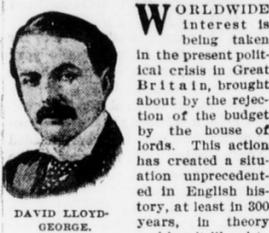


# The Political Crisis In Great Britain



DAVID LLOYD-GEORGE

WORLDWIDE interest is being taken in the present political crisis in Great Britain, brought about by the rejection of the budget by the house of lords. This action has created a situation unprecedented in English history, at least in 500 years, in theory making it illegal to collect taxes and carry on the king's government, and the nation is on the eve of what will no doubt prove one of the bitterest fights known in English history.

When David Lloyd-George, chancellor of the exchequer, on April 29 presented in the house of commons the Liberal government's budget he precipitated the present struggle, which has become historic. Accumulated wealth and "the trade," as the liquor business is popularly called, were made to bear the burden of the £15,762,000 (£78,810,000) deficit of the fiscal year incurred by the old age pensions and the race with Germany for Dreadnoughts.

In a memorandum issued prior to the introduction of the budget the chancellor estimated the revenue for the fiscal year 1909-10 as \$741,550,000 and the expenditures as \$820,700,000. The chancellor pointed out that nearly all branches of trade and industry suffered serious depression, the foreign trade returns showing diminution in value to the amount of nearly \$370,000,000 as compared with 1907.

Foremost among the provisions of the bill to which the lords, the principal landowners in Great Britain, object is the land value tax of 20 per cent on the unearned increment, or the value added to land by the growth of the community and not by any productive enterprise on the part of the landlord. The lords were originally landlords and in feudal times used to contribute their quota of soldiers for the defense of the country. Because of this they were exempted from taxation. When



LORD ROSEBERY

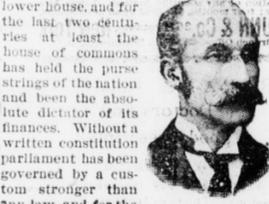
the military system was reorganized the army was recruited directly from the people and the lords were no longer able to furnish the state with troops, but the exemption from taxation remained.

Increased income taxes, death estate and legacies duties, a tax of 20 per cent on future increase in the value of lands due to the enterprise of the community, taxes on motors, to be devoted to keeping up the roads, and stamp taxes on sales of property are the other principal budget levies on wealth.

The debate on the bill in the house of commons began on May 3, but the measure was hung up on several different occasions, and it was not until Nov. 4 that the commons passed the third reading, the vote being 379 to 143.

When the second reading of the budget bill was moved in the house of lords on Nov. 22 Lord Lansdowne, leader of the commons, moved an amendment that it be not read a second time. This amendment was rejected, but its consequences will be felt in the country. This has now been done.

Apart from the question of the provisions of the bill, a grave constitutional crisis is being created by the action of the house of lords. The lords' decisions originate in the lower house, and for the last two centuries at least the house of commons has held the purse strings of the nation and been the absolute dictator of its finances. Without a written constitution parliament has been governed by a custom stronger than any law, and for the first time the house of lords has issued a direct challenge to the commons. Lord Rosebery in his speech in the house of lords called it "the greatest political moment in the lifetime of any man born since 1832."



LORD LANSDOWNE

"When," a hard one, "will you pay this bill?" Smiling, we waved him toward our conference.

"You must ask," we said, "the noble editor."—Exchange.

Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.—Emerson.

"That fellow seems to be extravagant."—Proprietor.

"Hopefully," he said, "his own money just as if it were the government's."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

## WOMAN.

### A Mystery That Keeps Man Eternally On the Guess.

"When woman has ceased to be a mystery she will cease to be of special interest to man," said one among the loveliest of her sex, and she is able to speak as one having authority, for she is comely and has been alive long enough to know whereof she speaks.

And, come to think of it, she is about right—she is right.

It isn't because woman makes of herself a mystery. She's a mystery in spite of herself. And nature alone, being man's superior on earth, seems to be playing woman so as to keep man ever guessing, for as soon as he has succeeded in figuring out one of her equations she hands him another, and so on, and so on.

At first the young man thinks he knows all about all women, but by the time his locks begin to whiten he even knows all about one. Or do you know all about her?

To the laddie they are all kissable, or nearly all, but as time passes the kissable list shortens and shortens until at last—well, you may answer for yourself, but no doubt it is quite short unless you belong to the promiscuous brotherhood.—Pittsburg Gazette-Times.

### Lure of the Heroic.

Why is baseball the game of the summer instead of croquet, and football the game of the autumn instead of tiddewinks? It is the element of conflict, of struggle, that gives to the diamond and the gridiron their empire over the imagination. The whole man goes into baseball, whereas croquet cannot contain the entire personality of any except a very weak dilution of masculinity. The normal man likes a game that tries the player's brawn and sinew, eye and brain, heart and courage.

The fact of the matter is that nothing is more attractive to men than difficulty, hardship, danger. The call of the heroic is irresistible. A case in point is that of a man who left one position for another a few months ago. He turned his back on friends and a sure success to grapple with difficulties of a most unusual kind. His employers offered him everything they could give him to induce him to remain. But one thing they could not duplicate—the opportunity for a struggle such as tries men's souls. That was more to him than the material reward.—St. Louis Republic.

### Tip to the Wayfarer.

"Well," demanded the stern faced woman as she leaned over the red handed broom, "what do you want?"

"Lady," said the wayfarer with the long beard and matted chin, "I'm an actor by profession and in hard luck."

"Well, what have I to do with that?"

"Why—er—I was thinking if you could spare me a quarter to get a shave and a hair cut I could get a job in the role of Virgilius."

She eyed him disdainfully.

"Oh, that's a poor excuse," she said, with a curl of her thin lip. "Go up to the town without a shave and a hair cut and get a job in the role of Rip Van Winkle."

And before he could say another word she started to unchain the dog.—Chicago News.

### Why We Laugh.

Laughter seems to be a specialized form of either the scream of a startled or injured animal or the cry of triumph common to many beasts of prey. In children the cry of terror and the shout of laughter often shade into each other, and the young child screaming from pursuit will scream with laughter or fear, according to his chances of escape. Some unexpected event that causes slight alarm short of actual terror is the commonest cause of children's laughter, but in adults some sudden event that gives a sensation of triumph over others has much more influence. Really clever jokes seldom cause laughter, and it has been pointed out that a man chasing his hat will produce laughter far more hearty in character than the best efforts of the cleverest wit. The sight of ill fortune in another causes by contrast a feeling of triumph in ourselves. The ticklish parts of the body are for the most part the sites of important blood vessels, and the laughter produced in children by tickling is even more closely allied to the cry of pain.

### And yet the King Died.

During the fatal illness of King Charles I. of England there were fourteen doctors in attendance, and they dosed him in the course of five and a half days with the following drugs and powders: Orange infusion of the metals, white vitriol dissolved in compound poney water, powder of sacred bitter, sirup of buckthorn, common decoction for clysters, rock salt, emetic wine, two blend pills, bryony compound, powder of white hellebore roots, powder of cowslip flowers, best manna, cream of tartar, barley and flaxseed, sweet almond kernels, sal ammoniac, antidotal milk water, mallow root, melon seeds, chicken broth, bark of elm, a jeep of black cherry water, flowers of lime, lilies of the valley, spirit of lavender, prepared pearls and white sugar candy, senna leaves, ale, sirup of cloves, iron stone, Rhine wine, oriental bezoar stone and a number of other medicines.

### Society's Mandates.

Society can and does execute its own mandates, and if it issues wrong mandates instead of right or any mandates at all in things with which it ought not to meddle it practices a social tyranny more formidable than many kinds of political oppression, since, though not usually upheld by such extreme penalties, it leaves fewer means of escape, penetrating much more deeply into the details of life and enslaving the soul itself.—John Stuart Mill.

### How many things, both just and unjust, are sanctioned by custom!—Tennyson.

Much Rather, rather wait than eat.

Well, she'll find plenty of men who would rather sign a dance program than a dinner check.—Exchange.

Contentment gives a crown where fortune hath denied it.—Ford.

## PLANTED WITH A LION.

### A South African Child Who Ran to Meet the Big "Doggie."

The infant son of one of the Dutch settlers in South Africa had strayed away. After some time a search party discovered little footprints leading in the direction of the bush. Following up these, the search party came upon a large open space, at the farther side of which they discovered the object of their search sitting hugging a little wooden doll and munching a piece of bread and butter. Before they could make their way through the thick, tangled undergrowth a large lion sprang into the clearing. The little boy, far from being frightened, ran to meet the lion, holding up his bread and butter and said, "Take a bite, doggie."

The father stood powerless to move or speak through fear, expecting each instant to see the child crushed under the lion's paw, but instead of doing as he dreaded the lion turned himself over and lay on his back at the child's feet, looking up in his face as a cat would do at play. Watching his opportunity, the father raised his gun and fired, hitting the lion in the leg. The animal sprang up and, leaving the child, rushed on the party, injuring two of the number before it was finally killed. From this circumstance the child was immediately christened by the settlers "Daniel."—London Family Herald.

### Sees Much in Future For Clean and Healthy Sport—Does Not Believe That Present Football Rules Should Be Radically Changed—Enjoys Good Boxing Match.

Everett C. Brown, the new president of the Amateur Athletic union, is the kind of a man who likes to see two healthy boys wrestling in the school yard. He likes a good game of football and enjoys a good boxing match. In fact, there isn't a branch of athletics that he does not approve of. He has pulled a strong oar in his day and has taken part in all sorts of aquatic sports. No athletic club in the United States has better divers and swimmers or a better water polo team than the Chicago Athletic club, of which Mr. Brown is president, and he takes unusual interest in this branch of the sport.

Mr. Brown sees great things in store for the United States athletically. "Although our athletes lead the world now," said Mr. Brown, "we will have even greater athletes in the future, because no country in the world gives the attention to the physical development of the youth as we do in this country. The school playground is a great institution, and it is there that our athletes are developed. In every part of the country the schoolboys are getting more and more in touch with out of door sports, and that's why when they grow up they are able to compete successfully against the world." The United States is the only country that is paying out millions in amateur athletics.

"Ever Ready to Better Conditions." "Amateur athletic affairs in this country are in excellent condition, and I do not believe that any radical reform is necessary. But the Amateur Athletic union is always ready to better amateur conditions, and if any phase of the amateur sport needs reformation the Amateur Athletic union will be only too anxious to meet the situation."

Mr. Brown is an ardent football enthusiast, and, while admitting that the game is rough and has dangerous features, he does not believe that it ought to be radically changed. He believes that further changes in the rules could be made that would lessen the danger of mass play, but he is not in favor of abolishing tackling or scrimmaging, the two exciting features of American football, which, he says, make the gridiron game such a thrilling sport.

Another branch of sport of which Mr. Brown is especially fond is boxing. "There is no more reason for stopping professional boxing than there is professional wrestling, or, for that matter, any other branch of sport," said Mr. Brown. "It is good, healthy, manly exercise and calls for courage and skill and could be regulated and maintained at a high standard among athletic sports."

### WAITED FOR HEALY.

#### An Incident of the Land League Agitation in Ireland.

One morning during the Land League agitation Mr. Parnell left Dublin by the early mail train for Roscommon to address a meeting. On arriving in the town he received a telegram from Dublin which ran:

Missed mail train. Will get down at 3 o'clock. Postpone meeting till I arrive.—HEALY.

Mr. Parnell was pleased to learn that T. M. Healy, M. P., was coming down. Delighted, too, were the local promoters of the demonstration, and the meeting was gladly postponed for a few hours.

At 3 o'clock the railway station and its approaches were thronged with people with bands and banners, and the train from Dublin steamed in and the train pulled up a carriage door opened, and the local reception committee rushed to it, when out stepped "Healy," but it was not E. M. Healy, M. P. It was W. Wallace Healy, a well known reporter on the staff of the Irish Times.

He had been assigned to the Roscommon meeting, had missed the mail train, and it was most important that his paper should have a report of Mr. Parnell's speech; hence the telegram.—Pearson's Weekly.

### ODD RACE ACROSS AFRICA.

#### German Officer Suggests a Go-as-you-please Contest.

Lieutenant Paul Graetz of the German army, who recently crossed Africa in an automobile, has launched a novel project for a go-as-you-please race across Africa. Competitors will be allowed to walk or use any other means of locomotion known to man except a railway.

Graetz, who will enter the contest himself, agrees not to employ his automobile, with which it took him 630 days to bisect the dark continent, but he may resort to a flying machine, balloon, dirigible airship, motorcycle, bicycle, horse, donkey, zebra, giraffe, or native drawn cart. For the present he is not saying which. He plans that the race shall start on March 1, 1910, at some point on the east coast not farther south than the twentieth degree of north latitude.

The lieutenant thinks that the contest, apart from its sporting aspect, ought to produce valuable scientific and economic results. He hopes that adventurous Americans may be induced to enter his transafrican scramble.

### THE ANIMAL MIND.

#### A Story About a Cow and the Calf She Licked.

An absurd story is cited about a cow, showing what creatures of habit animals are. This particular cow would not stand to be milked unless she could lick her calf at the same time. For a long time she always had a calf of some age or other to lick, but at last by ill fortune one of her calves died.

There is no reason why a bereaved mother should mourn her loss just at milking time, but there was the fixed habit of licking certain motions. The farmer, however, was a practical psychologist. He studied the skin of the calf with hay and let the cow lick that to lick. To be sure, the tiny calf had neither head nor legs, but the cow has no general ideas concerning the nature of calves nor any special reason for assuming that calves should have heads and legs. It felt right, and it smelled right. It enabled her to go through the customary motions at milking time. Therefore it was sufficient.

By dint of caressing and licking her little calf the tender parent one fine morning whirped it. The hay issued from within, and the cow, manifesting not the slightest surprise or agitation, proceeded tranquilly to devour the unexpected provender.

### Takes Snapshots of Microbes.

Before the Paris Academy of Sciences Jona Comandon announced recently the discovery of a new method of photographing bacilli by the combined use of an ultramicroscope and a cinematograph. The discovery is considered of first importance, opening as it does a new field for the study of microbial action.

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### Zealous.

"A country convert," full of zeal, in his first prayer meeting remarks of fervid himself for service. "I am ready to do anything the Lord asks of me," said he, "so long as it's honorable."

Degrees of Hunger.

"I'm simply starving," cried the short story writer at the Hungry club "I wish they'd begin dinner."

"I never saw you when you were starving," said the poet.

"I'm never as hungry as you are, though," the short story writer declared, "because I don't eat."—New York Press.

Very Needed.

"John—Will you bring me a fork, sir, please?"

"Customer—What for?—John—The cheese, sir. The Customer—A fork's no good. Bring a revolver.—London Sketch.

## AUTHORITY ON AMATEUR SPORTS

### E. C. Brown, New A. A. U. Leader, Fond of Athletics.

## ONCE A CHAMPION SCULLER.

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### Active in Athletic Meets.

For five years Mr. Brown has given up much of his time to the athletic teams of the Chicago Athletic club. He took teams to the St. Louis exposition, to competitors in the south and east and back to Chicago. As athletes at Seattle and other big athletic carnivals on the coast. He was with the American team at the Olympic games last year and has had an active part in athletic affairs of every kind.

The new president was a champion sculler. In 1888 he won the junior sculling championship at Philadelphia, representing the Farragut Boat club of Chicago. He won the Mississippi championship under the auspices of the Chicago Navy in 1890 and established a record scull, going over a course on Calumet lake, Chicago, in which there was one turn in 10 minutes 5 seconds. He completed in all the big regattas as a member of the Farragut Boat club crews and was also a member of the club's other athletic regattas.

Mr. Brown was born in Oneida, Ill., and attended the Chicago grammar and high schools. He attended the Chicago College of Law and the law department of Lake Forest university, receiving a degree of bachelor of law from the latter institution.

Mr. Brown first became identified with the Amateur Athletic union in 1903, when he was sent as a delegate from the Chicago Athletic association. He is a member of the Chicago Yacht club, the South Shore Country club and is general manager of a live stock commission company.

### Railroad a Game Protector.

The locust groves planted on abandoned ground by the Pennsylvania railroad in Pennsylvania have turned out to be great places for preserving rabbits for the next year's crop. The chickens are too jaggy for pet hunters to shoot them in the squats, while the buffe dogs among the small trees and refuse to leave their retreat to be shot.

### Breaking the Fast in Ramadan.

The Arabs say Ramadan; the Persians and Turks say Ramazan. They all observe throughout the month a species of fast that has no precise counterpart in the west. So long as the sun is in the sky food or drink of any kind may not pass the true believer's lips. He is not even allowed the sweet solace of a cigarette. But from the firing of the sunset guns until it is light enough to distinguish a black bar from a white he may feast to surfeiting. Watchmen will patrol the streets with drums to warn him that his moments of grace are numbered, and cannon once more announce the ending.

Nothing is more characteristic of late afternoon in Ramadan than the preparations for the evening meal which preoccupy all Moslems, particularly those who work with their hands. As the sun nears the horizon fires are lighted, tables are spread, bread is broken, water is poured out, cigarettes are rolled, and hands are lifted high to the mouth in expectation of the signal that gives liberty to eat. This breaking of the daytime fast is called iftar and is an institution in itself. To be invited to iftar is a particular mark of friendship.—Scribner's Magazine.

## FILIPINO WOMEN.

### Their Cares Begin Early, and They Win Husbands by Hard Work.

"Filipino women know how to win husbands," says an American woman who is living at Manila. "It is a common thing in the islands to see a girl, young and brown and strong, crushing rice with a heavy wooden mallet, while around her sit a number of admiring swains, looking on, but never dreaming of offering to help. And the girl doesn't expect it. She pounds cheerfully away, and by and by her reward comes in a husband to work for."

"Life acustoms the Filipino woman to labor at a very early age. As a tiny girl she is rarely seen without an appendage in the shape of a baby brother or sister perched on her little brown hip. When she grows a few inches taller and a few degrees stronger she is pressed into service as a water carrier, bearing heavy jars of water poled gracefully on her head from the river to her home. Now, too, she works in the fields, and a vivid bit of color she makes in her short kilted scarlet skirt. When she becomes a woman—and she is a woman at fifteen or before—she may have a small shop to tend, and she would like to do it and much other work to do."

"Marriage brings no vacation. She is pretty sure to have many children to care for. She tends the fields, cooks and frequently has a stall in the market for several hours a day. But when the women are really old then their rest time comes. They sit quietly by, looking on as life goes past them, but taking part no more. In spite of the hard labor they have had there is generally a very peaceful look in the brown, wrinkled faces of these old women."—New York Tribune.

### A VICTIM OF WORRY.

#### The Man Who Is Always Expecting Some Kind of Trouble.

There is always a cloud on his face because he is constantly expecting that something unfavorable is going to happen. There is going to be a slump in business, or he is going to have a loss, or somebody is trying to undermine him, or he is worried about his health, or fears his children will be sick or go wrong or be killed.

In other words, although he has achieved quite a remarkable success, yet he has never really had a happy day in his life. All his life this man has been chasing rainbows, thinking if he could only get a little farther on, a little higher up, he would be happy, but he is just as far from it as when a boy.

I believe this condition has all come from the habit of unhappiness which he formed during his hard boyhood and which he has never been able to overcome. He has learned to look for trouble, to expect it, and he gets it.

I have been his guest many a time. He has a beautiful home, a very charming wife, a most delightful family, but there is always the same cloud on his face, the same expression of anxiety, of unhappiness, of foreboding.

A little properly directed training in his boyhood would have changed his whole career, and he would have been a happy, joyous, harmonious man instead of being discordant and unhappy.

There is everything in starting right. What is put into the first life is put into the whole of life.—Success Magazine.

### LANDES SHEPHERDS.

#### French Peasants Who Are Experts in Walking on Stilts.

There is a vast district in France where the entire community goes about and transacts its business on stilts. This district is called "Les Landes." The inhabitants, who are among the poorest peasants in France, gain their subsistence by fishing, by such little agriculture as is possible and by keeping cows and sheep. The shepherds make use of their stilts for two purposes—first, because walking is quite impossible on account of the sage and undergrowth of brush, and second, because the height of their stilts gives them a greater range of vision.

The stilts generally are about six or seven feet high. Near the top there is a support for the "foot," which has a strong strap and strap, and still nearer the top a hand of leather fastens the stilt firmly to the leg just below the knee. Some stilts, especially those made for fancy walking and for tricks, are even higher than seven feet, and the man who uses these— and he must be an expert—can travel as fast as a man on his feet. The lower end of this kind of stilt is capped with a sheep bone to prevent its slipping.

Some of these Landes shepherds are wonderfully clever in the management of their stiffs. They run fences, step or jump over rocks, clear briers and walls and are able to keep their balance and equilibrium while stooping to the ground to pick up pebbles or to gather wild flowers. They fall prone upon their faces and assume their perpendicular without an effort and in a single moment after they have thus prostrated themselves.

### EXPLORATION OF THE ARCTICS.

#### Professor Donald McMillan Will Devote His Life to the Work.

Professor Donald McMillan, who occupied a chair in the mathematical department of Worcester (Mass.) academy prior to his becoming a member of Commander Robert E. Peary's polar expedition, has decided to make arctic exploration his life work and to give up teaching for good and all.

He declares that the arctic life appeals so strongly to him that next summer he will join an expedition to explore thoroughly Crockett's island, that point of land, he believes, Dr. Crockett had seen. Professor McMillan said that this point of land attracted his attention when the Roosevelt passed by on its way north.

"I believe," the explorer said, "that this land will be of much scientific value, and it will be of interesting study to itself to see whether or not Eskimos dwell there."

What expedition he will join Professor McMillan could not say.

### MOUNT ETNA.

#### It Is Said to Hold All the Climates of the Earth.

Mount Etna has furnished more material for travelers' tales than any other mountain on earth. Astonished Englishmen of a century ago, who fell into the fashionable habit of climbing to its highest peak—and some did so, to the amazement of the Sicilians, even in the dead of winter—have left on record in the exuberant language of their day the emotions that thrilled their souls. "The map you reads a Mount Etna," wrote one of these, "is a man about the world. Every river on the island can be traced from his mouth to its source."

"The characters," the same writer continues, "of all the climates of the earth can be detected—the frigid close around one, the temperate with its belt of trees just beneath and the tropical at the base of the mountain, with its vineyards and luxuriant groves. The great ocean around, with the islands of Lipari, Panari, Alicudi, Stromboli and Vulcano, with their smoking summits, appear under your feet, and you look down upon the whole of Sicily as upon a map."

In addition to all the climates, Etna is reported to have trees that rival the giants of California, lakes that never thaw, bottomless caverns and stable snow.—Chicago News.

The Little Thing Counted.

The Pastor (dining with the family)—Ah, yes, Brother Smithers, it is the little things of this life that count! Little Willie (in a loud whisper)—Maw, that's the sixth biscuit he's took.—Exchange.

## MYSOST.

### A Norwegian Cheese That Is Made of Goats' Milk.

There is a terrible kind of Norwegian cheese called "mysost," which is made of goats' milk. It is brown in color and served in the shape of bricks done up in silver paper. The initiated shave this into thin films and make it into a sandwich with black bread and butter. This cheese is really made from the whey after proper cheese has been manufactured. All the water is then boiled out, and the remainder is compressed into these brown bricks, which taste sweet and gritty.

Love of this cheese would take some time to acquire. The opportunity is not lacking, for it appears at every meal, from breakfast onward. There are several native cheeses. Another terrible one, "putost," is made with caraway seeds and always smells as if it had gone bad. Mysost has no smell, fortunately, only a terrible asno and taste.

Dr. Julius Nicholysen sent a few Norwegian delicacies to a friend in Germany, and, among others, he put in a piece of the native mysost. His friend wrote and thanked him for the salmon, etc., and then continued, "The soap is very nice, but we find great difficulty in making the lather." This was the cheese!—London Saturday Review.

### AMERICAN CRACKERS.

#### Pilot Bread the First Variety Made in the United States.

The first cracker produced in the United States, so far as known, was pilot or ship bread, a large, round, crusty, crisp affair, which supplied the demand of the merchant marine for an article of food that would, unlike ordinary bread, keep for a prolonged period.

Later another variety was originated, the cold water cracker, which differed from the first chiefly in its smaller size, more compact texture and greater hardness. For a long time these two were the only goods known to the trade.

They were both made of unleavened dough mixed and kneaded by hand, and the crackers were rolled out and shaped separately before being placed, one at a time, on a long handled sheet iron shovel or peel and transferred in order to the floor of the oval shaped oven, then in use. It was not until some time later that raised or fermented dough was used in the manufacture of crackers, and it is only within the past three-quarters of a century that any great variety has been produced.—Bakers' Weekly.

### DOGS AND SOMERSAULTS.

As there is more than one way of cooking a goose, so there is more than one method of teaching a dog to throw somersaults. But the most practical and thorough manner is to fasten a cord around the body of the animal close to the fore legs, and two people should hold the ends of the cord on either side of the unfortunate dog. A third party, armed with a stout rope, takes a position immediately in front of the canine acrobat and with a measured and masterly stroke flogs the floor at close quarters to the dog's nose. At each stroke of the rope the dog springs backward, and that movement is the trainer's golden opportunity. As the dog springs backward the rope passing under its body is jerked upward, and, although the first few attempts may prove futile, the somersault is acquired in course of time. An intelligent dog soon sickens of this order of things and throws somersaults without the assistance of ropes.

### PASSPORTS.

#### Method of Applying For Them to the State Department.

Passports are issued to citizens of the United States upon application to the state department in Washington. The application must be accompanied by an affidavit attested by a notary public or other officer empowered to administer oaths stating that the applicant is a citizen and giving the place of birth and age, and it must be accompanied by the certificate of one other citizen to whom he is personally known that the declaration made by the applicant is true.

The application must be accompanied by a description of the person, particularly as to age, height, complexion, forehead, eyes, nose, mouth, chin, hair and face. Blank forms are furnished by the state department on application. The fee for each passport is \$1. Citizens traveling abroad may also obtain passports by applying to United States ambassadors and ministers.

Where any person has made a declaration of intention to become a citizen of the United States and has resided in the United States for three years a passport valid for six months may be issued to him. This passport is not renewable and does not entitle the holder to the protection of this government in the country of which he was originally a citizen.—New York American.

### Dear Swift's Complaint.

It is no new thing, this complaint which one hears of the high cost of living. Writing to Stella from London in the year 1710, Dean Swift remarks: "I lodge in Bury street, St. James, where I removed a week ago. I have the first floor, the dining room and bedchamber at 8 shillings a week; plough deep, but I spend nothing for eating, never go to a tavern and very seldom in a coach yet at a great price it will be expensive."

A Potential Difference.

"Pa, what's the difference between 'idealism' and 'realism'?"

"Idealism, my son, is the contemplation of marriage; realism is being married."—Boston Transcript.

### SOMETHING NEW!

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## A NATURAL WONDER.

### The Devil's Race Course in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

"The Blue Ridge mountains abound in natural wonders," observed an old resident of Penmar. "Most wonderful of them all, in my opinion, is the Devil's Race Course, which is but a short walk from Penmar."

"At first view this strange natural phenomenon appears like a broad roadway of great stones which extends away up the mountain in a path no human hand could ever build. Many of these great stones weigh tons, while others are only a few hundredweight. Lying close together by the thousand, they present an extraordinary spectacle."

"Tradition has it and scientists agree that a thousand or more years ago this strange track was the bed of an ancient river. The conclusion is drawn from the looks of the stones. They are all well rounded and worn smooth, showing the action of water, which had polished their rough edges no doubt for centuries."

"But the mystery is if this theory be true to explain how the great body of water was confined at the sides, for the course is not hemmed in by high banks, nor is it located in a ravine. In fact, it stands somewhat higher than the natural side of the mountain. The puzzle only intensifies interest in the queer place and multiplies the arguments and theories of its prehistoric origin."—Baltimore American.

### ORIGIN OF THE ROD.

#### Used In Driving Oxen, It Came Handy In Measuring Land.

The origin of the rod, pole or perch as a linear and superficial measure has been traced to the rod, pole or gad used to urge and direct a team of oxen pulling a plow. So it came about it was used as a convenient and handy land measure in feudal times by the lords in allotting plots of land for agricultural purposes to the vassals and others.

One rod wide and forty long built up a quarter of an acre. The furlong, or, forty poles wide and same depth—i. e., forty poles, one acre—was a convenient length for a furrow before turning the plow. Of course these lengths somewhat varied in different parts of the country where soils and agriculture varied, but gradually the slight variations grew less, and finally the present accepted statutory acre was evolved.

Gunter's chain of sixty-six feet (ten square chains to the acre) was invented by the Rev. Edmund Gunter (1581-1626). He was a professor of astronomy at Gresham college, London, and ingeniously adapted it to facilitate decimal calculations in land measurements. The use of the rod in superficial measurements of brick work and linearly in hedges, ditches and fences followed as a convenient existing measure.—Builders' Journal.

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