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WILL TRY FOR DAVIS CUP TEAM

Lawn Tennis Stars Announce Willingness to Compete.

STRONG PLAYERS ARE LISTED

Nearly All the American Cracks Will Be on Hand to Try to Life International Trophy—Hackett Will Be Selected For Doubles.

Robert D. Wrenn, president of the United States Lawn Tennis association, has announced that six of the players who have been asked to take part in the trial matches for the selection of the Davis cup team have signified their willingness to play. President Wrenn also said that arrangements are now being made for the preliminary matches.

America will be represented by a strong team this year, for the men who have answered the call for material are strong wielders of the racket and ranked among the best in the country. Those who have come out and announced their willingness to try for the team are as follows: It Norris Williams, the national clay court champion; Wallace F. Johnson of Philadelphia, Harold H. Hackett and Raymond D. Little have replied directly to Mr. Wrenn, while Maurice McLaughlin, the national champion, and Thomas C. Bundy, the partner with McLaughlin in the national doubles, have communicated with the committee through Dr. Sumner Hardy, the national committeeman of the Pacific coast.

Harold Hackett, it is said, undoubtedly will be selected for the challenging team.

It is said that the selection of the veteran, Harold Hackett, would chiefly be due to his phenomenal record as a doubles player, and it is in that department of the game that he is expected to strengthen the American team. He was rated four times with different partners in the first ten of the doubles list last fall.

In the estimation of the committee and the experts, who are carefully scanning the records so as to put together one of the strongest teams this country has ever mustered, Hackett is regarded as probably the greatest doubles performer this country has ever produced.

PITCHERS HEAD THE CLUB.

One Hurler Is President, While Another Is Manager.

Unusual complications are possible under the new ownership of the Grand Rapids (Mich.) Central League club. Both President W. E. Essick and Manager Ed Smith of the club are pitchers and expect to take their regular turns in the box.

Some day the president may be yielding too many hits to suit the manager. Then Smith will order Essick to the bench.

Will the president submit or will he hand Smith his release?

Then, too, in the course of time Manager Smith is likely to report to President Essick that Pitcher Essick "has gone back" and should be released.

Doubtless in that contingency the president will back up the pitcher.

LEFT HANDERS NUMEROUS.

Rebel Oakes Says He Has Seen Left Handed This Spring.

"I have never seen so many left handers as I have this spring," said Rebel Oakes of the St. Louis Cardinals ruminatively as he watched Pitcher Hamilton of the St. Louis Browns warm up in one of the city series games recently. "All spring long we have had left handed pitching and left handed batting. Why, even the waiters, the porters and the bellboys have been left handed."

"The other day in fungo practice Pitcher Harmon hit one over my head and three small boys relayed the ball back to me. Every one of 'em was left handed. Believe me, I am no sea of gurgling glee, or words to that effect." And Mr. Oakes continued to watch the sorrel topped Hamilton fan the Cardinal batters.

AMATEURS TO PLAY MAY 26.

British Golf Tourney to Be Staged at St. Andrews.

The British amateur golf championship will be played at St. Andrews beginning May 26. The women's championship will be played at St. Anne's-on-Sea, beginning on June 2. The Royal Liverpool Golf club, Hoylake, will be the scene of the British open championship, June 19 to 24.

The French amateur championship will be held at La Bouille, July 3 to 5. The open championship will take place at Chantilly, Oct. 13 and 14.

Comes to Study American Styles.

Lauri Pitkanen, who holds the Finnish records in the 200, 400 and 800 meter races, is now in this country to take up a six weeks' study of the methods used in training athletes at the University of Pennsylvania. He hopes to get suggestions which will aid him in training the Finnish team for the Olympic games of 1916.

Pertinent Query.

"Dobble's word is as good as his bond?" "Exactly. How good is his bond?"—Houston Post.

Parents and Children.

Of children born of parents at the age of forty-one one-third die during the first year, while the rate of mortality among those born of parents between the ages of twenty-one and thirty is less than 8 per cent.

APPRAISING HUMAN LIFE.

Cash Value of a Man as Computed by Legal Decisions.

That "human life is cheap" would appear from a study undertaken by a well known lawyer of the legal decisions handed down in this country with reference to the "cash value" of a man.

It is estimated that at ten years of age a boy of the laboring class is worth \$2,081.42; at fifteen, \$4,233.45; at twenty-five, \$5,488.03, from which time the decline is steady, a man of seventy, by this legal decision scale, rating at only \$17.13! By the same practical method of computation one eye is worth \$5,000; one leg, \$15,000; two legs, \$25,000; one arm, \$10,000; one hand, \$6,000; one finger, \$1,500, and permanent disability, \$25,000. This it is pointed out, is merely an average as far as decisions have been examined.

It should be added that the estimates of the value of a man's life are based upon an idea not of his value to himself, but of his value to the community. The figures in individual cases would vary greatly with reference to the fact whether or not the person's death caused hardship to others who were dependent upon him.

The value of a man to himself is, it is further pointed out, unimportant after he is dead from a legal point of view. His value to society at large cannot be considered in a cash estimate since that kind of value depends upon other than physical resources. His value to those who look to him for support can alone be estimated on the material side.—New York Press.

INEQUALITIES OF MIND.

Widely Varying Mentalities Are Essential to Society.

The inequalities of mind are numerous and various as the inequalities of matter. One mind sports with worlds, another with atoms. One man perches himself on Mount Chimborazo and communes with the stars; another delves into the earth in search of hidden treasures and buries himself in mines and minerals. One man moves along with the tardiness of the ox in the drudgery of life; another ascends in a balloon and soars above the clouds.

Here we find a Newton measuring the comet's path, a Franklin stealing fire from heaven, a Columbus in search of a new world, and there a sportsman with his hounds in quest of a fox. One delights in his reveling and song, in riotous living and the giddy dance, another in locking up his golden pig in an iron chest.

Talk we, then, of minds equally endued by nature or improved by art! No such minds ever composed any community. Varieties, all manner of varieties, are essential to society. The world needs the rich and the poor, the young and the aged, the learned and the unlearned, the healthy and the infirm, the cheerful and the melancholic. These call forth all our energies, open channels for all the social virtues, lay the basis of our various responsibilities and constitute much of the happiness of this life. They furnish opportunities for communicating and receiving benefits.—Alexander Campbell's "Mind the Master of Force."

Rescued the "Trash."

One of the most highly prized manuscripts of recent times was rescued just in time from a cupboard in a house where the poet had for some time lived as a bachelor. This was the manuscript of "In Memoriam," and it was to the poet himself that the recovery was due, for he remembered that the book wherein he had transcribed the original draft had been hastily thrust into the cupboard, where Tenney also had been accustomed to keep his pickles and jams. When the friends sent by the poet to recover the manuscript arrived on the scene the contents of the cupboard had been cleaned and tarty advised her visitors that they had come none too soon, "inasmuch as she would that day have burnt all the "trash" she had found."—Boston Post.

Echo Verses.

Echo verses were sometimes used effectively for epigrams and squibs. Thus a critic once wrote: "I'd fain praise your poem. But, tell me, how is it?" "Exquisite!" echo cries "Quit it!"

And when in 1831 Paganini was drawing crowds to the opera house at extravagant prices the Times printed the following lines: "What are they who pay three guineas To hear a tune of Paganini's? Echo—Pack o' ninnies!"—London Graphic.

Untimely Jestings.

"Motoring is all well enough," said Jorrocks as Brinley's car sank into the mud up above the hubs, "but there is such a thing as running it into the ground."

"Don't waste your wit out here in the road, Jorrocks," retorted Brinley. "Go hire a haul. We need it!"—Harper's Weekly.

Before and After.

"Before marriage I used to sit up until midnight wishing he would go home."

"Yes?"

"—Yes, and since we are married I sit up until midnight wishing that he would come home."—Houston Post.

Woman's Way.

A woman likes to marry a man who feels that he was born to command. Just to prove to him that he wasn't.—Puck.

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SPRING CLEANING.

Now is the Time to Consider Its Many Problems.

SOME THINGS THAT HELP.

Work Made Easy if Gone About Systematically—Kitchen Closets and Pantry Require First Attention. Sweep Carpets With the Pile.

Begin the work of thoroughly cleaning a room by dusting and rubbing up all the articles of furniture which may easily be removed from the room. Pictures and ornaments should be taken down and dusted and put aside. If the curtains and draperies are not easily removable they should be looped aside or else covered as well as possible with large squares of muslin, which are kept for this purpose. The heavier pieces of furniture also should be covered.

Where there is no vacuum cleaner the ordinary corn broom will answer very well.

Always sweep with the pile of the carpet, never across or against it.

After the room has been thoroughly swept slip a clean flannel cover over the broom and proceed to brush ceiling and walls. The rule is to work from above downward.

After the walls are brushed the wood-work should be gone over with dusters. If there are any finger marks they should be removed first. This may be done very effectively with a cloth dipped in kerosene and then wiped dry. Never use this near fire.

The curtains may be brushed or shaken, and then the windows should be cleaned. Wipe the shades, using a very clean cloth for this work.

The sheets which cover the furniture remaining in the room should now be removed completely and the furniture dusted and rubbed up where necessary. It should not require polishing—that is, if average care is taken of it—another thing twice during a season. Clean mirrors and the glass doors of book-cases. The chandeliers must not be overlooked. The metal parts may be wiped with a cloth dipped in cotton-seed oil and then wiped dry.

The pictures and ornaments may now be replaced, and then turn your attention to the floor.

If this requires a thorough polishing, which is hardly likely, wipe over with a cloth dipped in the crude oil and alcohol mixture, taking precautions, of course, not to run any risk from fire, and then follow this up with a clean, dry cloth, rubbing vigorously. A weighted polisher may be used for this work. This may easily be made at home, using a brick or an old flatiron with a flannel covering. Never use water on a hardwood polished floor. The result will be most disastrous to the finish.

Before cleaning a bedroom remove the bedding and if it is possible put it out to air. After straightening closets and drawers cover the large pieces of furniture as was done in the library. Remove the mattress cover and spread a sheet of muslin over the bed. Take up the small rugs. With a light stick or a rattan carpet beater beat the mattress. The sheet which covers it should be moistened to hold down the dust. Both sides must be beaten. If the mattress can't be beaten out of doors it should be done.

In the kitchen the closets and pantry will require first attention. The shelves should be thoroughly washed and allowed to dry before the utensils are replaced. This is a good time to take note of the contents of jars and boxes, making a list of those supplies which are running low.

The walls around sink and range may require washing, as they are more apt to become soiled than the other parts of the room.

The range should be given a thorough polishing once in two weeks. This will be found quite often enough, provided a little care is taken of it day by day.

The Guest Book.

Among the old customs that have been revived is that of having a special book in the home in which is inscribed the name of each guest who spends a night or more under one's roof, and some people even put down those who take a meal there and those who call.

The guest may inscribe his name himself, thereby leaving his autograph, or the host or hostess, if preferred, may write it himself or herself, so that the writing will be uniform throughout the book.

Books designed especially for this purpose may be found in the stationery shops, bound inexpensively in cloth or leather. But if one desires to spend a little more money and make the guest book quite original and a thing of beauty one may have a hand tooled cover, hammered brass or copper hinges and even a key to make it look like the ancient ones that were used in olden times.

For Hanging Pictures.

When a wall is so soft that it will not hold a picture nail mix a little plaster of paris in a teacup, enlarge the hole to a fair size and insert the plaster and, a minute after, the nail and let it dry. The nail will be perfectly secure after it has dried.

Cleaning Windows.

If windows are cleaned with vinegar and water they will be brighter and stay clean longer than if cleaned with water alone. Polish in the usual way with soft linen cloth.

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LEGENDS OF THE SWORD.

Curious Beliefs That Hovered Round the Ancient Weapon.

Countless legends and superstitions have attached to the sword since the days when fighting was the principal occupation of life. So highly was the sword esteemed that Mohammed in the Koran declared it to be "the key to heaven and hell."

The warrior or knight gave a name to his sword. He vowed at the altar never to draw it in a false cause. It was his companion and friend and descended from father to son for many generations. One sword named "Brother of the Lightning" had a golden hilt inscribed with magic words. In times of peace these were said to be illegible, but before a battle "they glowed red as blood."

It was believed, moreover, that a sword after long use acquired a life of its own. Many famous swords were said to utter cries before battle, and after a weapon had killed five score men it became blood hungry and leaped from its scabbard at the approach of a foe. Certain swords were said to refuse to give a wound in a bad cause. Among these was the brand Excalibur, which was given to King Arthur by a fairy and which Richard Coeur de Lion professed to own.

In the east superstitious reverence is still paid to the sword. The Daimios of Japan, when they voluntarily surrendered their rank, kept as a rule the wonderful blades which had been handed down from generation to generation. In some cases for more than a thousand years, and which had absorbed, as they believed, some of the character and life of the men that had owned them.—Harper's Weekly.

SARDINIAN BAGPIPES.

So Exhausting That Nearly All Who Played Them Died Young.

Bagpipes are the Bulgarian national instrument. Until lately the servants who waited on the Turkish grand vizier in Constantinople were mutes, though not, as in former times, persons specially mutilated, but children born deaf and dumb. They used a language of signs, with a special gesture to describe the representative of each nation. To indicate the Bulgarian agent they imitated a man playing on the bagpipes. It was not the Bulgarians who invented the pipes, however. They are among the oldest of musical instruments. An ancient gem shows Apollo with them, and two instruments in the book of Daniel are believed to have been bagpipes.

The bagpipes range not only in time from Apollo and the Bible to the present day, but geographically from China to Spain and Great Britain. England is said to have given them to Scotland. One country, however, finally lost a peculiarly severe form of the instrument. This was the Sardinian "lannedda," which had three pipes, all placed in the piper's mouth, and was played by rubbing strips of wax up and down over the holes.

The work was so exhausting that nearly all the pipers died young. In 1845 George Burdett came across one who had survived to the age of eighty. But he was the last of the lannedda players, and when he died the instrument was played no more.—Chicago News.

A Champion Bore.

"I used to know a man," says Abe Peters, "who was the worst bore I ever met. He used to stop me whenever he met me and start with a line of talk, generally about himself, and stay with me for an hour or more. He was an absentminded man and had a habit of catching hold of a button of my coat and holding on to that while he talked. He would hang on to that button and just ramble on and on till I was nearly ready for the bughouse. One day a happy thought struck me. I got out my knife quietly and cut the button off and slipped away. He kept right on talking. An hour later a friend of mine came along and found the bore still standing there, with the button between his fingers and talking about the year of the big snow in Michigan. He hadn't noticed that I was gone."—Topeka Capital.

Fantastic House Names.

Switzerland can show some house names quite as fantastic as those in Holland. There is a villa near Bale christened in a way worthy of Uriah Heep—"Klein aber Mein." It would be hard, however, to parallel Gustave Dore's attempt in this direction. He expressed the name of his house at St. Cloud in a state of much with the notes C E D A C D (do mi si la do), which, being interpreted, means Domelle a Dore.—London Standard.

A Country Place.

"Now this country place is improved with asphalt streets, electric lights and brick walks."

"You don't understand. I'm looking for a country place that is improved with some turf, a lake, perhaps, and a few trees."—Kansas City Journal.

Familiar Letters.

An overworked letter, I; a busy letter, B; a deep letter, C; a surprised letter, G; a rustic letter, J; a financial letter, O; a Chinese letter, Q; a life letter, T; an inferior letter, U.—Life.

A Woman's Watch.

The reason a woman is a woman is because if her watch has a beautiful monogram engraved on the back she doesn't care whether it keeps time or not.—Galveston News.

To be happy here is your chief end, for to be happy we must needs be good.—H. Kirke White.

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