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HUNTING THE EGRET.

A Professional Hunter Tells Something About these Birds.
James Barton, a professional egret hunter has just returned from a trip to the Tokauantepe Isthmus, where he has been several months hunting the little egret for its plumes. He has been in this business for the past ten years, hunting in the swamps of Louisiana, Florida and Southern Mexico. During that time he has gathered something like 5,000 plumes of the first class, which bring about \$80 a pound. He says: "The little egret is a member of the heron family, white in color and a native of the Western continent. The plumes, which are of great value, are attached to the shoulder of the bird and are three in number, so a great many birds have to be killed."
Mr. Barton worked among the marshes of the Trinidad River on the Isthmus. He says all kinds of animals abound, both on the ridge and in the swamps, and during the night the howls of tigers and the buzzing of tropical insects recall India. By building blinds and getting behind them he was able to bag the egrets that feed in the little isthmian lakes and swamps. The most valuable specimen he procured outside of his regular profession was a tapir, along one of the small tributaries which run into the Trinidad River, among the forests that are all alive with monkeys and birds of gorgeous plumage.
He also killed several deer and other small game, as well as a large jaguar and several ocelots. The above will give an idea of the tropical conditions that prevail among the isthmian swamps.—Los Angeles Times.

Dogs as Letter Carriers.

During the summer months the postmen of certain districts in Belgium make their rounds on bicycles, but when winter comes, as the government will not furnish a horse and cart, these inventive deliverers of mail have trained large dogs into the service. Now the postmen of these localities can be seen any winter day, seated in their little carriages made especially for the purpose, passing swiftly along the country roads. All the postmen in these districts have each one or two dogs, and a light dog carriage especially built for their service. In addition to drawing the cart, the dogs act most usefully as guides for young postmen. When a new postman is appointed, so reliable are the dogs that no one is sent to indicate his route to him. He simply sits in the carriage of the postman whose duty he is taking up, and allows the dog which draws it to go to his accustomed round. With hundreds of deliveries to make, the postman, however careful he is, is liable to make a mistake, but it is found the dogs never forget to call at a house they have been taught to include in their rounds. All the postmen has to do is to collect at what houses he is to deliver, to make deliveries and to have them up served.—Detroit News-Tribune.

Pronunciations That Signify.

Senator Stone of this state once made a famous remark to the effect that the only way to "carve" a watermelon is to "bust 'er". He said, however, in a recent interview, that every state has its own peculiar way of doing things, and among others, its own style of pronouncing words. "It is related," said the senator to a Des Moines Times reporter, "that when the first tide of New England gentlemen began to drift to Kansas, Missouri, a cow at each crossing of the Missouri River. If the emigrant said 'cow' he was permitted to cross, but if he pronounced it 'koo' he was told to return to the east, because the natives were satisfied he was an uneducated abolitionist. The Kansas people even up by tying a bear on their side of the river, and if the emigrant said 'bear' he was given the right hand of fellowship, but if he pronounced it 'bar' he was given an hour to get back to Missouri, because he was an advocate of slavery. So that's about the size of it wherever you go—everybody to his or her own liking in the matter of pronunciation and 'carving' a watermelon."—Kansas City Journal.

Longest-Lived "Signers."

July 4, 1826, the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, was a joyous occasion in the United States. Two distinguished signers were still alive, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson. Twenty-five years had elapsed since Adams was President and seventeen years since Jefferson left the White House. Both the aged statesmen were very feeble. All day long Adams was sinking rapidly and without pain. His last audible remark is said to have been, "Thomas Jefferson still survives." But such was not the case. Jefferson died at noon on that Fourth of July and Adams shortly before sunset.

"Dummy Editor" in Japan.

The "dummy editor" is very useful in Japan. When the paper on which he is employed offensively criticizes the government, the publication is suppressed and the "dummy editor" goes to jail. The real editor changes the name of the paper and continues to publish it as before.

A Gruesome Rosary.

A rosary which would be a treasure for the Thirteen Club has been brought home recently by a traveler in Tibet. It comes from Lhasa, and is formed of 113 rings made from the skulls of 113 priests.

CONDUCTOR KNEW HIM.

Mean Man's Scheme to Save a Cent Didn't Work.
He looked like a mean man as he entered the car. When he got to the rear he began stealthily to examine the contents of his pockets. A passenger saw him shifting a handful of change from one pocket to the other, putting four pennies back into the former.

When the conductor came he was searching madly for something. He pulled out the four coppers one by one, remarking: "That seems to be all the change I have."
Then he opened a wallet stuffed with big bills and produced a \$10 note.

"I'm sorry," he said, "but all I've got is four cents and a \$10 bill."
He thought, of course, that the conductor as would have been the case 9 times out of 10, would be unable to change the bill, and rather than make a fuss would accept the four cents for a full fare.

But this conductor had had experience with men of that stamp before and was prepared. The man with the four cents looked cheap when the conductor remarking that he would take the \$10, pulled a big roll of bills out of his pocket.
He counted out nine dollars in ones, 50 cents in nickels, 30 cents in dimes and 15 cents in pennies.

This collection of money he handed back to the passenger, saying that he was exceedingly sorry to have to give him so much small change. The "wise" passenger looked angry all through, but he didn't say a word.
"I guess he won't try that foxy game to save a cent again in a hurry," remarked the conductor as he reached the back platform. "You wouldn't think a man with a wallet full of bills would stoop to such a trick, now, would you. But you'd be surprised to see the well-dressed men who try it. I fell to the game until I got tired. Now I'm prepared for them."—New York Tribune.

Witty Joe Cannon.

While serving his second term in Congress, Joe Cannon was driving on a muddy road in March, after the adjournment of a short session, when he met a township road supervisor who said:
"Joe, do they dock you when you are away from 'congress'?"
"No; my wages run on just the same," said Uncle Joe.
"The township doesn't pay people when they don't work," said the farmer.
"I expect it would be better to dock us when we do work," replied Uncle Joe gravely.

Rector Rescued from Cannibals.

The Rev. Mr. Neville, rector of the Episcopal church at Nevada, Mo., once had a narrow escape from being killed by cannibals. About twenty years ago Mr. Neville, then quite a young man, went from his then home in Australia to New Guinea, an island in the Australasian group, as a missionary, being one of a party of six teen men. The party had been on the island some time and one morning were all in front of their tent except Mr. Neville, who was inside, when they were suddenly and without warning attacked by a large force of the savage natives. Young Neville ran to the door of the tent to see what was going on, and found in his terror that all his companions were being cut to pieces. He saw he was too late to save any of them, and concealed himself in the tent until a few minutes later, some less blood-thirsty members of the tribe came up and drove off their unregenerate man-eating brethren. The new ones did not, however, let Mr. Neville go, but took him prisoner and held him nearly a year. Meanwhile his friends invoked the aid of the British government, which appealed to the Dutch owners of the island, in the unfortunate Englishman's behalf, and Dutch soldiers finally found and rescued him.—Kansas City Journal.

Birds as Music Lovers.

It may well be doubted if birds are musical connoisseurs or have anything like human appreciation of their own or of each other's songs. My reason for thinking so is this: I have heard a bobolink with a defective instrument so that its song was broken and inarticulate in parts, and yet it sang with as much apparent joy and abandon as any of its fellows. I have also heard a hermit-thrush with a similar defect or impediment, and yet it, too, appeared to sing entirely to its own satisfaction. It would be very interesting to know if these poor singers found mates as readily as their more gifted brothers. If they did, the Darwinian theory of "sexual selection" in such matters, according to which the finer songster would carry off the female, would fall to the ground. Yet it is certain that it is during the mating and breeding season that these "song combats" occur, and the favor of the female would seem to be the matter in dispute. Whether or not it is expressive of actual jealousy or rivalry, we have no other words to apply to it.

Bashful Kentuckians.

Four newly married couples occupied quarters at the Willard Hotel last night. Two of the couples are registered as follows: J. G. Mosgrove, P. H. Mosgrove, Mrs. P. H. Mosgrove, Mrs. J. G. Mosgrove.
The two gentlemen signed their names on the book. Then they smiled the smile that would not wear off.
"You say it, John," said Pete.
"No, you say it," responded John.
"Well, Mr. Clerk," said John, musing over a lot of courage and looking wonderfully embarrassed, "we have a couple of ladies with us."
"Very well," said Clerk Brown.
"You just sign the names," and he signed them as above.
"Gentlemen 321, and ladies 322," said Mr. Brown with supreme innocence.
The gentlemen assented once more and then went to their rooms.
Then Mr. Brown thought and he sent the bell boy up to find out.
"Yes, Mr. Brown," said the bell boy, "they just got married."
The assignment of rooms was changed to suit the occasion.—Louisville Herald.

Lacey's Presence.

Representative Lacey, of Iowa, author of the song bird law and the scholar of the House, was criticizing one of the hideous portraits of ancient Speakers that hang in the House lobby.
"It is not good art," he said.
"Huh, Lacey," broke in Col. Page Hepburn, "what do you know about art? You are no painter. How can you tell a bad picture? You never painted one."
"No," Lacey replied; "I never laid an egg neither, but I can tell a bad one just the same."—Louisville Herald.

Marking Goods "Imported."

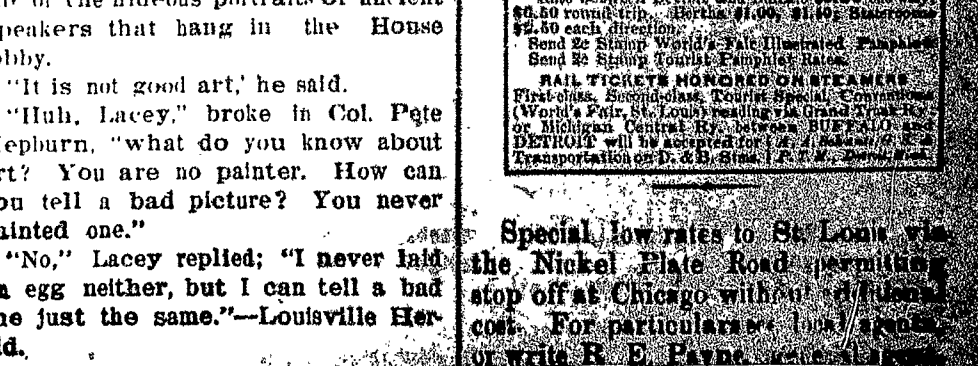
Some years ago a law was passed in England requiring imported goods to be marked "Made in France," "Made in Germany," etc. As many of these goods are of excellent quality it has been found that the law actually benefits the foreign makers, and an effort is accordingly being made to have it changed so that goods from the Continent shall have merely a label marking them as "Imported."
A sheep eats 770 pounds of grass in a year, a cow 6,000 pounds.

UNIVERSAL PANACEA.

Excuses for Smoking Invented by Some Irish Boys.
In an Irish town the lads of a school acquired the habit of smoking, and resorted to the most ingenious methods to conceal it from the master. In this they were successful until one evening when the master caught them puffing most vigorously. "How now?" shouted he to one of the culprits. "How dare you be smoking?"
"Sir," said the boy, "I am subject to headaches, and a pipe takes off the pain."
"And you? And you? And you?" inquired the pedagogue, questioning every boy in his turn.
One had a "raging tooth," another "colic," the third a "cough"; in short, they all had something for which the weed was an unfailing remedy.
"Now, sir," followed the master to the last boy, "pray, what disorder do you smoke for?"
Alas! all excuses were exhausted; but the interrogated urethra, putting down his pipe and looking up into his master's face, said in what he tried to make a convincing tone.
"I smoke for corns, sir!"

Just a Fish Story.

"Good gracious, we won't have a stick of furniture left if those two fellows from town keep on fishing around here much longer."



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