

WEATHER AND THE BOBOLINK.
Those weatherwise farmers of northern Indiana who prophesy an early autumn because of the departure of the bobolink southward two or three weeks earlier than usual should consider the bird's peculiarities. It is not because he considers summer nearly over, but because he has raised a new family early that he now starts southward, in all probability. "Robert of Lincoln" departs for the rice fields of the mid-south coast with the ability of his brood to fly. He and his mate come to us early and depart early, says the Chicago Record-Herald. He has now a new coat and will fill himself with rice, so that he will soon be in prime condition as the "rice bird" of the Carolinas. He spends the winter in Central or South America, if he escapes the shotguns of the coast hunters, and is billed for return appearances next April or May. One of the results of hot weather is the quick fulfillment of many natural events and functions. The weather prophets of the "rural districts" often satisfy themselves, but not the scientists.

Germany is not the first place in the world to which one would look for a movement in the direction of relief from conventionality. However, a Men's Dress Reform society has been founded in Berlin, with the object of bringing masculine attire to a higher hygienic standard. The society protests against the "airtight armor plating" of the starched shirt front, the cast-iron rule of black frock-coats for weddings and funerals alike, and the general system of dress which involves the wearing of many tight-fitting garments each overlapping the other. Stiff collars and cuffs are also tabooed. It is said that the society will begin its propaganda among artists and other men of independent standing, like writers, physicians and sportsmen. Berlin has not had great success as a starter of women's fashions, but that is no reason why it should fall in "setting the pace" for men. The result of the new undertaking will be awaited with interest.

The reckless motorists and those who are insolent both in demands and manner to the general public are doing much to provoke antagonism which will react on the whole sport of automobilism, says the Baltimore American. There are a large number of automobilists who operate their machines carefully and with due care and consideration for the rights of others, who do not abuse their privileges, are not only willing but also anxious to comply with all the provisions of the law and who treat pedestrians with consideration and courtesy. But as in other cases, these innocent ones have to suffer for the sake of the guilty, and will be powerless to check the adverse public opinion which so much recklessness and arrogance are bound to engender. It is another count against the reckless ones that they are bringing discredit and ill feeling against a large class who do not deserve either.

A Gotham broker has gone abroad to hunt for a perfect wife, who, to suit his taste, must combine the best points of the women of all nations. But one trouble with a quest of this kind is that the ideal woman herself, if found, may also be looking for the ideal husband.

The establishing of an age limit for operators of automobiles is a perfectly reasonable proposition. A powerful machine, with all its possibilities of speed, in streets used by men, women and children, is entirely too dangerous a toy for irresponsible boys who think nothing of the rights of others and of possible accident, but are heedlessly intent only on "going fast," says the Baltimore American. Already in a fatal accident the plea of extreme youth has been set up as a defense, and this fact should add weight to the arguments for taking the handling of automobiles from irresponsible persons. If youth and intoxication are allowed as mitigating circumstances in accidents, then there will be no safety in the highways and the city streets for anybody.

Again has a New York society woman found that it does not pay to try to beat the customs inspection. The woman who makes the effort is not only foolish, but is compelled to pay a high price for her folly.

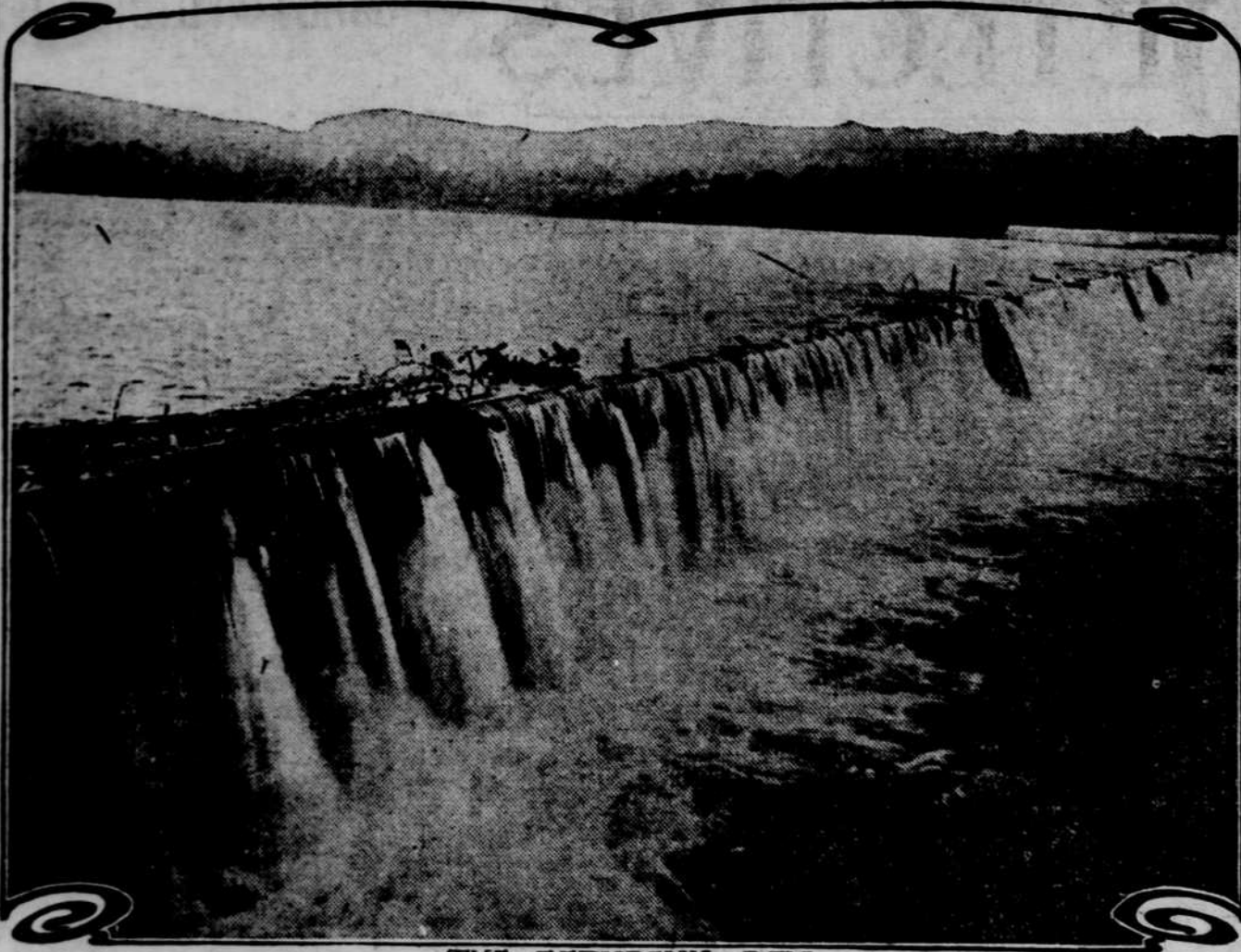
A man in St. Louis tried to kill himself because his bride was always wanting to kiss him. Another man lately applied for a divorce because his bride insisted on being unkind. And yet the men declare it is the women who are difficult to please.

It is stated that the panic of 1907 considerably affected the conscience fund in New York. The consciences of the public probably were active, but the pocket nerve was paralyzed.

According to Danish laws, automobiles are forbidden to pass trolley cars at a rate faster than one mile an hour. When it comes to keeping a tight rein over reckless motoring, there is nothing rotten in the state of Denmark.

The St. Louis girl who announced that it was proper for a girl to drink a highball has married a teetotaler. Evidently she believes that one drinking person is enough in one family.

GREAT OHIO RIVER IMPROVEMENT



THE FERNBANK DAM

THE formal opening of the great Fernbank dam near Cincinnati the other day marked a long step forward in the improvement of the Ohio river as a traffic water way. Very appropriately, too, the event came on the centennial of the first steamboat trip down that river, made by Captain Roosevelt, a great-uncle of the ex-president. The Fernbank dam, for which \$1,300,000 was appropriated, is part of the general scheme to create a nine-foot stage in the river from Pittsburg to Cairo.

WOMEN NOT TOO FAT

Chicago Experts Pooh-Pooh New York Pessimist's Views.

Women Here Are Slender and As to Gotham, Says One Dressmaker, They May Be Fleshy, but Another Doubts It.

Chicago.—"Why are there so many fat women?"—Quotation from a New York dispatch in a morning newspaper.

"There are not!"—Answer of Chicago experts on the figure feminine.

Some little old New Yorker, with his broadwise eyes, has been making observations in the eastern city, but his "profound dismay" at what he calls "the alarming corpulence of our middle aged women" finds no sympathetic echo in Chicago. A reporter visited half a dozen corset dealers and fitters and found them agreed that the Chicago woman, at least, retains her slim, graceful figure.

"I admit that the New York woman is a little prone to stoutness," said Miss A. M. Nichols, manager of a large downtown corset shop, "but the Chicago woman still has the loose, athletic lines, so much admired and desired."

The New York dispatch deprecates that women "waddle ponderously" at thirty-five, a condition reached by overeating and drinking. The average weight—New York figures—is 165 pounds and suit sizes a 38 bust and 24 waist.

"The average Chicago woman weighs under 150 pounds," continued Miss Nichols. "She wears a 36 bust and a 24 waist. That has been my experience, and I handle all sorts and classes of women."

"How does she do it? Why, by taking care of herself. For instance, she does not overeat. She has a practical diet, which everybody should have. She does not eat at all hours of the night. She exercises systematically—that is, when she is advised to exercise to keep in condition she does not go violently pell-mell at it. She uses common sense."

"Then our leisure class is a leisure class in name only. No woman takes better care of herself than Chicago society women. However, the appreciation of the luxurious never develops into a mad chase. It is tempered with right living. As far as getting old and 'matronly' at thirty-five is considered—well, she just doesn't."

"This New York man says he has counted four stout women to every stout man. Just go out on the street any time and make observation and see how far from fitting the Chicago condition that New York observation comes."

Miss Anna Snyder, manager of another shop and an expert fitter, laughed when she read the dispatch. "Isn't that just like a man?" she smiled. "Why, with modern lacing it is beyond any poor man to tell whether a woman is stout or slender. Corsetting has become such a science that women strike a more symmetrical average."

"Another sapient remark by this male person is that the American woman cannot wear a hobble skirt because her hips are too broad. That New York man certainly should take a trip outside of his city. Why, the hobble was made for the slender lines of the Chicago feminine figure."

"Well, I just returned from New York," said Mme. Jeanne, at the head of another establishment, "and while the New York woman has made a fine start toward ruining her figure with immoderate eating and drinking, I fear she is not so far past redemption as the New York man would have us think. Perhaps he has a preference for the slender type and one or two stout women seen one right after the other sent him off in a panic."

"At any rate, we need not worry over Miss Chicago becoming stout. She knows how to care for herself and is acquainted with the fact that moderation in living means moderation in figure. That is why the Chicago person is often surprised to hear visitors comment on the general beauty of the women of the city. To him it has become so common that he does not realize the fairness of the city until he has himself been on a visit."

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Big Japanese Navy

Rear Admiral Motoki Tells of Great Progress Made.

Work Done at Four Ship-Building Yards Enables Japan to Attain Position in Front Rank of Naval Powers.

London.—The development by the Japanese of their naval resources since the end of the war with Russia is a subject about which not much information of an authentic character had been divulged, but a flood of light was shed upon the matter in the papers read by delegates from Japan at the International Congress of Naval Architects, just held in London.

Rear Admiral Motoki Kondo, the inspector-general of Japanese naval construction, who contributed a paper on the progress of his department, dealt first with the four navy yards, two of which, those at Yokosuka and Kure, have launched eight armored ships since 1905. It must be remembered that before that year the largest vessel built in Japan was a four-thousand-ton protected cruiser.

Yokosuka dockyard was started in 1865, and its first dock opened in 1870. Only wooden ships were built until 1885, and from that year until 1905 only gunboats and small cruisers. Today the yard employs more than eight thousand men and occupies 116 acres, building ships and four graving docks, all of which will take any warship afloat.

The Kure navy yard was begun only the fourth in the succession of the caliphate, had nine.

One of the chief causes of the plurality of wives being so rare among the Turks is that, while the prophet and the Koran permit the faithful worshippers of Islam to marry four times, they also provide strict injunctions of a religious and ethical nature, which every Mussulman has to adhere to if he doesn't want to be excommunicated from the fold of orthodox Islamism. Thus, a Turk who is desirous of contracting a second marriage is bound by an explicit law to provide for his new life companion a separate dwelling place, in every respect similar to that of his first wife, as well as an equal number of slaves and servants.

By Walks 478,000 Miles.

Portland, Ore.—Julius Bath, picked from 100 newsboys of St. Louis, 14 years ago to walk 500,000 miles in 18 years, reached Portland. He announces he has covered 478,000 miles. He must reach St. Louis with \$1,000 and a dog, without begging or borrowing or stealing during his entire trip. Then he will receive \$20,000.

Onions Are Enjoined.

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Bees Make World's Record.

London.—What is believed to be a world's record has been created by a hive of bees on the farm of Mr. J. Selley at Cadeleigh, Devon. No less than 147 pounds of honey has been taken from the hive, and had there been twenty other hives there they would have done as well, says the expert who removed the honey from the hive. The whole of the honey was gathered from white clover and is of the best quality.

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IN THE PUBLIC EYE

STOLYPIN A MUCH HATED MAN



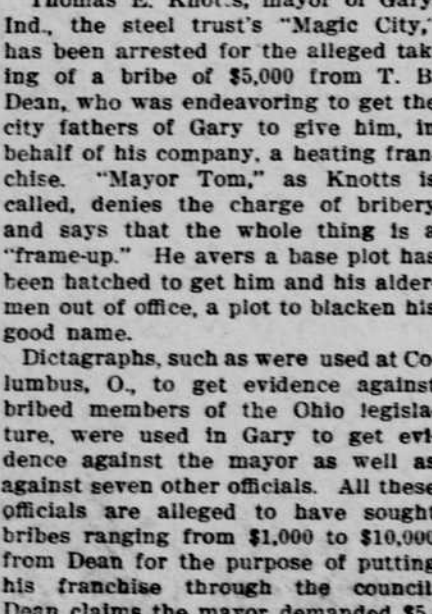
Peter Aradegvitch Stolypin, the Russian premier, who was assassinated, was noted throughout the courts of Europe as a courtier and a master of ceremonies. Despite his courtly bearing and the great love the czar bore for him, Stolypin, it can be said safely, was the most hated man in all Russia. To the people of Russia he was known principally as the man who by his wholesale executions and drum-head courts-martial sent over the land the expression, "Stolypin's necktie," as a synonym for the hangman's noose. Death sentences and executions were reported daily from his office, without the slightest comment or word of explanation. Cold grim figures alone made known the work of the hangman.

Two attempts before that which resulted in his death were made on his life. He had not long been a member of the cabinet as minister of the interior when the revolutionists blew the little girl so that she is crippled for life. Weaker than he would have retired, at least for a time, from the policy which had engendered the attack, but not Stolypin. He stuck to the course he had outlined and dared the revolutionists and assassins to do their worst. Several times it was announced that his reign as minister of the interior was at an end, but he kept the portfolio just the same.

Stolypin was a marvel of physical energy. No problem was too great for him to assume. He carried a heavier official burden than any statesman of Europe. His daily life, from which he never varied, was a model for the officials of St. Petersburg. In some cases he tempered the exercise of his authority with humanity and in other cases packed courts and sunrise executions spelled the end of whoever disputed him or the emperor.

Throughout his political life he played the dual role of murderer and humanitarian. To those whom he condemned he was the hangman, but to the enemies of those he condemned he was a great humanitarian who lived for Russia. He ruled as the will of a cowardly monarch made him. In the official life of Russia he will forever be known as the courtier. But to the people of the lower classes there will be one synonym for the dead premier, and that will be, "Stolypin's necktie."

MAYOR UNDER INVESTIGATION



Thomas E. Knotts, mayor of Gary, Ind., the steel trust's "Magic City," has been arrested for the alleged taking of a bribe of \$5,000 from T. B. Dean, who was endeavoring to get the city fathers of Gary to give him, in behalf of his company, a heating franchise. "Mayor Tom," as Knotts is called, denies the charge of bribery and says that the whole thing is a "frame-up." He avers a base plot has been hatched to get him and his aides removed out of office, a plot to blacken his good name.

Dictagraphs, such as were used at Columbus, O., to get evidence against bribed members of the Ohio legislature, were used in Gary to get evidence against the mayor as well as against seven other officials. All these officials are alleged to have sought bribes ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000 from Dean for the purpose of putting his franchise through the council. Dean claims the mayor demanded \$5,000 to sign the franchise after it had passed the council. The mayor signed and, after the signing, officers found \$5,000 in an envelope in a pigeonhole in his desk at the city hall.

Mayor Knotts went to Gary "broke" four years ago, living in a rude hut on the sand wastes. Today he is rated a millionaire and lives in one of Gary's finest homes.

Knotts has been constantly embroiled in gamblers' and saloonkeepers' wars and both factions have tried in vain to have him impeached. In the latter part of 1909 a plot was discovered in the settlement of Gary's foreign population to assassinate him. The leaders of the plot were arrested, but were never placed on trial.

If the charges of graft and corruption against city officials are true, Gary, the model city of the Steel trust, has little to learn from other places in the way of political degradation. The town has had a hot time politically ever since its organization. Several times it has required the services of squads of deputy sheriffs and even of the state militia.

PORTUGAL'S NEW PRESIDENT

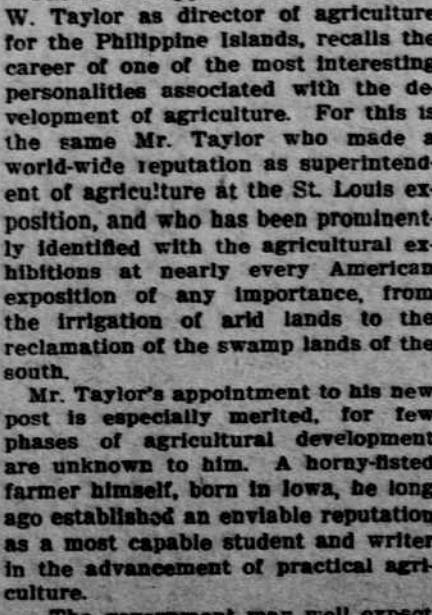


The new constitutional president of Portugal, Dr. Manuel Arriaga, has a hard task before him. When the republic was proclaimed in October 1910, a provisional government was established and, beset by reactionary tendencies on every side, it found difficulties in maintaining itself. The monarchists were active in undermining its stability and many of the republicans who aided in the overthrow of the monarchy became lukewarm in their support of the republic because disappointed in obtaining the sweets of political office.

Not long since the National Assembly chose a new president and adopted a constitution. The choice for president, Dr. Arriaga, is popular, but whether this popularity will remain after he is in office long enough to make enemies is another question. Meantime the supporters of the exiled King Manuel are active both in Portugal and outside its borders and in the present time Portuguese troops are being employed to repel a possible invasion by monarchists from the Spanish province of Galicia. That there is discontent of a widespread order in Portugal seems certain and it requires a strong man to stem the tide and popularize the republic.

The task of President Arriaga is thus a difficult one and is rendered more so because most of the leaders under the republican regime are more the orators than practical statesmen.

TO TEACH FILIPINO FARMERS



The recent appointment of Frederic W. Taylor as director of agriculture for the Philippine Islands, recalls the career of one of the most interesting personalities associated with the development of agriculture. For this is the same Mr. Taylor who made a world-wide reputation as superintendent of agriculture at the St. Louis exposition, and who has been prominently identified with the agricultural exhibitions of nearly every American exposition of any importance, from the irrigation of arid lands to the reclamation of the swamp lands of the south.

Mr. Taylor's appointment to his new post is especially merited, for few phases of agricultural development are unknown to him. A born-and-bred farmer himself, born in Iowa, he long ago established an enviable reputation as a most capable student and writer in the advancement of practical agriculture. The government may well expect under his supervision a most substantial development of agricultural resources in the Philippines.

CENTRAL NEBRASKA FALL FESTIVAL

FARMER BURNS AT HASTINGS