

HAPPENINGS IN THE CITIES

City Wages War to Rout Army of Rats



They fought the dogs and killed the rats. And bit the babies in their cradles. They ate the cheese out of the vats. And drank the soup from the cook's own ladles.

CHICAGO.—The health department estimates there are more than 600,000 rats in Chicago and that the number is increasing day by day, despite the efforts of professional rat catchers and the use of mechanical devices for their destruction.

War of extermination against members of the surmulot tribe is carried on in all parts of the city, but in no place is the slaughter greater than at the stock yards. There the battle is waged continually.

Every morning for breakfast men who have studied the subject say the little brown rat in this city consumes a quantity of food equal to the meat of 52 cows. Since they eat three meals a day in each twenty-four hours, they consume three times that quantity, or equal to 156 head of cattle. This

estimate is based on an allowance of one ounce of food for each rodent each meal.

Dogs, ferrets and cats are used in the war of extermination, and although thousands of rats are slaughtered daily their number continues to increase. This can easily be understood when it is known that from one pair of rats to a nest one thousand young surmulots will breed in a year.

"Back of the yards" crowds of boys gather nightly to go on hunting expeditions for rodents. Garbage cans are overturned, and as the rats scamper away dogs accompanying the boys catch and kill them.

The boys carry sticks or clubs in their hands and kill the rats when they attempt to escape. Many become so expert at rat catching that in after years they embark in it as a profession.

Some of the stores in the loop district have a pack of trained fox terriers to keep the rats away, but the animal which has earned the name of "nature's police woman" is the plain alley cat that stalks the street at night.

Rats cause heavy losses to business houses. They burrow through bolts of cloth to build their nests, destroying many thousands of dollars' worth of goods.

Weeping Widow Quickly Weds Consoler

SWAINSBORO, Ga.—Standing beside the open grave into which the body of her husband was about to be lowered, Mrs. J. J. Jewell was hysterical with grief, and friends had to restrain her from throwing herself into the grave upon the casket of the man with whom she had lived happily for 15 years and who was the father of her six children.

Women tried in vain to comfort her and the scene was an unusually painful one until Robert S. McDaniel, a young man who recently came here from Joplin, Mo., and who had become very friendly with Jewell, stepped close to the widow and whispered a few words through her heavy veil of black.

Whatever McDaniel said seemed to give the widow courage to bear up during the soul-trying "ashes-to-ashes, dust-to-dust" period of the ceremony, and she waited through those painful moments with surprising fortitude, considering her pitiful condition before the whispered consolation given to her by McDaniel.

Turning from the grave when it was all over, she leaned on the arm of McDaniel as she walked to the gate, where she and her children were helped into a carriage by kind-hearted neighbors and were driven to the fatherless home, a little farm for which



Mrs. Jewell and her husband had worked hard to pay.

Jewell died on Tuesday and the funeral was held on Wednesday. The next day the widow drove into Swainsboro, accompanied by McDaniel, and went to the courthouse.

"The Widow Jewell ain't losing any time in settling up the estate," remarked those who saw her enter the courthouse, and her prompt attention to business caused comment among those who had feared the day before that she would collapse at her husband's funeral.

It wasn't the probate judge that Mrs. Jewell was looking for, however, but the marriage license office. Guided by McDaniel, she walked into the office and gave her age as thirty-one while he gave his as twenty-six.

Lifting her black veil so that she could see to write her name, the widow signed the affidavit and in a few minutes they were married and on their way back to the Jewell farm.

Horse-Poisoning Is the Newest Graft



NEW YORK.—The police here believe that they have finally succeeded in breaking up one of the strangest as well as one of the meanest forms of graft which the members of the underworld, always fertile in such schemes, have ever developed. This form of graft in no way resembles the good old bunko games of the professional sharper, but has brought about instead the new calling of the professional horse-poisoner.

The methods of earning a livelihood in this manner, as revealed by the capture of a gang of poisoners, are simple. As practiced here, the game has been worked by men acting in couples, one to handle the finances, the other to do the poisoning. The former, to begin operations, selects a cer-

tain section of the city, preferably one in which one or more big stables are located. His assistant is then sent out to poison two or three horses a day for a week.

This is accomplished by giving them, as the opportunity may occur, a lump of sugar, half an apple or some other equine delicacy, loaded with poison. There is no monetary gain in this, the preliminary stage, which is merely done to create a favorable state of affairs—that is, from the viewpoint of the grafter. As soon as the poisonings begin to be talked of the financial map gets busy. He goes to the owner of a large stable, mentions the numerous deaths from poison, and offers protection for a sum varying from \$25 to \$100 a week.

If the owner refuses to pay, coercion is brought to bear in the shape of a few deaths among his animals. The fact that the two grafters were never seen together made the game a difficult one to stop, but the final rounding up of the gang of poisoners should end this peculiar graft, since the penalty under the law is a heavy one.

Texas Papas May Prevent Elopements

FORT WORTH, Tex.—Elopements of lovers under the legal age, twenty-one for the young man and eighteen for the girl, will be effectually checked in Texas by the new law adopted by the late legislature and now effective.

Under this law no person under the legal age can obtain a marriage license without the written consent of the minor's parents, and the paper must be acknowledged before a notary public like a deed. If a minor has no parents, a county judge's consent to the union is necessary. If the clerk doubts that either the prospective bride or bridegroom has attained the legal age, he is authorized to require the affidavit of some other than the contracting parties. County Clerk Beavers has interpreted the law to mean that the written consent of both parents, properly executed, must be filed, and that the consent of the father or the mother singly is not sufficient.

The old law authorized the county clerk to require the bridegroom or other person applying for a marriage license to make affidavit to the ages of



the parties, in case of doubt, but this law was frequently and successfully evaded.

A common method of evasion was for the young man, if under age, to put a slip of paper, bearing the number 21, in his shoe, and for the girl to put in her shoe a slip of paper with the number 18, and then the man would cheerfully make affidavit that he was "over twenty-one," and with equal sincerity the girl would make affidavit that she was "over eighteen."

In a few instances indictments have been returned against bridegrooms for false swearing, but uniformly the fathers-in-law after a few weeks have decided to make the best of it, and have refused to testify against their unwelcome sons-in-law.

SEE FOUND GUILTY OF ABDUCTING GIRL

CHICAGO'S "ABSOLUTE LIFE" CULT LEADER IS CONVICTED AND FACES PRISON.

CONDUCTED A 'LOVE JUNGLE'

Strange Conglomeration of Teachings of a So-Called Religious Cult in Which Women Disciples of the Apostle Became Entangled.

Chicago.—Evelyn Arthur See, revealer of the "absolute life," who was convicted by a jury in Judge Honore's court on a charge of abducting Mildred Bridges, one of his girl disciples, was released on \$5,000 bail pending the hearing of a motion for an appeal. The penalty for the crime which the head of the Racine avenue "love jungle" was convicted in an indeterminate term in the state penitentiary of from one to ten years.

Evelyn Arthur See was arrested in his "temple" on Racine avenue January 6, 1911, on complaint of Stephen H. Bridges, who charged the abduction of his daughter Mildred. Bridges had at one time been a follower of See and had been made president of the cult in return, it was asserted, for his financial support. Mrs. Bridges also was a member of the cult and at the trial she took the stand in See's defense.

While the state was investigating the case the federal authorities also took up the quest to ascertain if there had been any violation of the "white slave" act. See's wife sued him last March for separate maintenance. The Sees had been separated for years. Following the filing of this suit the safe in the "temple" was opened and the "revealer's" book and papers, including the manuscript of the "Book of Truth," were seized.

Some parts of the "Book of Truth" have been published. Other parts, not published but taught to the woman and girl inmates of the love jungle, have been seized by the United States government and form the basis of a prosecution against See in the federal courts. The federal authorities say the matter is unfit to send through the mails.

See's counsel hoped for acquittal largely on the testimony of four women—Mildred Bridges and Mona Rees, "high priestesses" of the cult, testified there had been no wrong at the See apartments on Racine avenue, and Mrs. Rees and Mrs. Bridges took the stand and accepted responsibility for some of the declarations in the "Book of Truth."

During the trial, which dragged along through several weeks and cost the state \$10,000, a strange conglomeration of documents was offered as



Apostle See and Mildred Bridges.

evidence. See's teachings embodied in poems, documents patterned after the Bible and a spiritual dictionary, were introduced.

"Absolute life, the all with" is the definition given of the cult in the dictionary.

A kiss is defined as "when the ion of the absolute welds with the ion of the spirit of mortality, purified through the finding of the personal consciousness seeking to be pure and with the consummation of the spiritual essence of man in God and God in man, there comes the gentle benediction of the absolute, the door of absolute life yawns more widely and there has come into being—a kiss."

Hanged by Cellar Doors. Portsmouth, O.—Frank Walker of this city had a narrow escape from hanging between the cellar doors of his home. He was coming up the outside cellar stairs when the half of the door he had left open was blown shut by the wind. As the door fell Walker jumped back and turned his head away from the falling door, which landed on his neck. He was being choked between the doors when liberated.

WOULDN'T ANY WOMAN?



Mollie—She's great on adopting new fads.
Jack—But she objects to new wrinkles.

BABY'S HAIR ALL CAME OUT

"When my first baby was six months old he broke out on his head with little bumps. They would dry up and leave a scale. Then it would break out again and it spread all over his head. All the hair came out and his head was scaly all over. Then his face broke out all over in red bumps and it kept spreading until it was on his hands and arms. I bought several boxes of ointment, gave him blood medicine, and had two doctors to treat him, but he got worse all the time. He had it about six months when a friend told me about Cuticura. I sent and got a bottle of Cuticura Resolvent, a cake of Cuticura Soap and a box of Cuticura Ointment. In three days after using them he began to improve. He began to take long naps and to stop scratching his head. After taking two bottles of Resolvent, two boxes of Ointment and three cakes of Soap he was sound and well, and never had any breaking out of any kind. His hair came out in little curls all over his head. I don't think anything else would have cured him except Cuticura."

"I have bought Cuticura Ointment and Cuticura Soap several times since to use for cuts and sores and have never known them to fail to cure what I put them on. Cuticura Soap is the best that I have ever used for toilet purposes." (Signed) Mrs. F. E. Harmon, R. F. D. 2, Atoka, Tenn., Sept. 10, 1910. Although Cuticura Soap and Ointment are sold everywhere, a sample of each, with 32-page book, will be mailed free on application to "Cuticura," Dept. 16 L, Boston.

Flown. "Tough luck Jipson had." "What happened?" "In order to keep his cook, he told her she might have the use of his touring car two afternoons a week." "Well?" "Yesterday she eloped with the chauffeur."

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