# COAX CROWS BACK

Farmers Drive Birds Away and Grubs Destroy Corn.

Black Fellows Finally Induced to Return and Trouble Disappears... Agriculturists Now See Old-Time Green Fleids.

South Haven, Mich.-There is one fregion where the crow, generally conwidered a pest, is not only a welcome wisitor but was actually coaxed and begged to return there, after having peen driven away by years of mercibess persecution. That spot is the moutheast portion of Van Buren couny, Michigan. Years ago there had mever been many crows in this vicinity, but one season about that time they began to arrive in countless numbers. They occupied every piece of woods for miles around, and it was istimated that the colony contained not fewer than 500,000 of what the farmers supposed were winged marau-

It is rich land out there, and sixty Boushels of corn to the acre was not too much to expect as an average yield. Naturally, everybody believed that this great army of crows had heard of that garden spot, and had marched upon it to devastate the newity planted fields, and leave ruin and famine in their wake, so men, women and children organized in a systematic campaign against the black destroyers. They were hunted in their roosts, they were trapped, they were poisoned, and they were even pursued by fire.

The farmers soon noticed another mew visitor that season-a grub that mot only attacked the roots of the young corn, but also played havoc with the grass. They bemoaned these disastrous visitations greatly, for it never occurred to them that the crow was among them for any other purpose than evil. So the warfare on the crow was carried on with merciless vigor and the next season there was a decided decrease in the size of the crow colony. It grew smaller and smaller year by year, until only a fow wild and straggling flocks put in an -apticarance.

During all this time the yield of corn an acre had gradually decreased and the crow was credited with being the principal cause of the loss. The grub was still at work, but the farmers had no idea that they were not able to handle it. But the first season the crowds falled to appear the Bield of corn was smaller than it had ever been, and the season was one of the most favorable for corn in the history of the county. Some of the farmwent to thinking. The grub increased in numbers. The corn crop kept on growing less and less, until ten bushels to the acre was as big a yield as that rich bottom would return, and the crows had not been permitted to get another foothold in the region, either.

Then the thinking farmers made up "their minds that the reason the crows had put in such a large and sudden appearance a few years before was that they had simply followed the wake of the grubs and had come to feed on that irrepressible pest, and then the community felt like kicking itself clear out of the state. They went to work to try to get the crows back again. They sent clear to the Wabash country, where the biggest erow roost on top of the earth is located, and had thousands of crows captured and forwarded to them.

The next season something like the cold-time colony took up its quarters in the woods and that fall the biggest erop of corn that had been known in the region for five years was gathered.

# ILL LUCK FOLLOWS STEALING

**公司**。

rai\_

Builted States Army Officer Who Robbed Temple of Idal Only Too Ready to Return It.

Victoria, B. C. - The steamer Decano, from Japan, brings advices that a small idol of Buddha which was sooted from a Japanese temple by a United States army officer in 1901 and has since brought him misfortune has been forwarded to M. G. Rabbitt, acting consul general for America at Yokohama, in the hope that the restitution of the bronze image to Japan will break the hoodoo. The following letter accompanied the idol:

"Dear Sir: Inclosed find a Japanese image which is supposed to have been taken from a temple in Japan by a United States army offiper in 1901. This image is said to have brought misfortune to the possessor, and I was given it the other Eay to dispose of. If it is possible to restore it to its original owner. kindly do so. If not, dispose of it as you see fit."

Books Lincein Would Select. Chicago.—President Gunsaulus of Armour Institute in an address, said if Lincoln could be reached and asked what books should be placed in the new Harper library he would say Shakespeare, the Bible, Pilgrims' Progress, the Constitution of the Thited States and the Life of Washington.

'Treut Gete Revenge on "Jonah" Eel. Winsted, Coun.-Harry Hall of Newfington had an unusual experience on a trout fishing expedition to Talcott Mountain. A "Jodah" eel had partly swallowed a large trout, which, when ix realised its danger, grabbed Hall's Book. Hall got both eel and trout, the former refusing to let go its catch.

## BLOTTER IS NEAT CALENDAR

Easily Made and One of Most Useful Articles on Young Lady's Desk -Things Needed.

One of the most useful things a girl can possibly have for her desk is a calendar blotter. How often when writing a letter does one have to stop and think what day of the month it is, and, although there may be a calendar in the desk there are surely many times when it cannot be found at the moment it is needed. And the blotting paper is often old and nearly worn out before one remembers to get a new piece. Both of these little troubles are done away with by having a calendar blotter.

The blotter can be made with either 18 sheets of blotting paper or six, according to whether its owner writes much or little, and also whether she uses up blotting paper quickly or not. There is a very great difference between people on this question. The sheets of paper may also either be large enough to nearly cover the desk, or there may be small pieces that are picked up and laid over the writing to blot it. If the large sheets are used they must be kept in a drawer of the desk at one end and one taken out as it is needed; but the small ones can be fastened together at one end, the whole pad kept on the desk and one sheet torn off when wanted.

To make the blotter all that is needed is a pad calendar, and the right quantity of blotting paper. Choose the fatter by the color of the decoration of your room and the chlendar size by whether your blotter is to be large or small. If there are to be 12 sheets of the paper pasts one page of the calendar on the upper left-hand corner of each piece of paper. If there are to be only six pieces of paper paste the January pages of the calendar in the upper left-hand corner and the February page in the upper right-hand corner, and so on through the years.

#### OPEN EYES OF KANSAS GIRL

Young Lady Finally Awakens to What Her Fate Would Have Been With Stingy Man.

There was broken in Atchison recently an engagement of two years' standing between a girl and a stingy man. It was the first engagement she had ever had, and consequently the first she had ever broken, and she falt that she must follow the custom that is arbitrary at such a time and geturn all the gifts the young man

had made her. Bearch was made of the house from garret to cellar, with the result that a messenger boy next day carried to had been given away to advertise a baking powder, \$2 which represented what he had spent on her for theater tickets, and a narrow band engagement ring, which had cost him nothing, for it had belonged to his mother.

She wrapped the articles up, with tears in her eyes, that also being an established precedent, but when the boy had gone and she had neglected no detail due the sad occasion, even watching the boy depart through blinding tears, a great light burst upon her. She saw what it would have meant to marry a man so stingy, and burst into such a loud hosanna because of ber escape, that she awakened the babies three blocks away.-Atchison Globe.

Queer Death of Boy. A curious story of how a twelveyear-old boy was accidentally hanged whilst endeavoring to bind himself in the way depicted in the drawing, "The Christian Martyr," was told at a West Ham (Eng.) inquest. The mother of the lad said that she and her husband went out one evening, leaving the boy sketching. Asked what he was sketching, the woman replied, "The Christian Martyr." "I have got it here," she said, and she handed it, to the coroner. It was executed in blue crayon, and portrayed a young girl, bound with ropes to a stake in the river, and with a dagger driven through her heart. The mother added that when she returned with her husband she found the lad hanging on the bedroom door. A handkerchief was tied tightly around his neck, and slipped under it was a rope, fastened ever the door to the bedpost.

Treasure From Big Tree. An extraordinary haul was made from a Georgia tree the other day by a number of young men in Catawba county. They went into the woods to rob a "bee tree," and taking their axes began chopping on the butt of an old red oak measuring three and one-half feet in diameter. It was not a great while until they struck hollow, and to their delight as well as surprise out waiked an old possum. After carefully fastening her to a split limb another raid was made, when 19 baby possums were captured. The tree was finally felled and from nearer the top they caught two protty gray squirrels, captured a swarm of bees and gathered a quantity of honey.

Ground Covered by Million People, It has been estimated that one million persons assembled in a crowd, with due allowance of, say, three square feet a person, would cover an area of 78.8 acres, or, to put it more conveniently, let us say 79 acres; or It could be contained in a square having sides \$77.6 yards long. Or again. allowing 18 inches to each person. standing shoulder to shoulder, one mil-Rea individuals would extend a distance of 284.1 miles.

# AMERICANS GREAT READERS'

Exemplification of a Well-Known National Trait Noted by a Foreign Visitor.

"Great readers, you Americans," said a foreign visitor to these shores, according to the New York Sun. "You seem to be reading all the time; -newspapers or books-and you read everywhere-in public as in private,! on the elevated cars, in the subway. everywhere—and I was getting quite used to seeing the manifestation of what appears to be a national habit; but I was a little surprised this morning-yes, just a little-when I saw a lady reading a newspaper as she rode up on an escalator from the sidewalk to an elevated railroad platform.

"I know the restless American energy which prompts you to the utmost economy of time, to the utilization of every minute, so that no chance for gain shall be lost; but it seems to me in my dull and stupid old-world way that there might be such a thing as overdoing this bitter economy of time, don't you know.

"In the case of the lady, reading on the escalator, for instance, I was afraid it might lead to an accident to her. It is only a short ride on an escalator, and I was afraid she might forget and fall at the top, for she seemed very intent. In fact, I couldn't tell whether she was economiging time or whether she was reading because she was so interested in what she was reading.

"But, however, she read and read" intently all the way up, or until she had got three steps from the top and then she stopped and looked up, and then stepped off briskly and quite, safely.

"It must take about twenty-five seconds for that escalator to carry one from the ground to the platform and she had read all but three steps, she had utilized twenty-two seconds of the time consumed on the trip and lost only three. The most remarkable exemplification I have yet seen of your characteristic economy of time and national habit of reading.

"Quite wonderful people, you Americans!"

# LACK OF BUSINESS ABILITY

Leader in Municipal Art League le Shown Where He is Deficient by Well-to-De Citizen.

"I suppose," said the man who was active in the Municipal Art League, "you would not think of permitting anyone to bring into your house a pioture of a woman in tights"

"Of course I shouldn't," replied the well-to-do citizen.

You are not in favor of doing thing that would have a tendency to spread immorality, either, are you? That is to say, you would not permit: anybody to hang signs upon your porch advertising questionable resorts,

"Certainly not! I cannot understand why you should ask me such absurd questions."

"You see, I have just learned you are the owner of the vacant lot in the middle of the next block—the one on which there is a big billboard with a picture of an almost nude female and an advertisement of a place that the police have had to close several times, during the past few months. I suppose you get paid for permitting the billboard to remain there, do you not?"

"Say, you fanatics who have this city beautiful bug make me tired. The trouble with you is that none of you, have any more idea about business: than a Tom cat. You'll have to excuse me now; I'm busy. Run along and see if you can't start a scare by discoverin' a naked wall somewhere."

# Not Related.

Michael McCarthy was suing the Swift Packing company in a Kansasi

A colored witness was called. "Did you work at the plant?" he was "Yassir."

"Do you know the foreman and the other officials?" "Yassir."

"What were your relations with; them?" "Now, look here," said the witness

"I'm black and they's white, They ain't no relations of mine."-Cleve hand Leader.

#### He Knew. Teacher-What happens when an irresistible force comes in contact with an immovable body? Small Boy-A spanking.-Harper's

An Exception. "He believes in making himself heard on all possible occasions." "Does he speak up briskly when contributions are called for ?"

"Well, n-o-o, he doesn't."

.important Person. "To look at Pipps, you'd think he had the world on his shoulders." "Yes: he seems to think life is a baseball game and he's siways at the

Becoming Modesty. Drowning Man-Help! belp! I can

Man on the Shore-Neither can I but I don't go bragging about it.—Har-Der's Magazine.

## WORD WILL NOT BE MISSED

Mr. Skimmerton Rejoices Over Pass-Ing of Overworked "Gruciling"-Put Away With "Raucous."

"We don't see so often now in print," said Mr. Skimmerton, "the word 'gruelling,' and I am glad of that, for to tell you the flatfooted truth I had begun to tire of reading about 'graelling contests' for supremacy between two fleet runners or two pugs pounding each other's face, or between two men rowing or playing tennis.

"In fact, gruelling had begun, as you might say, to pall on me just as raucous did, not so long ago. Don't you remember that there was a time when no writer ever failed to describe some one of his characters as speaking in a raucous voice?

"Positively raucous came to be painful to me, so that it would prejudice me against a whole book to find that word in it, and then happily authors put that word aside.

"But there seems to be always in use some word that is sorely overworked. It was a good word maybe originally and it catches many writers' fancy. And then they wear it treadbare, old, decrepit, till the very sight of ALL CONTRACTOR PROPERTY. It wearles.

"Such a word had gruelling come to be. You could read of scarcely any trial of strength or speed without finding that It had been a 'gruelling contest,' or that it had had a 'gruelling finish;' they were all gruelling in some way; but most gruelling of all to the reader, it seems to me.

"But now gruelling has gone out of fashion, it has been put away along with raucous and with our once familiar dull thud and other much overworked words and phrases."

#### NEW SCIENCE OF FREEZING

Production of Artificial Cold Becoming Important Industry-Machines on Big Vessels.

The production of artificial cold has, during the last 15 years, become quite an important industry. "Freezing machines" are now among the permanent requisities of civilized life.

The refrigeration of perishable articles of food for transport by ship stands first on the long list of commercial applications of the science.

In the cold air freezing machines now employed on board ships for the transport of meat from Australia, New Zealand and America, the meat is placed in large chambers, the walls of which are double, the interspace being filled with wood charcoal as a non-conducting material.

A jet of intensely cold air is delivered into the chamber at each stroke of the piston of the expansion cylinder, and the temperature of the chamber is thus kept at or near the freesing point during the whole voyage.

Another interesting application of cooling by means of solutions which have a very low freezing point has lately been made in mines. One of the greatest difficulties which can occur in the operation of sinking a shaft is that presented by a stratum of sand saturated with water. In more than one case this difficulty has been overcome by freezing the sand and water into a firm mass through which the shaft can then be easily bored as into a solid rock.

#### How to Wash Windows. Strange as it may seem, there is a

right and wrong way to wash windows, and as this operation is usually dreaded, the following method will doubtless be appreciated as it saves both time and labor. Choose a dull day, or at least a time when the sun is not shining on the windows, for when the sun shines on the window it gauses it to be dry streaked, no matter how much it is rubbed. Take a painter's brush and dust them inside and out, washing all the woodwork inside before touching the glass.

The latter must be washed slowly in warm water diluted with ammonia -do not use scap. Use a small cloth with a pointed stick to get the dust out of the corners; wipe dry with a soft piece of cetton cloth-do not use linen, as it makes the glass linty when dry. Polish with tissue paper or old newspaper. You will find that this can be done in half the time taken where soap is used, and the result will be brighter windows.

The Value of Solitude. A population may be too crowded, though all be amply supplied with food and raiment. It is not good for man to be kept perforce at all times in the presence of his species. A world from which solitude is extirpated is a very poor ideal. Solitude, in the sense of being often alone, is essential to any depth of meditation, or of character; and solitude in the presence of natural beauty and grandour is the cradle of thoughts and aspirations which are not only good for the individual, but which society could ill do without.-John Stuart MILL

Was Bound to Come. Esmeralda-What a deliciously light, fluffy, siry affair that is! Gwendolin-Yes, this is my aviation

cestume; my going up gown, you

Friendly Criticism.

He (at the concert) - Miss Shreeker

tabys and is always nervous when she attempts to sing in public. She-Well, I'm not surprised. She has heard herself before.

#### GENESIS OF SPECTER SHIPS

One Instance in Particular Satisfactor-Hy Vouched for Explains Many Stories of Sailors.

Perhaps the most likely explanation of the genesis of specter ships lies in the extraordinary effect produced at sea by mirages. In the Arctic seas in particular are to be seen many strange sights produced by refraction. There is at least one instance on record that is satisfactorily vouched for, and which explains many of the stories current among sailors fifty or a hundred years ago. One evening in the early 'thirties a passenger ship was approaching Port Danger, on the South African coast. Suddenly those on board were astounded to see a well-known English warship quite close to them. So clear was the vision that they were able to recognize acquaintances among the officers and crew. A boat was lowered from the stranger and its crew was observed to tumble into it. Everything was so real, so obvious, that it seemed impossible that they could be deceived. They recognized the ship as the Barracouta, She was too well known to admit of the least doubt as to her identity. When the passenger ship arrived at Simon's Bay a short time after, every-body expected to see the Barracouta at anchor. But she was not there, and did not arrive until a week afterwards. The first thing to do was to compare notes and explain the mystery. It was found that at the time of the warship's being seen near Port Danger she was at least three hundred miles away. There is no room for doubt as to the details of the story. People do not imagine with such unanimity as to admit of any explanation other than reflection or refraction in a cloud or fog bank.

#### HOBBY FASCINATING TO MEN

Philatelist Finds Large Field for His Activities—Searches Farthest · · · Corner of Earth.

The discovery of a solemn man's hobby softens his austerity. So there is something very human and interesting in the convention recently held here of the nation's philatelists-serious men brought together by the common fascination exercised by little bits of colored paper.

Like every other hobby which ipvolves collecting something, the fun is not half so much in possession as in the eternal quest. Whole volumes of odd and beautiful labels, given as a receipt for postage paid, are not as interesting as the rare and illusive specimens which are yet to be corralled. While the small boy collector has his heaven in grandmother's garret, shearing the old labels from long treasured epistles, the full-fledged enthusiast finds a larger field for his activities, and the farthest corner of the earth is not too remote to stop his quest. There is more in the hobby than one might suppose. History, geography and national politics form a groundwork for an intelligent pursuit of the pastime. New Zealand and Hawaii will show you landscapes upon their stamps; a Central American country pictures tropical birds; Jamaica shows a waterfall; old Canadian issues and some of Borneo show native fauna, while Japan revels in various presentations of its conventionalized chrysanthemum. Colombia and the Quebec centennials present whole maps, while the heads of rulers and statesmen give designs for thousands of issues .- Detroit Free

When to Eat Fruit. To obtain the most benefit from the succulent fruits they should be eaten at the end of the chief meal. Banauas are an exception and may be eaten with any meal. They are very acceptable cut in thin slices, and eaton with bread and butter. Stowed fruits often have their virtues wasted through being eaten at the wrong time. Six or eight stewed prunes half an hour before breakfast are beneficial; so are stewed figs or stewed apples eaten before breakfast.

Peeled oranges cut into thin slices so that the juice is set free, with castor sugar strewn over the slices, are not unlike pineapple and form a highly efficacious aid to digestion. Grapes should never be eaten except after the chief meal of the day. Taken when the stomach is comparatively empty, they are a specially harmful fruit.-Family Doctor.

A Terrible Punishment. She was about ten years old, and apparently very unhappy. A swollen face served to diagnose the case at a' giance as an advanced stage of toothsche. Over the door they entered was a sign which, being interpreted, read "Doctor of Dental Surgery."

The mother led her to the operating chair and smoothed back her tousled hair as she laid her head in the little rest. Looking her straight in her eye, with finger poised for emphasis, the mother said: "Now, Edith, if you cry, I'll never take you to a dentist again."—Lippincott's.

#### Praise and Flattery. There is just this difference between

the two degrees of praise and flattery —that whereas the former heartens up to brave, and ever braver dudeavor, the latter checks self-culture and destroys future progress by making one believe in attainment. According to the finiterer, the goal has been won and the great plateau of perfection reached; there are no more dreary distances to traverse, no more rugged mountain sides to olimb. All that is peeded is to enjoy what one has, and be grateful and glad for what one is.

### ALIGHTED FROM CAR SAFELY

Imperative Woman Lets It Be Known She is No "Daddy Longlegs" and Gets Off Uninjured.

An unusual sort of woman was about to leave a car. It was a new car and its soats were so high in the air that as the passengers climbed up to them their efforts would have made a star feature of a comic supplement

The unusual sort of woman made elaborate preparations for her departure. First she caught the attention of the conductor; then she arose from her seat, raised her hand and turned slowly around; then she called out, with a loud imperativeness that commanded the interest of every passenger in the car:

"I want you folks to take notice of what I do, because I may need you on the witness stand before I'm through. You driver, do you hear me?"

As the car had stopped and the man at the crank was as motionless as if he were blue granite instead of blue cloth, the unusual sort of woman must have taken it to mean that he heard, for she went on:

"If you start this car before I get off I'll sue you for damages and prove it by these people. L want you to understand I'm no daddy longlegs-"

She landed in safety, to the hilarious enjoyment of the passengers, and when she had waved permission for the car to resume its duties the motorman moved on.—Washington Star.

### BIG SHIPS INSURE COMFORT

Immunity From Rolling and Pitching Puts Premium on Large Vesseis Like the Mauretania.

Notwithstanding the beneficial effects which many receive from a sea voyage, making the slow boats desirable for that reason, there is no doubt that the passenger steamer from this time on will be the large, fast boat. The immunity from rolling and pitching, which is scarcely noticed on a ship like the Mauretania. where the 20,000-ton and less vessels would experience a rough passage, puts a positive premium on the big boats. Then, aside from those passengers who are naturally poor sailors, are the constantly increasing number who cross once or more each year on business, and to whom time and comfort are essential features. For travel, the big ship will eventually supersede the smaller ones, as fast as they are retired, although the cost in weight and fuel consumption makes it unlikely that any substantial low-

ering of speed is to be expected. Before vessels of greater length than 1,000 feet can be used, there must be new docks, as present docking facilities, on both sides, have al ready reached their limit. A thousand-foot ship today would project 150 feet beyond any pier in New York where such a ship could lay -H. H. Windsor in Popular Mechanics.

# Boston Schools Less Democratic.

Mrs. Ella Flagg Young, the able woman who revised the system of the Chicago public schools during her one year as superintendent, and who was in Boston recently, was asked what she thought of the public schools of the Hub, and, after a pause in which she seemed to weigh her answer carefully she replied: "The Chicago schools are more democratic than those in Boston." She said she regarded this as an advantage, but she would not go into details concerning the Boston system. She pointed out, however, that many school systems were tending to make a great machine out of the schools, and that thus the individuality of the pupils was lost sight of. "I believe," said she, "that the minimum salary of any school teacher should be \$1,500 a year, and at that salary I am confident that we should have a class of women who could cope intelligently with the question of individuality." She said she would pay teachers of cooking that galary.

# The Normans.

The Normans were Northmen, er to be precise, the descendants of Northmen, who had been expelled from their native Norway in consequence of an effort on their part to subvert its institutions and to make its lands hereditary, instead of being divisible among all the sons of the former owner. A band of expatriated outlaws and robbers, they won and held the fair province of northern France, which they named Normandy. When they invaded England they were Frenchmen only in the sense that they had lived for some generations on French soft. In blood they belonged to the great Germanic breed, along with the Anglo-Saxons, Danes and other Scandinavian and German

Nothing is Perfect.

Robert Henri, the noted portrait: painter, painted the portrait of a. young New York matron whose faces was slightly scarred from an automobile accident.

"I feel dreadfully about this scar," the young woman said. "Why, it's nothing," said the paint-

done."

"Nevertheless, I losthe it," she declared. "On account of it I hesitated! a long time about getting my portrait.

Mr. Henri amiled. "A scar like that would never show; to a portrait," said he. "A scar, be-sides," he added, "should never detar any one from posing. Even the Venue de Milo, you know, is chipped."

L'ABEILLE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLEANS

tro-do- en Lopinicas st dans to mai for Enate lies Breit (Br. onbilettell'after liens institutional lessonations des l'Existène de l'Année de l ittica ablasecial a BLLL.