

way and found a note from Beth inviting them to a picnic the next Saturday.

"A picnic!" cried Mabel joyfully. "We haven't been to a picnic this year. I'm going to do my hair up on top of my head. Shall we wear our white dresses or our blue skirts?"

"I think you'd better wear your blue skirt," said Gladys judiciously. "White dresses are such a bother to do up. I'm not going."

"Not going?" cried Mabel, staring at her blankly. "Why not?"

"I promised papa to do the chores and look after things."

"Well, so did I. But we can get some one to milk for us at night, can't we?"

Gladys shook her head. "I don't care about going anyway," she said, and Mabel knew it was no use to coax her.

Harold and Beth came out after the girls the morning of the picnic.

"Gladys isn't going," explained Mabel as she handed her lunch basket to Harold and climbed up beside Beth. "Where is she?" asked Harold. "Let me see if I can't induce her royal highness to change her mind."

But Gladys was down in the back pasture sailing the sheep and refused to be found, so the others were forced to start off without her, much to Harold's dissatisfaction.

Mr. Sanders had just started his plowing when he was called away and he had intended to finish it when he came back. But to Gladys the long stubble field with its one narrow streak of turned earth was a challenge, and ever since her father had left she had been longing to try her hand at the plow.

So today, after Mabel was safely out of the way and her mother too busily engaged with her Saturday's baking to notice what was happening outside, Gladys hitched the three horse team to the sulky plow and started out to the field. One of the three, a colt which Mr. Sanders was breaking for one of the neighbors, was a little skittish at first, but after a few rounds he settled down and pulled quietly along with the older team.

Everything went well, and Gladys was enjoying herself immensely. Then all at once, as they were coming down the east side of the field, the point of the plow unearthed a bumblebee's nest. With an angry "zip-p-p" one of the enraged insects shot past Gladys' ear and planted its sharp sting between a couple of the colt's ribs. He jerked back viciously with both hind feet and started to run.

At the same instant two or three of the bees began to jab the older horses, and the whole team started on a mad run across the field, followed by a dozen of the outraged insects. As soon as they turned so as to bring the furrow wheel up on the solid ground the plow cut only a thin slice—not enough to retard the speed of the frightened team. The colt's first kick had jerked the lines from Gladys' hands, and now she clung helplessly to the seat while the plow bounced up and down as it was jerked along over the rough ground.

In a moment more the horses had reached the road that led to the house and with a quick turn that almost upset the plow headed toward home. There was a field of corn that hid the road ahead for a few rods. The team, scared out of their senses by the hanging of the whiffletrees against their heels and the clatter of the plow, were running at full speed. A moment later they turned the corner of the cornfield and made straight for the barn. As the road ahead came in view Gladys gave an exclamation of horror. There, standing in the middle of the road not ten rods ahead, was Don, her little five-year-old cousin. He stood directly in the path of the frenzied runways, too frightened to move.

Gladys tried to shout to Don, but the words stuck in her throat. Then she became aware of a confused shouting and saw Jeff Pearson running with all his might across the pasture. What was it that he was saying? The lever? She looked at the big lever curiously. What did that have to do with it? Poor little Don! He would be ground to pieces beneath the cruel hoofs of the flying horses, and it would be her fault. She shuddered and put her hand up to her eyes to shut out the awful sight.

Then Jeff's cry came again, more distinct this time. "The lever! Drop the lever!"

In a flash she understood. With a quick jerk she grasped the big lever and sent the point of the plow down into the hard road. With a sharp crack the stout whiffletrees snapped, but the shock threw the runways to their knees and checked them for a moment.

An instant later Jeff had them by the heads and was speaking reassuringly to them, while Gladys clasped the wondering child in her arms.

" weren't you scared?" asked Jeff after Gladys had told her story.

"I didn't have time to be," she replied. "All I could think of was to hang on. I was frightened when I saw Don, though. What if you hadn't been here?"

"I didn't do anything," said Jeff in an embarrassed tone. "I'm going to plow the rest of the forenoon, though. Father gave me a day off, and I was



"WEREN'T YOU SCARED?" ASKED JEFF.

going down to the creek to fish, but I believe I'd rather stay here and plow."

Gladys laughed outright. "If you'd rather plow than go fishing you may," she said. "You'd better come up to the house and get some new whiffletrees, though."

While Jeff was fixing the whiffletrees Gladys went into the house and came back with a couple of fresh doughnuts.

"Boys are never happy unless they are eating," she remarked with the wisdom of her sixteen years' experience. "You can't guess what we're going to have for dinner," she added. Jeff straightened up in sudden fear.

"I can't stay to dinner—not with your aunt here," he cried.

"Oh, yes, you can," Gladys smiled mischievously. "If you won't eat you can't plow."

"I'll stay, then," announced Jeff resignedly as he drove away to the field. That dinner was a picture for the awkward boy, for Gladys had told the story of the runaway giving Jeff most of the credit, and both Mrs. Sanders and her sister showered him with praise until his face was as red as the mikado's and he was forced to wipe the self-conscious perspiration out of his eyes with his napkin. He brought the uncomfortable occasion to a close as quickly as possible and left the table before he was half through on the pretext that he heard the colt kicking out in the barn.

For half the mistake most commonly made in letting the crop become too ripe in the belief that better results will be secured if the grain is allowed to fill. This is done at the expense of the stem and leaves, as much of the



AWNLESS BARLEY—HOODED BARLEY. [From bulletin, United States department of agriculture.]

material from which the grain is produced is stored there. The barley is bearded, and if left too long before cutting the beards become hard and will injure the mouths of the animals. When the crop is cut in the flowering stage the beards are soft and will be found to be less injurious than if allowed to ripen further. The crop can be cut with a mower and handled like other hay.

Spring hooded barley should be sown as early as possible in the spring after the danger of severe frosts is over. The plant has a large, juicy stem and very broad, green leaves. As the heads are not bearded, this variety is preferable to the Tennessee Winter for silage and haymaking purposes. If sown early it will grow rapidly and yield a large quantity of excellent green feed, relished by all kinds of stock. If cut when the grain is in the milk stage it will yield a large crop of nutritious hay that will give better results in feeding than will most native hays.—Bulletin of United States Department of Agriculture.

Pruning in Winter.

Now is the best time to take out dead branches from old orchard trees, says the American Cultivator. Some of the leaves are still on, and it is easy to pick out dead limbs. Pruning now will save much extra work in the spring, when time is precious. Moreover, many insects and diseases will be destroyed. To make sure of it burn the limbs. Dead limbs provide excellent camping grounds for insects and diseases. Always cut close to the trunk; do not leave a stub.

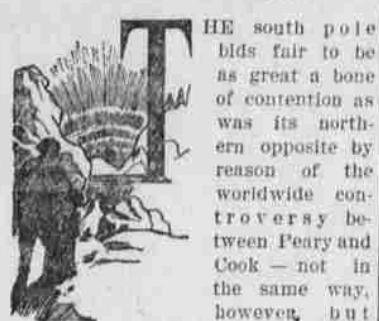
Bible Class Meets.

The regular monthly meeting of the Friendly Bible Class was held Wednesday evening. There was a musical and literary program with a debate as one of the more important numbers on the bill. Following the program there was a social hour. The subject of the debate was, Resolved, that bachelor girls 35 or over should pay taxes. Ralph Eddy, James Borrows and Clarence Aldredge were on the affirmative side and Joe Aldredge, Paul Borrows and John Meade supported the negative side. The committee awarded the decision to the negative.

Sunday School Convention.

The Clackamas County Sunday School will hold a convention at the Presbyterian church on Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 14-15. Speakers from different parts of the state will be present.

Can a Projected Route to The South Pole Be Stolen?



THE south pole bids fair to be as great a bone of contention as was its northern opposite by reason of the worldwide controversy between Peary and Cook—not in the same way, however, but because three expeditions will be striving for the southern honors, and one of them may be accused of stealing the route of another.

This brings an interesting question into the field of debate. Can a projected route to the south pole be stolen? Heretofore there never has been a large enough field of contestants in a polar dash to arouse any such contention as to routes. Now it is different, and the American expedition is practically accused of seizing a German route, the accused being an Englishman at present foremost among antarctic explorers.

Apparently the field for the antarctic Derby has simmered down to three ac-



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HARRY WHITNEY.

Three contestants—Captain Robert Falcon Scott for England, Captain Robert A. Bartlett and Harry Whitney for America and a German expedition commanded by Lieutenant Fiehn. There is a Japanese party talked of, but as the mikado's representatives have not yet started and the equipment is likely to be insufficient it is not reckoned as dangerous by scientists.

At present the situation is like this: Captain Scott has started, leaving New Zealand and following Lieutenant Ernest H. Shackleton's route. The Germans will start during the summer and the Americans about fall and both from South America and using the same starting point on antarctic shores. Lieutenant Shackleton on hearing the American plans criticized them for adopting the same route as Lieutenant Fiehn had selected, and if international courtesy is really respected in such matters and the laws of sportsmanship demand such action Bartlett and Whitney are likely to change their tentative itinerary.

The Americans have a number of plans in mind for their trip which will embrace some features not used by Shackleton when he came within 111 miles of the south pole, but which were found invaluable in Peary's conquest of the northern goal.

Both Whitney and Bartlett are known not only to the world of ex-



MOTOR SLEDGE IN ANTARCTIC TRAVEL.

ploration, but to the world in general, because of their prominence in polar work for many years. Whitney is now about thirty-eight years of age and, although wealthy in his own right, has devoted most of his life to big game shooting and such adventurous experiences. He lives in New Haven when at home, which is seldom, and has engaged in copper manufacturing, sheep

raising in Australia and ranching in Arizona. He accompanied the successful Peary expedition to the frozen north, but did not continue on the polar quest, as he desired to do some game shooting. It was on this expedition that he became mixed up in the Peary-Cook controversy by meeting the Brooklyn explorer at Etah, Greenland. Cook, it will be remembered, claimed he had left his records in charge of Whitney, who was to bring them to America.

Whitney has visited the arctic four times, his most recent call being a hunting trip during the summer of 1910 in company with Paul J. Ratney, the young Cleveland millionaire, and Captain Bartlett.

Bartlett, who is thirty-five, comes of a family of seafarers. He is a native of Newfoundland and is a college man destined for business, but who could not get the smell of salt out of his nostrils. He shipped before the mast and rose until he got his captain's certificate. He first went north with Peary in 1898, again in 1905 and then on the famous trip when the pole was found.

These two have already picked out their ship—an old Newfoundland whaler—and have laid out their route. Because of Scott having selected the Shackleton route from New Zealand they decided to try for the pole from the other side. So if they have crossed the German plans it is likely they will map another assault.

They expect to sail from New York in September, 1911, for Punta Arenas, Chile, the southernmost port in South America. From there they will try to reach Coats Land, in the antarctic, before navigation closes in February. This land was discovered in 1904 by the Scotch expedition under Bruce, but no landing was made, so it is still terra incognita. If possible, a landing will be made and the polar dash begun. This will be a distance of 800 miles, a longer distance than Shackleton had to sledge. If a suitable anchorage is found the ship will lie there all winter; otherwise it will return to South America and then pick up the explorers the following year.

The relaying system of sledging—such as used by Peary in his successful quest—will be used, and arctic dogs will draw the sledges and not ponies, as in Shackleton's case. Both Whitney and Bartlett consider ponies too heavy, often breaking through crust.

The explorers in the south pole region have one advantage over those



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CAPTAIN R. A. BARTLETT.

who frequent the other end of the earth—they do not face the treacherous leads of floating ice which appear solid. In the south every step that is advanced really counts.

The British expedition has a long lead over its competitors. Captain Scott left Cardiff, Wales, June 15, 1910, in an old Dundee whaler, the Terra Nova. He expects to start his dash from antarctic land early in 1911 and hopes to reach the pole by Christmas, returning to civilization the following spring.

He expects to have a series of depots erected south of the great ice barriers, as they have supplies sufficient for three years. It is on this expedition that the motor sledge will be tried. Scott was with Shackleton and saw the possibilities of the automobile mounted on runners, which was good, but not enough for all needs.

The German expedition under Lieutenant Fiehn has been thoroughly financed and outfitted and expects to leave for the southern seas in the summer of 1911. They will seek a landing at the Weddell sea, the point aimed at by Whitney and Bartlett.

The Japanese ship, the starting of which appears dubious, according to advices from Tokyo, is only about 150 tons burden, and the food supplies are to be limited to rice and dried cuttlefish. Then there is a Norwegian expedition projected, so if all start there will be five in the race.

POSTAL SAVINGS BANKS ON TRIAL

Entire Nation Watches the Experiment With Interest.

ONE OFFICE IN EACH STATE.

Second Class Postoffices Selected For Test, Embracing State Capitals, Mining Towns, Agricultural Centers, Manufacturing Burgs and Cities of Big Native and Foreign Populations.

CITIES SELECTED FOR TEST OF POSTAL SAVINGS BANKS.

Bessemer, Ala. Carson City, Nev.
Butte, Mont. Berlin, N. H.
Stuttgart, Ariz. Oremville, Cal.
Oroville, Cal. Leadville, Colo.
Ansonia, Conn. Dover, Del.
Key West, Fla. Brunswick, Ga.
Coeur d'Alene, Ida. Pekin, Ill.
Princeton, Ind. Decatur, Ia.
Pittsburg, Kan. Middletown, Ky.
New Berlin, La. Rumford, Me.
Frederick, Md. Norwood, Mass.
Houghton, Mich. Mendota, Minn.
Gulfport, Miss. Carthage, Mo.
Anacostia, Mont. Nebraska City, Neb.

The new postal savings bank system provided for by congress at its last session begins operation early in the new year. Owing to the small amount of money appropriated by congress to establish the system only one second class postoffice in each state will be ready to receive deposits for some time.

Under the law the postmaster general, Frank H. Hitchcock; the secretary of the treasury, Franklin MacVeigh, and the attorney general, George W. Wickersham, are made the trustees of the postal savings banks of the United States with power to make rules and regulations to carry out the intent of the law.

For the last seven months various subcommittees of government employees representing the departments of their chiefs have been engaged in perfecting these rules and regulations. They have made a study of the postal savings bank systems of all foreign countries and have taken from them what they believed to be the best methods applicable to the United States system.

Deposits of \$1 Permitted.

Any person of the age of ten years or over, in his or her own name, and any married woman, in her own name, may deposit in the postal savings bank of their home town any sum from \$1 to \$100, which is the limit of deposit for any one person in any one month. In the event that they do not desire or are not able to deposit \$1 or more they may purchase postal savings bank stamps for 10 cents, ten of which, or stamps supplemented by sufficient cash, will enable them to open an account with the required initial deposit of \$1. Depositors will receive interest at the rate of 2 per cent per annum. All deposits are withdrawable upon demand, together with accrued interest.

When the deposits reach the sums of \$20, \$40, \$60, \$80, \$100 and multiples thereof up to \$500 they may be exchanged, upon request, for United States bonds of like denomination which shall bear interest at the rate of 2½ per cent per annum, payable semiannually, and be redeemable at the treasury of the United States one year from the date of their issue and payable twenty years from such date, both principal and interest being payable in United States gold coin. These bonds are exempt from taxes or duties of any kind.

Deposits Are Safeguarded.

Every safeguard has been thrown around the postal savings bank deposits that exist today for the safe keeping and proper accounting for postal receipts. Likewise the laws relating to the protection of public money and all statutes relating to embezzlement, conversion, improper handling, retention, use or disposal of postal and money order funds and the punishment provided for such offenses are made applicable to the postal savings depository funds.

In making a selection of original offices for the beginning of the postal savings bank system in this country the trustees undertook to choose cities where the new system might receive a thorough test. With that end in view, the list includes state capitals, mining towns, agricultural centers, manufacturing cities and cities of large native and of foreign population.

WALTZING CAT IN MAINE.

Music Always Sets Lively Scrapper to Dancing.

The feline pride of Maine is a waltzing cat owned by Mrs. Little Rowe of Lewiston. Prince, the cat, dances whenever it hears music of any sort. This clever feline is one year old and tips the scales at eleven pounds. He is a fighter and thus far in life has escaped without serious injury.

PRINCESSES SUE BARONESS.

King Leopold's Daughters Seek to Regain Works of Art.

King Leopold of Belgium caused a good deal of trouble while he was alive, and his acts are continuing to cause trouble, though he has been dead many months. His three daughters recently have brought suit against their father's widow, the Baroness Vaughan, who is living in the chateau of Ballinacourt, given to her by the old king just before his death.

The princesses—Louise, Stephanie and Clementine—already have received more than \$1,000,000 each from their father's personal estate. They say that the Baroness Vaughan has in the chateau many valuable pieces of furniture as well as some priceless tapes.



BARONESS VAUGHAN AND PRINCESSES CLEMENTINE, LOUISE AND STEPHANIE.

try which came from the royal palace at Laeken. Her contention, of course, is that the king gave them to her, but the royal heirs claim that the late king had no right to alienate these possessions.

ROMANCE IN DIPLOMACY.

Daughter of German Ambassador to Wed Young Attache.

Official Washington just now is interested in a diplomatic romance that has resulted in the announcement of the engagement of the Countess Alexandra von Bernstorff.



COUNTRESS ALEXANDRA VON BERNSTORFF.

andra von Bernstorff, the only daughter of the German ambassador to the United States, to Count Raimond Pourtales, a young attaché of the German embassy. The wedding will take place in March or April and will be one of the important social events of the spring in Washington.

The marriage will attract considerable interest in the United States because of the fact that the mother of the countess and the stepmother of Count Pourtales both were Americans.

THE HOME BEAUTIFUL.

Charming New Art Lamps Give an Artistic Effect.



SOME OF THE NEW ART LAMPS.

Gas, oil and electric lamps in the very newest and most approved style are here illustrated. Perfectly fascinating is the banquet lamp of crystal, with an empire shade of pink silk. And the bedroom candlesticks, which, by the way, may be fitted with electrical attachments if one wishes to sacrifice the colonial effect, are very new, with their wind shield for the flame and glass prisms.

The artistic housewife studies the lighting of her home as carefully now as she does the preparation of her menus, for she knows that as much of the comfort of home depends upon suitable lights as upon matters thought to be of more essential importance.

New Woman's College in Egypt.

The new woman soon may be an important factor in old Egypt. A woman's college has been started in Cairo along the same general lines as an American or English college for girls. The institution was started as a part of a university founded two years ago by Prince Ahmed Foud Pasha, uncle of the present khedive of Egypt. The prince is enthusiastic about the new project, and, speaking of the school for Mussulman women, he said: "It was an experiment which I resolved upon after mature consideration, with I confess, some little misgiving. For an oriental country, where the women are not emancipated and where, of course, they still wear the face covering called a yashmak, this was rather venturesome, but I am thankful to say that by the blessing of Providence people were very little scandalized, and so success was assured. The young ladies are ordinary members of the community who are not intended for any profession. In fact, we have not as yet any degrees either in law or in medicine, although that will come before long, I hope, with a suitable increase of the means at our disposal. Lectures on the history of womanhood, on motherhood, on household life, on hygiene, and so forth, are the staple items in the teaching on the female side, and those on motherhood I consider of vital importance, more particularly in a country like Egypt."

Blue Horsehair Chair Covers.

There are no pale blue horses outside of dream books, but there are several pale blue horse chairs in Continental Memorial hall, in Washington, furnished and designed on historical models by the Maryland chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The chairs are after a pattern still extant in the Hamilton Fish family of New York. The frames are of deep mahogany, and all have great glass claws and well carved pedestals. The sideboard is of dark, carved mahogany, and on each side are big mahogany receptacles for knives, forks and spoons. There are roomy settees, and the table no doubt will furnish the model for the housekeeper who inclines to the most graceful and useful model of the colonial banquet hall. The drapings are to be of blue, in colonial prints, hung from the massive lambrequin frames which were so dear to the ancient dames of the republic.

Good Way to Mend a Rug Fringe.

If your rug has a torn fringe do not put it in the attic, but mend the fringe. It is very easy to do and well worth your pains.

Cut off all the fringe, get a piece of pasteboard four inches square and wind around it yarn of a color to match the rug. Wind the yarn one way around the pasteboard five or six times and slip it off. Then put one end of the yarn through the end of the rug and pull the other end through and cinch it. Keep this up until you get all the way across the end of the rug. If only a little torn and you can match the fringe exactly you do not need to cut off all that is there. This method, of course, is equally good for any fabric fringe.

When Guests Appear.

For a good old fashioned treat when guests come in some winter evening try serving them with crullers and apple cider and see how they will like the combination.

To make the dainties core some good apples, fill the centers with any kind of preserved fruit and bake carefully. Serve sprinkled over with a little confectioner's sugar and a spiced prune on the top of each.

The Love Cure.

A set of sables in good time is a fairly effective preventive of a rapidly cooling love.—Lippincott's.

THE COURIER

Is the people's paper; it is the one they want, demand and read; it is the paper in which it pays to advertise. Try it!