

PARIS TO WAR AGAINST RATS

PARIS, Sept. 16.—(By Mail)—War to a finish has been declared against the rat by the hygiene commission of Paris. The commission was aghast to learn from a report read to it by Professor Bordas, that there were 8,000,000 rats in the city.

The extermination of the rats is to be accomplished by all the weapons known in rat warfare, and the campaign will be both offensive and defensive. The offensive weapons are the following:

Use of bacterial products or deadly microbes likely to cause epidemics among the rats, poisons, asphyxiating gases in the sewers for several hours at a time repeated at intervals and traps.

In this connection Professor Bordas warns rat trappers not to smoke

before setting their traps as the rat holds tobacco in abhorrence. A premium of two sous is to be paid for each rat killed by hunters.

The defensive campaign will be conducted by rat proofing houses and by setting the garbage cans on the sidewalks only a few minutes previous to the arrival of the garbage automobiles, so that rats cannot feed on their contents over night.

Many pessimistic voices were heard in the hygiene commission as to the chances of success in ridding Paris of the rat nuisance, especially after Professor Bordas had explained that the Paris rat could boast of a family tree dating back to the early centuries of the Christian era, having emigrated to France from the near east with the early Crusaders.

"Such aristocrats are bound to put up a stiff fight for their privileges," said a humorous member of the commission.

Germans are paying less taxes per capita than citizens of Great Britain.

TRAVELERS SHOW SMALL GRATITUDE

GRAND SAINT BERNARD, Switzerland, Sept. 14.—(By Mail)—Seven hundred visitors arrived at the Saint Bernard Monastery in one day recently, most of them in costly motor cars or hired taxicabs, and asked the charitable monks for refreshment. There were many Americans and Englishmen among them.

It has been the custom of the monks for many centuries never to demand any payment for hospitality, the departing guests depositing in a collection box at the entrance of the monastery, whatever amount they wish as a voluntary offering.

The monks received the 700 visitors, to whom they supplied a warm supper including wine, while some of them electing to remain there for the night were provided with beds.

The guests having departed next morning, the treasurer-monk opened the collection box at the gate. He found 15 francs in it.

BRAZIL CONSIDERING THANKSGIVING DAY

RIO DE JANEIRO, Sept. 11.—(By Mail)—The proposal to institute an annual Thanksgiving day in Brazil, as provided for in a measure now before the national senate, has resulted in many lively discussions in that body and continues to be the subject of lengthy editorials in the local press. The measure names December 25 as Thanksgiving day, but an amendment has been presented making the date the first Sunday in January. The bill was originally suggested by a Catholic archbishop. On first reading, it was nominally approved by the senate.

Arguing that the constitution expressly prohibited recognition of or special favors to any one creed, the objectors alleged that the measure had come from the Catholic church, that its passing into law would in some degree give recognition to that church, and that the date proposed as a national festival was essentially of a religious significance.



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