

The Clancy Kids

They Don't Come Every Day

PERCY L. CROSBY
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WHAT DID YA SAY?

I CAN'T COME OUT, SPIDER. I GOTTA GO TO A FUNERAL

I SAY I GOTTA GO TO A FUNERAL

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NOTED ITALIAN EXPLORER TURNS TO EAST AFRICA

ROME, April 19. (By Mail).—Arctic exploration and shooting the savage polar bear, have no allurements at present for the Duke of the Abruzzi, who is now engaged in the equally scientific if less hazardous task of investigating the commercial and agricultural possibilities of the Benadir colony, East Africa, with a view to making it a source of income for Italy, and even eventually of rendering that country independent of other nations for her supplies of cotton and cereals.

The duke, in addition, intends to explore the sources of the Uebi Scebel river, which, rising in the high plateau of Hanar, toward Abyssinia, passes through the Italian colonies to the sea, and, it is believed, can easily be rendered navigable for small boats, besides being invaluable as a source of irrigation for the extensive agricultural enterprises which the duke hopes to initiate in Benadir.

The first news has just arrived of the expedition which started last December from Mogadiscio. An exhaustive study has already been made of the winds, the climate and the rainfall of the country. Engineer Agostinelli, who is accompanying the expedition and who has done considerable work on the rivers and canals of the Lower Nile, considers that it will be comparatively easy to utilize the waters of the Uebi Scebel for a system of canals, to irrigate that part of the colony which now suffers from drought which will more than quadruple its productive power.

The Duke of Abruzzi, with the experts who have accompanied him, are setting up two big experimental farms where it will be demonstrated what immense harvests of cotton, dourra, sugar and coffee can be obtained in this country through irrigation, a system of intensive culture and the use of modern agricultural machines.

The ex-German cargo boat, now called the Carlo Pisacane, which brought news of the expedition, also carried a large shipment of dourra from the colony, a grain which resembles maize and can be used, together with ordinary flour, for bread. It has also been proved that the breeding of cattle in Benadir can be greatly increased so that supplies can be sent to Italy of meat and hides.

All this work is being done, it is announced, entirely at the expense of the duke, who desires that Italy's

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WOULDN'T WORK ON LOCAL LANDLORDS

DES MOINES, Ia., May 6.—House-hunters of ingenuity have devised several interesting and successful methods of discovering houses and apartments for rent here.

One recently successful advertisement appeared under a large heading of one word: "Help." It stated that "a sweet, year-old baby needs a home," and added, "of course her parents must go with her." Another househunter who saw this advertisement told the baby's father about a cottage he had just inspected which was too small for himself. The father arrived there first and rented the place.

Most of the schemes are directed toward getting to the vacant place ahead of anyone else. Moving van drivers are stopped frequently to discover where their loads of furniture came from. Even divorce notices and death notices have been successfully followed up by a few house-hunters.

colonies should be developed and hopes that similar work may be started in Lybia and Cyrenaica.

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ENGLAND PROBES MONOPOLIES

LONDON, April 19. (By Mail).—England has started an investigation of the post-war growth of alleged trusts and monopolies.

A profiteering committee which has been looking into the activity of electric light companies and lamp bulb manufacturers, in a report recently made public, says that "a trade combination does exist among electric light manufacturers in this country and exercises a powerful influence over the conduct and development of the industry."

It is known as the Electric Light Manufacturers' association, the re-

port says, and has been created primarily in the interests of three firms—the British Thomson-Houston company, the General Electric company and Messrs. Siemens Brothers. It is reported to include from 90 to 95 per cent of the industry, to fix prices and regulate output, says the profiteering committee.

The prices fixed by association, the report says, become the standard for all lamps sold in this country, whether made by association or non-association manufacturers, or imported from abroad. Because of this standard price policy the general public reap no benefit from lamps of cheaper manufacture, the advantage going wholly to distributors.

Standard vacuum lamps, now sold to the public for three shillings, states the report, could be sold at two shillings at which price the manu-

facturer and distributor would still have a satisfactory working profit.

"One and a quarter million half-watt lamps," adds the report, "sold to the public in 1919 at 12 shillings and sixpence each were purchased in Holland by three associated manufacturers at about three shillings a lamp. They could have been sold at not more than eight shillings which would still have left ample margin for the importers and distributors. Importers and distributors between them made profits on these lamps, of something like \$1,400,000 over and above what would appear to us reasonable.

"Since the largest of the three dominant firms," continues the report, "is under the majority control of an American electrical concern, there is some danger that the interests of the British lamp industry may be subordinated to American interests.

"There is a possibility of an international combination comprising British Dutch and American manufacturers which would be able to control supplies and dominate prices over a considerable part of the world.

"The operations of an association which so effectively controls an important industry," concludes the report, "should be subject to public supervision and control."

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