

## WIN THE "DUNMOW FLITCH."

Couples Who Never Quarreled Rewarded According to Custom.

Sir Reginald Fitz-Walter, lord of the Manor of Dunmow, in the reign of Henry III., originated the bestowal of the Dunmow Flitch on happy couples who have never quarreled. The trial of the claimants by "a jury of maidens and bachelors," is always a great event. The counsel, "correctly" attired in wig and gown, took their seats, and the judge, in red robes, was a



Dunmow Flitch Claimants.

gorgeous and solemn personage. Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Holford, of Putney, white-haired and happy faced, had been married for twenty-eight years with ne'er a quarrel or a wry word, "and shared each other's gladness and shed each other's tears." The other couple were Mr. and Mrs. James Quiggin, the husband being a master shoemaker of Marylebone, who had been married fourteen years without dispute. After amusing cross-examinations the happy couples were duly chaired round and presented with the bacon.—Liverpool (Eng.) Mercury.

## Cushions of Fat Saved Him.

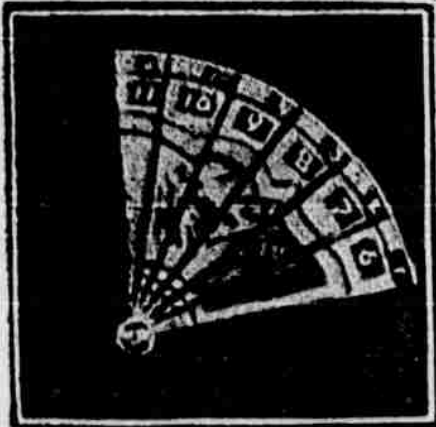
After falling three stories while sleeping and landing on a stone sidewalk, Thomas Gallagher, a 250 pounder, came to consciousness in the operating room of a New York hospital and astonished the surgeons surrounding him by jumping up, dancing around the room, and walking home uninjured.

Cushions of fat on which he landed after his fall, said the surgeons, saved his life.

Gallagher occasionally walks in his sleep. He took one of the nocturnal trips early to-day by way of an open window. A policeman heard the thud a block away. The surgeon who came with the ambulance gave Gallagher up for lost, and it was thought that only an operation could save him.

## Fan Shaped Clock.

One of the most remarkable forms of clock in the world is a clock fan manufactured by a Swiss jeweler.



The clock consists of twelve leaves hinged like any ordinary fan. The number of the hour is marked from one to twelve at the end of each of these leaves. The fan timepiece starts at six o'clock and expands regularly for twelve hours, when it suddenly closes up and starts all over again. The half hour is indicated by the leaf of the fan being only half extended.

## TREE AS LUNCHEON TENT.

Immense Washington Patriarch the Last of Its Race.

In the state of Washington there is a remarkable old tree which, in spite of its phenomenal quality, is known to but few people. Inside of it twenty adult persons have gathered at one time, and, comfortably seated, have eaten their lunch, which they spread around the wonderful living spring that bubbles up continually in the center. Probably there is not another such growth in nature. The coincidence is most noteworthy. The tree is situated on Vashion island, and this island is in the middle of Puget sound. This "spring tree" is the Mecca for the summer school chautauquans of the local organization.

The timber of the entire state is generally large and fine, but this particular specimen is evidently unique and the last of the race left standing, like a forlorn patriarch in the midst of his younger descendants. The circle inside on the ground is eighteen feet in diameter, and the tree is hollow, having been burned off at the top, the bark scorched and the heart gutted by a forest fire many years ago. This condition leaves what is really a trunk or stump standing, about twenty feet high and open at the top, thus making the chamber very light. One can see clear through the tree owing to the fire having burned holes through.

## Oldest Excise Law.

Khammurabi, king of Babylon about 2250 B. C., promulgated the first licensing act, which ordained that delinquent liquor dealers should be



thrown into the water, while for drunken disturbances the penalty was death.

## Single Seed Was Prolific.

A single mesquite seed, imported from the southwest and planted in Honolulu in 1873 has propagated and spread until in the Hawaiian Islands to-day there are 50,000 acres of the famous plant of the alkali plains of Arizona and New Mexico. The most remarkable feature of the manner in which the desert growth has taken root on foreign and tropical soil lies in the fact that the mesquite has completely changed its character and is vastly different from the parent tree of the west.

## Woman Predicted Her Own Death.

Near Cynthia, Mrs. Lula Devers, while in the enjoyment of her usual health, stated that she would fast ten days and at the end of that period she would die. From that time she refused to eat, drink or to see a physician. She persisted, and promptly at the end of the period she was dead.—Dover (Ky.) Messenger.

## NEWPORT HAS NEW FAD.

Society Belles Greet Each Other with the Military Salute.

Newport has a new belle this season. She is Miss Anita Sands, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Sands, the latter formerly Miss Lorillard, of New York, and she has given the town a number of thrills.

The girls cultivate a most informal manner at Newport. Indeed, among them to be on one's dignity is not to be in the fashion. Some call out, "Hello, there!" at even the haughtiest of matrons.

Led by Miss Sands, these girls have instituted a new fad in salutations. Instead of merely bowing to friends, they salute in military fashion, with decidedly fetching results.

Miss Sands, a charming brunette,



MISS ANITA SANDS WHO LEADS THE NEWPORT FADDISTS

with her bewitching smile illumined by sparkling white teeth, is said to be leading the impressionable young men of Newport a merry dance. Report is that she will in time marry Francis Potter, nephew of Bishop Potter, who has been her devoted slave for eighteen months.

## The Birthright of Twins.

A curious case as to which of two twins was born first came before Lord Pearson in the Edinburgh Court of Sessions.

The twins were John McJarrow, an engineer of Virvan, and Charles McJarrow, a grocer, of Glasgow.

Their father had died intestate while John was in South Africa, leaving £1,500 worth of property. Charles had taken possession of this, claiming to be the elder son.

John, in giving his evidence, said that he was born on Aug. 24, 1867, at 1 o'clock in the morning and that his brother was born half an hour afterward. The births were registered as such.

Charles, on the other hand, averred that the entries in the register were erroneous, and that his father recognized himself as his eldest son.

Lord Pearson gave judgment for John, without costs.

## A Bibulous Toast.



## Dug Up Petrified Body.

The petrified body of a man six feet tall was dug up on a farm in Washington the other day. The shape of the head is peculiar, the forehead very low and the back high, with high cheek bones, which leads to the belief that the figure is that of an Indian.

## FROG LIKED THE SENSATION.

Willing to Linger All Day and Have Its Back Scratched.

Col. William Esopus Handy, cowboy and train dispatcher, financier and volunteer fireman, went to McLean Lake last Sunday to see George Herring, the angler, take a few bass. Herring had several lines set out on the bank, and hard by squatted a big bullfrog. "Bet you a dollar I can scratch that frog's back," he said. "Go you," agreed the colonel. Creeping up very cautiously, the fisherman caught the frog by one of its long hind legs just as it was in the act of leaping into the water. After considerable kicking and vibration the amphibian composed himself, while Herring gently tickled its back with a straw. In huge enjoyment the frog gave soft grunts, closing its eye sleepily. It reminded Handy of a cat purring.

Having won the bet, Herring cast the frog into the lake and went to look at one of his lines. As he stooped to pick up the rod there sat Mr. Frog, waiting for another back scratching. His desire was manifested as plainly as if he had said, "Here, old man, tickle me again." Which the angler did, and again cast him into the water. Thereafter the frog followed him from line to line, begging for a scratching and refusing to be frightened away.—New York Press.

## First School House.

The first school house in Chicago was really Col. Richard J. Hamilton's



old log barn, which stood on "Wolf Point," between the lake and the "forks of the river." The building was 12 feet square, and both desks and seats were empty boxes contributed by the stores of the town.

## Device Revealed in Dream.

William A. Engle, a locomotive engineer, living at Pottsville, Penn., has received patents on a cutout valve for locomotive steam chests, the principle of which came to him during a dream. So realistic was the device as pictured to him that he could not get it out of his mind, and the result was his perfecting models and drawings and applying for patents.

## Hydrangea's Wonderful Blooms.

A wonderful display of flowers is seen at the home of Mrs. Henry M. Washburn at Franklin, N. H., where a hydrangea has 211 blossoms upon it and another one growing near it has 152. The bigger plant requires four pails of water three times a day to sustain it.

## Ready to Jump.



The Valencian driver has to sit on the shaft, for his cart has no seat in it. He is not bothered with climbing in and out.