better off as regards health, morals and happiness than is his city cousin. In the course of a strong paper in "Suburban Life," Dr. Sadler says: "Next to pure air there is probably no single influence so mightily influencing child growth and health as sunlight. Children are just as dependent upon sunlight for health and growth as are plants, and lack of sunshine unerringly produces both plants and babies which are pale, sickly and emaciated. It is the glorious sunshine that paints the bloom of health upon the cheeks of both the bud and the babe. The vital resistance of babies and children against disease is largely proportional to the amount of time they are able to spend out of doors in the sunshine."

Odd Freak of Conscience.

In one corner of the customers' room of a brokerage concern in the New York Wall street district, are a coat rack, an umbrella stand and a water cooler. The office boy discovered when the room was full of anxious customers and blue with tobacco smoke a silk umbrella, on the stand, to which a sealed envelope addressed "To the Owner" was attached with a piece of pink twine. The owner was found leaning over the ticker and was glad to receive his umbrella, which he had given up for lost. The note read: "It was raining like you, you know. I could not resist the temptation. Thanks, awfully." All questions as to who had a lapse of conscience failed to disclose the secret, and the promise of a reward had no effect on the office boy, who declared that he did not know "who had been short of umbrellas and took the one in question to cover."

National Bank Reserves.

The law requires every national bank located in the three central cities, New York, Chicago and St. Louis, to maintain a reserve in bank of 25 per cent; the same rate is required for other reserve city banks, but one-half of the amount may be deposited to their credit with correspondents in central reserve cities. Country banks are required to maintain a 15 per cent. reserve, two-fifths of which must be in bank and three-fifths may be with correspondents.

Excitement.

"People do not pay as much attention to studied oratory as they used to," said one statesman. "No," replied the other, "in modern legislation studied oratory is frequently less exciting than the roll call."

PROSPECT FOR QUIET NIGHT

Hotel Guest Was to Have Lively Company During the Hours of Slumber.

There is something fearful in too much attention and overdone hospitality is one of its worst forms. One can fancy the consternation of the tired guest in this story, which happened away in the backwoods of Arkansas. A tourist going over the state on horseback stopped for the night at one of the popular "hotels" of a certain locality.

The hotel was a log and slab affair of three rooms and the same number of beds, but the proprietor was the proud parent of nine wild and woolly looking sons of under 12 years of age. After a supper of "hog and hominy" the host said to one of the boys:

"Come, Billy, get the broom straws." Nine broom straws of unequal lengths were produced by "Billy." The father hid them in his hand in such a manner that only an end of each straw could be seen. Then each boy drew a straw.

"Hi! hi!" said the merry parent, jovially. "Bill, you an' Buck an' Lige git the short ones."

"What does that mean?" asked the guest, whose look of amusement faded away when his host said:

"Mean? Why, that's a little way we have of settling which three of 'em shall sleep with anybody that happens to stop overnight with us."

"I s'pect you'll find Buck and Bill and Lige mighty lively bedfellows, but don't you be afraid to give 'em a warming up with your boot or a bed slat if they git to training too high."

"Go 'long, boys, an' pile in with this gent, and mind that you behave yourselves."—Youth's Companion.

WOULDN'T BREAK HIS RULE

Elderly Widower Who Certainly Might Be Said to Be "Sot in His Ways."

Mrs. Henry de la Pasture, the popular writer, was talking about marriage.

"A pretty girl," said Mrs. de la Pasture, "couldn't make a better resolution for 1910 than not to marry an old man, no matter what his wealth. She might also resolve not to marry a widower. Widowers are, as you Americans say, so not in their ways."

"They tell about a pretty girl of 20 who married a rich widower of 50. He was very much a widower. The girl was, in fact, his fourth wife."

"Well, on the return from the honeymoon, the husband, after dinner, took up his hat, overcoat and umbrella."

"The wife, beautiful in a white decolette gown that was no whiter than her shoulders, said:

"Where are you going, dear?"

"He gave her a stern look and answered coldly: "My dear, I am not in the habit of telling my wives where I am going every time I step out of the house."

Let the Dining Room Be Cheerful.

How often we find commonplace dining rooms in the homes of well-bred people—dining rooms that are not only humdrum, but have a depressing atmosphere, which could really be avoided if certain fundamental rules were adhered to. It is most important, when furnishing a dining room, to have it cheerful—in fact, it is of even more consequence than that it should be artistic. In a cheerful dining room you are sure to find optimists; in a gloomy one, misanthropes. The cheerful dining room must have an exposure that gives plenty of light as well as air. Nothing plays such an important part in the decoration of a room as the window treatment. We need never be afraid of too much light and glare, because the brilliancy of a sunny exposure can always be softened by a restful color scheme of walls and woodwork, and tempered by a judicious form of curtain treatment.—Suburban Life.

Led by the Nose.

An analytical chemist was retained as a skilled witness some years ago, where there are questions of analytical chemistry. There was one case where a farmer had bought some artificial manure, and he was being sued for the price of it. He resisted payment on the ground that the material had none of the qualities of manure at all. The expert chemist was one of the witnesses, and had stated that, although the substance had the smell, it had none of the chemical qualities of manure. Under cross-examination he was asked, if that was so, how did he account for hundreds of the best farmers having taken the manure for many years. "They must have been led by the nose," returned the witness.

Wren and New Years.

Had old custom but survived, the wren would have been in great request to-day, especially in Ireland and Wales. The new year would have seen processions, each headed by a wren in a lantern. For it was formerly the custom to carry a lantern, tastefully decorated with ribbons, and containing a wren, round each hamlet and village, and make calls on dwellers in cottages and hall. The bearers, swinging the lantern at each door, would favor all whom it might concern with a song and receive a monetary reward. Another industry gone!

A Trunk Rummager.

"How did you come to give that new man such a responsible place in your millinery department? Has his experience justified it?" "Yes," answered the merchant. "He used to be a customs inspector."