

Our Washington Letter

WEEKLY BUDGET OF NEWS.

Interesting Gossip from the Nation's Capital—Problem of Keeping Young People in the Country Receiving Attention of the Agricultural Department—Cause of Durand's Retirement.



WASHINGTON.—How to keep the young people of America on the farm is a question to which the department of agriculture is devoting a great deal of attention and effort. Secretary Wilson and his lieutenants believe the future welfare of the nation demands that the drift cityward be checked and that what America needs mainly is to become imbued with an appreciation and love of country life.

President Roosevelt himself entertains views on this subject that are well known and that distinctly favor the idea that the love of country life should be cultivated among the American people.

The establishment of the agricultural high school in a number of states is a movement calculated to help along the great design of teaching the country boy and country girl a better knowledge of the farm and farming and through this a better appreciation of country life. Assistant Secretary Willet M. Hays, of the department of agriculture, is devoting a great deal of attention to the agricultural high school. He will probably go south at an early date to assist in the establishment of such high schools in Georgia and look into the work done in other states, especially Alabama.

Georgia is about to establish 12 of these schools, and an official of the department has been advising state officials as to locating them and securing suitable lands, adapted for experiment purposes, where the schools are to be established.

Alabama has nine agricultural high schools, Minnesota two, North Dakota one, Wisconsin two and South Dakota one. Prof. Hays believes the movement is destined to spread rapidly until every state in which the average price of farm lands is high will have a number of agricultural high schools, one on an average for each congressional district.

PLAN ADOPTED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

The plan on which the department of agriculture is working is the establishment of a complete educational ladder on which the farmer boy may climb from the rural school up to the agricultural high school and then on up to the agricultural college.

The first step in the ladder, according to Prof. Hays, is the consolidated rural school; the second the agricultural high school, and the third and last the state agricultural college. Hence the department is friendly to the movement through the United States for consolidated rural schools, intended to take the place of the district schools. One consolidated rural school can be established in a township and the children can be taken to it. They would be housed in better buildings and given better teachers and better instruction than under the system of one small school for each school district of a few square miles. There are about 300 consolidated rural schools in the United States, but the tendency is for the number to increase, thus supplanting the old-time district school and making the "little red schoolhouse" a relic of the past.

Prof. Hays' idea is that in the old system of education which is now largely in force through the country, the texts, the teachers and the ideals are all centered in some city profession, and the boy or girl who is to be a farmer has little place therein. The school system has thus been a potent influence in leading the American people from the farm to the city.

What is wanted is an educational system that will build up the country life of the American people. On the one hand there are the city primary graded schools, city high schools and colleges and universities. It is the purpose of the department of agriculture to build parallel with them a system in which education in agricultural pursuits, coupled with a good general education, may be obtained.

DURAND TOO SLOW FOR FOOT DIPLOMACY.

That Sir Mortimer Durand is too slow for the energetic diplomacy of Secretary Root is the explanation given for the retirement of the British ambassador. The friction came about, it is said, through the failure of the Briton to cooperate satisfactorily with the secretary in the negotiations for a treaty with Canada which would end all disputes between that country and the United States. Mr. Root has made this subject his hobby and seems determined to leave such a treaty as a monument to his administration.

Secretary Root, concluding that his great aspiration could not be realized by having all the negotiations pass through the hands of the British ambassador, "by the circumlocution route," as he termed it, that is, requiring the submission of each step to the British foreign office at London, to be transmitted thence to the Canadian government, proposed that Sir Mortimer obtain the sanction of his government to the suggestion that the Canadians be taken into the negotiations. Sir Mortimer, according to the wishes of Secretary Root, sounded the British government and obtained permission to proceed to Canada to see what could be done.

The victory of Secretary Root was most remarkable. He secured for the Canadians what they have been unable to obtain for themselves, direct representation and participation in diplomatic negotiations. Sir Mortimer, under authority obtained from the British foreign office, proceeded to Canada and conferred with Earl Gray, the governor general, Sir Wilfrid Laurier and other Canadian leaders. After explaining the astonishing victory won for the Canadians by Secretary Root, Sir Mortimer had no difficulty in bringing the Canadians to an agreement to appoint a representative.

Secretary Root was elated, but was doomed to disappointment. The Canadian government has not sent a representative to Washington. Whether Sir Mortimer has been held responsible for this is not known. He may not have shown as much interest in Mr. Root's laudable ambition as the secretary of state wished and lack of cooperation may have weakened him here.

ROOT MAY URGE CALVO DOCTRINE.

That Secretary of State Root will perform another great international mission, in representing this government at the Hague Peace Congress next spring, is expected by public men who know most about the motives back of his recent tour of South America.

There is a strong impression that, as head of the United States delegation to The Hague, Mr. Root will present vigorously, on behalf of the governments of all the Americas, the demand that the Calvo doctrine be recommended for a place in accepted international law. This is the doctrine to which the minor republics of the Americas are just now so devoted, that debts of a government, or of its citizens, may not be collected by force by another government.

Diplomatic authorities now recognize that the United States must either espouse vigorously and effectively the Calvo proposition, or else have the less powerful governments of the continent strained and convinced that the United States are not sincere in their protestations of friendship.

Latin America is prepared to array itself behind the United States if the United States will take up their contention in this matter. It is willing to accept the Monroe doctrine as merely the beneficent guarantee against European interference, provided that doctrine be supplemented, in the policy of the United States, with advocacy of the Calvo programme. But if the United States are unwilling to do this, Latin America will regard the Monroe doctrine as simply the threat by the United States of ultimate intent to dominate the entire western continent.

CLUBS TO PROMOTE TARGET PRACTICE.

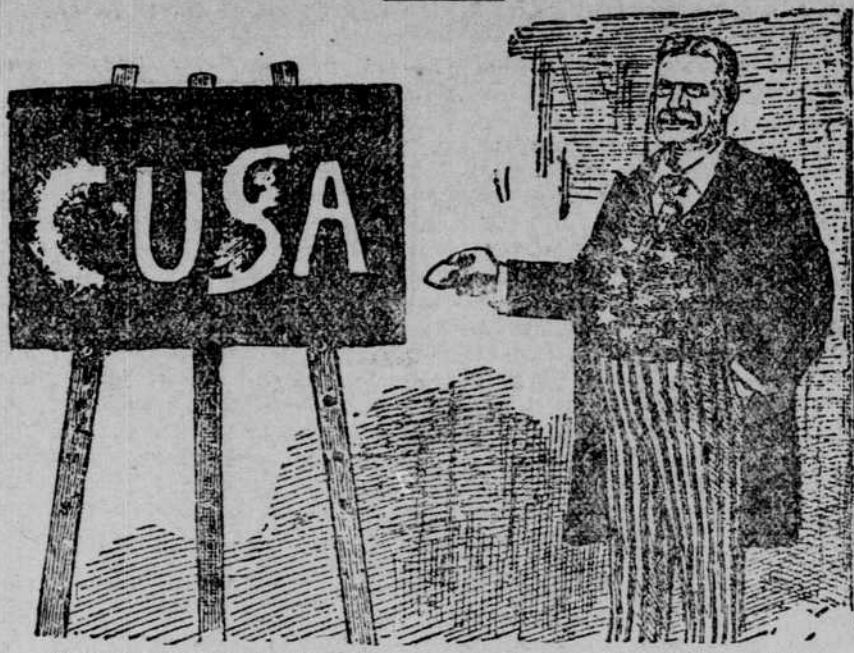
The action of the United Spanish War Veterans in taking up the subject of rifle practice at its recent annual encampment in this city is highly gratifying to the national board for the promotion of rifle practice as a step in the encouragement of rifle practice among civilians.

The United Spanish War Veterans now have more than 200 camps. It is proposed to organize civilian rifle clubs in as many of these camps as possible. While ostensibly civilian clubs, these will really be military rifle clubs, for the military rifle of the United States will be used, along with the army revolvers of the standard patterns. The members of this organization are mostly young men who have had training in rifle shooting either in the militia or in the volunteer service during the late war. They propose to keep up their military training, and, as part of that work, will engage in rifle practice.

The movement toward civilian rifle practice, while necessarily of slow growth, is proceeding with sufficient rapidity to gratify those who have it at heart. Since the organization of the national board and the reorganization of the National Rifle Association great strides have been taken in the direction of acquiring a national reserve of marksmen. Congress has encouraged the work by providing national trophies and for annual pistol and rifle matches, and recently increased the militia appropriation so that \$500,000 annually is available for militia practice and the acquiring of ranges and shooting galleries.

Civilian rifle practice is expected to do much for the militia. Just as the taste for military training is indicated in boys in high school cadet corps leads many of them to join the militia later, so it is believed that men who learn to shoot as civilians will join the militia because of the additional facilities for practice they will thereby enjoy.

ENGLISH IDEA OF THE SITUATION



Professor Roosevelt gives an example of the new spelling of Cuba. —F. C. Gould in Westminster Gazette.

PAT NOT TO BLAME.

Yardmaster Had Had Three Chances to Shut the Door.

Not long ago I overheard a conversation at a station outside of Chicago that to me was very amusing. Our train had pulled in, and our engineer had left his engine to the care of a round house attendant. An old man came along whose business it was to polish the iron horse.

"Can you run an engine?" asked Pat of the yardmaster.

"No," he answered. "I can't run an engine. Can you?"

"Can you run an engine?" sniffed Pat in derision. "If there's anything I'd rather do all day long, it is to run an engine. Huh, can you run an engine?"

"Suppose," suggested the yardmaster, "you get up and run that engine into the house."

"All right, O'll do that same," Pat bluffed, and he climbed into the cab, looked the ground over pretty well, spat on his hands, grabbed the biggest handle and pulled it wide open. Zip! he went into the round house. Pat saw the bumpers ahead and guessing what would happen, reversed the lever clear back. Out she went—in again—out again.

Then the yardmaster yelled: "I thought you said you could run an engine!"

But Pat had his answer ready. "O'll had her in there three times. Why didn't you shut the door?"—The Sunday Magazine.

Needless Formality.

"Are you a witness in this case?"
"Go 'long, Jedge—you knows I is."
"Did you see the prisoner steal the hog?"

TAKE CARE OF CLOTHES.

Proper Treatment Will Add Much to Their Usefulness.

I know many men who would be quite well dressed if they would only refrain from lumbering up their pockets; in fact, I wonder that some tailors do not send home a printed warning with each suit: "This suit is not constructed to carry heavy weights."

Take those bundles of papers out of your inside pockets and button your coat up and you will find that you look much better than you do now. You have stretched the coat a bit out of shape, but it may recover itself.

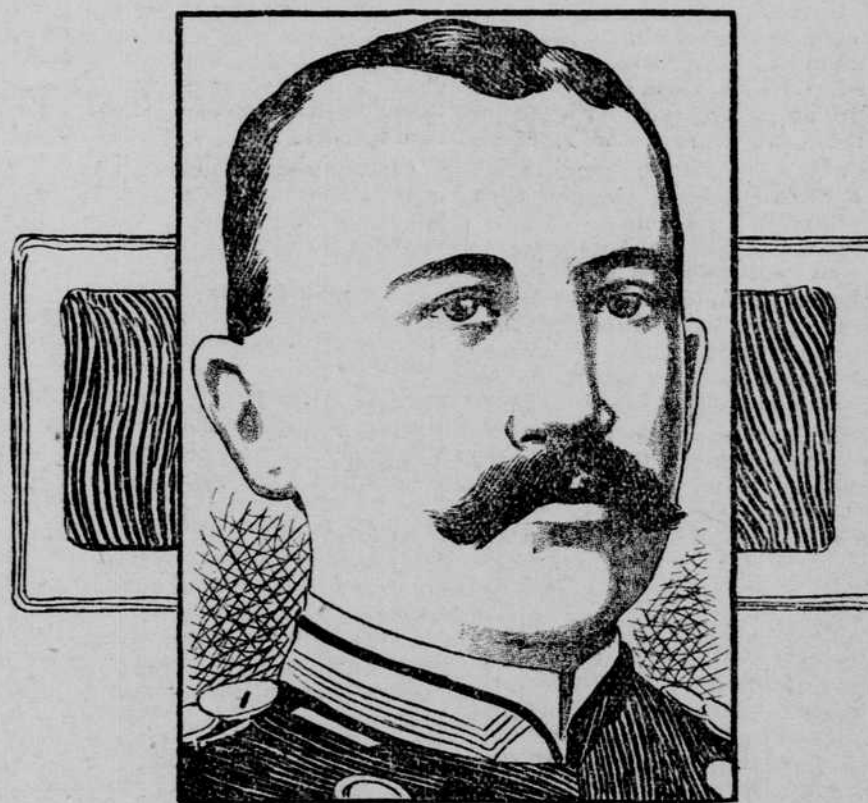
Remember to take everything out of the suit and fold it up. That is the only fair treatment for a good suit. Clothes are warmed by the body while they are being worn, and while they are warm they get molded into shape. If you always keep one pocket loaded with a handful of loose change and another pocket weighted with a huge bundle of keys, these pockets will become permanently damaged. Possibly you may have noticed that a new suit never looks quite so well as a suit that has been worn half a dozen times; that is because the new suit has not been warmed by being worn, and therefore the cloth is not molded to the shape of the figure. A new coat should always be worn but toned up for the first few days.—Chicago Tribune.

PROPER FOOD AND EXERCISE.

Nature of Occupation Should Be Guide to the Diet.

A nice point of diet insisted upon by a medical writer in Health Culture is that if it is properly proportioned to a

POINTS OUT NEEDS OF MARINE CORPS



Brig. Gen. G. F. Elliott, commandant of the marine corps, in his annual report urges an increase in the commissioned and enlisted personnel of the corps and says the demands for both officers and men are daily on the increase. He states that unless prompt action is taken in this matter by congress he will be unable to carry out the directions of the secretary of the navy and that the efficiency of the corps will suffer materially.

"My, my, Jedge—don't you know I see him?"

"Well, what time was it?"

"Jedge, you knows ez well ez I does, dat hit wuz watermill time!"

"But—what time was it by the clock?"

"Lawd he'p you, Jedge!—how could dey be a clock in de middle er a watermill patch, half a mile fum a house wath never had a clock in it sense de day de fust shingle wuz nailed on? How some er you white folks ever gits ter be Jedge is mo' dan I kin understand!"—Atlanta Constitution.

Clogs in the North of England.

At least 4,000,000 pairs of clogs are sold in the northern counties of England every year. The "clog" is a sort of shoe with a wooden sole (made in one piece) and a leather top. The sole of the clog is finished with a set of "corkers" or "irons," one for the heel and another for the front of the sole. These irons are about a quarter of an inch wide, one-eighth of an inch thick, and are made to fit the shape of the sole somewhat as a shoe is fitted to a horse's hoof. A good trade might be built up by American manufacturers in supplying other machine made wood soles or the "blocks" from which the hand sole makers shape the finished sole, as well as in the "irons" or "corkers."

Names Rooms After Flowers.

One woman who has built a country home on a most elaborate plan has introduced many novel ideas in its arrangement and furnishings. She is going to name every guest chamber after a flower, and is carrying out that idea to the smallest detail. Thus the walls of the violet room, which is perhaps the prettiest room of all, are covered with French tapestry in the design of which violets predominate. The drapery on the dressing table is of muslin and lace tied with bunches

sedentary life, lack of exercise will not be felt. There is no absolute need of the long walk, the dumbbell or Indian club, unless it has been preceded by an excessive meal. Exercise is a good and necessary thing, but always in relation to what and how much one has been eating. "Many a man," says Sir Henry Thompson, "might safely pursue a sedentary career, taking only a small amount of exercise, and yet maintain an excellent standard of health, if only he were careful that the intake in the form of diet corresponded with the expenditure which his occupations, mental and physical, demanded. Let him by all means enjoy his pastime and profit by it, to rest his mind and augment his natural forces, but not for the mere purpose of neutralizing the evil effects of habitual dietetic wrongdoings."

In brief, if a man labors hard with his hands he may safely eat a big meal, and need not be over particular what it consists of, but if he is inert, he must look carefully to his diet.—Baltimore Sun.

On the Move.

Eva—There goes Willie Bluffem. He boasts that he travels in the best of society.
Jack—Yes, and the faster he travels the better it is for him.—Chicago Daily News.

Proof of Character.

Actions, looks, words, steps, form the alphabet by which you may spell characters.—Lavater.

Husbands Plentiful in Thibet.

In Thibet the law allows every woman three husbands.

TO REMOVE BAD ODORS.

Many Remedies for Unpleasant Smells of Cooking.

A generous lump of soda placed in pots and pans in which fish, cabbage, onions and other strong-smelling foods have been cooked, will make them smell sweet and clean.

A teaspoonful of vinegar boiling on the stove will counteract the smell of strong food.

A teaspoonful of ground cloves on a few hot coals will produce the same result.

A sponge placed in a saucer of boiling hot water, in which has been added a teaspoonful of oil of lavender, gives a fragrance of violets to a room in which it has been placed. Flies will not remain where the odor of oil of lavender is.

A stale crust of bread boiled with cabbage will absorb the disagreeable odor.

A large lump of charcoal in a refrigerator will prevent a musty smell.

A pound of copperas dissolved in boiling water, if poured into drain pipes, will dissolve the grease and other impurities.

An onion breath may be gotten rid of by swallowing a mouthful of vinegar or drinking half a cup of hot water in which a pinch of baking soda has been dissolved.

A few mouthfuls of lime water, or a few drops of the tincture of myrrh in a tumbler of water will sweeten an unpleasant breath, and a small piece of orris root, if chewed, will give a violet odor to the breath.

Excellent Salad Dressing.

For those who dislike the taste of oil, the following salad dressing is very good: Mix together one teaspoonful each of salt, sugar, and mustard, and one-half teaspoonful of white pepper; add the well-beaten yolks of two eggs, and stir until thoroughly mixed and smooth. Melt two tablespoonfuls of butter in half a cupful of hot vinegar, and add it slowly to the eggs. Stir in gradually one cupful of sweet milk scalded, and mix all well together. Cook in a double boiler until thickened, but do not allow the dressing to boil or it will curdle. Let cool, then whip in the beaten whites of the eggs. Thin with a little cream when ready for use. Cover tightly, and put in the refrigerator. This is a delicious dressing for various kinds of salad.

Cider Apple Jelly.

With cider fresh and sweet from the press, try making apple jelly. Wash and wipe fine flavored, rather tart apples, quarter and put into a preserving kettle with cider to nearly cover. Cook gently until the apples are soft, then strain and measure the juice. There should be about half as much cider as fruit. Allow for each pint of juice a pint of sugar, heating the latter in the open while the juice is cooking for 20 minutes. Turn the sugar in with the juice, stir until dissolved, remove the spoon and cook five minutes longer. Pour into hot sterilized glasses and set on thick-folded newspapers or a board out of a draught. When cold, cover with paraffin, branded paper or circles of paper dipped in white of egg.

Onion Soup With Cheese.

Cut into small eighth-inch squares two medium onions, or four ounces; fry them in butter and moisten with two quarts of broth, adding a bunch of parsley garnished with chervil, bay leaf and a clove of garlic; season with a little salt, pepper and meat extract; boil for 20 minutes then remove the bouquet and pour the soup over very thin slices of bread placed in a metal or earthenware soup tureen, in intervening layers of bread and Parmesan cheese. Sprinkle a little Parmesan over the top of the soup. Bake it in a hot oven.

Chestnut Stuffing.

The following is a stuffing especially for turkey: Select 15 large chestnuts and boil them in water until they are very tender; then remove the skins and shell and pound them in a mortar until they are a paste. Stir a half pound of bread crumbs into four ounces of suet (beef suet for choice), add salt and pepper and a little lemon juice to taste. Mix into this a pound of the chestnut paste and the stuffing is ready to use.

Creamed Potatoes.

For creaming, baked potatoes are much better than boiled ones, as they are more mealy, and when one desires the empty shells for serving any form of potato not baked, they may be gathered by baking potatoes for a day or two for other meals, scooping out the inside and either mashing or creaming the potato, brushing the shells with butter and setting aside until time for using them.

The Care of Shoes.

Shoes may be kept up to the mark by rubbing the tops with a piece of black cloth dipped in a solution of cream and black ink, and by polishing the lower portions vigorously with a piece of old flannel. An old pair of shoes, if treated in this way, and all missing buttons replaced, will make a good appearance, particularly if before this is done they have had the heels straightened.

Prune Cake.

Cream a half cupful of butter with a cupful and a half of sugar, add a cupful of milk and the stiffened whites of five eggs alternately with two and a half cupfuls of prepared flour, or enough to make a light batter. Flavor with a few drops of essence of bitter almonds, and bake in four layers. When cold put the prune filling between the cake layers.

To Remove Old Wallpaper.

Stir a quart of flour paste into a pail of hot water, and then apply this mixture to the walls. Being thick, it will not dry quickly, but will saturate the paper, which may then be easily scraped or peeled off.

Gure for Chilblains.

Make a soft paste of soap and water (any good, pure soap will do). After bathing feet in water to which salt has been added, put a thick coating of this paste on the affected parts; moisten frequently and also repeat frequently.

"Where There's a Will--"

By M. E. LOWMAN.

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Kent Trevor came round the corner of the house whistling his latest acquisition in "ragtime," a fishing rod on his shoulder, a tin can of "bait" in his hand. He stopped expectantly at the back piazza steps, but seeing no one, called: "Mother!"

"Yes, Kent, in just a minute," came a voice from the kitchen; and in about that time the owner of the voice, a sweet faced woman with a firm mouth, appeared.

"I thought you were out here, mother, I only wanted to tell you that I would not be home to dinner, as John and I are going over to the Blue Pond. But you may expect a five pound trout for supper."

His mother smiled. Kissing his hand to her he resumed his whistling and set off with a sturdy stride across the fields to meet his chum. Pride and affection showing plainly in her countenance, his mother watched him out of sight.

As he left the fields and entered the road he was joined by his friend, John Fenton, a boy of his own age, whose face lacked the strength that was the predominant characteristic of Kent's, but had far more claim to beauty. They reached Blue Pond, a famous fishing place, in good time and proceeded to the business of the day.

"I was just thinking, Kent," said John, "of the contrast between to-day and yesterday. To-day we are a couple of idle vagabonds, apparently absorbed in thoughts of angle worms and roach, with a possible trout later on as a lure; yesterday," and he threw out his chest and spoke in a deep bass as he could compass, "yesterday, we stood in the classic halls of Senoia high school and orated (at least you did) and received the plaudits of the admiring multitude, and incidentally our diplomas and the congratulations of our friends on being first and second honor men. Was yesterday a reality and to-day a dream, or vice versa?" Kent laughed, albeit a little soberly.

"To me they are both realities and both a little saddening. It is no light matter to leave your childish days behind you and find yourself confronted with the great problem. What is my life to be? or rather, What am I to make of my life? for after all, we choose what it is to be. Have you thought that to-day is probably the last we will spend together in the old careless fashion? What are you going to do now that you have graduated from the high school?"

"Father says I am to help him in the store for a few years, with a final view to partnership I suppose, as I am the only boy in the family. What are your plans?"

"I am going to college."
"P-h-e-w! I thought it was just all your mother could do to keep you in the high school until you graduated, and now you announce in the coolest manner and as a matter of course that you are going to college."

"My plans are not perfected yet, but if you will not mention it I will tell you what I am thinking of. You know the people of Chetney have to come to Senoia, 15 miles, for their mail, and it is a great inconvenience to them. Judge Dent has been trying for a year to make arrangements to have the mail delivered there three times a week. He is about to succeed in this and I intend to apply for the position of mail carrier. It will only pay \$350 a year, but that will take me to college for one year. I can go and come the same day, and that will take but three days out of the week, and the rest of the time I can help with the farm work and relieve mother of a good deal of care. All my spare time I shall put in preparing to enter the junior class, and when I get through that I am going to make the money to take the senior year."

"I must say you are gritty. But even if you get the place you surely cannot take the horse from the crops three days in a week or there will be no crops. It would take a lot of your wages to buy a horse; you haven't even a bicycle and you cannot walk 30 miles a day."

"Buying a horse is not to be thought of. I have a plan, but I propose to keep that to myself yet awhile, at least until I can talk it over with Judge Dent. I am to see him about it to-morrow. Now let's get to fishing. I promised mother a five pound trout for supper."

The next morning Kent had an interview with Judge Kent and when they parted the judge looked very much amused, while Kent's jaw looked square and determined; and there seemed to be an excellent understanding between them, for the judge clapped Kent on the shoulder and said: "You'll do, Kent. I hope your plan will succeed. It certainly deserves success."

"Thank you!" Kent quietly responded. "I am sure it will succeed if I am allowed to put it to the test."

When Kent returned to his home he was observed by his mother to be very busy with his tools under the woodshed, and afterwards spend several hours each day in a small but secluded piece of woods back of the house.

In a short time, through Judge Dent's influence, the position of mail carrier was secured to Kent Trevor. Not only had John Fenton been exercised in mind as to the manner in which the mail would go to and from Chetney, but the probability of Kent's doing this or that; but all agreed on one thing, that if Kent Trevor said he would take the mail back and forth he would do so, even if he had to crawl.

At length the day came when he was to make his first trip. His appearance in the village as he called at the post office for his mail bag was the signal for such a shout as had not been heard in the rather secluded village of Senoia for many a day.

"Where did you get your seven league boots?"
"When did your legs grow so long?"

He dismounted at the post office, strapped his mail bag firmly to his shoulders, remounted and set off at a pace that augured well for the speedy delivery of the mail at Chetney, followed by the cheers of the crowd. As he passed out of sight one gentleman was heard remarking to another: "Not one boy out of a thousand has the pluck and determination to do a thing like that. Mark me, we will hear from him yet in a way to make us proud of him."

Kent's arrival in Chetney caused little less commotion than his departure from Senoia. Judge Dent was on hand to meet him and after the delivery of the mail insisted upon taking him home with him as he wanted a talk with him.

After dinner as they stood on the shaded veranda he put his hand on the boy's shoulder and said: "Kent, my boy, I am proud of you! You have this day proven that now and henceforth you are the master and not the slave of circumstance. It re-



Mounted on Stilts of Great Height.

quired no little moral courage to do the thing you have accomplished. Most boys would rather face a loaded gun than the ridicule you encountered to-day."

"And I am no exception, sir; but I was determined to face it even as I would a loaded gun, and the anticipation was far worse than the reality. There was plenty of ridicule, but it was the good-natured article."

"You have not yet told me how you ever came to think of such a thing."

"I was reading lately of how the Scottish shepherds used enormous tall stilts in tending their flocks, both for the convenience of seeing a great distance and of getting over ground at a rapid rate. I then remembered that I was the champion stilt-walker among the boys of our village a few years ago, and as I had in view applying for the position that you have since so kindly secured for me, it occurred to me that if the practical use of stilts were feasible in Scotland it was equally so in America. The more I thought of it the more practical the idea seemed to me, and I determined to carry it out if I should be made carrier. I had to put in a good bit of practice to perfect myself sufficiently to undertake it, but I think I succeeded fairly, for I made the distance here to-day in marvellously short time."

"Well, I admire your grit. Now there is another matter I want settled."

And before Kent left Chetney it was arranged that on the days he brought the mail to Chetney he should remain with Judge Dent as long as possible, studying under his guidance to fit himself for the junior class in college.

For a whole year Kent went back and forth on his stilts with the mail, and so well did he apply himself to his studies under the direction of Judge Dent that he easily entered the junior class, where he soon became a favorite with student and instructor, even as in the old days at Senoia high school.

Benny on the Mole.

The mole is a small animal that lives just below the surface of the earth and raises welts on the ground when it desires to move from one spot to another. You catch a mole by digging for him, except that you generally don't get him. His forelegs consist of a pair of sharp claws. The mole is a silent animal and abhors the society of man, but is fond of roots. I know a boy who caught a mole after hunting for him three days and sold its skin for two cents, which he gave to the heathen, who are perishing and have no clothes. My Uncle George says a mole in the ground is worth two on the face.—Chicago Tribune.

At the Age of Forty.

Smith—So you are celebrating the fortieth anniversary of your birth, eh?
Jones—You have said it.
Smith—Well, it has been said that a man at 40 is either a philosopher or a physician. Which are you?
Jones—A philosopher, I guess. At least, I seem to feel under everlasting obligations to the chap who married the girl I was spongy on at the age of 20.