

New Language Being Planned

Scientists and Industrial Leaders Indorse the New International Movement.

PHILOLOGISTS ARE AT WORK

Esperanto and Ido Among Those Being Considered for Universal Tongue—Esperanto Makes Greatest Progress in Illiterate Russia.

Washington, D. C.—Linguists and philologists are yielding first place to scientists and industrial leaders in promoting the idea of a universal auxiliary language. This would seem to be the inference from the interest taken in this question by some of the most prominent men in Uncle Sam's corps of scientists.

Some of America's commercial leaders are keeping pace with the men of science. A. C. Bedford, chairman of the board of directors of the Standard Oil company, is among those who are taking a keen interest in the question.

The scientists are by no means committed to Esperanto or yet Ido as the universal language of the future. It is with them a question of getting universal agreement on an auxiliary language to aid the transference of thought and knowledge throughout the world, linguistic difficulties being now regarded as the great dividing barrier.

The question is one of the subjects on the agenda of the forthcoming gathering of the international chambers of commerce in Rome.

Cottrell Active in Movement.

Frederick J. Cottrell, inventor of the Cottrell precipitation process, now in charge of the government's fixed nitrogen laboratory, has been prominent in bringing the learned scientific and literary bodies of the country to a recognition of the importance of the question.

The last thing one would expect the bureau of standards to be taking an interest in is the question of an auxiliary language. The average man thinks of this highly specialized body as dealing with millimeters, calories, wave lengths and atoms. Yet S. W. Stratton, former chief of the bureau, is the head of a permanent committee of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, appointed to keep in touch with the world progress of a universal language and to make recommendations from time to time.

The following other academic bodies in the United States have appointed committees: The American Philosophical Association, American Classical League, American Philological Association and the National Research Council.

The aim of the standing committee of the American Association for the Advancement of Science is, first, to make a searching fundamental study of the principles involved in a universal auxiliary language, and, second, to bring about an authoritative international agreement both as to linguistic details and as to the practical measures to be taken.

Framework by Linguists.

Scientists recognize that linguists must work out the general framework of fact and interpretation in a new language. The importance of the man of science, such as the physicist, for instance, lies in his particular aptitude for recording and analyzing sounds in speech, just as the psychologists must aid in the measurement of mental phenomena.

Science and technology has also a special field of its own in the working out of technical vocabularies. It is from the standpoint of unification and standardization of the tools of thought that the bureau of standards might naturally be expected to approach the question.

"All the sciences," said a resolution

Railroad Man Falls 75 Feet and Only Cuts Chin

William Civin, a brakeman on a Pennsylvania freight train, fell 75 feet off a railroad bridge across the Whitewater river at Richmond, Ind., into three feet of water and suffered only a slight scratch on his chin and a bad shaking.

In a dense fog, Civin stepped off the caboose into space. He waded out and climbed up the river bank without aid.

of the American association's committee, "are alike interested in unifying the fundamental tools of thought and have been notably successful in so doing with respect to our system of numbers, the arabic numerals, the metric system, the measurement of latitude and longitude, angular divisions, mathematical symbols, chemical formulae, time and the calendar, notation in music and other technical usages."

Considerable attention has been given the question of an auxiliary language by the League of Nations. Lord Robert Cecil was a member of a committee appointed by the league to consider the question. The consideration

State Park Idea Spreading Fast

Movement for Open Play Spaces Has Taken Remarkable Hold Within Past Few Years.

LITTLE KNOWN ABOUT THEM

State Parks Are Pocket Editions of Our Great National Park System—Many Planned to Preserve Historic Places.

What do you know about your state parks?

Washington.—What is a state park? Announcement that the third annual conference of state parks will be held at Turkey Run state park, Indiana, May 7, 8 and 9, gives rise to the question.

"You will search most reference books in vain for any information about state parks, an important fact that every thinking American citizen should know," says a bulletin from the National Geographic society, "though there you will find ample mention of national parks and city parks."

"State parks are pocket editions of our great national park system."

"They are the stop-over places of the motorist."

"They perch on barren peaks and preserve tree-bowed lovers' lanes beside running brooks."

"They take in such shrines as Lincoln's birthplace and James Whitcomb Riley's 'old swimmin' hole'."

"They perpetuate far older history than that to be found in history textbooks. Starved Rock park, Illinois, commemorates the time when America's inland was a sea; when the cosmic happenings of millions of years ago deposited the shells and precip-

that the league gave it was based on the promise that a universal means of communication would as time went on decrease the possibility of international misunderstanding.

The Bolsheviks were quick to seize on this aspect of a universal language. Esperanto has made the greatest progress in the last few years in illiterate Russia and in territory contiguous to Russia.

In indorsing the movement for a common tongue the Soviets sought to bring the proletariat of all countries together, the idea being to link them up by means of a common language.

POEM IDENTIFIES DEAD MAN

Widow of American Soldier Also Claims Trinkets as Those of Her Husband.

Washington.—A typewritten poem found on the body of an American soldier killed near Binarville, France, proved the means of identifying the body as that of Thomas O'Keefe, Company D, Three Hundred Sixth machine gun battalion, Seventy-seventh division.

By tracing the poem to its author and checking over the lists of the Twenty-seventh and Seventy-seventh divisions, searchers ultimately found the widow of the missing soldier, who positively identified other articles found on the body.

There were found, in addition to the typewritten poem, a few coins, a book with the penciled notations, "Nevada Consolidated Copper company" and "Still Water Gazette"; also a ring engraved "T. O'K." All these articles were preserved and the army machinery for identification of the unknown dead in France began its work.

lated the lime which formed the magnesium limestone layer of this region.

"Prairie Land to Fairyland."

"Iowa invited its citizens to an hour's auto ride from 'prairie land to fairyland.'"

"In Wisconsin you can rent an island for \$10 a year."

"State parks save the open play spaces amid dense populations of the East and they keep out encroaching farm lands of the Middle West."

"Rip Van Winkle sought succor in skittles from a shrewish spouse, but the city man today, harried by a hundred worries, can take wife and children for a 48-hours' rest to the hills where Rip retreated."

"If this is like the times—what state parks still afford to routine-ridden city dwellers."

"Our own parks bear evidence of our new governmental ideal. Originally a park, says Noah Webster, was 'an inclosed piece of ground stocked with beasts of the chase, held by prescription or the king's grant.'"

"Today a park might be defined as 'an unclosed piece of ground stocked with beasts, not to be chased, or killed, held by prescription of the people for their own use.'"

"Nobody knows exactly how many state parks there are in 1923. Two years ago a survey by the national park service showed that 26 states had state parks. The movement has taken such a hold within the last few years that the park area within those states has expanded materially and other states have embarked upon park programs."

"Niagara falls is nationally known as scenery, and also as a controversy, but, in the history of the park movement, Niagara is a precedent."

"Hartford has a park which is an early example of the best sort of civic publicity and also established a park precedent. Search your memory and see whether you have not forgotten most of the statistics and slogans which greet you upon huge signboards placed along the railway tracks by trade bodies of many enterprising cities. But nobody who has entered Hartford by train, in daylight, is likely to forget the sylvan beauty of Bushnell park, which adjoins the station with the tree-shaded Connecticut capitol building set on its central hill.

"Horace Bushnell worked for five years to persuade his neighbors to tax themselves to buy this tract. Thus Bushnell park is a monument marking the first time in history when the people bought a tract with their own money to be used as a public park.

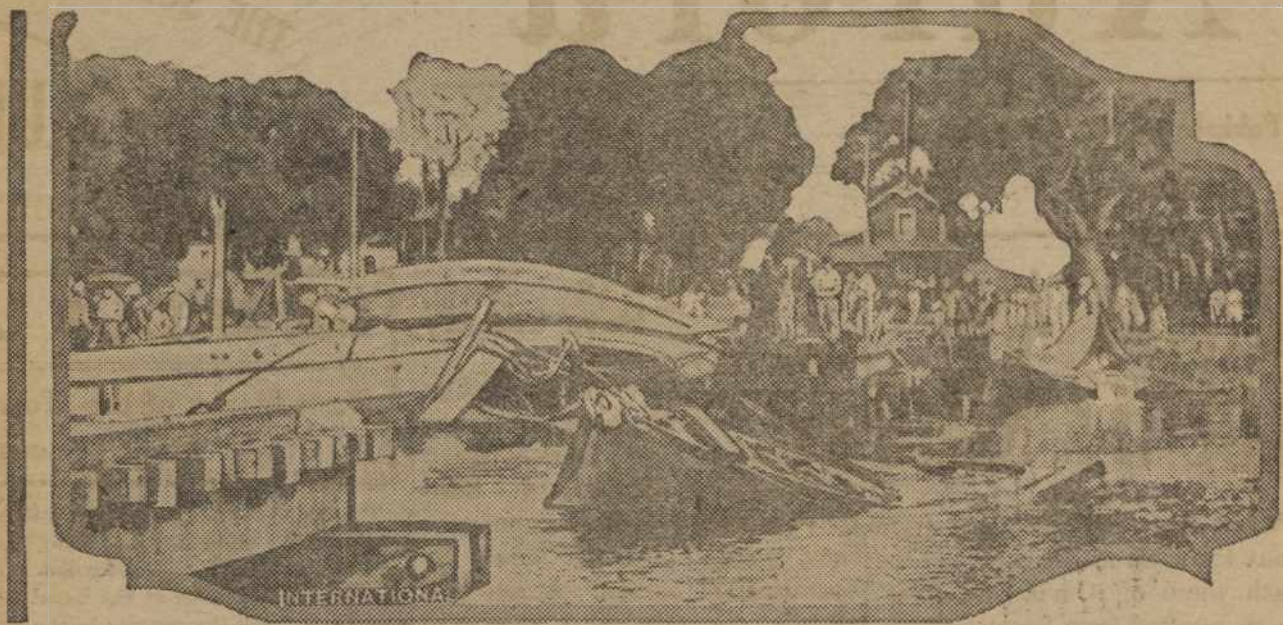
A Reversal of Purpose.

"Exactly opposite to the days when feudal barons used a park to keep the public out is the era when the essential element of a park is that King Auto and Sovereign Pedestrian must have easy access. Colorado proclaims that she has a motorists' camp in every town of a thousand or more people. Iowa avers that she has more camp sites per capita than any other state.

"New York, with 40 reservations, comprising 2,000,000 acres, heads the list of states in the extent of her park system.

"Turkey Run state park, Indiana, where the coming conference will be held, is a last stand of the primeval forest which once covered practically all the Hoosier state. It is especially rich in the yellow poplar or tulip tree of Indiana, the sycamore and the black walnut. It has a modern hotel, electrically equipped, modern plumbing and a steam-heating system.

Destruction Wrought in Hawaii by the Tidal Waves



Photograph shows a railway drawbridge over a stream near Hilo that was wrecked by tidal waves. Hilo is the principal city on the island of Hawaii, and is approximately 225 miles from Honolulu, which is located on the island of Oahu.

Wages Endless War on Rodents

Modern Pied Piper Rid the Country of 10,000,000 Rats Last Year, by Government Count.

SAYS PESTS ARE ON INCREASE

Theoretically, if Rat Population Increases in Next 100 Years as It Has in Last 15, the Rat Will Destroy Human Race.

Washington.—The modern Pied Piper, J. L. Nicholes, was in town the other day, and he brought the sad news that rats are on the increase. Even with all the rat-killing campaigns, and with the interest of the public aroused, these pests are flourishing. Rats are being killed by the million, but the surviving mothers, sisters and cousins and aunts energetically offset the tribal losses by building up new and widening family circles.

Mr. Nicholes is not a gloom dispenser. For seven years he has conducted rat-killing campaigns. He has swatted the rat cheerfully and with telling effect. He says that last year he rid the country of 10,000,000 rats, by government count. But the outlook is that, theoretically, if the rat population increases in the next 100 years as it has in the last 15 years, the rat will destroy the human race.

They Are Costly "Pests."

Mr. Nicholes says that in 1910 rats in the United States destroyed \$80,000,000 worth of food and other property. In 1916 the amount was \$180,000,000; in 1919, \$300,000,000, and this year rats are expected to do \$1,000,000,000 worth of damage.

And that is not the worst of rats as pests. They are among the most efficient disease carriers that we have. They have taken the bubonic plague all over the world. Their connection with typhoid, scarlet fever, diphtheria, meningitis and tuberculosis is also being investigated. Rats are flea-infested creatures, and that alone makes them both dirty and dangerous. They are pests to be attacked relentlessly.

This modern Pied Piper has no pipe, and he has never tried charming rats with music. But he has studied rat character and intelligence, and he applies his knowledge to bring about the rat's downfall. After hearing Mr. Nicholes talk about their cleverness, it seems likely that rats have changed since the Hamelin town Pied Piper story. The rats of 1281 never hesitated in following magic tune, we are told. But you cannot help fancying that the 1922 rat would merely have smiled impudently at the piper and have wrapped his tail securely about his ears to shut out the dangerous notes.

Mr. Nicholes says that rats distinguish between different colors. If bait is put on a number of papers, some red, some white, and some blue, the rats will eat the food on one kind of paper and will avoid the other colors. Presumably they try one type of food, and if that seems satisfactory they continue to eat as long as it lasts. If they try the bait on blue paper and like that they will ignore the red and white paper and eat only the blue.

Most Cunning of Animals.

Rats are the most cunning of animals, Mr. Nicholes says. He tells of a case in which a basement was overrun with rats which were almost tame. One day a trap was set in the basement. A rat ran along the floor directly toward the trap. Suddenly he saw the danger and tried to stop so quickly that he slid on his haunches and caught himself only a few inches from the trap door. He scampered away hastily, and evidently spread the exciting news of the trap, for no more rats came out all afternoon.

That rodents warn one another of danger is further shown by Mr. Nicholes in a story of Lexington market. Several years ago Mr. Nicholes conducted a rat-killing campaign in Baltimore, and cleared this market of 1,500 rats. For a year, which is about six rat generations, there were no more rats in the market. It may be that the survivors told all of their friends about the terrible massacre of the market place. After that the fear wore off,

or else the tradition became lost, for the market had to be cleaned out again not long ago.

However the news of danger is spread, it is evident that rats do possess a degree of intelligence which helps them to avoid danger. They are anything but gullible, and this makes the problem of destroying them the more troublesome. They quite often avoid traps. Predatory animals, such as cats and ferrets, cannot as a rule be used to kill them off in large numbers. Poison, carefully and properly used, is the most effective means of disposing of them on a wholesale scale.

Mr. Nicholes uses barium carbonate, which is tasteless and odorless. Its action upon rats is slow, so that poisoned animals generally leave a house or barn in search of water, and the small quantities used to bait food for rats are not often sufficient to kill other creatures.

Three Kinds of Bait Used.

The American Pied Piper carries his reasoning about rat intelligence over into his work of poisoning the pests. He knows that rats are suspicious, and so he uses three kinds of bait, perhaps cheese, apples and hamburger steak. The rodents do not seem to be able to suspect danger in as many as three kinds of food at one time.

Food is placed not less than five nor more than fifteen feet apart in baiting an area. No special effort is made to avoid handling the bait. A wild animal might be warned by the association of a human being with the food, but a rat is domesticated. The scent of man is attached to much of the food it eats regularly.

The rat brain seems to work something like this: The first rat comes out and finds a piece of poisoned food. He sniffs it suspiciously and decides it might be dangerous. He goes a little farther and finds a different kind of food. The first kind he avoided as dangerous. He tries the second and apparently it is all right. Other rats follow the example of the discoverer of the food. A banquet follows, and then wholesale tragedy.

15,000 on One Farm.

The scale on which an expert rat killer works may be imagined from the following case: A Louisiana farm five miles square was so overrun by rats that nothing could be successfully grown on it. Mr. Nicholes took 16 barrels of sweet potatoes, 18 cream cheeses and an entire cow and baited drain ditches for a length of two miles. The result was that 15,000 rats died that night.

In spite of such sweeping destruction no community has ever been entirely cleaned of rats. A 75 per cent death rate is about the best record made when a city conducted a rat-killing campaign. Some rats escape to the country and come back later, and some buildings are not cleaned at all.

Mother Killed Children Trying to Keep them Warm

Desire of Mrs. Edna Gilhany of Philadelphia to keep her two babies warm cost the lives of Thomas Gilhany, twenty-two months old, and Mary Gilhany, nine months. The mother dropped a quarter in a slot meter, ignorant that a gas heater in the room where the children were asleep had gone out. Escaping fumes asphyxiated the little ones.

It is not enough for one or two people in a town to fight rats for a week. The entire community must join in the battle and continue the attack after a campaign is over. Houses should be rat-proofed, food shut up in rat-proof containers and refuse cans kept covered.

This appears to be good advice when it is known that each rat costs somebody half a cent a day, or \$1.82 a year. In inland cities there are now two rats to each person, Mr. Nicholes figures. In seaports the proportion is four rats to each person and in the country eight. The burden of supporting these parasites falls on the human race, and evidently people are making it easier, rather than harder, for rats to get a living, for Mr. Nicholes reports that rats are not only increasing in numbers; they are getting fat.—Chicago Daily News.

FIND JEWELS IN INDIAN MOUND

Diggers Find 300-Pearl Necklace Worth \$15,000 and 14-Inch Ceremonial Quartz Spearhead.

Chillicothe, O.—A necklace valued at \$15,000 and containing 300 freshwater pearls has been dug out of the Hopewell Indian mound, near here. In announcing the find recently, Dr. W. C. Mills, head of the state archeological society, declared that the necklace was the first ever found among mound builders' relics.

The gems now are the property of the state. An offer of \$15,000 for them was rejected recently. Several of the gems in the string are polished and in excellent condition. The majority are imperfect, however.

At the big Pricer mound, near Bainbridge, another valuable find was made when a ceremonial quartz spearhead 14 inches long was dug up. This is the largest spearhead ever found in Ohio. The valuable relic was washed out of the mound on the property of Mrs. Mary Wood. It is in the possession of a state historical society.

Italy's Army to Be Doubled.

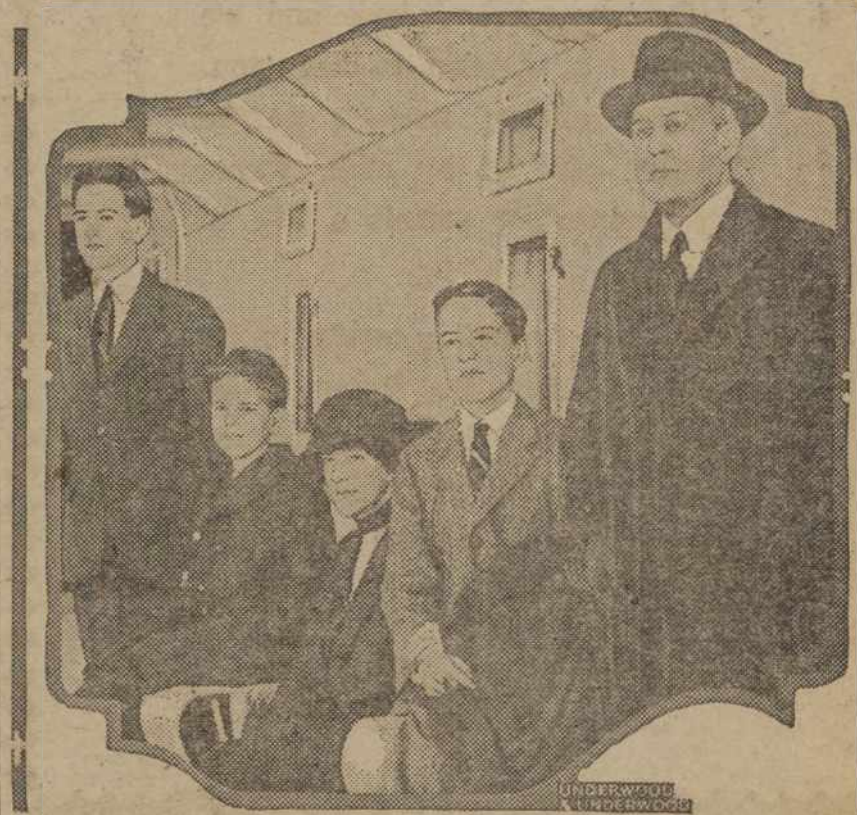
Rome, Italy.—Army reorganization in Italy, under Premier Mussolini, will double the force of men under arms if one includes the national militia. The kingdom will have land forces numbering between 400,000 and 500,000 officers and men.

Suggested as Summer White House



Submitted to the authorities in Washington as a possible summer White House is the beautiful Stotesbury estate at Spring Valley, not many miles distant from Baltimore. The estate was formerly occupied by Walter B. Brooks, Jr., having been a wedding present to his former wife, who was Miss Louise Cromwell, stepdaughter of E. T. Stotesbury of Philadelphia. The estate includes 68 acres, with three tenant houses, barns, garages and stables. The house has 40 rooms and the original cost of construction was over \$250,000; the land is valued at \$50,000.

Ambassador Warren Comes Home



Charles B. Warren, the retiring American ambassador to Japan, and his family photographed on their arrival in San Francisco from Tokyo.