

## NOT ALL HIS FAULT

Incident Shows Peril of Loneliness in Big City.

Youngster Easily Led Astray When Home Folks Failed to Keep in Touch With Him—Whole Sermon in Judge's Comment.

The warden of L— street jail in New York city sat at his desk busily working on some records when there walked into the office David Bascom from a little rural community tucked away in the far hills of Vermont. He was a pathetic, wizened figure as he stood there in agony and embarrassment twisting his hat and waiting for the warden to look up. There was heart hunger in his eyes that stupefied the man at the desk with pity.

"Is Joseph Bascom a— a prisoner here?" he finally stammered. He could hardly bring his tongue to say the word.

"Yes," said the warden promptly. "We had a young man by that name brought in night before last for burglary. Struck me as the wrong kind of fellow to be in that business; too innocent-looking and too straightforward-appearing. Are you his father?"

"Yes," said the old man as he dropped wearily into the proffered chair. "I don't see how he ever came to do that sort of thing. It isn't accordia' to his bringin' up. Me and his mother never had no education to speak of, but we was always honest, and brought the children up strict like. He's been in New York less'n six months."

"Wait a minute and I'll call him in and see what he has to say for himself," said the warden as he touched a button on the desk.

In a few moments a clean, open-faced young fellow was brought in by a guard, and one of those agonizing scenes that only jails behold ensued. When the first shock of the meeting was over the warden said to the young man:

"Now tell your father and me how you got into this scrape. Nothing you say will be used against you at your trial."

"When I first came to New York," the young man began, "everything went all right. I got a job and found a good boarding house. I didn't feel homesick at first, because I was so interested in my work through the day, and at night it was interesting to go out and see the sights. But after I got used to my job and had seen most of the sights I had more time to think and to get homesick and lonesome. The folk at home didn't write, and I didn't know anyone here. I used to sit in my room evenings and picture the tomatoes ripening on the window sills at home, and I could see my mother moving about the yard in the sunshine and dad plowing in the back forty. I could almost smell the apples in the orchard and hear the dry corn leaves rustling, and it all made me so homesick and lonesome I just had to go out and walk the streets. That was the way I ran into the gang I was caught with. I guess they used me as a tool. Anyhow, I got caught at the first attempt."

"That sounds straight, and if I'm any judge of faces I guess it is straight," said the warden. "I want you to get your story before the judge through your attorney. Your record has been clean till now, and I think it will make a difference in the sentence."

The trial was held and the facts presented to the judge. "Sentence suspended," he announced at the close, with a gruffness of voice to hide his emotion. Then he added, looking at the father, "if I had my way I'd impose a jail sentence on parents who let their boys and girls come to this city and don't write them at least twice a week to let them know that some one in the world cares for them and is thinking of them. More young people go wrong in this city from lonesomeness than we shall ever know. You should have had backbone to stand alone, young man. But as your parents are penitents, and I can't sentence them, I'll suspend your sentence. Next case!"—Youth's Companion.

Hooverized Country Breakfast.

Excerpt from the Hooverized food experience of the man who edits the "Missouri Notes" column in the Kansas City Times:

"The friends who entertained us warned us that they were living very frugally and proved the assertion at every meal. For example, for breakfast one morning we had nothing but cereal and real cream, home-made sausage, fried potato cakes, stewed fruit, hot biscuit, two kinds of preserves and coffee. The menu for the next morning, as announced the night before, was nothing but waffles, and that's all they had, with the exception of bacon and eggs and a few little side dishes. We horrified our hostess that morning by eating only 29 waffles. Our allotment was 37, and she said it was unpatriotic not to clean the platter."

Beautiful Feet in Hartford.

We have observed that a large majority of the men who traverse our residential streets in this time of snow and ice wear overshoes of some kind and that the large majority of women do not. Whether it is womanly suffrage or plain recklessness that accounts for this difference we cannot say. It cannot be because overshoes are unbecoming to a woman, for those wearing them look very trim.—Hartford Courant.

## REDUCING MOUSE AND RAT DAMAGE

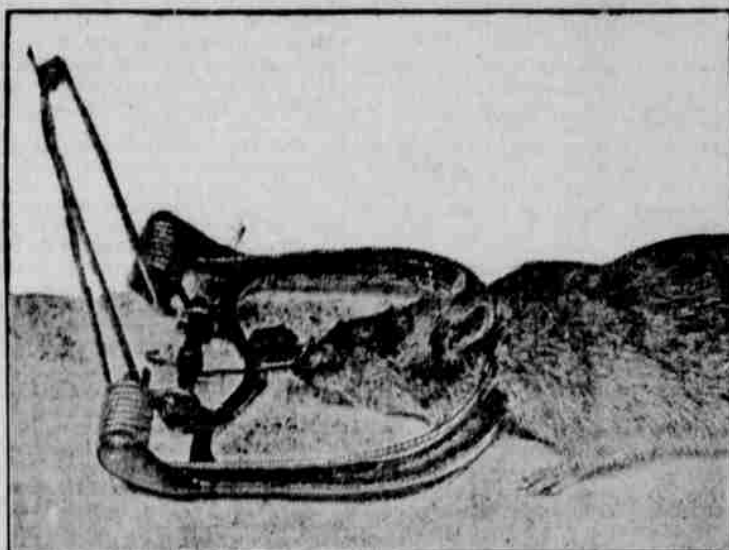
Co-operation and Organization Is of Utmost Importance.

### COMMUNITY EFFORT IS BEST

Permanent Results Can Only Be Obtained by Building Animals Out of Shelter and Food—Government Ready to Help.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

The necessity of co-operation and organization in the work of rat destruction is of the utmost importance. To destroy all the animals on the premises of a single farmer in a community has little permanent value, since they are soon replaced from near-by farms. If, however, the farmers of an entire township or county



METHOD OF BAITING GUILLOTINE TRAP.

unite in efforts to get rid of rats, much more lasting results may be attained. If continued from year to year, such organized efforts are very effective.

#### Community Efforts.

Co-operative efforts to destroy rats have taken various forms in different localities. In cities, municipal employees have occasionally been set at work hunting rats from their retreats, with at least temporary benefit to the community. Thus, in 1904, at Folkestone, England, a town of about 25,000 inhabitants, the corporation employees, helped by dogs, in three days killed 1,645 rats.

Side hunts in which rats are the only animals that count in the contest have sometimes been organized and successfully carried out. At New Burlington, O., a rat hunt took place some years ago in which each of the two sides killed over 8,000 rats, the beaten party serving a banquet to the winners.

There is danger that organized rat hunts will be followed by long intervals of indifference and inaction. This may be prevented by offering prizes covering a definite period of effort. Such prizes accomplish more than municipal bounties, because they secure a friendly rivalry which stimulates the contestants to do their utmost to win.

In England and some of its colonies contests for prizes have been organized.

### IMPORTANT FACTORS IN GROWTH OF HOGS

Problem of Exercise Is Difficult to Solve in Winter—Good Plan Is Outlined.

Exercise is one of the most important factors in the growth of hogs. Hogs that are confined in a small lot do not develop sufficient stretch and frame, points out Ray Gatewood, instructor in animal husbandry in the agricultural college.

"The problem of exercise," said Mr. Gatewood, "is more difficult to solve in winter than in any other season of the year due to the fact that hogs should be kept off the pasture for the good of the pasture."

"Exercise can best be provided by allowing the hog free range on a field which is fenced hog tight and which has not been planted to any crop. Stalk fields in which cattle are running make a desirable place for stock hogs. Because hogs are likely to remain in their sheds too much in the winter they should feed some distance from their sleeping quarters. This forces them to take a certain amount of exercise."

### MULCH AS SOIL PROTECTION

Chief Value Is in Keeping Surface From Packing Under Weight of Snow or Heavy Rain.

The mulch is of value chiefly in protecting the surface soil, keeping it from packing under the weight of snows or heavy packing rains. The mulch also prevents heaving as a result of thawing and freezing. It protects the crowns and roots, adds fertility and sometimes retards budding out in the spring. This may be desirable when there are late frosts.

ized to promote the destruction of the English, or house, sparrow, but many of the so-called sparrow clubs are really sparrow and rat clubs, for the destruction of both pests is the avowed object of the organizations. A sparrow club in Kent, England, accomplished the destruction of 28,000 sparrows and 16,000 rats in three seasons by the annual expenditure of but £9 (\$29.20) in prize money. Had ordinary bounties been paid for this destruction, the tax on the community would have been about £250 (over \$1,200).

Many organizations already formed should be interested in destroying rats. Boards of trade, civic societies, and citizens' associations in towns and farmers' and women's clubs in rural communities will find the subject of great importance. Women's municipal leagues in several large cities already have taken up the matter. The league in Baltimore recently secured appropriations of funds for expenditure in fighting mosquitoes, flies and rats. The league in Boston during the past year, supported by voluntary contributions for the purpose, made a highly creditable educational campaign against rats. Boys' corn clubs, the troops of boy scouts, and

similar organizations could do excellent work in rat campaigns.

#### State and National Aid.

To secure permanent results any general campaign for the elimination of rats must aim at building the animals out of shelter and food. Building reforms depend on municipal ordinances and legislative enactments. The recent plague eradication work of the United States Public Health Service in San Francisco, Seattle, New Orleans, and at various places in Hawaii and Porto Rico required such ordinances and laws as well as financial aid in prosecuting the work. The campaign of Danish and Swedish organizations for the destruction of rats had the help of governmental appropriations. The legislatures of California, Texas, Indiana and Hawaii, have in recent years passed laws or made appropriations to aid in rat eradication. It is probable that well-organized efforts of communities would soon win legislative support everywhere. Communities should not postpone efforts, however, while waiting for legislative co-operation, but should at once organize and begin repressive operations. Wherever health is threatened the public health service of the United States can co-operate, and where crops and other products are endangered the bureau of biological survey of the department of agriculture is ready to assist by advice and in demonstration of methods.

### REPAIR MACHINES IN WINTER

Farmers Should Give Careful Attention to Tools and Implements for Next Season.

During the winter months farmers should give careful attention to the work of repairing all machines which will be used next season. Also, orders for repair parts and new machines should be placed as soon as possible. This will acquaint manufacturers and their agents with the demand in different sections and enable them to make the best possible distribution. At the same time it will eliminate expensive delays in transportation at the busy season.

### NATURAL FEED FOR POULTRY

Hens Should Receive Grains and Other Milling Products, Meat Meals and Green Stuff.

The natural food of poultry consists of grains, insects, green forage and grit, and accordingly in domestication it is reasonable that the hens receive cereal grains and other milling products, and such animal feeds as meat meals and skim milk, and should also have an abundance of green feed or such substitutes for it as roots or steamed clover. Oyster shells, grit and plenty of fresh water should also be supplied.

### WHEN SOIL IS UNHEALTHFUL

Sometimes Becomes So Saturated With Droppings That Hens Are Likely to Contract Disease.

Ground may get so saturated with the droppings that it becomes unhealthy; if food is thrown on the ground, the flock is likely to contract diseases common to fith. Where such a condition exists, it is best to remove a couple of inches of soil and fill in with clean sand or coarse gravel.

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The Oregon Baptist state convention, which was scheduled to meet in Portland last month, has been postponed until October, 1919.

Demobilization of the Students' Army Training corps unit in the University of Oregon began Wednesday, and the university will return to its pre-war status.

A second wave of the Spanish influenza, which surpasses the first, is sweeping over Klamath Falls, in spite of the fact that the restrictions had not been removed.

The Solissons, last of a fleet of 20 auxiliary powered vessels built at Portland for the French government by the Foundation company, was launched Thursday.

### BAVARIA TO BE INDEPENDENT

Separate Peace With Entente Allies Now Sought.

London.—Bavaria will open negotiations for a separate peace with the entente allies, according to an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Zurich, which adds that the rupture between the governments of Berlin and Munich is now complete.

The government of Germany is supported by Field Marshal von Hindenburg, who placed the army at its disposal and refuses to resign or dismiss Dr. W. S. Solf, foreign minister in the coalition cabinet, or Dr. Matthias Erzberger.

Kurt Eisner, the Bavarian premier, explained to a meeting in Munich that the breaking off of relations between Bavaria and the Berlin government was due to the fact that the German foreign office was the base of a counter revolutionary movement, according to a Copenhagen dispatch.

### OREGON NEWS NOTES OF GENERAL INTEREST

Principal Events of the Week Briefly Sketched for Information of Our Readers.

More than \$12,000 was realized from the tag sale held in Portland in the interests of the Waverly baby home.

Petitions are being circulated asking that Glen R. Metsker, district attorney for Columbia county, be recalled.

The 33d annual meeting of the Oregon State Horticultural society will be held in Roseburg December 5, 6 and 7.

Work of demobilizing members of section B, of the S. A. T. C. at the Oregon Agricultural college, began Monday.

### I WILL

Put a new top on your car, or repair your curtains, or do any such work as is needed. This is the time to repair harness for spring work.

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