

RAT CATCHERS.

One of the Methods by Which They Make Big Hauls.

"Rat catchers, like horse tamers, try to make a mystery of their trade," said a zoo keeper.

He pointed toward the large gray rats that played about the corners of the carnivora house.

"But they can't mystify me in any phase of the rat question," he went on. "Living as I do, surrounded by an army of the largest, finest rats, I know the animals too thoroughly. I could set up as a successful rat catcher tomorrow."

"This is the way the men work. They go to the infested place late at night with a pair of tongs, a powerful lantern and a lot of bags.

"They walk softly about in the darkness, and they make a low, chattering, whistling noise, like this."

"At the sound all the rats in the corners of the big room looked at the keeper inquiringly. He went on:

"This is the signal whereby a rat tells his mates that he has lit on good feeding. That sound made in the dark gathers rats as molasses gathers flies. The catcher, having made it, opens his strong lantern, the rats are dazzled by the light, and he picks them up with his tongs and drops them in his bag. "Of course there are other ways to catch rats, but of the secret, mysterious ones this is the best."—Exchange.

A CEYLON PLAGUE.

The Land Leeches Are Worse Than the Snakes or Mosquitoes.

It is nearly always the case that exceedingly beautiful countries are overrun by different kinds of pests. Beautiful Ceylon has mosquitoes said to be the most adroit and audacious in the world and snakes and a thousand more plagues of poor human beings, but the worst of them all is a species of leech. The Ceylon land leech is a thin creature about two inches long and very nimble and flexible. It will crawl up a man's leg and, traveling underneath the clothing, will climb as high as the throat. These leeches do not crawl like the leeches that are known to medicine, but rear themselves up on their tails to watch for prey and walk off to attack it with amazing rapidity. In walking through the jungle hosts of them may be seen by the roadside, where they wait to victimize cattle. Horses, it is said, are driven half wild by them, as also are palanquin bearers and coolies, whose bare legs are their favorite resort, the men's hands being too engaged to pull them off. The leeches may be seen hanging round their ankles, from which tiny trickles of blood run over the foot.—London Standard.

Rapid Transit.

An express on a certain railroad was tearing away at a wild and inspiring rate of six miles an hour, when all of a sudden it stopped altogether. Most of the passengers did not notice the difference, but one of them happened to be somewhat anxious to reach his destination before old age claimed him for its own. He put his head through the window to find that the cause of the stop was a cow on the track. After awhile they continued the journey for half an hour or so, and then—another stop.

"What's wrong now?" asked the impatient passenger of the conductor. "A cow on the track."

"But I thought you drove it off." "So we did," said the conductor. "but we caught up with it again."—Ladies' Home Journal.

The Cheapest Way.

"That tobacco ye're smokin' hae a richt bonnie smell, Willie," said the Caledonian tradesman.

"Aye!" assented Willie. "An' it's gude tobacco and cheap. In fact, I get it cheaper than the tobaccoist hissel!"

"Hoots, mon!" exclaimed the knowing tradesman. "That's an impossibility! Ye canna get it cheaper than the tobaccoist hissel!" It isna likely.

"Aye, but I do," asserted Willie, lowering his voice. "Ye see, there happens to be a briter o' my ain wife's in the shop!"

Breaking It Gently.

"I understand, sir, that you are the possessor of a swollen fortune."

"Well," gruffly answered the beautiful girl's father, "what is that to you?"

"I merely thought that I would give you due notice of my intention to help take the swelling out of it. Myrtle and I are going to be married."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Quite Likely.

"I didn't see you at our euchre the other night," said the bachelor.

"No," replied the young Benedict, "as far as euchre goes with me now, I consider 'home' the right bower."

"That's all right while hearts are trump, but I suppose if clubs should turn up it would be the left bower."—Philadelphia Press.

Dangerous.

First Actor—I thought your next tour was to have been through South Africa. Second Actor—It was, but the company struck. One of them had read that an ostrich egg often weighs two or three pounds.

Corrected.

"I wish I had never learned to play cards," exclaimed a man who had been unfortunate at the game.

"You mean you wish you had learned, didn't you?" was his wife's rejoinder.

Names in Alaska.

Life in Alaska is uncouth in parts, but it has its refinements. In Valdes there lived a man named Jake, who kept a boarding house for dogs. When the prospectors returned from their sled trips they would place their tents in his charge until ready to start out again. As he fed his guests on garbage gathered by a house to house canvass, he was known by every one as "Slop Jake."

Once upon a time he fell ill, and the newspaper wished to chronicle the fact. No one, however, knew Jake's other name, and it didn't seem worth while to waste the time of the editorial staff on so insignificant a detail. So the news was printed thus:

"Our well known fellow citizen, S. Jake, is confined to his house with a severe cold. It is hoped he will be out soon."—New York Times.

Feeling the Beans.

A Yankee of the quaint old time type was preparing to bestow a coat of whitewash on his henhouse one spring long ago. He had completed the mixing of the whitewash, a writer in the Manchester Union says, and looking round for something on which to try it, he picked up a bean pole and ran the brush over it. Another local character, who was driving by, stopped his horse and called out: "Hello! What ye whitewashing your bean poles for?"

"Thought everybody knew that beans grow better on birch poles," returned the other without pausing in his work.

"Ye don't expect to make birch poles that way, do ye?"

"Mebbe not, but whitening of 'em 'll make the beans think the poles are birch anyhow."

Origin of Cemeteries.

In ancient times burials were always outside the walls of a city or town. Indeed, before the time of Christianity it was not lawful to bury the dead within the limits. About the end of the sixth century St. Augustine obtained of King Ethelbert a temple of idols—used by the king before his conversion—and made a burying place of it. And St. Cuthbert afterward obtained leave of the pope (A. D. 752) to have yards made to the churches suitable for the burial of the dead.

The Little Ones.

It was a bright and very original little boy named Barber, who, upon hearing his father speak of "their neighbor Mr. Wood and his children, the little splinters," and of another neighbor, "Mr. Stone and the little pebbles," remarked: "I suppose if they met papa they would say: 'Good morning, Mr. Barber. How are all the little shavers?'"

His Advantage.

"You can't spell long words like hippopotamus and parallelogram," said the little boy who wore spectacles and a sailor suit.

"Well," answered the boy who was leading a dog by a piece of rope, "dar's where I'm lucky. I don't have to."

Four Kinds of Trouble.

Judge—What have you to say as to the charge that while the husband of one woman you married three others? Bigamist—Simply this—that having four of a kind isn't what it is cracked up to be.

No School.

The teacher was giving an exposition on culpable homicide.

"If I went out in a small boat," he said, "and the owner knew it was leaking, and I got drowned, what would that be?"

After a few minutes' silence a little boy stood up and said:

"A holiday, sir!"

An Invitation.

Fred—Last night as you stood in the moonlight I couldn't help but think how much I would like to kiss you.

Freda—Well, the poet says, "The thought of yesterday is the action of today."

Constitutional Amendments

AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION PROPOSED TO THE CITIZENS OF THE COMMONWEALTH FOR THEIR APPROVAL OR REJECTION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA, PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH, IN PURSUANCE OF ARTICLE XVIII OF THE CONSTITUTION.

NUMBER ONE. A JOINT RESOLUTION. Proposing amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as follows:

Section 1. Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly met, That the following amendments to the Constitution of Pennsylvania be, and the same are hereby, proposed in accordance with the eighteenth article thereof:—

That section six of article five be amended by striking out the said section and inserting in place thereof the following:—

Section 6. In the counties of Philadelphia and Allegheny all the jurisdiction and powers now vested in the several hundred courts of common pleas, shall be vested in one court of common pleas in each of said counties, composed of all the judges in commission in said counties. Such jurisdiction and powers shall extend to all proceedings at law and in equity which shall have been instituted in the several numbered courts, and shall be subject to such changes as may be made by law, subject to change of venue as provided by law. The president judge of each of the said courts shall be selected as provided by law. The number of judges in each of said courts may be, by law, increased from time to time. This amendment shall take effect on the first Monday of January succeeding its adoption.

Section 7. That article five, section eight, be amended by making an addition thereto so that the same shall read as follows:—

Section 8. The said courts in the counties of Philadelphia and Allegheny respectively shall, from time to time, in turn, details one or more of their judges to hold the courts of oyer and terminer and the courts of quarter sessions of the peace in such manner as may be directed by law; Provided, That in the county of Philadelphia the General Assembly shall have power to establish a separate court, consisting of not more than four judges, which shall have exclusive jurisdiction in criminal cases and in such other matters as may be provided by law.

A true copy of Joint Resolution No. 1.

ROBERT McAFEE, Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Constitutional Amendments

WEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH, IN PURSUANCE OF ARTICLE XVIII OF THE CONSTITUTION.

NUMBER TWO. A JOINT RESOLUTION. Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as follows:

Section 1. The debt of any county, city, borough, township, school district, or other municipal or incorporated district, except as herein provided, shall never exceed ten per centum upon the assessed value of the taxable property therein; nor shall any such municipality or district incur any new debt or increase its indebtedness, without the assent of the qualified electors thereof, in such manner as shall be provided by law; but any city, the debt which now exceeds seven per centum of such assessed valuation may be authorized by law to increase such debt to the extent of the percentage, at any one time, upon such valuation," be amended, in accordance with the provisions of the eighteenth article of said Constitution, so that said section, when amended, shall read as follows:—

Section 2. The debt of any county, city, borough, township, school district, or other municipal or incorporated district, except as herein provided, shall never exceed ten per centum upon the assessed value of the taxable property therein; nor shall any such municipality or district incur any new debt or increase its indebtedness, without the assent of the qualified electors thereof, in such manner as shall be provided by law; but any city, the debt which now exceeds seven per centum of such assessed valuation, may be authorized by law to increase such debt to the extent of the percentage, at any one time, upon such valuation," be amended, in accordance with the provisions of the eighteenth article of said Constitution, so that said section, when amended, shall read as follows:—

Section 3. The debt of any county, city, borough, township, school district, or other municipal or incorporated district, except as herein provided, shall never exceed ten per centum upon the assessed value of the taxable property therein; nor shall any such municipality or district incur any new debt or increase its indebtedness, without the assent of the qualified electors thereof, in such manner as shall be provided by law.

A true copy of Joint Resolution No. 2.

ROBERT McAFEE, Secretary of the Commonwealth.

AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION PROPOSED TO THE CITIZENS OF THE COMMONWEALTH FOR THEIR APPROVAL OR REJECTION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA, PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH, IN PURSUANCE OF ARTICLE XVIII OF THE CONSTITUTION.

NUMBER THREE. A JOINT RESOLUTION. Proposing amendments to sections eight and twenty-one of article four, sections eleven and twelve of article five, sections two, three, and fourteen of article six, and sections seven and eight of article fourteen, of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, and inserting the amendments into effect.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly met, That the following amendments to the Constitution of Pennsylvania, in accordance with the provisions of the eighteenth article thereof, be, and the same are hereby, proposed:—

Section 2. Amend section eight of article four of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, which reads as follows:—

Section 3. Amend section eight of article four of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, which reads as follows:—

Section 4. Amend section eight of article four of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, which reads as follows:—

Section 5. Amend section eight of article four of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, which reads as follows:—

Section 6. Amend section eight of article four of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, which reads as follows:—

Section 7. Amend section eight of article four of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, which reads as follows:—

Section 8. Amend section eight of article four of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, which reads as follows:—

Section 9. Amend section eight of article four of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, which reads as follows:—

Section 10. Amend section eight of article four of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, which reads as follows:—

Section 11. Amend section eight of article four of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, which reads as follows:—

Section 12. Amend section eight of article four of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, which reads as follows:—

Section 13. Amend section eight of article four of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, which reads as follows:—

Section 14. Amend section eight of article four of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, which reads as follows:—

Section 15. Amend section eight of article four of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, which reads as follows:—

Section 16. Amend section eight of article four of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, which reads as follows:—

A true copy of Joint Resolution No. 3.

ROBERT McAFEE, Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Constitutional Amendments

only by fixed salaries, to be paid by said county and shall exercise such jurisdiction, civil and criminal, except as herein provided, as now exercised by aldermen, subject to such changes, not involving an increase of civil jurisdiction, as may be made by law. In Philadelphia the office of alderman is abolished," so as to read as follows:—

In Philadelphia there shall be established, for each thirty thousand inhabitants, one court, not of record, of police and civil causes, with jurisdiction not exceeding one hundred dollars, to be paid by said county; and shall exercise such jurisdiction, civil and criminal, as now exercised by aldermen, subject to such changes, not involving an increase of civil jurisdiction, as may be made by law. In Philadelphia the office of alderman is abolished."

Amendment Five—To Article Eight, Section Two. Section 6. Amend section two of article eight, which reads as follows:—

The general election shall be held annually on the Tuesday next following the first Monday of November in each even-numbered year, but the General Assembly may by law fix a different day, two-thirds of all the members of each House consenting thereto, so as to read:—

The general election shall be held annually on the Tuesday next following the first Monday of November in each even-numbered year, but the General Assembly may by law fix a different day, two-thirds of all the members of each House consenting thereto: Provided, That such election shall always be held in an even-numbered year.

Amendment Six—To Article Eight, Section Three. Section 7. Amend section three of article eight, which reads as follows:—

"All elections for city, ward, borough and township officers, for regular terms of service, shall be held on the third Tuesday of February, so as to read:—

All judges elected by the electors of the county shall be elected on the third Tuesday of February, so as to read:—

District election boards shall consist of a judge and two inspectors, who shall be chosen annually by the citizens. Each elector shall have the right to vote for the judge and one inspector, and each inspector shall appoint one clerk. The first election board for any new district shall be selected, and vacancies in election boards filled as shall be provided by law. Election officers shall be privileged from arrest upon days of election, and while engaged in making up and transmitting returns, except upon warrant of a court of record or judge thereof, for felony, or for wanton breach of the peace, in cities they may claim exemption from jury duty during the terms of service," so as to read:—

District election boards shall consist of a judge and two inspectors, who shall be chosen annually by the citizens at a meeting held on the third Tuesday of February, for the purpose of regulating the appointment of said boards may be enacted to apply to cities only: Provided, That such law be uniform or cities of the same class. Each elector shall have the right to vote for the judge and one inspector, and each inspector shall appoint one clerk. The first election board for any new district shall be selected, and vacancies in election boards filled as shall be provided by law. Election officers shall be privileged from arrest upon days of election, and while engaged in making up and transmitting returns, except upon warrant of a court of record, or judge thereof, for an election fraud, for felony, or for wanton breach of the peace. In cities they may claim exemption from jury duty during the terms of service.

Section 8. Amend section one, article twelve, which reads as follows:—

"All officers, whose selection is not provided for in this Constitution, shall be elected or appointed as may be directed by law, so as to read:—

"All officers, whose selection is not provided for in this Constitution, shall be elected or appointed as may be directed by law: Provided, That elections of state officers shall be held on a general election day, and elections of local officers shall be held on a municipal election day, except when in either case special elections may be required to fill unexpired terms."

Section 9. Amend section one, article twelve, which reads as follows:—

Section 10. Amend section one, article twelve, which reads as follows:—

Section 11. Amend section one, article twelve, which reads as follows:—

Section 12. Amend section one, article twelve, which reads as follows:—

Section 13. Amend section one, article twelve, which reads as follows:—

Section 14. Amend section one, article twelve, which reads as follows:—

Section 15. Amend section one, article twelve, which reads as follows:—

Section 16. Amend section one, article twelve, which reads as follows:—

Section 17. Amend section one, article twelve, which reads as follows:—

Section 18. Amend section one, article twelve, which reads as follows:—

Section 19. Amend section one, article twelve, which reads as follows:—

A true copy of Joint Resolution No. 4.

ROBERT McAFEE, Secretary of the Commonwealth.

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