

RUSSIANS PLAYING GAME OF DEATH

Terribly Fascinating Form of Amusement Used by a Decadent Aristocracy.

THE "TIGER AND HUNT" A THRILL

Six Shot in the Dark at Human Prey with Tinkling Bell About His Neck—Suicide Clubs in Which Poisoned Goblets Are Used at a Feast.

London.—Playing blind man's buff with death is the latest and most terribly fascinating form of amusement that the long decadent Russian aristocracy has come to indulge in, according to the St. Petersburg correspondent of the London Daily Mail.

In a certain circle of the empire's fashionable set men and women seem to have gone to the last ditch of desperation in an effort to get a thrill of pleasure. The members of this circle seem to have become utterly jaded with all normal forms of pleasure and recreation and to have become bored with the attempt to sate abnormally developed appetites. In truth, this set has come to the brink of destruction and is willingly jumping into the grave.

Strange clubs have been formed, and one of these devotes itself to a game of life and death which is called "Tiger and Hunter." In this game lots are drawn to decide which member shall play the tiger and which the hunter. When this is settled the tiger has a bell hung about his neck and the hunter is blindfolded and given a pistol. The room is darkened, and from galleries above the other members of the club enjoy the sport.

The hunter is given six shots at his human prey, and if he hits the terrified man with the tinkling bell about his neck he is the winner. If the prey manages to escape and come out of the pit of darkness alive then he is proclaimed the winner.

In the galleries above the members of the club applaud and cry out bravos to the hunter when he brings the tiger so close to the grave, and wagers are laid on the outcome. Women of the same sort as the men clap their hands with delight, and the sport with death continues.

From the cheers and expressions of encouragement from his backers the hunter knows when he is doing well, and either jumps nearer to his human prey for a close shot or stands still and takes more deliberate aim, as suggestions warrant. Sometimes the tiger knows that his antagonist in the sport will get him, and stands as if petrified in the gloom of the pit, watching the muzzle of the pistol aimed at him, fearful of moving because of the tell-tale bell, and napping to jump at the last moment and avoid the fatal shot.

While such organizations are practically suicide leagues, the very peril of death from another hand than of one's own raises in the heart of the hunter a target a hope that death will not ensue—and then, too, there is the sport of winning out.

The game has become amplified and still more exciting, the latest rules formulated being that in the event of the hunter failing to bring down the tiger after six shots, he shall change places with the tiger and be shot at, and so on, until blood has been drawn. The next step seems to be that the game shall continue until one or the other man is killed, for the lust of the members in the galleries knows no satiating save in death.

But this is but one of the clubs that are suicidal in their purpose. There is another at which the company sits down to a feast of champagne.

One of twenty bottles is mixed with morphia. The guests' glasses are filled, they lift them high and drain them. Over the faces of those who have received the poisoned draught comes the pallor of death, and somnolence comes over them. They wilt, droop, die as the lucky ones look on with pleasure at the spectacle.

Some of those who have not partaken of the poisoned goblets, and who wanted to die in such sport, frequently cry out in their disappointment.

The correspondent of the Daily Mail says that the frequent unexplained suicides are being laid to these terrible orgies with death, and that, moreover, many persons of fashionable society are journeying to Finland to throw themselves in the romantic Intra Rapids, to be swept against the rocks and battered to death in the swift currents.

While these terrible practices are prevailing in certain sets of ultra-fashionable St. Petersburg society, the Mail's correspondent adds, neuresthenia is claiming more victims every day among all sets of the rich and the idle and the over-indulgent luxuriates.

SAFE FULL OF OLD DOUBLOONS.

Found in Old Adobe House in Mexico—Finder in Jail.

Morelia, Mexico.—Vicente Castillo, while tearing down an old adobe house on the hacienda of Ignacio Flores, unearthed an ancient iron safe full of Spanish doubloons and did not stop to say good-by to his employer.

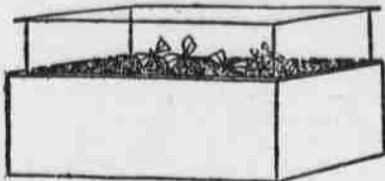
Flores sent officers after him and Castillo is now in jail, but says he only found \$30 in the safe. Flores is hunting for the rest of the money.

FARM AND GARDEN

A MINIATURE GREENHOUSE

Home-Made Box in Which Cuttings May Be Propagated.

For propagating cuttings, take a box 12 inches square and 5 inches deep, inside measure. A couple of drainage holes should be made in the bottom. Around the sides of the box place four 10 by 12-inch panes of glass, and fill in, first with a layer



ARRANGEMENT OF GLASS COVERING.

of drainage material, preferably charcoal, 1 inch deep, then a bit of gravel, and on top of this at least 3 inches of clean, gritty sand, not too fine. Another pane of glass, 12 by 14 inches, rests on the top, as shown in the cut.

Tender plants such as geraniums, coleus, begonias and others, root off quickly. Woody cuttings require more care. For instance, weigela, forsythia, honeysuckle, etc., should have cuttings taken from well ripened wood in July or August. Cut to a length containing two pairs of leaves. Remove the lower pair and with a sharp blade make a clean cut right at the joint. Many woody plants will not form a callus except when cut at this point. Leave the stem projecting a little above the upper pair of leaves, so it may not dry back too far and injure the buds. Then the two leaves left should have the outer half of the blades removed.

With roses, or other shrubs where the leaves are not in pairs, the same principle holds. Choose the wood which has bloomed and cut to include four or five joints, always making the lower cut at a joint. Remove the lowest two leaves and cut back the others. They should be pressed firmly in the sand, kept moist and given plenty of sunlight.

Great Is Catalpa. Arboriculture, an Indiana publication devoted to forestry, gives forty reasons why catalpa should be planted. A few of these reasons are as follows:

1. By 1925 American forests will be exterminated.
2. The only valuable tree which will mature in time.
3. Is antiseptic; requiring no chemical treatment.
4. It grows in almost any soil.
5. Is easily propagated and managed.
6. Demands no professional manipulation.
7. Most durable wood known.
8. Valuable for cross ties; have endured half a century.
9. Nothing better for telegraph poles.
10. Miles of living trees used for telegraph lines.
11. Makes magnificent veneers.
12. Superior to oak for furniture.
13. Lighter than pine.
14. Stronger than oak.
15. Tougher than hickory.
16. Freedom from warping.
17. Neither shrinks nor swells.
18. Makes best wood pulp and bookpaper.

Thrashing Out of Shock. If thrashing can be done before the grain is damaged by rains all well and good. Even with some nice thrashing weather, under the common practice now of thrashing in circuits not many can get their work done during the most favorable time. Some must wait until the last of the thrashing season, and during this time the grain in shocks is sure to deteriorate. In some localities farmers are going back to the practice of putting all grain in stack and giving it time to go through the sweat before it is thrashed. This insures nice, bright grain, which may then be stored without any danger of heating, and the straw is much nicer for feeding. But if grain must be left in shock until a machine gets around you, then by all means try up good shocks and cap them with two big sheaves. Walk around the grain field every day and replace any caps which the wind may have blown off. If any shocks are damaged better throw these out as you haul in to the thrashing machine. A few musty or smutted shocks will lower the grade of your whole crop, when you come to market it.—L. C. Brown.

Value of Alfalfa. Alfalfa is the dairyman's friend, surely, if the figures of D. H. Otis are correct. He figures that a ton of alfalfa contains 220 pounds of digestible protein, which at six cents a pound would be worth \$13.20, and, if we got four tons to the acre, we could have a value of \$52.80. Of course, for a dairyman to realize this much from an acre of alfalfa, he must feed judiciously and in proper combination with other feeds; but if he realizes only one-half of this amount, he is getting excellent returns from his land. Wheat bran, long the standard feed for dairy cows, contains only 12.2 pounds of digestible protein in every 100 pounds.

SEES EARTH'S DOOM

"Dark Star" Rushing from Distant Space Will Crash Into Sun, Professor Says.

Boston, Mass.—Professor Percival Lowell in a lecture at Harvard on "Cosmic Physics" gave a graphic description of the end of the world because of the collision of some dark star and the sun. The lecture at Huntington Hall is the first in a series of six. Professor Lowell stated that unseen bodies in the universe must be more numerous than the visible bodies. He described the approach of some dark star to the earth's sun.

"It would of necessity be a dark one," he said, "for none of the bright stars could do this in aeons of ages. But a dark star might well be within striking distance. We could be cognizant of it only through its borrowed light as it approached the sun and by the perturbations of the outer planets. Such a body might be coming to meet the sun at about the speed with which the sun is moving through space, the relative approach being then about twenty-two miles a second.

"If the stranger were caught at the eleventh magnitude, which is about the practical limit, it then would be twenty-seven years from the time it entered the range of vision before it rose to visibility with the naked eye. It then would be not quite double the distance of Neptune.

"With accelerated speed it would be coming on, increasing in three years to first magnitude and in two years and three months more it would have reached the distance of Jupiter and by far the brightest star in the sky. By that time the earth would be feeling the effects of the attraction of the stranger. The seasons would have changed and the year would have grown longer.

"In 145 days it would have traversed the distance to the orbit of the earth. Coming as it would directly to the sun it would not hit any of the planets, but would have approached so near to the earth that the earth would have turned from the sun to follow it.

"For nineteen days the chaos consequent on the disturbance of usual relations would continue, as, like some comet glorified a thousandfold, the tramp dropped silently upon the sun. Toward the close of the nineteenth day the catastrophe would occur; we should know no more." He added that such an occurrence is sure to come eventually.

'QUAKE VICTIMS WHITE SLAVES.

Awful Fate Befell Hundreds of Girl Survivors.

Berlin, Germany.—Hundreds of Italian girls from the 'quake region of Sicily and Calabria have been sold into "white slavery" in Buenos Ayres and other South American cities, according to a statement made by Dr. Green, who was in charge of the relief expedition that Nathan Straus, the American philanthropist, sent to Sicily. Green sailed from Bremen on the Kaiser Wilhelm II, for New York.

"The most horrible tragedy of the earthquake," he declared, "was the fate that befell hundreds of girl survivors, whose parents were killed. Unscrupulous dealers searched out these girls amid the ruins and enticed them away with promises that they were taking them to members of their families, who, the girls were told, had miraculously escaped and were now searching for them.

"In their terrible anguish these poor girls readily believed these stories and followed these human vultures to any place designated. The excitement throughout the whole of Italy was so great at the time that it was a comparatively easy matter to imprison these girls and ship them to South America, where agents sold them to houses of vice."

PARIS SUPREME IN DRESS.

America May Get Goods and Workers, but not the Cachet, Says Worth.

Paris, France.—Worth the dressmaker when questioned concerning the stories cabled from New York that women were rebelling against the Parisian dictatorship in fashions smiled a smile of placid content and said he had not the slightest fear of losing American trade. He added: "We can make dresses better than anybody in the world and we do not fear rivalry. It is impossible to produce the creations that have made Paris famous without Paris artists and Paris workwomen. The Americans might import these, but in six months after they left France they would lose the chic which makes Paris gowns unique.

"The experiment has been tried in London, and although the models, materials and workers were all Parisian the experiment failed. It is the artistic atmosphere of Paris which gives a dress made here its cachet. The Americans have not got it and cannot get it."

Workmen to Get \$1,000 Each.

New York City.—One of the most remarkable bequests on record in Westchester County came to light when it was made known that by the terms of the will of Mrs. Eva Smith Cochran, who left an estate valued at \$8,000,000, many employees of the Smith Carpet Company at Yonkers, N. Y., have been left a legacy of \$1,000 each. The bequests are made to those who have been in the employ of the company twenty years or more. The company employs a large working force and it is said that more than 250 are eligible to receive legacies under the provisions of the testament.

CLASSIFICATION AND APPRAISEMENT.

The undersigned duly appointed and qualified Appraiser of Mercantile Taxes for the year 1908, makes the following classification and appraisal of vendors of merchandise, etc.

NAME	RESIDENCE	CLASSIFICATION	APPRAISEMENT
Bloodright W B	RETAIL.	Gen'l Mds	...
Richman C	BETHANY.	"	...
Ridgeway U G	BUCKINGHAM.	Gen'l Mds	...
Retter Brothers	"	"	...
Richman C	"	"	...
Rickett John	"	"	...
Schuller Jacob H	"	"	...
Schuller Frank F	"	"	...
Schuller J A	"	"	...
Shenker & Co	"	"	...
Spittiguo O M	"	"	...
Starnes J A	"	"	...
Starnes & Bro J N	"	"	...
Shelly Mrs John	"	"	...
Shelley J C	"	"	...
Smith & Co C W	"	"	...
Smith & Co E T	"	"	...
Smith & Co P	"	"	...
Smith & Co F W	"	"	...
Smith & Co G G	"	"	...
Smith & Co H	"	"	...
Smith & Co I	"	"	...
Smith & Co J	"	"	...
Smith & Co K	"	"	...
Smith & Co L	"	"	...
Smith & Co M	"	"	...
Smith & Co N	"	"	...
Smith & Co O	"	"	...
Smith & Co P	"	"	...
Smith & Co Q	"	"	...
Smith & Co R	"	"	...
Smith & Co S	"	"	...
Smith & Co T	"	"	...
Smith & Co U	"	"	...
Smith & Co V	"	"	...
Smith & Co W	"	"	...
Smith & Co X	"	"	...
Smith & Co Y	"	"	...
Smith & Co Z	"	"	...

\$12,000,000 FOR A HORSE

Agreed to Pay Beans on Basis of Geometrical Progression, and It Will Take 5,000,000 Bushels.

Kalamazoo, Mich.—Twelve million dollars for a horse! That's going some and makes all the fancy prices paid for Dan Patch, Arion, Salvador, and other equine stars look like thirty cents. Yet just such a deal has been closed in Kalamazoo, which for many days promises to be a record transaction and in every sense of word is bonafide.

It is between Frank Kress, superintendent of the Riverside Coating Mills and Louis Ehrmann, Rose street hotel man. All came about through a dispute over the weight of a truck horse in question. Mr. Kress insisted it weighed more than 1,160 pounds, while Mr. Ehrmann was equally certain that it did not. Thereupon Mr. Kress said he would be willing to sell the horse to Mr. Ehrmann, taking beans in pay, one bean for first pound in excess of 1,160, two beans for the second, four the third and so on.

This bargain was snapped up in a hurry. The horse weighed was found to weigh exactly 1,200 pounds, just forty excess of weight claimed by owner. Local mathematicians got busy and figured up on the transaction. Kress finds by allowing 5,400 beans to a quart, Mr. Ehrmann will have to pay him 5,000,000 bushels of beans for the animal.

Beans now sell at \$2.40 to \$2.50 a bushel, which makes the price \$12,000,000 to \$12,500,000, and half a million is really a small matter in such a transaction. Kress delivered the horse and intends to hold Ehrmann to his contract.

EARTH SWALLOWS A TREE.

Jersey Maple Drops into a Hole 100 Feet Deep.

Dover, N. J.—Forty feet from the gate of the yard of James Arthur and a step or two off from the main road at Richard's Mine, a section of the earth's surface slipped through a fissure in the roof of an abandoned heading.

Mr. Arthur, superintendent of the Chambers Iron Company, was leaving his yard when he noticed that a maple tree which stood across from his place was missing. He crossed and found where the tree had stood a hole thirty feet across and a hundred feet deep. The tree rested on the bottom of the hole.

This is the third happening of the kind in that vicinity in the last few years. The whole mountainside is honeycombed with abandoned workings.

POETRY PARTS A COUPLE.

Wife Writes It—Husband Prints It—Public Ignores It.

Des Moines, Iowa.—"She insists on writing poetry, which somehow the general reading public doesn't appreciate, but it takes lots of my money to have the stuff printed and put out in book form."

This is the charge made against Elizabeth Morris by her husband, George Morris, in a cross bill filed to her petition for divorce.

Since their marriage, he asserts, she has led him away on "wild goose chases" over the United States, at which time she sought to be close to nature, occupying all her leisure moments in writing pages of poetry.

These effusions, Morris says, he was forced to put out in book form for her. And he says it was an awful drain on his patience and his pocketbook.

The Successful Cow.

If the cow appropriates all the nourishment taken from her food to build up fat cells and does not divert it to the udder to be drawn out in the form of milk, she is a failure as a milk producer and belongs nowhere else than with the beef cattle. On the other hand, if a cow has the milk-producing qualities, is small of stature and appropriates practically all of her food to the cause of increasing the milk supply, she is pretty apt to be a success as a dairy cow and a safe investment for speculation in that particular class of specializing.