

ENGLAND'S LATEST SPORTING MANIA

Birds Worth \$60,000 Take Part--King Edward and Prince of Wales Patronize the New Fad--What the Fancier is Able to Accomplish--Pigeon-Building as a Fine Art

By Maynard Evans.

LONDON, July 24.—England's latest sporting mania is "pigeonitis," or raising pigeons for flying, breeding, message-carrying and other purposes. The extent to which pigeon-fancying is carried may be judged from the fact that no less than 10,500 carrier pigeons, worth \$60,000, were entered in the recent great "pigeon derby." The birds were turned loose at Nantes in the south of France, and flew 400 miles to Lancashire, England. Prizes of more than \$1,000 were awarded.

The extent and importance of the new sport may be further judged from the fact that both the king and prince of Wales entered birds. Special pigeon trials were run from the Midlands to the embarking ports on these occasions, and "pigeon steamers" fitted up on the coast to carry the birds. The whole arrangements were carried out with the most elaborate care and quite regardless of cost.

In addition to the great bird flying competitions, English fanciers are spending thousands of pounds each year in breeding families of pigeons of various shows for the express purpose of exhibiting "variations" are constantly being held in different parts of the country. Some of the birds exhibited are worth more than \$500 apiece. There are five big pigeon clubs in England, and no one but a few people are going in for raising these birds as a hobby.

Even the ordinary "man in the street" in London shows his pigeon fancying by feeding and watching the flocks of birds which have taken up their abode in the great public buildings, such as St. Paul's cathedral, Westminster abbey, the British museum and elsewhere. It is a rather singular thing that certain families of pigeons attach themselves to each of the great public buildings, and some fanciers say they can tell whether a bird is a citizen of the British museum or of St. Paul's. Doubtless the latter are of a more religious turn of mind, while probably the British museum variety would know more about Egyptology than their clerical confreres.

When a pigeon show is on in London, thousands of people flock to see it. Judges of fine birds are appointed with as much care as would be the case of the supreme court. Nor is the pigeon judge a whit happier than the man of law. He runs a chance of making moral enemies for every bird he judges, and not to be accused of partiality which they might be suspected of if they knew the owners' names.

It has only been within recent years that bird fanciers have gone in so extensively in England for raising pigeons with big prizes attached to them.

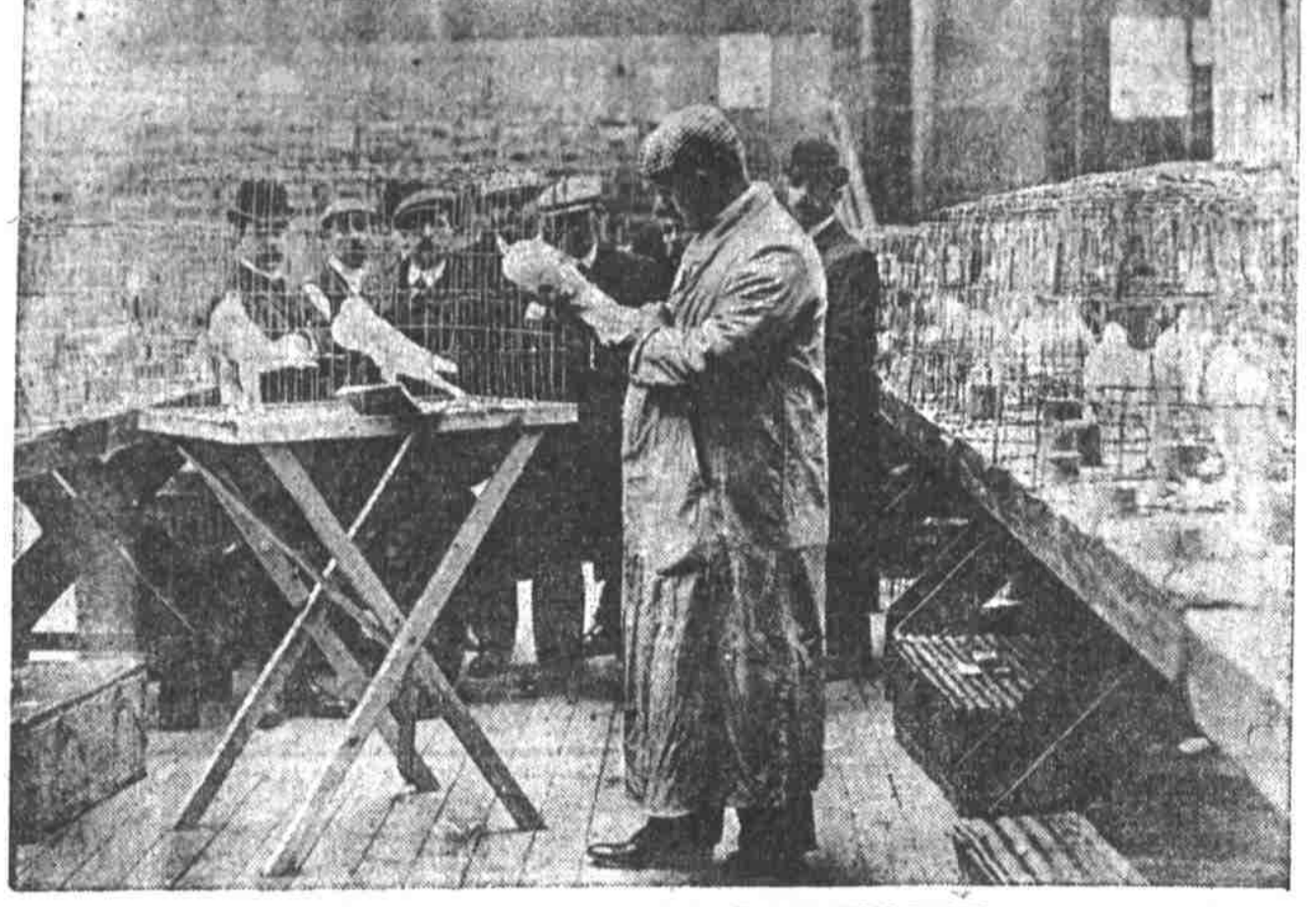


POUTER WHICH WON A \$300 PRIZE.

A few years ago you could buy a really fine bird anywhere for about 30 cents. Now they are asking \$200 and \$300 for

Fanciers during the last few years have been strenuously striving to produce what they term "pigeon freaks" and it is for this reason that the price has risen so enormously. Some of the most remarkable birds ever produced have been manufactured. Pigeons are treated very much as flowers. By cultivating certain colors and breeding definite peculiarities, truly startling effects in bird individuality are obtained. For instance, the "pigeon" which is bred to have a certain color and breeding pigeon may be bred to have the tail, enlarge the wings, shorten the legs, twist the crop and even make the feathers train in certain directions. The birds seem absolutely plastic. It will be remembered that it was through pigeons that Darwin was able to perform the remarkable experiments which contributed so largely to his driving home the evolution theory.

These various experiments have produced some veritable "freaks" in pigeon building. A curious bird recently exhibited at a west end show was a pouter which won the first prize. It was a large black-headed bird, the crop of which was inflated, and it stood in its erect manner of carriage, slender body, long legs with feathers on its feet, and a chin which was inflated like a bird, with its crop full, did the cake walk and seemed so pleased with itself, swelling out its crop to such huge proportions that it was the talk of the show by sheer force of self-advertisement. The owner of this bird, A. K. Marr, refused \$500 for it, and no one at the show seemed staggered at his unwillingness to "part" which commanded a very high figure, \$200, at the same show, was described as a "Jacobin," which means that it has inverted feathers, so that the neck forms a species of ruff, resembling the cowl of a Jacobin monk. Not many people, however, are able to tell which is a bird of the pigeon fancier's world has to be taken for the fact that the bird's ruff looks like the monk's neck, and the bird and a chair in front of both these things implying slight ridges in the feathers, or which experts seem to think that it is a "Turbit" rather curious parrot faced pigeon called a "Turbit" always attracts an immense amount of attention and never fails to capture several prizes at pigeon shows. Turbits look rather perplexed, as if they had not quite made up their minds as to whether they were a bird or half parrot. With the Turbit, fess and feathers count very little. It is the length of neck and beak, and a curious Roman protuberance of the proper curve. An immense amount of interest is always taken in "carriers" of course, the chief characteristic of the carrier, to make it a valuable bird, must be a throat of clover to be extended on the bulging of growth on each side of the



JUDGES DECIDING "POINTS" AT A PIGEON SHOW.

ing its short thick beak, seeing if it has the proper curve or sweep, feeling its "bumps" to find out if its skull is properly formed, and checking it under the circumstances. The Turbit stands the ordeal very well. As all its good points are on the Turbit's head and face, and hundreds of people are constantly gazing into its rather mild eyes, or running their fingers over its head and neck, it is not wonder the bird looks as if it had forgotten something. The sum of \$200 is not considered too much for an intellectual Turbit with a semi-detached Roman protuberance of the proper curve. The chief characteristic of the carrier, to make it a valuable bird, must be a throat of clover to be extended on the bulging of growth on each side of the

latter. Just why this ugly looking "wattle," as it is called, should be considered a good point it is hard to tell. Doubtless fanciers have some profound reason which they only divulge when in secret among themselves, with doors closed and lights out. However, the wattle goes and brings prizes. It does not add to the facial dignity of the bird. It resembles two rather large and disagreeable strawberries placed on either side of the beak. You can not help sympathizing with a bird with a straw-throat nose like this, and the perpetuation of this feature by breeders might well be done away with. While they are about it, and considering carriers claim that they can obtain any result they like, they might as well give the pigeon a small nose rose, or even a throat of clover to be extended on the over-ripe strawberry. As an alterna-

tive a neat election button with the bird's monogram on it would not look so bad by way of a prize winning variation. Of Fantails their number is legion, but strange to say such really beautiful birds attract very little attention. This is due no doubt to the fact that as yet none of this variety has been bred with more than one tail. Possibly future prizes will be won by this class. But what chance does a Fantail with only one caudal appendage, no matter how floral the effect may be, stand beside a dish-faced Turbit, or a carrier with a nose like a night-blooming cereus?

The Pack.
Knicker—Hitchcock has every Republican classified in a card index.
Bocker—From two spot to king?

DR. BRIDGEMAN TELLS SECRET OF THE BENDERS

Who Assisted in Putting Murderers Out of Existence Relates Story of Greatest Crime in American History--Review of a Remarkable Case--Kansas Family Made Business of Murder

Portland lives a man who was told the secret of the killing of the Benders of Kansas by a member of the party who assisted in putting the four murderers out of existence.

In many respects the crimes committed by the Benders in Kansas, and which were first discovered 35 years ago, resemble the operations of Mrs. Belle Gunness in Indiana. For weeks after the Gunness crimes first came to light additional bodies adding to the atrociousness of the deeds were found in the vicinity of the little Gunness home in La.

The discovery of the murders committed by the Benders, and which are thought to have extended over a period of years, and which were first discovered in Kansas and many parts of the United States, for that matter—as it is acknowledged to be an criminal annals of the world. All told, something like 20 bodies were dug up and found within a radius of a few miles from the Bender homestead and roadhouse.

Like in the Gunness case which started the people of the United States only a few years ago, bodies were found buried in the grounds within a few yards of the Bender house and where they had been placed in a shallow hole. Those who put the persons out of the way.

Robbery was undoubtedly the motive in the Bender case as in the Gunness case in the famous case of Mrs. Gunness and her victims. Many persons who once entered either the homes of the Benders in the Kansas Territory or the Bender home near La Porte were assassinated and robbed, and then disappeared from the face of the earth. It was as if they had been swallowed up by a great eruption in the earth.

The Gunness case is and always probably will be a mystery. The whereabouts of Mrs. Gunness, who committed the murders, has never been definitely determined, nor is it known whether she is dead or alive. But in the burning of her home, which brought the crimes to the attention of the world, Mrs. Gunness is thought by many to have met her death accidentally, or else set the building on fire and killed herself, and her crimes were about to be discovered.

For cold-bloodedness in premeditation the murders of the Benders have been outside in any part of the world. They had a specially prepared room for putting their victims to death, and after the bodies had been placed in the trap-door in the floor into the basement. Here the men, women and even children who had been ordered were taken to the Bender home so many cattle so that in carrying the bodies away there would be no possible chance of dripping blood acting as a clue to the crimes.

Moving pictures of the supposed killing of the Bender family were reproduced in many parts of the world. It is understood that scenes of some of the Gunness crimes are also being arranged for by one of the big moving picture machine companies.

C. R. Hyde of 188 Day street, Portland, is the man to whom the secret of the killing of the Bender family was entrusted years and years ago. This was in Reno, Nev. The man who told him of the killing was John McGee, a harnessmaker in Fort Scott, Kan., at the time of the discovery of the Bender crimes.

Several years afterward Mr. Hyde met McGee in Reno, told of his having assisted in the killing of the Bender family, and at that time McGee related his connection with the mystery. McGee was a member of a posse of six who surrounded the Bender home in the Indian Territory on the banks of the Cimarron river and strung them up, men and women alike, in a big oak tree. The Bender family was composed of William Bender, age 68; Mrs. Bender, about 25 years old; Kate Bender, 24 years of age; and John Bender, 21 years of age. John and Kate were younger and stronger than either old man Bender or his wife. It was supposed that most of the hard work when it came to putting their victims out of the way, Kate and John were the children of old man Bender's former marriage.

The Bender house stood on an eminence on the main traveled road between Oregon and Independence. The Benders conducted a road house and did a good business among the travelers and independent traders of the country. The Benders raised vegetables to a certain extent and often took them to Fort Scott and sold them. It was learned later, however, that they bought most of the vegetables and then resold them. This was for the purpose of making the impression that they were honest persons and were earning a living by the sweat of their brows.

Mr. Hyde met McGee at Fort Scott for 15 years. At the time Dr. W. H. York, whose murder eventually led to the unearthing of the wholesale murder-

ing which had been carried on for years by the Benders, disappeared, he gave up his work and joined in the search to locate the body.

The Benders were suspected from the beginning. But through suspicion, aside old man Bender joined in the search to locate Dr. York and unravel the mystery which surrounded his disappearance. Several days later the Bender disappeared and then began a search covering hundreds of miles and numerous states and territories.

This man McGee, the harnessmaker, who told Mr. Hyde of the extermination of the Bender family, was a member of the party which put them to death. As the men had taken the law in their own hands, and for various reasons, he said that all of them had been sworn to secrecy after the four had been killed.

For 35 years, ever since the Bender murders were discovered, every community has had its Bender story regularly every few years. Stories have circulated from time to time from various parts of the country that the Benders still lived.

According to the story told to Mr. Hyde, the Benders were taken by surprise, overpowered and hung to a tree, one after the other. Naturally they fought a desperate fight for their lives, but the members of the posse were well armed and had the two men and hand and foot almost before they knew what had happened. The raid on the little band of murderers in their lair was a complete success.

While the four bodies dangled from the ends of many ropes in a heavy line across the river, the posse riddled them with bullets. Afterward the bodies were cut down and burned.

An immense fire of underbrush and logs was started, and one by one the Benders were burned until there was nothing left but a few charred bones. The posse members remained at the scene of the fire, adding fresh fuel to the flames, and kept up their efforts to remove and destroy every trace of human form. Owing to the fact that it is particularly difficult to destroy a human body even by means of the most test fires, the temporary crematory in the wild of the Indian territory were not getting on very well.

Then the members of the posse knew that their work had been well done and that the world had been relieved of the terrible crimes of the Benders. Separate criminals of the age, went into the open again and among the people of the world.

But in spite of the great mystery as to what had become of the Benders the bodies were found in many parts of the world. Weeks ago George E. Downer died in Chicago. On his death bed he made the statement that there is nothing whatever in the Bender story advanced by Downer just before his death.

Colonel York, formerly a civil war hero, was near his home near his brother's soon after his disappearance. He traced the Benders for weeks. He offered a reward for their capture. In addition there was another reward of \$12,000 for their apprehension. He says the last he heard of them was in Texas. It had been said that Colonel York was a member of the posse which put them to death, but he is not sure.

McGee claimed that the Benders had been traveling about the country by the name of the Benders for several weeks, dodging the authorities. At last the members of the posse got trace of them in the Indian territory near the mouth of the Cimarron river.

For years mysterious persons in all parts of the world have been known as being one of the Benders, as there has always been a great deal of mystery about the Bender family. Colonel York of Independence, disappeared after the killing of the Bender family. Colonel York has the following to say:

"I was with the posse which visited the Bender house and walked into a patch of yard behind the house. I noticed a depression in the soil. He was the most direct man I ever struck it into the earth. It was loose and soft and he called to people who were examining the house and they dug up the body of my brother. One of the bodies were found, one the body of a

she was afraid to tell her story when it would do any good. The country was terrified.

Dr. York would never have been killed had he not become suspicious and they had to get him out of the way. It wasn't his money they wanted.

He was at Fort Scott, about 50 miles away, when he saw a starving team about which the people were talking. It had been found on the plains, and he recognized it as one he had trained as an old man. The old man had had a little girl with him and had been seen headed for the Bender house. Partly out of curiosity and partly out of love for the old horses he had given up, Dr. York attempted to locate the owner of the animals. He traced him to the Bender house and that is why they killed him. The bodies of the old man and the little girl were later found there.

"I lived at Parsons, where I kept the Belmont hotel. I knew the Benders, because they drove over often and sold us vegetables. Always Kate and the father came to the hotel. They were very queer looking people and you'd look a second time at them anywhere. The father was wizened and his eyes were set away back in his head like those of a fox, and his eyelashes were fully an inch long and hung limp and colorless like corn silk. Kate was a girl, but she was big and raw-boned and of redish complexion. They used to carry some gunny sacks being carried into the orchard at night, with some hide Kate's long body in the grass.

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ARE THE OREGON SOLDIERS ENJOYING CAMP LIFE AS CARTOONIST PORTRAYS IT

YOU DIDN'T WASH THEM LAST TIME.

WHEN DISH WASHING TIME COMES.

ALL THE COMFORTS OF HOME.

HOW IF YOU KNOW MORE THAN I DO, DO IT YOURSELF.

DON'T YOU THINK?

HE'S A VICTIM OF THE CAMP WORK!

THE FELLOW THAT CAN NEVER BE FOUND WHEN THERE IS ANY WORK TO DO.

THE FELLOW WHO ALWAYS CRUMBLES ABOUT THE OTHERS' FEET.

THE ONE WHO CANNOT COOK HIMSELF.

VIDRO



"No one knew it at the time. They had three weeks' start before they were arrested. Then the posse was organized who lived some distance away, but who could see the Bender cottage from his little place. He had seen the Bender family at the time of the Bender crimes because he had not reported the absence of smoke coming from the chimney. He had seen the Bender family attempting to hang him, but after leaving him for dead they discovered that he was unhurt and as far as they knew he was still in the country. If you could hide Kate's long body in the grass

FOREIGN PICKPOCKETS.

Trouble They Cause Travelers—Offering Reward for Articles.

From the Baltimore American.

"The American who travels in Europe and does not keep the closest watch on his pocket for wideness of dexterity to the practicalness of Italy, where the plunder of pockets has been reduced to a fine art. I am a careful man and did not need to reiterate the constant warnings against pickpockets, and yet in the great plaza of Venice I was robbed of a watch and a gold watch chain for \$100.00. There was an enormous crowd that had turned out to hear the band play, the day being Sunday, and I was just two or three times by a huge fellow with a black moustache. Finally, seeing that he was doing her the palm for wideness of dexterity to the practicalness of Italy, where the plunder of pockets has been reduced to a fine art. I am a careful man and did not need to reiterate the constant warnings against pickpockets, and yet in the great plaza of Venice I was robbed of a watch and a gold watch chain for \$100.00. 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