

### LONDON'S LID OFF

#### Striking Feature of Night Life in Soho District.

#### Gambling is Protected in the Tenderloin of England's Capital—Thirty-Two Card Faro a Favorite Game.

London.—The lid is off in the notorious Soho district of London. In the last few months dozens of gambling joints and off color night clubs have opened and they are doing a wide open business without police interference.

It may be explained for the benefit of those unacquainted with London that Soho is the Tenderloin of the city. Situated in the heart of the west end, its broad streets abound in theaters and restaurants and are at the same time Tenderloin promenades. Inspector Schmittberger viewed this stream one night in company with a reporter and exclaimed: "Gee! We wouldn't stand this for a minute in New York."

Back of these broad thoroughfares are hundreds of mean narrow streets, the hotbeds of the Latin anarchists and the abiding place of the scum of Latin and Teuton Europe. On the police records Soho has a bad name, and one Scotland Yard inspector in a police investigation held a few years ago said that one of the streets in Soho from the criminal standpoint was the worst in London.

It is practically an unknown district to the real Londoners, who are only acquainted with its boundaries of theater land or who, perhaps, penetrate a small way into the district in the search for the cheap yet excellent restaurants which abound therein.

Gambling joints and off color clubs have always existed in this district. About a dozen years ago London was wide open, but then a moral wave swept in, the police got busy and the lid was put on and sealed. Several spasmodic efforts to pry the lid off have been made ineffectually since then, but a few months ago the word went around that, provided there was no shouting the word from the rooftops, and provided certain formalities were observed, business could be done.

Now there are dozens of places where the tiger can be bucked. Admission is not difficult to any of these places if one knows the ropes.

Baccarat and other poker are played. The poker is of the continental variety, played with 32 cards, all below the seven being eliminated. The value of hands in this game is somewhat different from the 52 card game, as three of a kind beat a straight and a flush beats a full house.

Faro is the great and the favorite game at all these joints. Again it is the German or continental variety, not the American, that is played.

Thirty-two cards are used and no box; the banker dealing out of hand. There is no elaborate layout; in most cases four matches sufficing. These are laid in front of the dealer and each end of a match represents a card. The bets are made by placing the money at the end of the match which represents the card backed. It is a straight proposition to win or lose, the punter betting that his card will win, the banker that it will lose. There are no furbelows of covering bets or naming the sequence of the last card.

This game of faro as played in London is of excessive simplicity and of excessive crookedness. An expert dealer can make the cards do almost anything for him. The majority of punters are very sharp eyed and with a gang of regular players the attempt at crooked playing are infrequent, but let a tenderfoot butt into the game and he has no chance to win.

The proprietors of the joints don't run the game. The bank is put up at auction, as at baccarat, the man willing to put the largest amount of money taking the bank. The proprietors make their profits by charging so much an hour for the bank, the price varying with the size of the bank, the minimum being \$10 an hour, payable in advance.

The popularity of this form of faro is widespread throughout the Latin and Teuton population of Soho, and at the bigger of these gambling clubs thousands of dollars are won and lost nightly.

A horde of American grafters and crooks got in the habit of resorting to a certain night club, Scotland Yard kept the gaming under surveillance and planned to dispose of them by raiding this club, which would furnish a decent excuse in court to ask that each of them be sent to prison for three months as a suspicious character, in addition to being fined for being in a gambling joint. Thirty-five of these "international merchants," as Fat Shedy was wont to designate them, were thoroughly enjoying themselves when the word was passed to get out quickly and quietly in twos and threes.

"Don't rush out in a bunch, as there is half an hour," said the tipster. Half an hour later the police descended on the place, but the birds had flown.

**Rate String Wires.**  
San Diego, Cal.—John Kincaid, foreman for the San Diego Gas and Electric company, tried rats in laying wires in conductor by putting cheese at the end of a stretch of vitrified pipe. He found the rats would draw through the conduit string, to which he had attached the wire he desired to lay.

### BIGGER CARS THAN EVER

#### Pennsylvania Railroad is Planning for Eighty-ton Gondolas—To Use Heavier Wheels.

Chicago.—Plans which provide for a tremendous increase in the capacity of steel freight cars have been formulated by the engineers of the Pennsylvania railroad. The new gondolas and hoppers are to be 52 feet long over all and 50 feet 2 inches inside. The hoppers will have a capacity of carrying 93,000 pounds of coke, against 60,000 pounds, the capacity of the largest cars now in use. These cars will have a rated capacity of 140,000 pounds, but will be sufficiently strong to safely carry 160,000 pounds or 80 tons of material.

This great increase in carrying capacity will necessitate the strengthening of all of the material entering into steel car construction, the Iron Trade Review says. It will probably mean the entire elimination of the cast iron car wheels for freight service and the substitution thereof of solid steel wheels.

Recently the Pittsburg and Lake Erie Railroad company placed in service 46-foot freight cars, which are the largest now in use. In addition to the strengthening of all car parts, including not only the wheels and axles, but also all forgings and castings entering into car construction, the reinforcement of many bridges to withstand the increased loads of these heavy trains will follow. Anticipating an increase in steel car carrying capacity, the Pennsylvania railroad has been strengthening all of its bridges on both its main line and branches.

Heavier rails must also be used and the Central Railroad Company of New Jersey has experimented for some months with 125-pound rails, which have been laid on an extensive stretch of track. The wooden tie will of necessity have to be replaced by steel ties and it is believed that a heavier tie than now manufactured will have to be used.

### OPEN SCHOOLS ARE SUCCESS

#### Chicago Buildings Thrown Open to Public for Dancing, Picture Shows and Games.

Chicago.—The board of education's plan for turning the schools over to the people for social amusement on the winter evenings was inaugurated here. Four school buildings were opened between 7:30 and 9:30 o'clock. At each there was a large audience, and at each the experiment proved a success.

In launching its innovation the Chicago school board's object was to do something that will counteract the evils of the dance hall and the improperly managed moving picture show. Hundreds of boys and young girls who otherwise would have had to seek recreation in the streets took part in the festivities.

Workers of the Juvenile Protective league, under the supervision of the principals, had charge of the youngsters. The same official chaperons will be on hand each Monday and Thursday evening, the official "social center nights," from now until spring. Their instructions are to be as inconspicuous as is compatible with good order and with everybody's having a good time. Policemen have been assigned to each school to maintain order if it is necessary.

At three of the schools there was dancing. It was stated by some of the principals that the social center plan would not be a success in their districts unless dancing is permitted. At all of the schools there were games, gymnastics and music. Preliminary steps were taken also to organize dramatic clubs. At one school there were moving pictures.

The celebrants ranged from 14 to 20 years old. The schools, however, are to be opened to the fathers and mothers. Efforts will be made to form both men and women's clubs.

### POISON SCARED OUT OF HIM

#### Young Farmer, Fearing Loss of Arm, Has Singular Recovery After Being Bitten by Hog.

Clayton, N. J.—Joseph G. Souder, a prosperous farmer of Clayton, who recently purchased the Bubols farm for \$10,000, was bitten on the finger by a hog he was killing several weeks ago and blood poisoning set in.

The finger was lanced, but the poison spread to his arm, which it was thought would have to be amputated. Souder objected to losing the arm, but as he grew worse he started for the hospital.

Before leaving Clayton Souder said: "My arm feels better," and before reaching the hospital he declared it was well and begged to be taken back home. But his brother-in-law, who accompanied him, insisted on his going on to the hospital. Here it was found that the arm was well, the bandage taken off and left off. It had cured in three hours.

Souder says the only way he can account for the strange cure is that the blood poisoning was scared out of him.

**Houses Sink as Mine Caves.**  
Scranton, Pa.—Two houses sank 60 feet into a mine cave in Ross avenue, endangering many lives. The houses were occupied by Warren Stephens and Patrick J. Buckley. Buckley's wife was preparing breakfast when the houses began to settle. She roused the members of the family and all escaped, but Stephens and his wife were pinned in their bedrooms. A ladder was lowered by neighbors and the couple was rescued.

### GIRLS OF TRIPOLI

#### Her Birth at First Is Regarded as Disaster.

#### Child's Only Hope of Emancipation Hitherto Has Been an Early Marriage—Has Brief Period of Freedom.

Tripoli.—Like most Mussulman peoples, the various tribes of Tripoli profess a profound contempt for women, although even the most conservative of them are slowly giving their women a wider education, a hitherto unknown deference and a stronger position in their respective families. But old customs die hard and it is a curiously cramped and monotonous existence that the maid of this picturesque African region knows. No thrill of pleasure greets her birth, for the first question a wealthy father asks his wife's medical attendant is: "Is it a boy?"

And, if the answer be, "Soccahet! It is a son and Allah is almighty!" the joyful news spreads rapidly, guns are fired, drums are beaten and neighbors hasten to congratulate the young mother and do full justice to a rich feast of sirups, sweets and unlimited quantities of the coarse native wine, which, fermented in goatskins, is so very unpleasing to a foreign palate. But should the doctor humbly answer, "May Allah pity you! It is only a girl!" things pass very differently.

But as the first years pass, the baby, so coldly welcomed, usually grows into a wonderfully pretty child with fine features and a wealth of black hair that would make the average American woman envious.

When she is about 12 years old her father begins to look out for a suitable husband for her, for the Tripoli girl considers herself an old maid if she is not married before her fourteenth birthday.

When the suitor and the girl's father are agreed, the fiancée is presented to her future husband, and as this first meeting takes place to the accompaniment of deafening shots, screams and the shrill music of the flute, so dear to oriental ears, her first impression is apt to be a rather confused one.

Immediately after the formal presentation which means acceptance—over, she begins her preparations for the wedding. Her trousseau is simplicity itself, for, as most of her garments are shawl-like affairs that she drapes artistically about her, they depend mainly on color and texture for elegance.

As her wedding morn dawns in streaks of amethyst and rose across a sky where stars still tremble, she is awakened by her mother, who alone shares her breakfast of goats' milk and corn cakes. Then her friends arrive and she is robed in white, decked with her new jewels, her lips are rouged, a fine line of khel is drawn around her eyes to increase their apparent size, perfume is brushed into her hair and she is veiled in the gold tissue—which on this occasion covers her face. Seated in a covered chair she is borne by servants on a gayly-harnessed mule's back to meet the groom. Half way between their respective dwellings and accompanied by his friends, he awaits her; then, with every sign of pleasure, he leads the way to the new home, where a wedding feast, for men only, is spread.

The bride passes the day in her own apartment, where she entertains her girl friends, and the hours slip by in music, eating and much laughter until sunset, when the door opens. The bridegroom enters, greets his bride affectionately, and after a short stay returns to his companions.

The insignificant religious ceremony takes place the following morning, and for six days after it the young couple are attended by their friends. On the seventh day the bride makes her debut as a housekeeper, for she then gives a farewell banquet to the departing guests. For this she expends neither money nor trouble, for the tribesmen are great eaters, and if they left table unsatisfied they might wish ill to the young husband and wife.

When the last reveler has left, when all her friends have bidden her a farewell that may last all her life, then, and then only, does the little wife of 14 begin to know the man who is now her lord, the absolute owner of her soul and body, whose word must be her future law and who she prays may also be more than all these things to her—the kindly, splendid lover of her timid childish heart.

**Luck in Saving Horseshoes.**  
New Haven.—Picking up horseshoes and saving them has brought Mrs. Adolph Miller of this city a fortune of \$50,000, according to her statement. Mrs. Miller has just received news from Hamburg, Germany, that by the death of her uncle, Adolph Rhoif, a German officer, she has been left \$50,000 to do with as she pleases, according to the wording of the will. All Mrs. Miller has to do is to go to Hamburg and get the fortune.

"It all comes from saving horseshoes," said Mrs. Miller, as she pointed with pride to a row of them over the front door of her residence. "It is an old saying that for each nail in the horseshoe you will receive some time in your life \$1,000. I do believe that, for I found it to be true every bit of it. I have about twenty shoes now and that makes about fifty or sixty nails."

### VEGETABLE DIET WINS TEST

#### Warren H. Buffum, in Behalf of Science, Walks From Boston to Pacific—Defeats Brother.

Los Angeles, Cal.—After a five months' trip across the continent, from Boston, Warren H. Buffum arrived in San Bernardino and thus the vegetarian wins, for Warren and his brother Jesse, on the long trip on behalf of science and to test the theories of Professor Sargent of Harvard.

Warren stuck to a vegetable diet throughout the trip and Jesse ate meat regularly. At Needles Jesse's hip gave way and he was obliged to come in on the train, reaching Los Angeles a week ago. Today he came out to meet his brother and tomorrow they will start off on a sort of jollification tramp to the summit of the San Bernardino mountains, returning to the city Wednesday.

"Last night I slept rolled up in my blankets on the snow at Summit, on top of the San Bernardino mountains," said Warren Buffum, "and today at the close of the thirty mile lap in my journey I am picking oranges."

The vegetarian winner ate almost everything he could find that was green, except grass, on the way across, not neglecting the succulent prickly pear and cactus he found in abundance on the Arizona deserts.

Nuts, whole wheat bread, crackers and fruit for breakfast, with cool, but not ice cold, water to wash it down; baked potato, cabbage, turnips or rutabagas or beans for dinner and more water; plain bread, an apple, cherries, hickory nuts, peanuts, with pecans—all he could get for supper, with still more water—this is a fairly correct daily menu that the winner followed from day to day.

"Sometimes," he said, "I fairly gorged myself with peanuts, when they were good and fresh. Then, again, when I ran into a town where lettuce and celery was abundant and newly cut I made meals of it, never, however, forgetting the water. And I am feeling fit as a fiddle, too."

### ZOO ELEPHANTS LIKE BEER

#### Nelly, Aged Eight Gains Fame as Champion Drinker of Amber Fluid in London Zoo.

London.—The elephants at the zoo now drink beer. It is as a special mark of confidence that the elephants on their rounds with their children passengers are allowed to stop at the refreshment kiosks to see if there is anything for them in the alcoholic line.

All the ends of bottles, all the unfinished glasses go to make up this special allowance, and each of the animals knows when it is its turn for a half-gallon or so.

The champion drinker is, sad to say, a lady elephant, named Nelly, eight years old. She took a bottle of Bass from the hand of the correspondent, while Jess, aged five, and The Lodger, aged eight, looked regretfully on.

But, perhaps the most accomplished of all is the anonymous African elephant farthest up the row. The keeper held a tin-bottle before him. "Get round!" he said, and Jumbo gravely performed a series of steps all around himself in perfect waltz time. "Now reverse!" said the keeper, and Jumbo "reversed."

Some pieces were dropped in the inclosure just out of his reach. "Blow them to the gentleman," said the keeper, "and he'll give them to you to eat." Jumbo blew—like a wild hurricane—and the biscuit went flying across the floor, and was duly retrieved.

Then came the best trick of all. A man threw a penny into the stall. Jumbo heard it drop, fished for it, found it, and gravely returned it, not to the owner, but to the keeper!

### BIRD MAKES LONG FLIGHT

#### Member of Arctic Feathered Species Found at Sagaponack and Identified by Zoo Expert.

New York.—Gordon B. Rabbitts, an operator at the Marconi wireless telegraph station at Sagaponack, N. Y., picked up from the road near the station a live bird, badly wounded, of a species so rare and unknown in that locality that no one could name it.

It was sent for identification to the Zoological Park in the Bronx, where it was declared to be a dovekie, or Greenland dove, also erroneously called the "little auk," a bird of the arctic regions.

Only on very rare occasions, and usually in midwinter, has this species straggled as far south as this coast, but in the arctic it ranges northward as far as Melville Island of the great arctic archipelago.

The dovekie is about the size of a teal duck, plump of body, black above and white underneath, and the feathers of the forehead extend far down over the beak. Those who are prone to predict long and severe winters from the actions of animals will readily accept the appearance of the dovekie on this coast, far in advance of winter, as a sure sign of cold weather.

### BLIND TAILOR REGAINS SIGHT

#### Had Given Up Hope When Baltimore Doctor Undertook Operation, Which Was Successful.

Baltimore.—The "Little Blind Tailor" of Spruce alley now sees the sun shine for the first time in more than fifteen years. Louis Haley was dismissed from Franklin Square hospital, where he had been under treatment for his eyes for several weeks. When he registered he was totally blind.

Haley told how it felt to be blind so long and suddenly to realize that he had regained the use of his eyes.

"The first thing I remember," he said, "was being in St. Andrews Orphan asylum, which is run by the Catholic sisters. I haven't got any people, you know. After I got to a good-sized kid they sent me over to St. Mary's Industrial asylum, where they taught me to be a tailor. When I was about 21 I was a graduate tailor, and they sent me out to get a job.

"Well, my eyes had always been pretty bad, but I felt that I could make a living all right, and so I went to work. My eyes were bothering me all the time and finally they got so bad that nobody would have me around the shop because they said I did bad work."

"When my savings were all gone, a lady got me a job at the door of the hospital. Finally it got so bad I could not tell light from dark and was about to quit when Dr. McCouachie came along and told me he'd try the only chance there was to cure me."

"When I went on that operating table I believed that I would never be able to see again, so you can imagine what my feelings were when I got up and after a while found that my sight was as good as it had ever been before."

### PARDONS AN HONEST NEGRO

#### Governor John Slaton Thinks Twenty Years Enough for Man Who Confessed Murder.

Atlanta.—Nearly 20 twenty years a convict is considered by Governor John M. Slaton as punishment enough for a negro, who, after committing a murder and fleeing from the state, paid his own railroad fare back from Mississippi to the scene of the crime and confessed, expecting to be hanged for his trouble. In the case, that of James Foster, sent up 20 years ago from Early county, the governor has granted a full pardon.

Twenty-four years ago Seaborn Sheffield, a wealthy planter, who lived alone, was found dead while at the supper table. There was no clew to the murder, and the crime remained a mystery until four years later. While court was in session, Foster came to the sheriff and stated to him that he was the murderer. The negro had fled to Mississippi and remained there four years. He said his conscience drove him to return and confess, and he said he expected to be hanged.

The negro claimed he had been forced to kill Sheffield by the latter's two sons-in-law, who feared he would divorce his wife. The negro was given a life sentence, but the white men he implicated were acquitted. The negro has been an exemplary prisoner, and Governor Slaton thinks he should be rewarded for confessing the crime when he was in no danger. The pardon of the negro was urged by Justice Powell, of the Court of Appeals, who is a nephew of the murdered man.

### TO ENJOIN A WORSHIPER

#### Priest Gets Restraining Order Against One for Defiance—Menaces Peace of Congregation.

Pottsville, Pa.—Declaring that Stephen Pecuch, of Minersville, sits in the front pew at nearly every service in St. George's Greek Catholic church of that town and grins offensively and disrespectfully at the priest and worshipers, and that Pecuch "struts out of the church before the services are completed in an offensive, insolent, disrespectful, belligerent, irreverent and defiant manner, menacing the peace of the congregation," Rev. Andrew J. Kaminsky petitioned the Schuylkill county court today for an injunction to prevent Pecuch from entering the church or any part of it.

Sheriff Murphy served the injunction late this afternoon on Pecuch, and the community awaits the outcome. There has been opposition shown against the priest, even to an attempt to dynamite his residence, and several suits are now pending between him and some of the church people.

### HER GOLDFISH ARE BOMBS

#### Woman in Letter to Commissioner Says Her Pets Are Given to Exploding Into Fragments.

Denver, Colo.—Finny McNamara is probably at work on the goldfish tribe in Colorado, according to an opinion of Col. James A. Shinn, state game and fish commissioner. Colonel Shinn bases his theory of such probability on a letter received from a Colorado woman.

"I just wonder what's the matter with my goldfish," the woman wrote to Colonel Shinn. "They are just as healthy and well fed as they can be. But lately they have been exploding. They will swim around in the most sportive manner in their bowl and then suddenly they will come to the surface of the water, and—pop! bang!—explode into a thousand bits!"

### WAS HISTORIC OLD BUILDING

#### Mint at Philadelphia Was the First Building Erected by Authority of Congress.

In removing the foundations of the coinage building of the old mint, at Nos. 37 and 39 North Seventh street, some quaint specimens of oldtime building construction, including several curious vaults, were uncovered. The pillar in which the vaults were located was reached by heavy stone steps, supported by brick or stone arches, a method handed down from medieval times. One of the vaults in which a bullion was stored consisted of a vault within a vault, and was designed, it is said, at the time of the war of 1812 to conceal materials which could not be readily transported to other hiding places. Several small windows in the cellar were protected by heavy hand-wrought iron bars.

They have been preserved, and will be placed, along with other relics, such as locks and hinges, to the collection in Independence hall. In digging out an old well in the yard a number of copper coins, bearing the dates 1816 and 1817, were found, as well as a quantity of scrap copper from which the coins had been cut. From old papers relating to a lawsuit, found by Frank H. Stewart, president of the company which owns the property, it was ascertained that five buildings were originally included in the old mint, all of them grouped around the coinage building. It is an historic fact that this old structure, which was the last of these buildings to be razed, was the first building of any description erected by authority of the United States congress.—Philadelphia Record.

### CLOCKS AFFECTED BY COLD

#### Change in Weather Causes Oil in Bearings to Get Gummy and Hard.

Two or three times in the course of a month this man's clock had stopped with no apparent reason, for when he swung the pendulum it would start off again and run all right. But it also now began to display another eccentricity, occasionally it would strike about 15 minutes before the hour and then strike the rest of the strokes for that hour at the regular time. So he thought he had better take it to the clock-maker.

There on a shelf behind the counter he saw ranged along a dozen or more clocks of almost as many styles. "All patents," said the clockmaker, "and most of them with slight ailments like yours. We always have many clocks brought in with colds. They run along all right, but when nasty weather comes the oil on the bearings gets hard and gummy and then the clock is liable to stop. It needs cleaning and reoiling."

"It is always so; we have more clocks brought in to us when the weather is bad than at any other season."

**Wanted—Cheap Corks.**  
If any ingenious person can invent a substitute for corks in champagne bottles he may be sure of a very comfortable fortune, for champagne corks are expensive, a really good cork costing as high as ten cents.

The reason for this high cost is principally the length of time that must elapse before a cork grower can realize on his investment. Champagne corks are made only from the finest Catalonia corkwood. After the tree is planted 30 years must elapse before it is ready for the first stripping, but this bark is too coarse for champagne corks, as is the second bark, taken off eight years later. Another eight years must pass before a champagne cork crop is gathered, making in all 46 years that the grower must wait before he can get any material return from his trees.

Furthermore, champagne corks are cut by hand and not by machinery, as are less expensive corks, as they must be perfect in size and shape, or else the quality of the wine will suffer.—Harper's Weekly.

**Apple Trees for Old Age.**  
Easterners are prone to view with surprise the large-sized fruit which comes from western states, and even to wonder why similar orchard products cannot be raised in New England. Their wonderment should cease. Our farms can produce luscious fruit in abundance with proper effort, says the Boston Globe. A speaker at the New England fruit exhibition in Horticultural hall has said that there is no better insurance against old age than a good orchard. After a certain number of years ten acres of an apple orchard will be a steady source of income. The same authority believes that the shortsightedness of New England farmers is almost criminal for allowing this source of wealth to go undeveloped. We have the soil, market and climate, and should take advantage of these great assets.

**Laugh Earned Reward.**  
"I can't for the life of me see what a brilliant fellow like Skribbs saw to admire in that woman he married." "It wasn't what he saw so much as what he heard."

"What do you mean?" "I guess you never heard that merry laugh of hers."

"Do you mean to say that a brainy man would marry a woman just because she had a merry laugh?" "Well—yes. Didn't you know that Skribbs was a joke writer?"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.