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WEDNESDAY - JANUARY 8, 1900

IMPORTANCE OF VICE PRESIDENCY.

It will be noticed that more men are being mentioned for the Republican nomination for vice president these days than were spoken of in connection with this office at any time in the recent past, says the Statesman. Among them are Secretary Root, Cornelius Bliss, General Woodford and ex-Governor Bradley. Every section in the country has a favorite son mentioned as a possible nominee for the second office. Of course, the number of persons who will be spoken of in this connection will be likely to keep on growing until the time for the meeting of the convention, unless in the meantime some one of them gets a decided lead and thus impels some of the other aspirants to get out of the contest.

The vice presidential office has suddenly become more attractive to statesmen of character and ambition than it was in many years. At one time it was considered something of an insult to offer the nomination for this post to a statesman of national reputation who had been looking for the higher office. Many men, too, who never openly aspired to the first place on the ticket of a great party, looked at the vice presidential post as being too insignificant for their acceptance. A writer in the St. Louis Globe-Democrat recalls the fact that when Silas Wright, of New York, was nominated with substantial unanimity for vice president by the convention which put up Polk for president, he sent back such a prompt and emphatic declination that the telegraph, used at that convention for the first time for any political gathering, was said by the politicians of the time to have sizzled with the New Yorker's indignation.

Many statesmen of national stature, however, are apparently ready to accept the vice presidential candidacy on the Republican ticket in 1900. Of course, the nomination in this instance is equivalent to election. The experience of the late Vice President Hobart shows that the office carries with it, to the right sort of a man, a good deal of influence in political affairs. Mr. Hobart was consulted freely by the leaders of his party, he was a confidant of the president, and he was thus able to impress his personality on public affairs. In this way the post became the second office under the government in more than a theoretical sense. If a man of ability, popularity and tact is nominated for vice president at the Philadelphia convention next June he will be reasonably certain to gain enough prestige by his service to give his post a permanent boom in the estimation

of statesman of character and ambition.

The reported reorganization of the Fenian brotherhood for the purpose of invading Canada, in case the Dominion sends any more volunteers to South Africa, is denied. This government would not for an instant tolerate the organization of any such movement in the United States. It is doubtful if our Irish-American fellow citizens would countenance another Fenian invasion of Canada. It would be a poor way of attacking England. Numbers of American sympathizers with Oom Paul's cause are contributing liberally toward the Boer hospital fund and sending supplies to the Transvaal, via Delagoa bay, and they are taking a much wiser and far more praiseworthy course.

THE RATS OF CHICAGO

Five Rodents to Every One of the City's Population.

Poison and Cats Are of Little Avail to Rid the City of the Rapidly Multiplying Rodents.

When the Englishman who recently wrote a bird book called the sparrow the avian rat, doubtless he had the great numbers of the birds in mind as well as their rodent-like habits of life. Yet, as a matter of fact, the sparrow, though in numbers they are like the leaves on the trees before the army worm arrived, are in reality far less numerous in this big city than are the great gray rats. There are in Chicago probably about five rats for every man, woman and child within the city's confines.

Rats are repulsive at best, and nearly everybody is afraid of them. Possibly not much cheer will be derived from this statement that there are living in and about the city's houses, stores and waste places some 1,000,000 of these cruel-hearted, sleek, sharp-toothed creatures.

The rat probably has more enemies than any other animal on earth. Its persecutors, animate and inanimate, come in the form of poison, traps, cats, dogs, birds, ferrets and men. Some or all of these agents are at work constantly, and yet the city rat thrives, waxes fat and rears a large family.

It is asserted by authorities that Chicago has more rats in proportion to its size than any other city on earth. The conditions here are peculiarly adapted to the preservation of the species. Under the wooden sidewalks, which are still to be found at places even in the heart of the city, the rats have a haven of refuge. When driven from buildings by cats or by ferrets kept for the purpose, the Chicago rat makes straight for the nearest wooden pavement and under it digs a burrow. The rat is a true gamin—sharp, cunning and, when necessity requires it, bold. Indolence is the Chicago rat's birthright, for in his veins flows Viking blood. Chicago's rat came from Norway, and the first rat was so killed or driven out all the black rats which were indigenous to the American soil.

If anyone should wonder why it is that despite all its enemies the city rat manages to increase in numbers he may satisfy his curiosity and gain wisdom at the same time by taking a space and digging out a rat hole at almost any time between March 1 and October 1. These months are the family raising time, and during this period three broods are sent out by each pair to begin their predatory existence.

If the man with the spade succeeds in reaching the end of the hole he will uncover a family of young rodents which never number less than ten and frequently exceed 25 members. Taking 22 nestlings as the average family, each good healthy pair of the blackened gray rats will present to the world each year 26 of their kind. Now on a basis of 2,000,000 pairs of rats it will be seen that each year there is added to the rat population of Chicago something like 260,000,000 of young rodents.

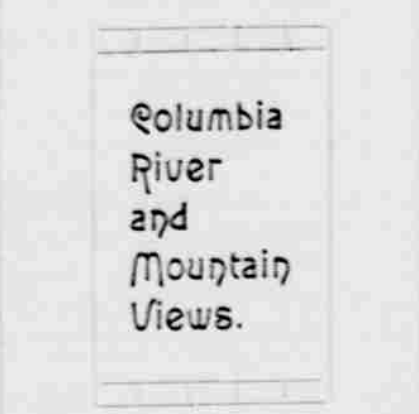
In the face of these figures it seems to be a cause of surprise that poison and cats and other things cannot entirely do away with the city's rat pest. It is a matter of congratulation to the citizens of Chicago that the cats and other rat enemies do the work as well as they do, otherwise the rat army would not content itself with a commissariat of bread, meat and cheese and scraps, but would turn, attack and subvert on the Chicago citizen himself. —Chicago Tribune.

L. T. Travis, agent Southern R. R., Selma, Ga., writes: "I can not say too much in praise of One Minute Cough Cure. In my case it worked like a charm." The only harmless remedy that gives immediate results. Cures coughs, colds, croup, bronchitis and all throat and lung troubles.

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