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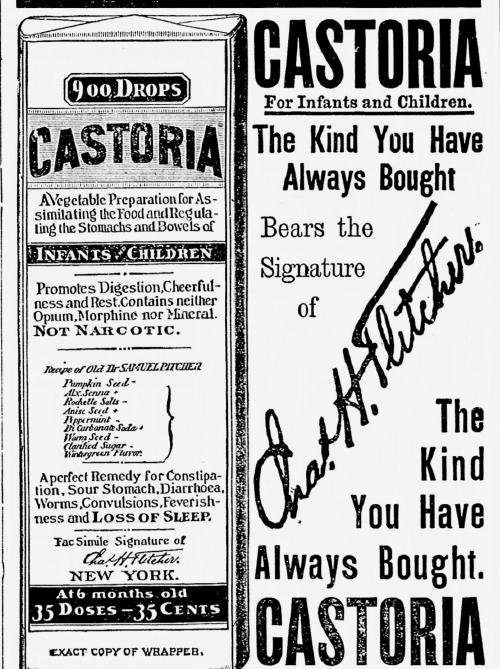
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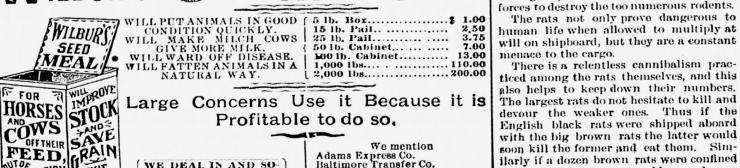
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BALTIMORE, MD.

Nature originally intended that the brown rat should have one part of the earth for its habitation, the black rat another section and the white bellied rodents a third division. While these great nations overlapped each other a little, their boundaries were pretty arbitrarily fixed by the great oceans and other large bodies of water. A colony of powerful rats might swim across the straits and channels separating two islands and thus take possession of a new country for their descendants, but they could not hope to cross the Atlantic or Pacific and journey unaided from England to America or from this

RATS ABOARD SHIPS.

TRAVEL BY SEA.

dents Inland - Fierce Cannibalism

Among the Savage Animals.

country to Australia. So it was that the ships of men brought about the first great change in the distribution of rats. From the first the rats took to ships as ducks take to water. They found grain, provisions and water in the hulls of the old wooden ships of two centuries ago, and ever since then they have reared a race of hardy seamen that know the ways of the ocean as well as any Jack Tar. They have been traveling back and forth to all parts of the earth for many centuries now, and they have created great changes in the rat population of the globe. This country never had any typical rats until the old black English rat came over here on the ships of the early colonists. According to the best authorities, this rodent originally came from India, from which it has penetrated to every part of the habitable globe. Wherever ships go these black rats are found. In three centuries they have penetrated to every mainland and island of the tropical, temperate and arctic zones. They have become familiar objects on all ships that traverse the seas, and they are the wharf rats of every scaport. In temperate regions the English black rat is of a bluish black, but in trop-

lighter. It is about seven or eight inches long, with a tail about one inch longer than its body. For two centuries this English black rat held undisputed sway on the ships of the world's commercial navies, and they distributed themselves over the greater part of the world's surface. Then gradually there appeared upon the seas another rat, differing materially from the black with a white belly. Sometimes the body was a reddish gray, which made the creature look larger and fiercer than it really was. A trifle larger and stronger than the black rat, the white bellied or Alexandrian rat made war upon the English rodents The two would never ship upon the same vessel. There would be a war to the death before the ship left port, and after that

ical countries it is often several shades

the successful race would hold undisputed sway on that particular vessel. This new race of rats came from the tropical coun-Every ship that started from Galapagos, Keeling or Ascension island was sure to carry away with it a company of the white bellied rats. They would board the ship as soon as she was tied up at the wharf, and the English black rats would be ruthlessly destroyed. Then the fiercer Alexandrian rats would sail away to unknown ports. It soon became evident that they liked warm countries, and they refused to land at any except a tropical the colder countries for their black rivals has appeared upon the ships, and these threaten to exterminate and displace both

port. Thus they have spread to nearly all ropical countries, especially in South America and our southern states, leaving But more recently a third race of rats the black and Alexandrian rodents. This brown or Norway rat is a native of China and the interior of Asia. It is a huge ferocious creature, and wherever it goes it destroys all competitors and takes complete possession of the ships or wharfs. In its native land it is a large, powerful rodent, and upon the ships it attains even a larger size. Its length is from eight to nine inches, and its body is built on heavy lines. Neither the black nor Alexandrian rat is any match for it. So far this large brown rat has extended its dominion largely over cold countries, and it has come in contact chiefly with the English

black rat. But in the warm countries where it has been artificially introduced it has quickly supplanted all rivals. Today the black rats are not found in numbers on vessels sailing from any ports where the brown or Norway rats have become established. Gradually they are being forced inland by their more powerful enemies, and, while we find the brown rats mostly on ships, along wharfs and in the sewers, the black rats are met with in houses under rafters and ceilings. Ships leaving port for a long cruise ex-

tending over a period of a year or two have been known to come into port again with a cargo of rats so large that the seamen vere unable to put them down. Others have been taken possession of by the rats and the sailors forced to abandon their vessel at sea. So voracious and ferocious are the big brown rats that they do not hesitate to attack the sailors when pinched for food. Consequently, while the sailors like to have rats as company on board the ship, they exercise precaution to limit their numbers. On sailing vessels that are out at sea for a long time there are rat killing days, when all the sailors join orces to destroy the too numerous rodents. The rats not only prove dangerous to human life when allowed to multiply at will on shipboard, but they are a constant

menace to the cargo. There is a relentless cannibalism practiced among the rats themselves, and this devour the weaker ones. Thus if the English black rats were shipped aboard with the big brown rats the latter would soon kill the former and eat them. Similarly if a dozen brown rats were confined in a cage the stronger would soon devour he weaker and then fight savagely among themselves for supremacy. When drifting about upon the seas on a disabled wreck, the sailors face a danger from the ship rats that grows more menacing as the days go by. If the ship becomes waterlogged, the rats are forced to seek safety on the upper decks, and, thus cut off from their food in the hold, they watch eagerly the starving sailors. They become bolder and flercer as the men grow weaker, and one day if relief does not come a fearful tragedy is enacted on the wreck.-New

Natural Power. Dwellers in hilly countries do not seem to appreciate the advantages that may be gained by the use of the mountain streams that abound in such regions. It is rare indeed to see any use made of brooks and wayside springs. This is the more remarkable, as their employment would be a great saving in time and labor to all those who press them into service. All over the country there are farms and country seats where a few days' labor and a comparatively trifling expense would solve the

TOO FRESH!"

Drummer's Experience In Person-THREE FEROCIOUS SPECIES THAT ating a Railroad Manager. "There is a slang expression about being too fresh," said the drummer as he lighted his cigar. "I have adopted that

The Huge Norway Rat Gradually Driving expression and written it at the hear of the English and the Alexandrian Ro- every page of my notebook, so that it will be constantly before me. "Last fall I changed cars at a little junction in the western part of the state. It is a dreary spot, and the trains never connect within three hours of each other. Finding time hanging heavily on my

hands I wandered over to an orchard near by, where there was some tempting looking fruit. I was so busily engaged in throwing stones at a luscious looking apple in the top of one of the trees that I did not notice an old farmer bearing down where I was with blood in his eye. When I discovered him, it was too late to flee. So I concluded to face it out. "' 'Fine orchard you've got here," said opening on him before he had a chance to get in the first word. 'It will be a pity o spoil it by running a railroad through

" 'I remarked,' said I, 'that it will be a pity to spoil such a fine orchard by running a railroad through it. I am the general manager of this road, and I have been looking it over with a view of straightening out some of the kinks. I have about concluded to run the road through your orchard and thus get rid of the bad curve just beyond. 'This disarmed the old man at once and placed him in a more conciliatory mood.

" 'General manager be ye?' said he. "I thought the old man had something in the line of wet goods that he wanted me to sample in the hope that it might put me in good humor and save his orchard. I looked at my watch and seeing that I had plenty of time I concluded to

carry on the joke, so I followed him up to "As we were passing a brick smoke house the old man threw the door open and invited me to inspect a fine lot of hams that he had inside. I stepped in the doorway, and as I did so the old man gave me a shove that sent me inside upon my hands and knees. Before I could recover myself he had thrown the door shut and

"'General manager, be ye?' he bawled through a crack in the door. "I didn't think it wise to deny it, so I shouted back that I was, and, moreover, that I would take pains to see that the railroad ran straight through his house. " 'Waal, we'll talk about that later,' said 'Member that thar bill that I sent ye

fer killin them sheep? "I truthfully replied that I didn't. "Waal," said he, 'you'll stay where yo are till ye do. I've got ye jes' where want ye, an if ye don't pay me that thar \$15 that ye owe me fer killin them sheep the railroad is goin ter be short one general manager.

"I tried to explain the true situation but he refused to listen. It was \$15 or stay where I was. While I was arguing with the old man I heard my train whistle a mile or so off. I had an important catch that train, so I poked \$15 through the crack.

"The old man unlocked the door, and was stepping out when he suddenly threw his weight against it. 'Poke out 50 cents more!' he shouted. "'What for?' I howled as I heard my

train getting nearer and nearer "'Fer postage stamps that I writin' ye about that thar bill.' "I didn't have time to argue the question, so I poked out 50 cents more and legged it for my train."

The One Crop System. That it is to the crop most readily con vertible into money that, all other things being equal, the farmer will give the pref erence in determining what he will grow needs no proof. The cultivation of wheat at the expense of other necessary crops will, however, be held in check by two

very powerful influences. The first will arise from the fact that a reduction of the acreage under any product of general use below the actual requirements of the country will instantly -perhaps even prospectively—affect the price of that product, possibly in the proportion even greater than that by which its acreage is diminished, and may even be sufficient to constitute it a competitor with wheat on equal terms for the farmer's favor. The second check will be found in the fact that the American farmer north, south, east and west, has at las fully awakened to the safety, stability and, in the long run, increased profit resulting from a judiciously diversified sys-

tem of farming. The one crop system has passed away, never to return, and before wheat can be extensively cultivated at the expense of other products it will not only have to ommand what would now appear to us as an excessively high price and afford a reasonable assurance of its continuing so to do, but would have to do this without affecting to any considerable extent the price of other products .- John Hyde, Statistician U. S. Department of Agriculture, in North American Review.

Fraulein Helene Odilon, copying the modern fashion of reminiscences of "Sov ereigns I Have Met," has been discoursing in the Vienna press on the behavior o royalties at the play. Foremost in the list comes the emperor of Austria, who goes to the theater as often as he can, and is always on the side of the author and the actor. Our own gracious sovereign often displays the same kind spirit, and is generally lavish of her praises at the beginning of a piece. Toward the end, however, her majesty is said, like the great Homer, oceasionally to nod.

The Prince of Wales, the czar and the ezarina are also sympathetic listeners, the former being rather demonstrative, while the imperial couple are more reserved. The kaiser, as all the world knows, is a keenly critical spectator, and not above instructing the whole company, from playwright to scene shifter, in their duies. Among the careless auditors may be reckoned the king of Roumania, who has been known to mutter "Thank God!" when the curtain falls, and King Alexander of Servia, who "never looks at the stage unless a pretty actress attracts him for a moment."--London Chronicle.

Died as He Wished. The sudden death of ex-Attorney Genmonths ago he said to ex-Judge Henry W. Scott in the United States supreme court: "It has been over 40 years since I argued my first case. Nothing would please me better when my time comes to die than to be stricken right here in this courtroom in the midst of an argument. That would be a fitting climax to my career." His Proposal.

Ada (pensively)-I hope you'll invite me to the wedding when you get married. Jack (boldly)-I'll invite you the first foot it becomes a cast iron shoe."-Lonone, and if you don't accept there won't don Answers. be any wedding .- Rival. Insincerity in a man's own heart must

The usual knot of people that had gathered on the sidewalk to look on, as people always do when a horse falls down, saw in this case something that was new to at least some of them. The horse, the off one of a pair hooked to a truck, had gone down on a snow covered and slippery asphalt pavement. The driver cleared away all the harness, loosed all the fastenings so that the horse would have perfect free-

dom of movement, and then did the one

Helping a Horse to Get Up.

thing that was new. He got from the truck a big piece o burlap bagging and went back to the horse's head and prepared to place it un der the horse's forefeet. He spread it under the horse's off forefoot first, because that was the one he came to first coming from the truck, arranging it on the ground close to the foot and then lifting the foot and leg and pushing the burlap under it. Then he went around the horse's head to repeat the operation with the nigh foot, and when he got all ready and had got hold of the horse's foot to lift it the horse lifted his foot himself, while the driver simply carried it forward to its proper place on the burlap. Then, with this good, secure hold for his feet, the horse got up on the slippery pavement with no diff culty whatever, and the driver hooked him up again and drove on. Level headed driver. Good horse.-Nev

A Wealthy Poet.

There are not many poets who can dispose of so many of the world's goods as the Swiss poet, Conrad Ferdinand Meyer, who recently died. It was known before his death that he was a man in easy cir cumstances; for some years he paid taxes on 1,137,000 francs, but last year the valu ation of his estate was raised to 1,190,000 francs, on the ground that it must have increased largely owing to his quiet and

The aged poet protested, however, and the valuation was left at its old figure till Between Arch & Pine Sts., - BALTIMORE, MD. he died. The official schedule, however, shows that he possessed a much greater property than the assessors' estimate. Un der the Swiss law half the sum concealed

A Glue Cement.

This is unrivaled for cementing paper cloth, leather, earthenware, wood, etc Soak one pound of white fish glue for four hours in 30 fluid ounces of cold water turn into a glue pot and slowly stir in four ounces of dry white lead previously mixed in two fluid ounces of hot water Place the glue pot over the fire for ten minutes: then allow the contents to coo to about 100 degrees F. This tempera ture achieved, stir in vigorously four fluid ounces of 90 per cent alcohol, and the cement is complete. It will dry very rapid ly when applied to any material, is nonelastic and extremely hard. Should it be required pliable, add from two to four

Things That Injure the Voice. Regular habits keep the whole physical nake up in good order and have of necessity a great influence on the voice. Much use of the voice immediately after eating sleeping or bathing is to be avoided—in fact, at any time when the flow of the blood is greatly accelerated or any special engagement to meet, and I simply had to set of muscles are actively at work it is not wise. The very frequent use of smell ing salts is not beneficial. Lemons, to clear the voice before reading or singing should be replaced by the beaten white o an egg sweetened a little. Plenty of rest food and air should keep our throats in order. Slight sore throat is helped by little sulphur blown down. But the throa is too delicate for much home doctoring Go to a physician who knows all about i if any unusual cold settles there .- Kath arine E. Junkermann in Woman's Home

Companion. How He Proposed. Dr. Pakenham-Walsh, who recently re signed the bishopric of Ossorv, is celebrated alike for his plety and his wit. There is a story told of how he proposed to his wife. He was at a dinner party and wa seated beside the woman of his choice. In the course of the dinner he foun that he had been helped to the "wishing bone," and, as is often the custom country houses, he pulled for the wish with his neighbor. The little V shaped bone was broken, and the bishop, having secured the "wish," whispered to his fair companion as he laid down his part of the bone, "Will you lay your bones with my

She blushingly whispered an assent, and after dinner the engagement was announce ed .- New York Tribune.

A story is told of the way in which a Massachusetts clergyman, long ago dead, once reproved a young man in words both apt and stinging. The young man, with a heartlessness which nothing could excuse, whispered to a friend a comment upon a poor cripple who was near him in a crowd. "You'll find his case in the Bible," he whispered, none too softly. "In the twenty-sixth chapter of Proverbs, it says, 'The legs of the lame are not equal.' " The clergyman heard, and bending the gaze of a pair of piercing black eyes upon the whisperer he said clearly: "You would do well to remember the last clause of that same verse, young man. It reads, 'So is parable in the mouth of fools."-

Youth's Companion. New Facts About Bismarck. One German newspaper having declared that the United States was the originator of the "most favored nation" feature i international commerce, another promptly claims the honor for Bismarck. As th memoirs multiply we expect to learn that the prince wrote the Declaration of Independence, discovered George Washington and was the original John Smith who married Pocahontas at the muzzle of a tomahawk.-Chicago Times-Herald.

One of the curiosities at Chatsworth, the Duke of Devonshire's place, is a weeping willow made of copper and so dexterously fashioned that at a distance it resemble a real tree. It is actually a shower bath, for by pressing a secret tap a tiny spray of water can be made to burst from every branch and twig of the tree, to the discomfort of any who may be under it.

Searchlights In Balloons. Russia is experimenting with giant earchlights mounted in balloons and containing electric burners connected with dynamos upon the ground. The largest of these yet reported is of 5,000 candle power. At a distance of only 600 yards above the earth it will illuminate a circular area 500 yards in diameter to the brightness of the day.

Wrought and Cast. "Tell me," said the teacher, "what is the difference between wrought iron and cast iron? "Well," replied Will, smiling, "the shoe worn by a horse is a wrought iron shoe, but when the horse loses the shoe from his

Soldiers In China. Soldiers are despised in China. They belong chiefly to the cooly classes. The German officers engaged some time ago by the Chinese government found that their most important task was to over-

risk Consumption? This famous remedy will cure you at once. For Grippe, Bronchitis, Hoarseness, Asthma, and other Throat and Lung troubles, it is the best medicine made. Pleasant to take. Doctors recommend it. At all druggists. Price 25 cents.

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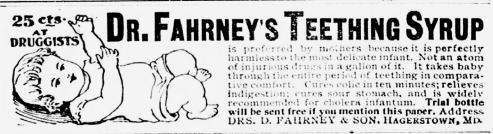
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