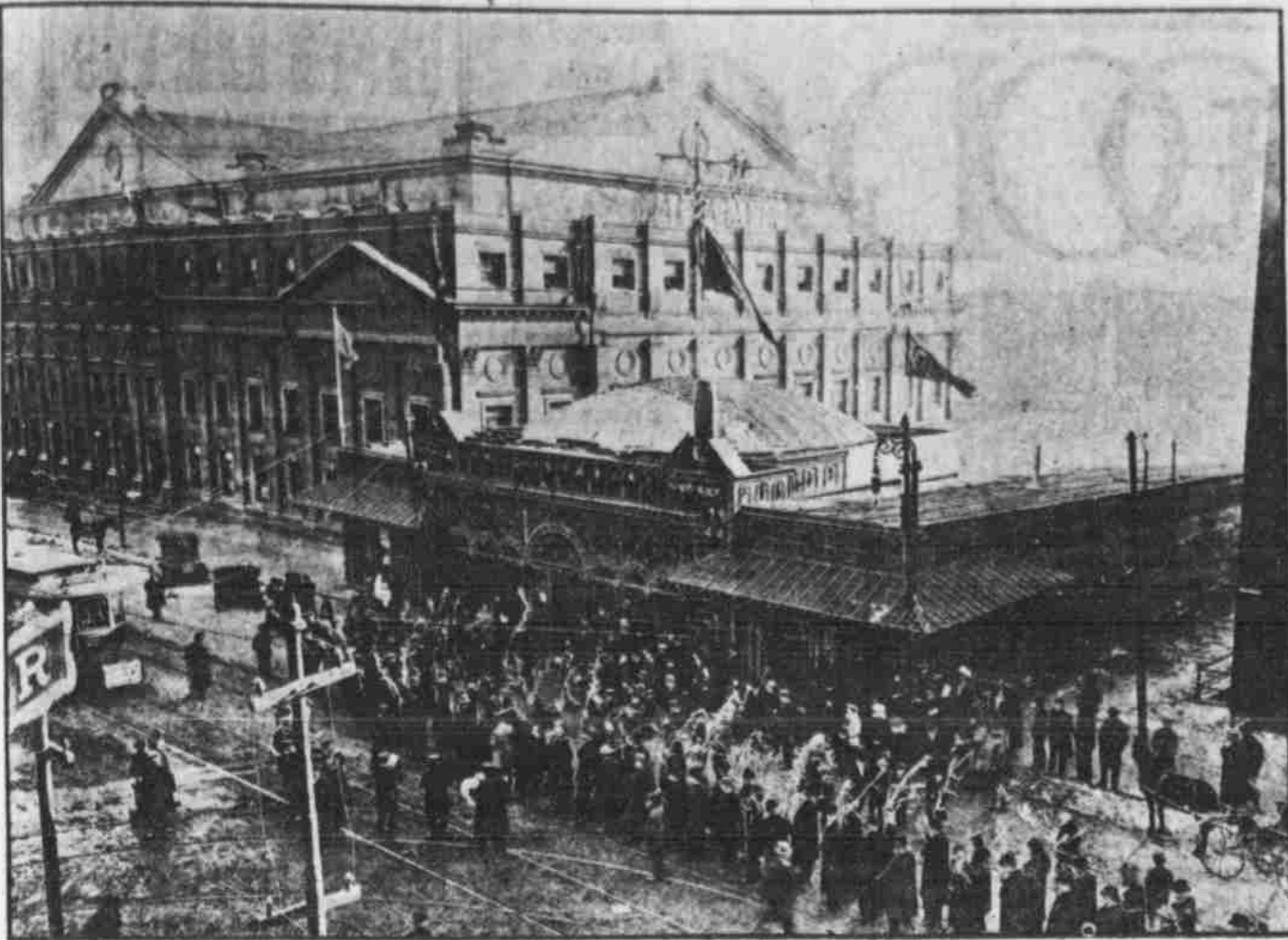


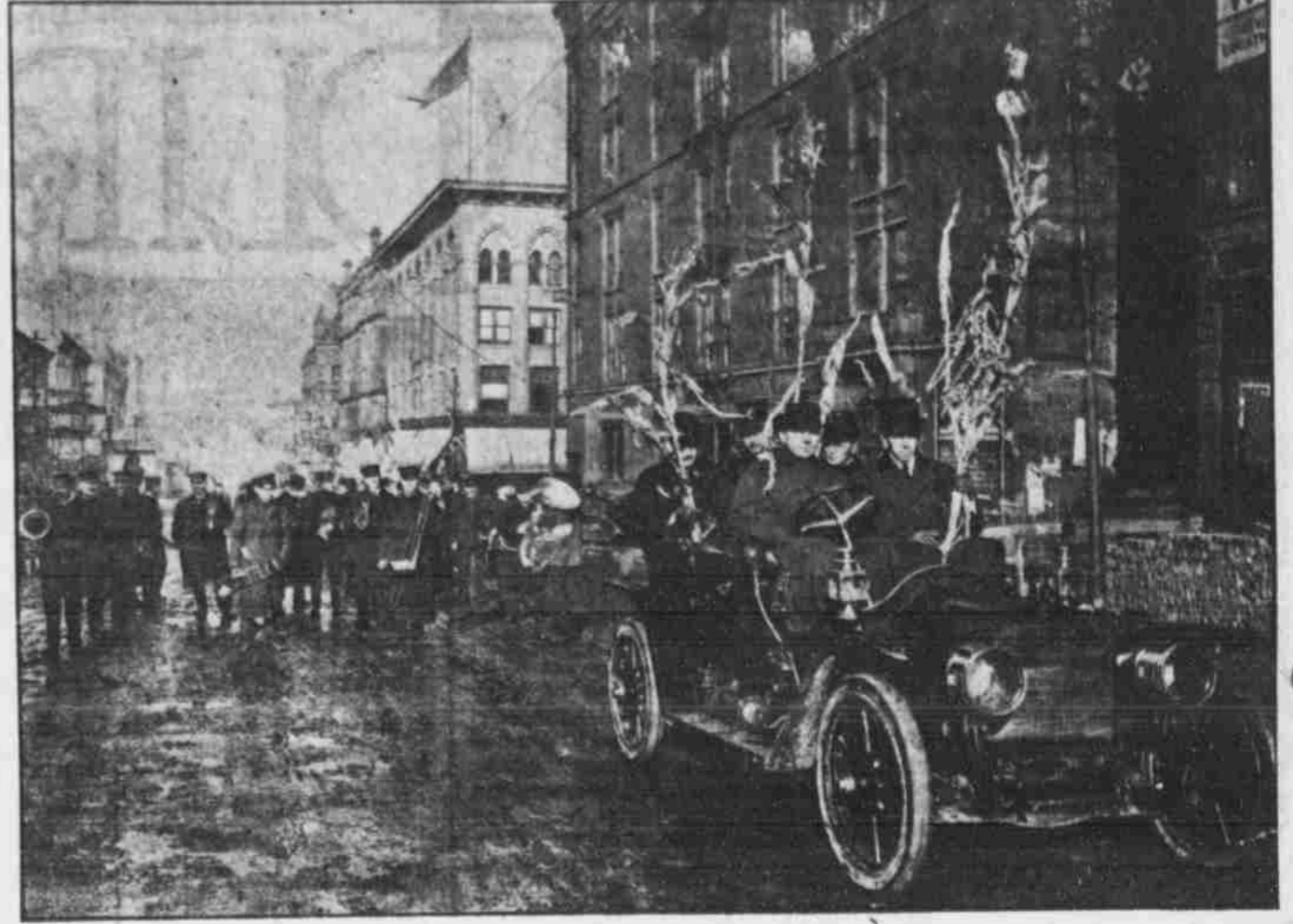
# Great National Corn Exposition Starts With Appropriate Ceremony



COMMERCIAL CLUB MEMBERS LINED UP AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE OF THE CORN SHOW ON OPENING DAY.



"MAYOR JIM" AND "BUFFALO BILL" LEAD THE MARCHERS.



HEAD OF THE COMMERCIAL CLUB PARADE ON OPENING DAY OF THE CORN SHOW.

**W**HILE children rushed pell-mell through the gates, while a horde of men and women and women on business bent besieged the officers, while exhibitors frantically drove the cars, the electric current pulsed over a wire running straight from the White House and a message of good will from President Roosevelt formally opened the National Corn exposition.

The exposition has been in progress three days since then, and has been "well under way" from the start, but this opening day was the biggest day of all the "days" which have passed and is assuredly as important as any which are to come.

For the formal opening of the National Corn exposition this year really marks an epoch in the history of American agriculture and the history of American agriculture is the history of not alone the material wellbeing of the people of the United States, but to a very great extent of their social progress and even of their ethical and aesthetic advance. It is true that this is not the first National Corn exposition, but it might well be when the scope and purpose of this year's exposition are compared to that of 1907, although the latter was literally the first.

In days to come the 9th of December, 1908, may likely be reckoned one of the most important dates in American history. This statement seems preposterous at first glance, for we are much accustomed to considering as important dates, the day on which some great battle was fought or the day when some treaty or other was formally concluded. But if one stops and thinks a minute, he must admit that few days are more important in the history of the world than that day when James Watts sat in his mother's kitchen and saw the lid of the kettle pressed up by the steam within. And that day when Sir Isaac Newton saw the memorable apple fall, the day when Gutenberg took his first impression from movable type, the day when McCormick first tried a harvester on a Virginia farm, these and a hundred other days have been of more consequence to after-time than the day when the battle of Lundy's Lane was fought, or the day when the peace of Utrecht was signed.

It was significant in a way that the opening day of the second National Corn exposition should have been noteworthy for the large number of children who were present. For it is they who will reap in largest measure the harvest from the seeds which P. G. Holden and J. Wilkes Jones—to name only two men—have sown. These swarms of school children did not take the exposition with any too much seriousness and the direct and immediate educational value which they received must have been small, for the day was to them something of a lark, a holiday from the drudgery and confinement of school. Yet it was not to be expected that they should view the Corn exposition with serious men or pull long faces. This is particularly true of the children from the city of Omaha, who could not in the nature of things be looked to take as lively and acute an interest in corn, wheat, rye, oats and barley as the children who grow up in the immediate vicinity of a blooming field of grain. For many of the latter the Corn exposition has an immediate personal interest, because corn of their own growing or articles made from corn by their own hands are on exhibition there.

Bringing the Omaha children to the Corn exposition on the opening days had in truth a double motive—that the children should see the exposition and be as impressed as much as possible, learn as much as they might, in fact; second, that they should return home and tell their elders the glories of the "big show," thus stimulating a desire to attend in mother and father, brother and sister of the child describing what he or she had seen.

In other words, partly an educational, partly a publicity and advertising proposition, both motives were legitimate and assuredly so the second. In this day and age an exposition of international consequence and size cannot be run without large expenditure and the income must be made to equal the outgo. The Corn exposition management has done a very intricate of finance in getting enormous results from what seemed almost insignificant expenditures, but for the sake of future expositions, this, the first one held in Omaha, must show when the books are closed a good balance on the credit side of the ledger. Fortunately, this is now assured. Receipts on the first four days have been large.

The number of prospective visitors is great and if the weather continues favorable it is certain, humanly speaking, that a good sum will be realized.

Viewing the opening day of the Corn exposition from the standpoint of the showman, the most noteworthy feature was the complete state to which the exposition had attained. Absolute perfection in this is impossible. Plan you ever so carefully, arrange for every thinkable detail down to the most minute point, contingencies will arise which the greatest human foresight could not conceive and delays of one sort or another will occur.

The man does not live, never has and never will, who could foresee all that will happen where the chances of accident and delay are so multifold and variable. It is possible, for instance, to allot every foot of exhibition space, to assign each and every exhibitor or concessionaire his particular nook or corner, but much farther than this an exposition management cannot go. It can threaten, cajole and plead with exhibitors to get their wares or displays to the spot on time, but the management cannot see that each and every one of several thousand fulfill his promise.

All this defense is not really necessary in the present case, for every official exhibit was in place long before the doors opened and nearly all the private exhibitors, too, had also toed the mark. The judges had done their work, the decorators theirs, the entertainment programs had been made out, the heating apparatus had been installed, fire protection seen to, the ticket takers and guides had been lectured on their duties, the janitor service had been arranged, a thousand complaints, a million suggestions had been listened to—in short, an amount of work which seems almost superhuman, viewed as a whole, had been consummated.

Needless to say such a task calls for executive ability of the highest order, and the fact that the corn exposition was opened to the public in such a complete and finished state argues beyond question and cavil that such high executive ability was manifested in the preliminary work.

The student of manners and character can find rich material in the few hours just before an exposition begins. These are the hours which try men's souls—and women's. When the pace becomes feverish and hectic, when time presses and the inexorable hands of the clock seem to whirl round at ever accelerated speed, when a hundred unexpected things happen, when others break down under pressure, it is then that the man or woman of really strong character stands like a tower while the weaker are winnowed by the winds of hurry and adversity. It is then that a little patience goes a long way with some, a little severity is effective with others, while above all is the necessity for keeping one's head.

It may justly be said that while each and every head of department, every chairman of committee, every superintendent and judge found himself confronted with what seemed to him an amazing amount of work to get the greatest burden of all rested upon the shoulders of J. Wilkes Jones, general manager of the National Corn exposition. And to give honor where honor is due, it must be added that he did well. His has been the largest task throughout and on him devolves the chief credit.

Opening day had, as was befitting, its spectacular features. Nothing in this line more impressive could have been designed than the message from President Roosevelt telling his good will toward and hope for the exposition. It may be parenthetically added that the idea of this message from the president did not have an entirely spontaneous origin in the brain of Theodore Roosevelt, but the exposition's committee on publicity first thought of

this and then took steps to realize it—steps which the event showed were well chosen.

It would hardly be possible, neither would it be altogether desirable to have a great exposition formally inaugurated without a few speeches. The set speech on an occasion of this kind has been badly overdone in America. There will be no dispute over this on this occasion nor tiresome and the "inevitable feature" of the day did not mar the occasion.

Not long after the pushing of a button in the White House had given the formal signal that the exposition was on, 500 members of the Omaha Commercial club and the Omaha Real Estate exchange marched in a body to the exposition. They carried canes on which corn stalks had been mounted. At

## Winner of the Grand Sweepstakes for Corn



L. B. CLORE OF JOHNSON COUNTY, INDIANA, WITH HIS CORN AND THE TROPHY.

their head strode Mayor Dahliman and William B. Cody. The latter would probably have preferred to bestride a prancing charger, but he navigated dry land and terra firma with as firm a step as men two score years younger. It probably did not occur to Buffalo Bill, but his presence at the opening of the exposition made many think of the days when agriculture was unknown in Nebraska, save what scratching on the ground Indian

squaws were wont to do. A flood of sentimental regrets would have swept over him had this thought risen, but it evidently did not for he was one of the merriest of the crowd.

In the offices of the exposition there were enough men of different countries present to give an international flavor to the exposition. Sir Horace Plunkett of Dublin, Ireland, chatted with General Mansger Jones, and Senors Gorospe, Fox and Ones of Mexico exchanged greetings with T. R. Garton of Warrington, England. The Mexicans have come to learn and the Englishmen to teach.

That is, in respect to oats, Mr. Garton had a message to deliver. With respect to other grains it is likely that he can learn something here.

Sir Horace Plunkett is outshone by no man at the exposition for interest in agricultural problems. For

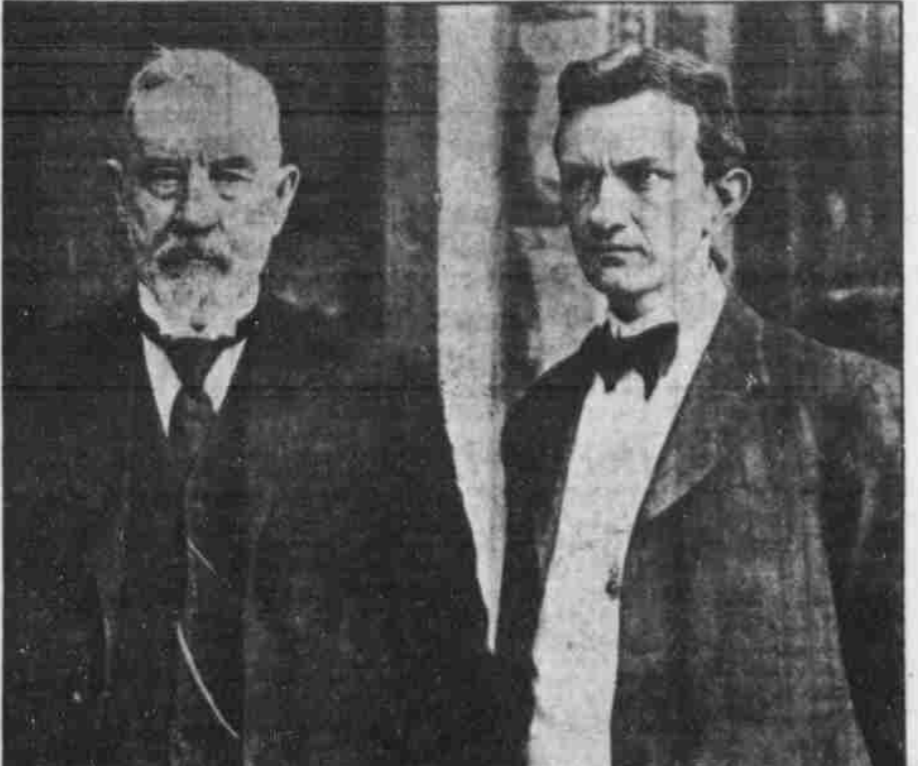
the Honduras Indian keeps the bones of the deer which he kills in his hut; otherwise he would not be able to kill any more. Our western Indians believe that the sinews of the deer bring good luck. The natives of Eastern Island make a conjuring wand, a broad paddle about thirty inches long, from the bone of a whale, and believe that with it the shaman can bring speedy death upon whomsoever he wishes. Should an Esquimaux cat, or a porcupine, be cut off its tail and tie it to the masthead for good luck. The skin of a white faced otter is lucky. The ancients believed that the skin of a seal would protect the wearer from thunder and lightning, and it is said that the Emperor Augustus always carried one about with him. The horns of the drinking horns, or cups, from the horns of the rhinoceros and the tusks of the narwhal, as it was believed that they counteracted the fatal effects of poison.

The conch shell is highly prized in India. In many of the temples they are blown daily to scare away malignant spirits while the god receives his daily meal. A conch with the spiral twisting to the right instead of to the left is supposed to be worth its weight in gold. Some years ago a conch of that description was offered for sale in Calcutta, with a reserve price of a lakh of rupees placed around on it. It was eventually bought for \$20,000.

Gambles have many charms to insure good luck while playing. Among these are a fine catkin hung from the neck, a human knee bone or toe bone, an owl's heart, a small red feather, a mole's foot, a rabbit's foot, the tail of a lizard, the skin of a black snake



PROF. P. G. HOLDEN, Head of the Agricultural Extension Department of the Iowa State College at Ames, and Promoter of the Corn Show.



Henry Wallace of Des Moines, Ia., Editor of Wallace's Farmer, and Kenyon R. Butterfield, President of Massachusetts College of Agriculture, TWO MEMBERS OF THE ROOSEVELT COUNTRY LIFE COMMISSION.



Hiram Masher, Graduate of Ames and Agricultural Secretary of Senor Luis Gorospe, Millionaire and Philanthropist of Mexico, VISITORS FROM MEXICO AT THE CORN SHOW.

years he has fought to help his beloved Ireland, and yet he has an equal interest in the United States, where he passed ten years as a ranchman. "I always spend my vacations in this country," said he.

These men from tropic climes or across the waters were far from being the only ones who looked forward to the exposition with pleasurable expectation. Over in the Model kitchen gathered seventy young women or girls, representing every county in Nebraska. These felt the burden of the honor of being chosen to come and showed they felt it by their eager earnestness of manner. Many of them will write of the Model kitchen and the exposition as a whole to local papers or will report to farmers' institutes, and they were anxious to miss nothing. No department of the exposition will work more systematically than this, and the seventy will possibly profit more largely than any others who attend.

An exposition attracts many men with axes to grind, some, the grinding of which will be beneficial alike to all parties. Among this class are the circulation agents of farm papers, who camped out on the opening day in Newspaper Row and have readily refused since to be seduced away by any attraction whatever. A big report will be and already has been made by them, for the numbers of visitors to the corn show who can be interested in an agricultural weekly is enormous. The implement men hope for less immediate returns, but they have responded to the call most worthily, although the exposition is not directly for them.

One of the busiest places opening day was the alfalfa palace. A delay in shipment of many bales had forced the men in charge of this to make hay very rapidly in order to get done on time, and they worked to a terrific gait all day. Their labors have been well rewarded, for the alfalfa palace is a beautiful thing in itself, and has been accorded the honor of having the throne of King Corn established there, and his consort, Queen Alfalfa.

## Charms from Animal Teeth

(Continued from First Page.)

a bit of its skin will keep all evil from the lodge. The Delaware Indians believed that the feathers from a big eagle, which they supposed to be their guardian angel, rendered the wearer invulnerable and invulnerable. Indeed, the Indians generally consider the feathers of the eagle possessed of occult and sovereign virtues.

The natives along the Amazon river attach a superstitious value to the skin and feathers of the Ultra-para (said to be a little gray bird which loads and fascinates the other birds), believing that if they keep them in their clothes the relics will have the effect of attracting for the happy possessor a train of lovers and followers. These birds are consequently in great demand in some places, the hunters selling them at a high price to foolish girls.

The heart of a vulture bound in a lion or wolf skin drives away fiends. The kite's head borne before the breast, according to our forefathers, brought the love and favor of all men and women, while if the heart of an owl was laid on the left side of a sleeping woman she would tell all she had done. If a woman wore the heart of a turtle dove wrapped in the skin of a wolf she would never afterward be wanton. The Irish believe that to nail a bat on the house door prevents the magicians from entering. A saying still current is that if one picks his teeth with the nail of the middle toe of an owl he will never have toothache. If an Indian hunter wears a bit of his claw in his buttonhole it will bring him good luck.

To many people the goose was a sacred bird, and even to this day there are found many, especially in Asia, who will not kill a goose. The devout cherish a fond fancy that all geese perform an aerial pilgrimage to the holiest of lakes in the Himalayas every year, transporting the sins of the neighborhood, returning with a new stock of inspiration for the encouragement of the devout.

The fursia, or wishing bone (anciently called the merry thought), in the breast of a fowl is an old charm. The Indians carry the wish bone of a prairie chicken, which they say gives them good luck in hunting. Snakes have not been overlooked in the preparation of charms. If persons wear snake rattles on their ankles when they go in swimming they will not be devoured by cramps, while neuralgia can be cured by wearing the rattles in the husband of the sufferer. A piece of blacksnake's skin soaked in vinegar and bound on a wound that has a splinter, glass or steel in the flesh will draw it out. In the Middle Ages it was believed that if a man secured the

skin which a snake had cast off, being particular to gather this when the moon was full, being also in the first part of April, the Ram, and put this under his foot when in the presence of magistrates and princes, he would meet with favor in their eyes.

The medicine men of the western Indians wear the skin of the "storekeeper" squirrel (*Amias quadrivittatus*) as a potent and all powerful charm, as the Indian boys for fear of ill luck refrain from killing it. The people of Benin, West Africa, keep the bones and claws of elephants as charms for good luck. The people of Upper Egypt highly prize tufts of hair from the mane of the hyena, and whoever has a skin guards it well from the covetous multitude, for the possession of this hair secures love and faithfulness on the part of a husband or wife as well as the favor of the great.

The Singhalese believe that no house erected over a spot where are buried the bones of a monkey can prosper. The people of Mourzak, in central Africa, put up the head of an ass, or some portion of the bones of that animal, to avert the evil eye from their gardens. In western Pennsylvania it is believed that a frog's foot at the entrance of a house will stop witchcraft. In China an image of a cat on the roof of a house protects it from all evil.

An amulet is sometimes found on the head of the jackal, consisting of a small horny cone about half an inch in length, and concealed by a tuft of hair. The Singhalese and Tamils regard it as a talisman and believe that the fortunate possessor can command by its instrumentality the realization of every wish, and that if stolen or lost by him it will invariably return of its own accord. Another popular belief is that the discoverer of a jackal's horn becomes thereby invincible in every lawsuit.

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