

CHILDREN BORN IN BUNCHES

Tuscan Woman Gave Birth to Eleven Sons in Two Years—Her Total Sixty-Two.

The comedian who walked into a London dairy which exhibited the legend in its window, "Families Supplied," and said he would take "a boy and a girl, please," might have been more successful in America, whence comes the news that a wife has presented her husband with eight babies in one day, says London Answers.

In the very same week the information was forthcoming that a young waitress at Durban had given birth to four children, and the announcement was accompanied by the assurance that "all were doing well."

Some years ago a Palermo woman, Ross Salem, presented her husband with five boys, all well formed, and, according to the doctor, "eating well and crying well." But she was a long way from wrestling the record from the peasant girl Gravata of Tuscany.

Gravata was the twin daughter of a woman who was one of triplets. The daughter married a man of her own class. She set the seal on the family reputation when she made her husband a present of six sons and followed the next year with five more!

After this she had triplets twice, which were followed by a quartette. Then ensued a procession of ones and twos, and, finally, came four boys all together. This brought the aggregate number of her living children up to 62, and assured her fame in obstetrical annals as "the Gravata case."

Brand's "History of Newcastle" credits a similar feat to the wife of a poor weaver in Scotland, but does not state how many children arrived at one and the same time. Her family, however, numbered 62. Of these 46 boys and 4 girls survived to manhood and womanhood.

FARMERS THEIR OWN BOSSES

Government Surveyors Say Four-Fifths Own Their Land and Therefore Are Independent.

Government surveyors report now that eight out of each ten farmers in the United States are their own boss, while the same proportion of mechanics work for somebody else. The argument, of course, is for the advantage of independence the farmer has, and this ought to have great weight in any consideration given the problem.

Out of 10,682,944 individuals engaged at farm work in the United States 8,240,400 are classified as employers and independent workers. This means that they either own all or part of the plant and machinery employed in producing their output. Not all are land owners, but those who rent own a sufficient proportion of the machinery to give them the sense of proprietorship. It is this quality that gives them independence in action, says the Omaha Bee.

The farmer who owns his lands or his tools is independent because he works for himself, employing his own capital as well as his own labor. While this condition prevails in America the republic is in very slight danger of revolution, for citizens so substantial as these are not given to revolt. They may combine to effect changes, but they do not strike at the foundations of liberty.

Swallows Obey Whistle.

An expert in bird lore has been making a study of the peculiar actions of several hundreds of chimney swallows that make their home in the tall chimney of a paper mill in Oneka, Conn. He has discovered that at exactly 6 o'clock each morning, when the whistle blows at a mill three miles away the hundreds of swallows rise from the chimney and fly away to their daily hunting grounds just as promptly as the hundreds of human workers answer the whistle. For two months, he says, they have not been absent or tardy. At night the birds return in small groups.

Preventable.

Sickness costs the United States \$900,000,000 a year in lost wages and the total loss from preventable diseases and deaths is nearly \$3,000,000,000, according to the national health council. How much of this could be prevented by better laws to ensure pure water and milk, and abolish slums and overwork and overcrowding? How much by shutting out low-grade emigration?

Laughter Caused Death.

The metaphor, "dying of laughter," was translated into real fact in the case of an elderly man in Philadelphia, who was so tickled at the drollery of a movie comedian that he was unable to control his laughter and suddenly collapsed, dying in the arms of a woman sitting beside him. Physicians said that the victim's heart had been ruptured.

Citron's Remarkable Vitality.

A citron that she raised in 1921 was kept in the dining room of a St. Johnsbury (Vt.) woman. Wanting some seeds to start some plants in window boxes recently, she cut the citron open and found that part of the seeds had sprouted, one of the sprouts being nearly three inches long. The citron appeared to be in perfect condition.

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FAT MEN HAVE ADVANTAGE

Under Certain Conditions They Are Able to Endure More Than Their Slimmer Comrades.

In the diligent research made into questions of temperature, and the effect of heat on the physical condition, by the American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers, in cooperation with the United States bureau of mines and the Carnegie Institute of Technology, it was discovered that fat men endure high temperatures and excessive humidity better than thin men, and, further, that the drinking of ice water when overheated does not necessarily have evil effects.

"It has frequently been stated," says the report, "that workers exposed to high temperatures developed severe cramps after drinking ice water. A few of the subjects of these experiments volunteered to drink ice water after about an hour's exposure to high temperature, and two of them, in one experiment, drank a quart of ice water in less than fifteen minutes without ill effects. Cramps did not develop in any of the subjects at any time."

On entering and leaving the specially heated chamber, the report shows loss of weight varied with the individual, the heavier and stouter men losing more than the light and thin one. Notwithstanding this, the lighter man, as a rule, could not endure the temperature conditions as long, and complained more of the exhaustion which followed.

SWEDEN SAVES HER FORESTS

Country Has Comprehensive System Which Has Materially Added to the National Wealth.

Reforestation has been carried on in Sweden as a general practice for so many years that there are no cut-over lands such as one sees in this section of the country, according to E. J. Hanzlik, local forest examiner in the United States forestry service, who recently returned from Sweden, where he studied for a year as a fellow of the American-Scandinavian foundation. "Sentiment is crystallized in Sweden so that forestry is an established thing," Mr. Hanzlik said.

Mr. Hanzlik is the first forestry representative of the Pacific coast who ever was sent abroad by the foundation. He attended the Swedish forestry institute in Stockholm and studied at the headquarters of the Swedish forest service and experiment station. The purpose of the fellowship is to assist in an exchange of ideals between countries.

Wages in Sweden are generally much lower than in Oregon, Mr. Hanzlik said. The average wage in Sweden is \$1.50 and \$2 for the man who is working in the woods or in the saw mills, he added.

Horsepower Machine.

Individuals who claim to feel as "strong as a horse" may now have the opportunity to put their strength to a test. A device known as the eurometer, which gauges the strength of human beings in terms of horsepower, has been perfected. It consists of a bicycle transmission and a handwheel geared to a cylinder, which offers resistance to the motion of the transmission. The person being tested is required to maintain the velocity of the resisting cylinder at a predetermined number of revolutions per minute. When the machine is in motion a weight brake is gradually applied until the revolutions fall below a given standard. The weight registers upon a scale beam, on which the horsepower is the unit of measure.

Not a Silver Lining.

Just before the children, Mattie, Sadie, Sam and Lint, were to go away to school, their uncle, who was paying their tuition, called them to him. Visions of a bountiful allowance danced before the eyes of the young scholars, especially the boys.

They walked the hot and dusty mile, up hill, to their uncle's house. Dutifully they listened to a lecture of "do's" and "don'ts." Finally uncle reached into his "money" pocket.

He pulled out some stamps. To each child he gave enough stamps to last all term. The boys looked chagrined. The girls giggled at the boys. All thanked him and trudged the mile to their home.

Santo Domingo's Sad Story.

When Columbus first landed on Santo Domingo the native population numbered, according to the lowest estimate, 1,000,000 souls. Fifteen years of cruelty and oppression sufficed to reduce their number to less than 60,000, says the Detroit News. Twenty-five years later a wretched remnant of this once happy people, 600 in number, were, through the benevolent exertions of Fr. Las Cases, established in a village by themselves under the last of their chiefs. For many years not a single pure-blooded descendant has existed.

North River Lower Hudson.

The application of the name North river to the lower part of the Hudson dates back to the time of the early Dutch settlement in New Jersey. North river is the historic name of the lower course of the river which flows between Manhattan and the Jerseys. It was north of the New Jersey settlements, just as the Delaware was south, and the two rivers were known to the Dutch colonists as the North river and the South river respectively. —Wide World Magazine.

TIME TO VIEW WITH ALARM

Startling Exploit of Pennsylvania Girl Whose Fiance Was in the Sheriff's Custody.

Had an Oppenheim, a Chambers or a McGrath written a tale a few years ago of a girl who forced her way into a sheriff's home and then, single-handed, freed her fiance from the nearby jail with the aid of the keys and a revolver she obtained in her housebreaking, readers would have been amused at the idea a girl could do such a thing.

But truth continues to make fiction look silly. And times have changed. The Warren (Pa.) girl who did that thing is a type that the writers of shockers have not caught up with as yet. There are policewomen and women deputy sheriffs today—also girl bandits. Milady in her emancipated state both enforces the laws and breaks them. No task is too much for her.

If the facts in this case were as they are told, here was love laughing at the locksmiths and the sheriff and all the embattled array of the forces of law and order. That's the way the movie scenario writers would look at it. Many other persons will take that injudicial attitude toward the exploit of this lass, too.

But are not the ladies going a bit too far? Nobody, not even judges and juries, have objected very strenuously so far to women shooting up their husbands at odd times, even to their snubbing up other people's husbands. But if they are to be permitted to break open the jails to get their chosen ones out of durance, of what use will be jails or policemen or laws even?—Buffalo Evening News.

ECUADOR PINEAPPLES HUGE

They Grow to Weight of Twenty-Five Pounds in the Province of Esmeraldas.

Ecuador is fast becoming a great fruit-growing country, said Frank Edward Kink of Esmeraldas, Ecuador, to the New York Times.

"Pineapples grow to a weight of 25 pounds in the province of Esmeraldas," he declared. "This is about twice the size of the pineapples grown in Hawaii and shows that we must have very superior soil. Moreover, there is no place in the world that produces such large, thin-skinned, seedless oranges."

"Indications are that the province has also a considerable wealth in oil. There are a great number of oil seeps which would indicate a great production of high-gravity oil. The character of this oil is higher than the famous Pennsylvania oil, and has been produced in Ecuador for the last 300 years, but it is only recently that modern machinery has been used for drilling, with excellent success. One month ago an English company brought in a well of 300 barrels an hour of 38 gravity oil. These conditions combine to encourage immigration, which is steadily increasing in Esmeraldas."

Yucatan Likes Wheat Bread.

Corn tortilla, for ages the favorite bread of Yucatecans, is threatened by a modern competitor. Little baking is done in the homes of Yucatan, the frying pan being the standard implement of cookery. The simple but wholesome Mexican tortilla is an article of general diet, but wheat bread is now being widely consumed. The wheat bread supply of the entire peninsula of Yucatan originates in bakeries and consists principally of

long, sour French loaves. According to Consul O. G. Marsh of Progreso about four years ago a progressive Yucatecan opened a modern bakery in Merida equipped with American machinery and using American fresh yeast. This bakery enjoys remarkable success. A great variety of rolls, biscuits, etc., raised with baking powder and containing lard and sugar are purchasable.

Wanted a Change.

Watkins came in from the office and tossed his hat over on the table.

"Hello, Mary," he called.

Mary came from the kitchen to give him her wifely kiss of greeting.

"Here, dearie, I brought you a box of candy tonight," Watkins announced.

Mary was nonplussed for a moment.

"Why, Jimmie, this isn't our wedding anniversary!" she exclaimed.

"And it isn't my birthday—and it isn't— Oh, Jim, you're courting me again!"

"Nope," Jim denied casually. "I just thought a little something sweet would taste good!"

Billiard Balls From Beans.

Billiard balls at present being grown at the Royal Botanic gardens, in England, are the most recently discovered use of the soya bean, whose natural home is in the Far East. But billiard balls are not the only uses to which the soya can be put. It can be utilized as: A substitute for knife and umbrella handles, buckles and beads. As an ingredient of cheese, flour, table oil, cake, sauce and soap. In making lubricating and illuminating oil, glycerin, paint, varnish, celluloid, printing ink, waterproofs, explosives and linoleum.

Discovered.

Little Bobby, who had been playing with a neighbor's daughter, came sobbing to his mother and declared that his little playmate had pulled his hair.

"Why, Bobby," his mother gasped, "I thought she was such a nice little girl she would never do anything like that."

"So did I," wailed Bobby.

"That's why I kicked her."—Los Angeles Times

Curious Musical Instrument.

The ordinary handsaw has appeared as a musical instrument. One seeker after novelties uses a saw as a violin. After long experiment and untiring practice he has actually succeeded in getting an agreeable music from the tool.

He holds the saw handle between his legs, holds the tip of the saw in the other hand and works the usual violin bow with the other. The vibrating steel blade emits soft, appealing notes, the pitch of which is varied by changing the curvature of the blade. All sorts of queer effects can be got by adept manipulation of the blade. Sometimes the music resembles the human voice; again it has the weird wail of the Hawaiian ukulele.

Celluloid Eyes.

By the use of celluloid eyes the blind may be made to see, is the claim made by Professor Katz of the government hospital in Petrograd. It is necessary for the success of the operation that the light-perception nerves shall be intact, as is the case in 50 per cent of cases of blindness. Professor Katz' operation consists in cutting away the withered front part of the eye, setting in the socket a celluloid cup, and allowing the light-perception nerves at the back of the eye to function through this cup. Professor Katz states that he is working on an optophone, by means of which light may be transformed into sound when a patient's optic nerves are dead.

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