

DEVIL-FISHING

BY WILLARD W. GARRISON

IMAGINE a great, fat slimy something poked out of the water into your face, quickly followed by another slimy something and then another and another; each endeavoring to secure an option on a different portion of your anatomy, and you have one of the various joys of fishing for the devil fish.

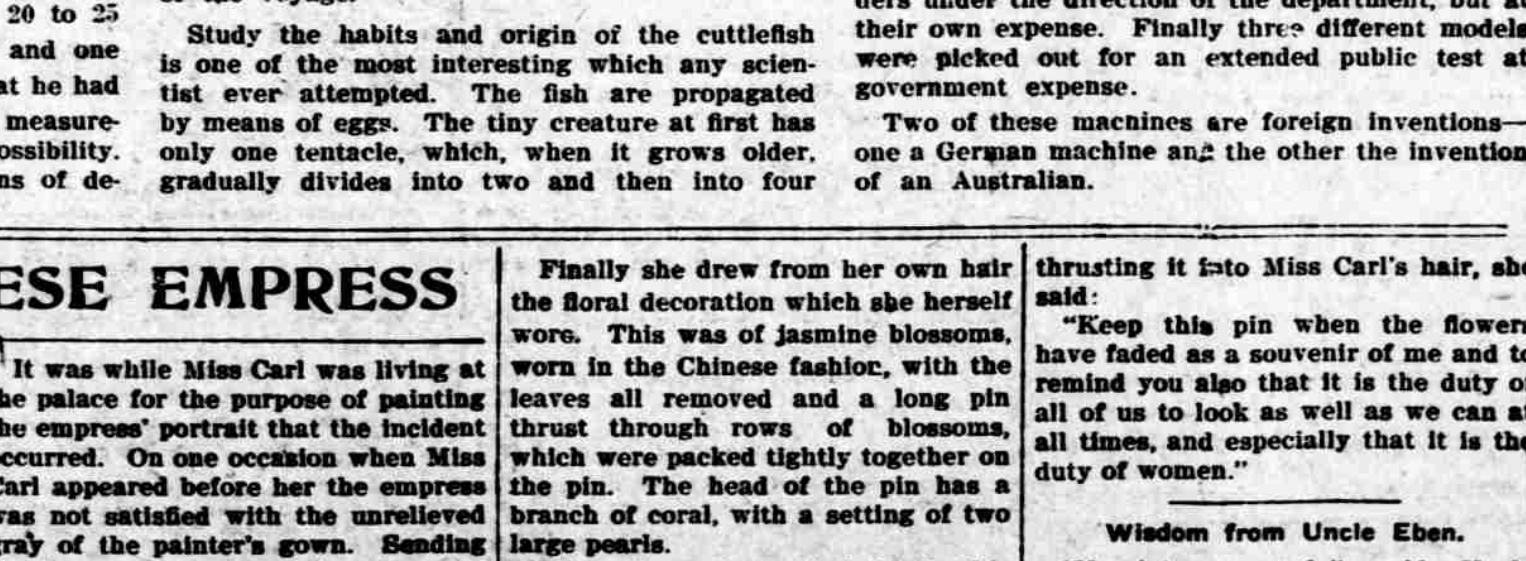
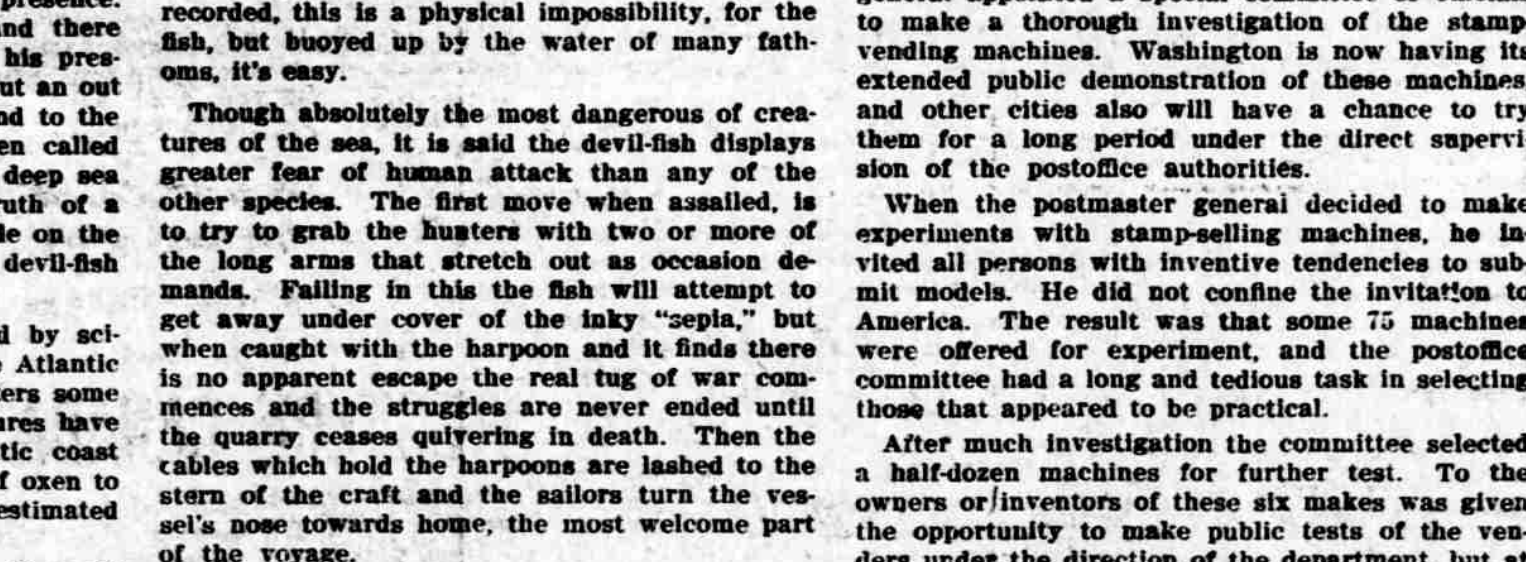
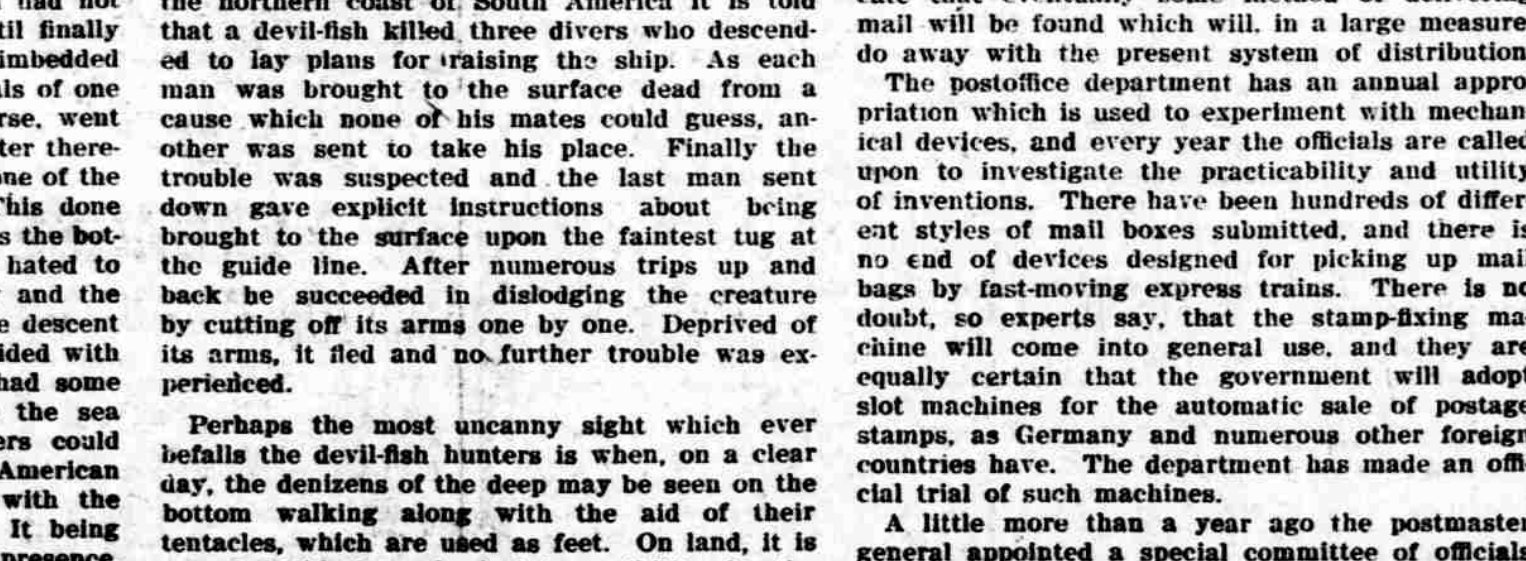
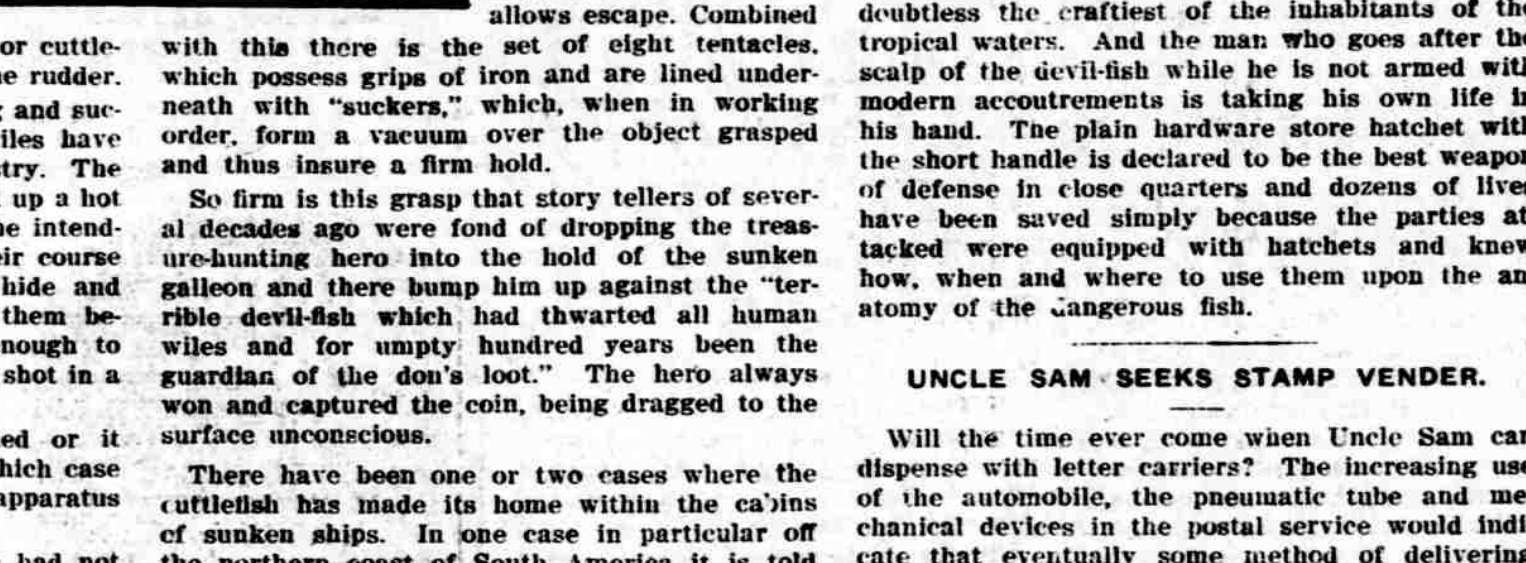
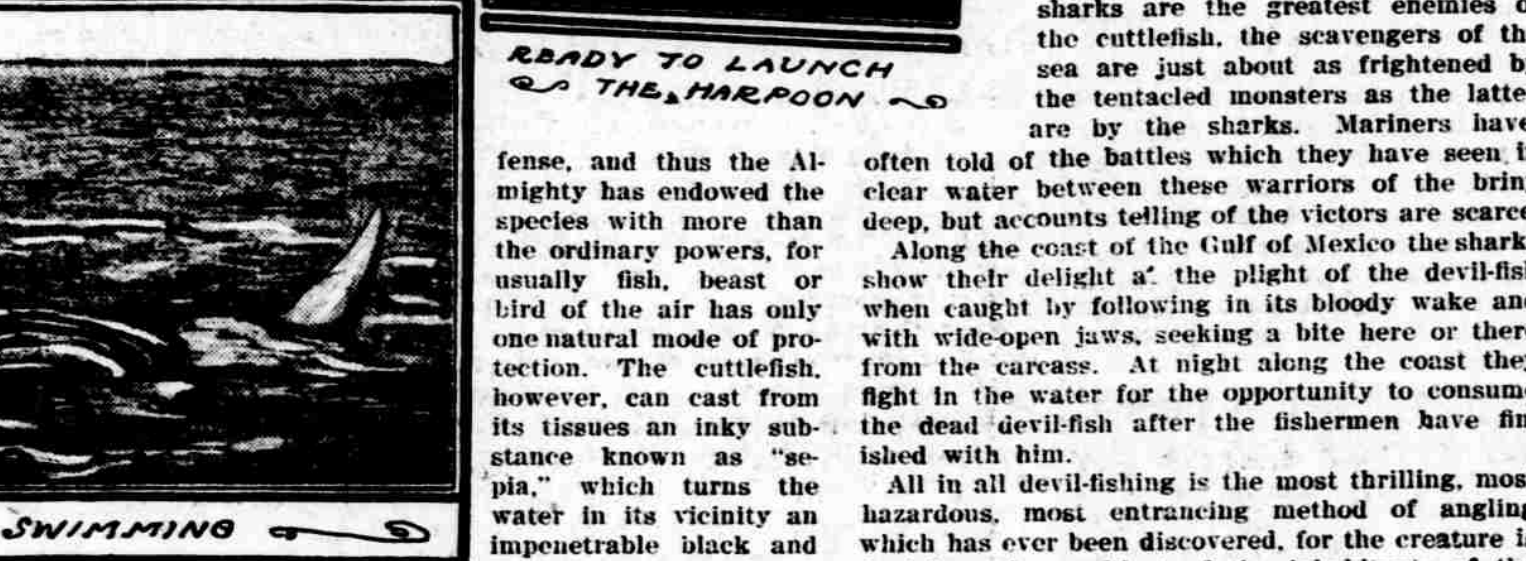
But along the American coast of the Gulf of Mexico there are lots and lots of men who eke out their livings doing just this thing. For the man who doesn't have to fish for the devil-fish, it's fun, but to the man or crew of men who do it for their daily bread; well, they content themselves with a single catch a day.

Aristotle of old is recorded in history as the first writer on the subject of devil-fishing, but as he was exceedingly fond of Mr. Aristotle's health he left lots unsaid because he didn't investigate.

Every Gulf of Mexico sailor who fishes for this creature carries a hatchet close by, for that is the only means of getting away from the fish's tentacles—simply cutting them off as they are about to grasp the intended victim.

In the gulf the devil-fish is harpooned and seldom after one of these great prongs has been imbedded in the body of the victim are the fishermen able to land their quarry within two hours. Usually it takes from three to four hours of good, hard muscle-grinding work and then lots of times the crew of the hunting craft must cut the cable and lose the harpoon simply because the brute fights too hard to allow the occupation to be carried on safely. It is little wonder that one fish a day of this variety is considered sufficient.

Many wild, weird tales are told of the devil-fish. One class of stories deals with the creature's addiction to towing ocean-going steamers out of their courses. So strong is the deep-sea monster that captains of vessels have been known to wonder what was carrying them to windward, and



HARPOONING FROM THE BOWSPRIT
MOUTH OF A STRANDED DEVIL-FISH
READY TO LAUNCH THE HARPOON
THE DEVIL-FISH SWIMMING

and after a year or so into eight small arms. These grow larger and stronger as the age of the fish increases. Some adult specimens have been caught, the tentacles of which were over 20 feet in length. Jets of water squirted by means of fins constitute the method of locomotion of the cuttlefish.

The devil-fish's choicest occupation is that of feeding upon shoals of smaller members of the finny tribe and when interrupted in this pursuit he effect is terrifying. The great creature will toss several of its tentacles to the surface, still continuing to feed with the rest of them; and if this bluff fails to scare the intruder away, the devil-fish will come to the surface personally to see about it.

While next to human beings, sharks are the greatest enemies of the cuttlefish, the scavengers of the sea are just about as frightened by the tentacled monsters as the latter are by the sharks. Mariners have often told of the battles which they have seen in clear water between these warriors of the briny deep, but accounts telling of the victors are scarce.

Along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico the sharks show their delight at the plight of the devil-fish when caught by following in its bloody wake and with wide-open jaws, seeking a bite here or there in the water for the opportunity to consume the dead devil-fish after the fishermen have finished with him.

All in all devil-fishing is the most thrilling, most hazardous, most entrancing method of angling which has ever been discovered, for the creature is doubtless the craftiest of the inhabitants of the tropical waters. And the man who goes after the scalp of the devil-fish while he is not armed with modern accoutrements is taking his own life in his hand. The plain hardware store hatchet with the short handle is declared to be the best weapon of defense in close quarters and dozens of lives have been saved simply because the parties attacked were equipped with hatchets and knew how, when and where to use them upon the anatomy of the dangerous fish.

sense, and thus the Almighty has endowed the species with more than the ordinary powers, for usually fish, beast or bird of the air has only one natural mode of protection. The cuttlefish, however, can cast from its tissues an inky substance known as "sepia," which turns the water in its vicinity an impenetrable black and allows escape. Combined with this there is the set of eight tentacles, which possess grips of iron and are lined underneath with "suckers," which, when in working order, form a vacuum over the object grasped and thus insure a firm hold.

So firm is this grasp that story tellers of several decades ago were fond of dropping the treasure-hunting hero into the hold of the sunken galleon and there bump him up against the "terrible devil-fish" which had thwarted all human wiles and for umpty hundred years been the guardian of the don's loot." The hero always won and captured the coin, being dragged to the surface unconscious.

There have been one or two cases where the cuttlefish has made its home within the cabins of sunken ships. In one case in particular off the northern coast of South America it is told that a devil-fish killed three divers who descended to lay plans for raising the ship. As each man was brought to the surface dead from a cause which none of his mates could guess, another was sent to take his place. Finally the trouble was suspected and the last man sent down gave explicit instructions about being brought to the surface upon the faintest tug at the guide line. After numerous trips up and back he succeeded in dislodging the creature by cutting off its arms one by one. Deprived of its arms, it fled and no further trouble was experienced.

Perhaps the most uncanny sight which ever befalls the devil-fish hunters is when, on a clear day, the denizens of the deep may be seen on the bottom walking along with the aid of their tentacles, which are used as feet. On land, it is recorded, this is a physical impossibility, for the fish, but buoyed up by the water of many fathoms, it's easy.

Though absolutely the most dangerous of creatures of the sea, it is said the devil-fish displays greater fear of human attack than any of the other species. The first move when assailed, is to try to grab the husters with two or more of the long arms that stretch out as occasion demands. Falling in this the fish will attempt to get away under cover of the inky "sepia," but when caught with the harpoon and it finds there is no apparent escape the real tug of war commences and the struggles are never ended until the quarry ceases quivering in death. Then the cables which hold the harpoons are lashed to the stern of the craft and the sailors turn the vessel's nose towards home, the most welcome part of the voyage.

Study the habits and origin of the cuttlefish is one of the most interesting which any scientist ever attempted. The fish are propagated by means of eggs. The tiny creature at first has only one tentacle, which, when it grows older, gradually divides into two and then into four

thrusting it into Miss Carl's hair, she said: "Keep this pin when the flowers have faded as a souvenir of me and to remind you also that it is the duty of all of us to look as well as we can at all times, and especially that it is the duty of women."

Wisdom from Uncle Eben. "Nursin' a grouch," said Uncle Eben, "is like neglectin' de flowers an' vegetables an' puttin' in yoh time tendin' de weeds."

TRIUMPH OF ART SCARF IS LIKED

New Gown the Masterpiece of the Foremost Parisian.

Zimmerman, who was the creator of the transformation gown of last winter, is again to the fore with a similar costume for summer, which is, if anything, more fascinating than the first. It is practical, too, and just the thing for afternoon visits, teas or any function where a pretty toilet is desired, and yet a wrap is a necessity. It can be made in any material that is soft and will hang in graceful folds, such as charmeuse, liberty satin, crepe de chine, or toile de nion, than which nothing is more delightful to wear.

The model gown was of the latter, and in a color that is neither rose nor mauve. It was cut like a princess robe, close fitting about the hips, and with some fullness around the bottom. Here it was finished with heavy cords of the same material, which gave weight to the skirt and took away the absolutely plain look. The lower part of the tightly fitted sleeves was of dull silver lace and so was the short high yoke. A little shoulder cape was fitted in front with an arrangement of cords, tassels and loops. An inch-wide trimming of loops and tassels to match edged the cape, and also the long sash ends which hung down over the skirt in the back. This sash was attached to the waist by some fine shirtings, giving the long line that is now the fashion.

When worn indoors it is a charming gown, simple in style and with nothing about it to suggest that it might serve two purposes. When, however, it is to be worn out of doors the little cape suddenly becomes a wrap sufficiently ample to afford protection, and as coquettish as possible. It is all done by simply taking the sash ends and bringing them around over the arms and to the waist in front. Here they are knotted and the ends finished with balls, and cords are an additional trimming. In the back the wrap extends to the waist, where it is held in place by shirring.

It is all cleverly contrived, for the wrap can be adjusted in a moment and without the slightest difficulty. There is no striving to see if one's garment is straight in the back, for it cannot possibly be anything else. The hooks which fasten it in front are of the kind that work themselves and every fold falls into place with only one or two slight movements of the fingers. The astonishing part of the gown also is that there is not one unnecessary inch of material in it, nor a bit of fullness that could apparently be dispensed with.

Hints on Being Well Dressed. The smartest colors for the early spring will be taupe, mole, smoke, vapor gray, sulphur, old gold, aëlo-trope, cinnamon brown, jade and the cashmere colors. Navy blue and black are always good and always popular. Sleeves should be made without linings; the present styles demand that the sleeve shall be as small as possible, so the general tendency is to dispense with linings wherever it is possible to do so.

Net the color of the dress material is an extremely smart trimming at present for yokes and sleeves. It can be used either plain or necked. Its popularity for waists has not at all diminished. Procrastination is the worst of faults in dress. It is the instinct of the good dressmaker and the well-dressed woman to be ever on the alert for something new. Don't be a "trailer" in adopting new fashions.—Delineator.

DOLLAR WHEAT HAS COME TO STAY

IN LESS THAN FIVE YEARS CENTRAL CANADA WILL BE CALLED UPON TO SUPPLY THE UNITED STATES.

A couple of years ago, when the announcement was made in these columns that "dollar wheat" had come to stay, and that the time was not far distant when the central provinces of Canada—Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta—would be called upon to supply a large part of the wheat consumption in the United States, there were many who laughed at the predictions and ridiculed the idea of wheat reaching the dollar point and staying there. Both of these predictions have come to pass. Dollar wheat is here—and it is not only here, but is here to stay; and at the same time, whatever unpleasant sensations it may arouse in the super-sensitive American, Central Canada is already being called upon to help keep up the broad supply, and within the next five years will, as James J. Hill says, literally "become the bread-basket of our increasing millions."

There are few men in the United States better acquainted with the wheat situation than Mr. Hill, and there are few more conservative in their expressed views. Yet it was this greatest of the world's railroad men who said a few days ago that "the price of wheat will never be substantially lower than it is today"—and when it is taken into consideration that at that time wheat had soared to \$1.20, well above the dollar mark, the statement is peculiarly significant, and doubly significant is the fact that in this country the population is increased at the rate of 65 per cent., while the yield of wheat and other products is increasing at the rate of only 25 per cent. For several years past the cost of living has been steadily increasing in the United States, and this wide difference in production and consumption is the reason.

This difference must be supplied by the vast and fertile grain regions of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. There is no absolutely no doubt of this. Even the press of the country concedes the fact. Results have shown that no other country in the world can ever hope to equal those provinces as wheat producers, and that no other country can produce as hard or as good wheat as the United States recently. "If United States wheat maintains the dollar mark, Canada wheat will be well above a dollar a bushel, for in every way it is superior to our home-grown grain."

With these facts steadily impinging their truth upon our rapidly growing population, it is interesting to note just what possibilities as a "wheat grower" our Northern neighbor possesses. While the United States will never surrender her prestige in any manufacturing or commercial line, she must very soon acknowledge, and with as much grace as she can, that she is bound to be beaten as a grain producer. It must be conceded that a great deal of the actual truth about the richness of Canada's grain producing area has been "kept out of sight," as Mr. Hill says, by the strenuous efforts of our newspapers and magazines to stem the exodus of our best American farmers into those regions.

It is a fact that up to the present time, although Canada has already achieved the front rank in the world's grain production, the fertile prairies of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta have as yet scarcely been scratched. Millions of acres, free for the taking, still await our American farmers; and when these millions are gone there are other millions in regions not yet opened up to immigration. A few years ago the writer, who has been through those wheat provinces several times, laughed with others of our people at the broad statement that Canada was bound to become "John Bull's Bread Basket." Now, after a last trip (and though he is a staunch American) he frankly believes that not only will Canada become John Bull's bread-basket, but it will within the next decade at least become THE BREAD-BASKET OF THE UNITED STATES. Perhaps this may be a hard truth for Americans to swallow, but it is a truth, nevertheless. And it is at least a partial compensation to know that hundreds of thousands of our farmers are profiting by the fact by becoming producers in this new country.

The papers of this country have naturally made the most of the brief period of depression which swept over Canada, but now there is not a sign of it left from Winnipeg to the coast. Never have the three great wheat raising provinces been more prosperous. Capital is coming into the country from all quarters, taking the form of cash for investment, industrial concerns seeking locations, and, best of all, substantial and sturdy immigrants come to help populate the prairies. Towns are booming; scores of new elevators are springing up; railroads are sending out their branch lines in all directions; thousands of prosperous farmers are leaving their prairie shelters for new and modern homes—"built by wheat"; everywhere is a growing happiness and contentment—happiness and contentment built by wheat—the "dollar wheat," which has come to stay. Notwithstanding this, the Canadian Government is still giving away its homesteads and selling pre-emption at \$3.00 an acre, and the Railway and Land Companies are disposing of their lands at what may be considered nominal figures.

What Did He Mean? Miss Bore—Do you ever think of me when you are driving your car? Auto Enthusiast—Why, certainly—especially when I run over somebody.—Harvard Lampoon.

Kill the Flies Now before they multiply. A DAISY FLY KILLER kills thousands. Lasts the season. Ask your dealer, or send 2c to H. Somers, 149 De Kalb Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.

If thy friends agree in calling thee an ass, go and get a halter around thee.



The absurdly tall neck ruching is demode. White is not fashionable for street costumes. Taffeta silk is regaining its one-time popularity for gowns. There is a fancy for laced fastenings in the spring gloves. Cherry and poppy will be two of the favorite colors this season. Usually when the suit is of a decided color a hat of some soft, vague tint is worn. The picturesque Charlotte Corday fella is appearing on some of the sheer muslin gowns. Unusual, to say the least, is a wreath of prickly green burrs around the crown of a straw hat. Serge is a good, practical material for all-around wear. It wears well and has a decided style of its own. A pretty opera bag is of pink satin with a gold cord, and decorations of hand-painted wreaths in dainty Louis colors. The Josephine gown is very beautiful for evening wear. It is usually fashioned of some gorgeous, glittering spangled net or chiffon, over satin.

Two Pretty Hats



A becoming hat in taffetas "prune," lined with black satin. Cluster of roses "prune."
"Cabriolet" of taffetas "bleu natier," with shaded pink roses and a long scarf of chiffon "bleu natier."

GINGHAM IS POPULAR FABRIC
Simple Frocks for Summer Wear, Says Fashion, and the Edict is Well Liked.

This year the girl of moderate means has ample opportunity to look her best at the least possible cost, for she may indulge in frocks of cheapest gingham, made very simply. These always are the very best selection for summer wear, and if they are made up with an eye to utility as well as to line, she will find that at all times she is among the best of well-dressed people. The beauty of the fashion is that one may wear the plainest sort of gowns with a bias band of the same around the line of the yoke and a bias band to form the belt. This makes all trimming unnecessary, and, as the yoke itself is made of some tucked batiste, you will see at a glance that the dress will be very inexpensive. It is not essential that the dress be made in one piece—neither the princess nor the empire style. The shirt-waist suit with the belt of the material will be very effective for the business

GIFT OF CHINESE EMPRESS

Miss Carl, Portrait Painter, Has an Interesting Jewel Presented by Tai Ann.
Miss Katherine Carl, the portrait painter, has an interesting jewel, presented to her by the empress of China, which reveals Tai Ann, even amid her cares of state, as a remarkable enthusiast for the minor harmonies of life.

Finally she drew from her own hair the floral decoration which she herself wore. This was of jasmine blossoms, worn in the Chinese fashion, with the leaves all removed and a long pin thrust through rows of blossoms, which were packed tightly together on the pin. The head of the pin has a branch of coral, with a setting of two large pearls.
When the empress had tried this flower strung pin against Miss Carl's hair and gown she was pleased with the note of color it afforded, and