

### POLICE OF RUSSIA

The Trick They Work to Gather in Political Suspects.

### CAUGHT IN THE MOUSETRAP

When, After a Secret Arrest, the Snare is Set It Holds All Who Enter, Regardless of Nationality, Dress, Social Position or Official Rank.

Although the peculiar form of police ambuscade known as a mousetrap has found its highest development and its most complete application in Russia, writes George Kennan in the Century, it did not originate in that country, nor did it receive there its strikingly appropriate appellation.

It was imported from France a century or more ago, and the name that it bears was given to it by Alexandre Dumas in 1820. The distinguished French story teller described it in "The Three Musketeers" as follows:

"The invention of the mousetrap does not date from our days. As soon as societies in process of formation created police the police in their turn invented mousetraps. As our readers may not be familiar with the slang of the Rue de Jerusalem and as it is five years since we applied this term for the first time to the thing, we may be allowed perhaps to explain to them what a mousetrap is.

"When in a house of any kind a person suspected of crime is arrested the arrest is kept secret, four or five men are placed in ambuscade in the first apartment, the door is opened to all who knock, it is then closed after them and they are arrested so that at the end of two or three days the police have in their power all the persons who are accustomed to visit the place and that is a mousetrap."

Dumas does not explain that the trap is set and the first arrest made at a late hour of the night, generally between 1 and 8 o'clock a. m., so that the mice will not become aware of it and avoid the dangerous locality. You may call upon a "politically untrustworthy friend in the evening; drink tea with him, discuss the state of the country and go home at midnight without having seen or heard anything to excite suspicion or suggest peril. But if you return to the same house or apartment early the next morning you are liable to fall into a mousetrap.

The trap, moreover, catches and holds every person who enters it regardless of nationality, dress, social position or official rank. Russian revolutionists are accustomed to assume all sorts of disguises, from the blue frock coat and wrinkled top boots of the gentleman to the sword, epaulets and golden cords of the general staff, and if the cast himself in the uniform of the Preobrazhenski guards should visit incognito a house in which a trap had been set he would be arrested promptly and sent to the nearest precinct station house for identification.

No discretionary power of any kind is given to the police officers in charge. The mice caught may not look at all like the mice for which the trap was set, but even if they appear to be orphans or idiots or small, blind kittens they must go to the station house for examination and judgment.

In every large Russian city the police keep an alphabetical list of all persons who are believed to be in sympathy with the revolutionary movement or who for one reason or another are regarded as politically untrustworthy. Such persons are liable to be arrested on suspicion at any time and are almost sure to be taken into custody after the assassination of a high official when there is no clew to the assassin and the police hope to get a clew by a dragnet system of arrest and investigation.

At such times a hundred arrests or more are often made in a single night and in the houses or apartments of the persons made prisoners mousetraps are set to catch all comers. The police in charge of the traps are strictly enjoined to send to the nearest precinct station house every person caught, no matter what he may look like and no matter what plausible account he may give of himself. Revolutionists and terrorists often wear uniforms, and a man who declares that he is a colonel of gendarmes or even a general of division may really be a dangerous conspirator in disguise. The instructions given to the trap tenders are always implicitly obeyed, and they sometimes bring about results of an extraordinary and wholly unforeseen character.

**A Single Blow.**  
"You say he died from a single blow administered by himself?"  
"That is just what he said."  
"But it isn't possible."  
"Yes, it is."  
"But how did he do it?"  
"Blew out the gas."  
"Oh!"—London Telegraph.

**A Faith Cure.**  
"Have you ever really known of a cure by faith?"  
"Yes. When I was sixteen years old I fell madly in love with a widow of thirty, but my mother and father had faith that I would live if I didn't get her, and I did."—Judge's Library.

**The Worm Turns.**  
Ocean Voyager—Don't the passengers make you tired with the questions they ask? Captain—Yes, very. Better stop in if you want to know?—Boston Transcript.

### DEFY THE EXPLORERS.

Vast Unknown Regions in Western Brazil and Australia.

### WILLING, BUT LAZY.

Peruvian Indians Work When They Are Coaxed With a Lariat.

An American whose business interests in Peru have led him from time to time to spend considerable periods in the interior of that country has found that the Indians of Peru are the laziest people in the world. If they have a duty to perform, a promise to keep or a debt to pay, though not unwilling to meet the obligation, they can, it is said, hardly summon resolution to do so without some assistance. During his stay at a place called Cajamarca, in the Cordillera, the American was enabled to witness an instance of this.

He was sitting one evening with his hosts at the door of his house. Suddenly there was a great noise in the quiet street, and a horseman rode up. It was a friend of the family, who was on his way to settle an account with a troublesome debtor. When the family hinted that a creditor would hardly be received at such an hour the man touched something hanging on the pommel of his saddle and said that he had something there that would settle things.

His debtor was an Indian who lived not far away in the country and who had promised to make for him three or four hundred large adobe bricks in payment for some small wares that he had purchased two years before. He seemed perfectly willing to fulfill his contract and whenever he was reminded of it would promise to be on hand the next day, but he never appeared. An hour later the merchant, who was repairing his horse, returned with his man at the end of a lariat. The next day the American saw him cheerfully at work. It was but a matter of getting the Indian busy.—Nation.

### JEFFERSON'S FAMOUS HOME.

Matchless in the Earthquake That Enveloped Its Setting.

Monticello divides interest with Mount Vernon as the most historical homestead in Virginia. It is inseparably connected with the life of Thomas Jefferson, and his writings on philosophy, statesmanship, history, political economy and the common affairs of life, accomplished in its classic shades, have made him known as the "sage of Monticello." The architecture of the building is unique. It is, first of all, Jeffersonian, but as the name of the estate is Italian the builder preserved the harmonies in basing the form on Italian ideas.

The summit of the "little mountain" was leveled to form a park of some ten acres, in the center of which the lines of the mansion were laid. It has four fronts, and it is difficult to determine which presents the widest and most attractive view. In any direction there is outspread a superb view of a landscape that cannot be matched in its splendid setting of mountain and valley, highland and meadow forest and stream. The prospect is an earth-shape limited only by the power of vision.

The house was begun in Mr. Jefferson's youth and built in sections. Thirty years elapsed before its final completion owing to the fact that the builder was his own architect and contractor, and the demands of his country required more of his time than he could devote to his private affairs. When it was finally completed the influence of French art had left its impress on the builder's mind, and the interior decorations and furnishings reflected the taste of the Louis period. Francis N. Barksdale in Leslie's.

**An Invertebrate Punter.**  
"You have no business in that boat," said Theodore Hook one day to a stout man seated in a little craft on the Thames. "What do you mean?" said the man angrily. "Exactly what I say," returned Hook. "You have no business in that boat." Then perhaps it may interest you to know," said the stout man, "that I am a punter."

"Exactly," said the invertebrate punter, "a pleasure boat. That is just what I said. You have no business in that boat." And before the man in the boat had recovered from his astonishment Hook had stroiled away.

**Deadly Glasses.**  
A contrast to the Venetian glasses which were popularly supposed to fly to pieces if poisoned liquor were poured into them were glasses which poisoned all who drank from them. The poison was crystallized at the bottom of the glass, from which it was indistinguishable and as it dissolved very slowly it could be used many times with deadly effect. Some such glasses can be seen at the British museum.—London Chronicle.

**Happy Thought.**  
Abby, the littlest girl of the family, was seated at the breakfast table one morning. As usual, eggs were served. Either she was not hungry or she had grown tired of the inevitable bill of fare, for very earnestly and soberly she remarked, "I do wish hens would lay something besides eggs."—Youth's Companion.

**Moving Pictures.**  
"I just love moving pictures."  
"All right," come up to the house and help move ours. I never could do it to suit my wife, anyhow."—Detroit Free Press.

**A Case of Emphasis.**  
What keeps us broke most of the time is the difference between what we have to spend and what we seem to spend.—Puck.

**Be cautious what you say, of whom and to whom.**—Fielding.

### BLUE LAWS OF OLD

Codes That Terrorized New England in Colonial Days.

### ENACTED BY THE PURITANS

Witchcraft Was an Offense Punishable With Death, and It Was a Crime For Husband and Wife or Mother and Child to Kiss on the Sabbath Day.

Blue laws were no joke, though often an object of irony and derision. They were drawn up by Puritan pioneers—a race of stern and inflexible men who in the excess of their religious zeal and enthusiasm adopted such sanctionous names as Stand-Fast-on-High Stringer, Kill-Sto South, More Fruit Fowler, Fight-the-Good-Fight Fowler.

It may be well to say here that each of these names cited was actually given to and borne by a man, and names of the same sort are to be found in the records of New England, says Hiram Mason in his "Blue Laws of Connecticut."

These men went straight to the old Mosaic law of Holy Writ for their code. In fact, each section of the capital laws has its Bible text appended, a gruesome combination of sermon and death warrant.

The original blue laws were those written of New Haven, Connecticut colony, at the first more or less unprinted, or at least unprinted, but were reprinted and printed by Governor Eaton in 1636. They were enclosed in blue-colored paper, whence the popular and subsequently unpopular name.

The Plymouth and Massachusetts colonies also had their blue laws, but failed to send a bill through every town vote. Even New York, Maryland, Virginia and South Carolina, in fact, all the English colonial settlements in seventeenth century America—had laws and resolutions of more or less pronounced indignity that which terrorized early Connecticut. These known as capital laws and purporting to punish, according to the penalties prescribed in the Old Testament, those offenses forbidden therein were enacted in April 1642. The texts of Scripture on which they are based were added to each law, as deia probantia, showing the divine authority by which they were defending, and singular specimens of jurisprudence.

For instance, witchcraft is one of the first offenses taken up. It is enacted that "if a man or woman be a witch or hath consorted with a familiar spirit, they shall be put to death." And "if any man steal a man or mankin or sell him or he be found in his hand he shall be put to death."

Yet the good colonists made slaves of the Pequot Indians as the regulation punishment for breaking these same blue laws.

The Puritan legislators, having disposed of the ordinary everyday times went on in due course to enact the more minute laws, covering every conceivable misdemeanor from sneezing in church to crossing a stream other than by the licensed ferry.

It reminds one of the stern and forbidding observations to the effect that the habit of murder if persisted in may lead incessantly to premeditation and Sabbath breaking.

The following examples transcribed literally from the best authorities on American colonial history, relate mostly to the heinous crime of Sabbath breaking.

"No one shall run on the Sabbath day or walk in his garden or elsewhere except for necessity to and from meeting."

"No one shall travel, cook, visit, make beds, sweep, wash, cut hair or shave on the Sabbath day."

"No woman shall kiss her child on the Sabbath or festivity day."

"The Sabbath shall begin at sunset on Saturday."

"If any man shall kiss his wife or wife kiss her husband on the Lord's day the party in fault shall be punished at the discretion of the court of magistrates."

Tradition says a gentleman of New Haven after an absence of some months reached home on the Sabbath and meeting his wife at his door kissed her with an appetite and for his temerity in violating this law the next day was arraigned before the court and fined for so palpable a breach of the law on the Lord's day.

"No one shall read common prayer, keep Christmas or saints days, make minced pies, dance, play cards or play upon any instrument of music except the drum, trumpet and Jewsharp."

It is said by Peters in his "History of Connecticut" that these laws were the laws made by the people of New Haven previous to their incorporation with Saybrook and Hartford colonies and, as he says, "were very properly termed blue laws—i. e., bloody laws."

"for" says he, "they were all sanctified with excommunication, confiscation, fines, banishment, whipping out of the ears, burning the tongue and death."—New York Sun.

### STORIES OF PIUS IX.

The Lady Who Told the Pontiff She Would Not Be Dead.

### COINS AND THE MINT.

Metal Money That Uncle Sam's Officials Buy and Sell.

The mint does not buy old coins or paper money, except certain rare colonial coins in fine condition, desired for the mint's cabinet. Mutilated or uncurrent United States gold and silver coins is purchased as bullion. The mint has no pattern pieces for sale, and the government pays no premium for the return of any of its coins or paper money.

New coins cannot be struck in this country in the absence of authorization by Congress. The mint supplies United States coins only and not of any past date. The fifty dollar gold piece and the half dollar and quarter dollar pieces in gold were struck by private parties on the Pacific coast during the '40 period and not by the federal government.

The coinage of the following coins ceased in the years named: The half cent, copper, in 1857; one cent, nickel, 1864; half dime and three cent, silver, and two cent, bronze, in 1873; twenty cent, silver, 1878; trade dollars, 1883; one dollar and three dollar, gold, and three cent nickel, 1889. The Columbian half dollar was coined in 1892 and the Isabella quarter in 1893. The Lafayette dollar was struck in 1890, the date on the coin (1900) being that of the unveiling of the memorial.

Certain markings, indicating the place of coinage, are to be seen on our coins. Those struck at the Philadelphia mint have no mint mark, but those struck at all other mints are distinguished by a small letter on the reverse, near the bottom. These letters are "C" for Charlotte, N. C., discontinued in 1861; "D" for Danvers, N. H., discontinued in 1863; "E" for Dahlonega, Ga., discontinued in 1861; "F" for New Orleans, and "S" for San Francisco.

The coins of the United States now authorized by law are: in gold, double eagle, eagle, half eagle, quarter eagle, in silver, dollar, half dollar, quarter dollar and dime; minor, five cent, nickel and one cent, bronze.

Proof sets of both gold and silver coins are to be had by purchase from the mint. When business there is slack medals may be struck from dies furnished by individuals, public institutions and incorporated societies. A charge sufficient to cover the cost of the operation and the value of the metal.—Scientific American.

**Why Wild Beasts Left Missouri.**  
No elk have been seen in central Missouri since 1830. Prior to that time they were reasonably plenty. They were attracted by the prevalence of the salt licks. Nathaniel Walker, the "Uncle Natty," as he was familiarly called, a famous pioneer hunter, claims to have counted fifty elk in a drove in the knoll near the present Saline county courthouse. The bear disappeared about the year 1840, though occasionally animals of the bear tribe were observed seen. Old time Democrats said that the Whigs scared the bear, deer, elk and almost every other kind of game out of the country in 1840 by their yelling, anti-frog and torch-light parades in honor of General Beaumont Harrison, their successful candidate for president.—St. Louis Globe Democrat.

**Fire Insurance Policies.**  
There are not many real estate brokers who know how to write a fire insurance policy. Many, however, think they are experts about such matters until a client of theirs learns after his property has been damaged by fire that he was only partly insured. "If buildings are to be insured," says R. O. Haubold, "care should be taken to issue the policy in the name of the persons in whom title is vested; that provision is made that should the building stand upon ground held in any other way than fee simple the policy will not be voided by that fact. If the premises be or become vacant for a period of more than ten days the contingency must be met."—New York Tribune.

**Old Glory.**  
I have seen the glories of art and architecture and of river and mountain. I have seen the sunset on the Jungfrau and the moon rise over Mont Blanc. But the fairest vision on which these eyes ever rested was the flag of my country in a foreign port. Beautiful as a flower to those who love it, terrible as a meteor to those who hate it, it is the symbol of the power and the glory and the honor of fifty millions of Americans.—George F. Heat.

**A Sign From the Author.**  
"Proofreading is Greek to me, even after having several books published." Miss Alice Louise Lee recently wrote to her publishers. "But what worries me is this psychological question. Will my corrections be as intelligible to the printer as all his marks are to me? It seems to me very confusing. In the face of proofreading I feel like the farmer who before the rindaceous cage declared, 'There ain't no such beast!'"

**His Honor at Stake.**  
"Young man, how do you expect to marry my daughter if you are in debt?"

"Why, sir, in my opinion it's the only square thing to do. The longer I am engaged to her the worse off I will be."—Life.

**The Servant Problem.**  
"I, sir," said the demonstrative candidate, "am a servant of the people."  
"Gosh!" replied Farmer Cornucopia. "Ain't this servant problem getting to be awful?"—Washington Star.

Heaven will be inhabited by every man who has heaven in his soul.—Beauchamp.

### PORT SAID GAMBLERS.

Traps They Have Ready Baited to Fleece Unwary Tourists.

### FREE DRINKS.

Each speaker has to mount a tribune near the president's chair. On a dispute coming forward to address the assembly an usher invariably brings a glass of some beverage and places it at his side. Under the empire orders were allowed only a glass of sweetened water, and nowadays when a new speaker takes the floor he is to be on the right side gives him a glass of sweetened water. But among the veteran speakers water alone is not very high in favor. Cold soup, coffee, wine, spirits and emonade are among the favorite beverages.

**Perpetual Motion.**  
Perpetual motion machine? Suppose that man could finally perfect a machine that would run itself. It would not deliver a trace of power. The entire force would be employed in the running. It would have to be free from friction, not nearly, but absolutely. This man cannot accomplish. But the machine would of necessity have to start itself, an impossibility. Only creative mind is able to do this.—New York American.

**No Excuse.**  
"We shall never have her in another club we get up."  
"What's the matter?"  
"Her mother died last week and she resigned on that account."  
"I don't see how you can blame her for that. It seems to me that she was the proper thing."  
"I knew you'd think that. But it was her turn to entertain next."—Detroit Free Press.

**Reasonable Anxiety.**  
"Captain," said the pilot anxiously, "I fear the vessel is ashore."  
"Humph!" ejaculated the captain as the steamer's nose went farther into the mud, "your fears seem to be like the vessel, well grounded!"—Baltimore American.

**Not Lost.**  
"Sam Johnson, you've been fighting again. You've lost two of 'em front teeth."  
"No, I ain't, mammy, honest. I's got 'em in me pocket."—Life.

**Port Said Gamblers.**  
Picturesque Port Said, at the entrance to the Suez canal, is given an unsavory reputation by I. Johnston Abraham in his book, "The Surgeon's Log." Ugly stories are told about the town, the writer says, and his description of a gambling house fitted on purpose to fleece the unwary traveler bears out his assertion.

Suddenly as we drew near one house the strains of music came echoing into the empty sandy street. As if at a signal the decrepit chariot stood still, my guide got down and suggested I should go in. I thought rapidly and then followed him. It was queer, and I wanted to know. He led the way upstairs into a large room, where several men were playing roulette. None took any notice of me, but apparently the bank was having a very bad time of it. Every one was winning. The music from the automatic piano was deafening I looked on silently for some time and then made a move for the door. An oddly looking Greek intercepted me. "Don't you try your luck?" he said. "I'm not drunk enough," I answered. He shrugged his shoulders, and then stole quietly back. The music had ceased, and all the confederates who had been playing so feverishly and winning so much had ceased also and were preparing to resume the sleazy my advent had so fruitlessly interrupted.

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