

The Rogues' Gallery



Of Course We Have Lady Members, Real Peaches, and Not One Knows Where Paraguay Is, Either, and They Think That Chaco Is Chewing Gum.

Being an economist and a humorist simultaneously today may seem rather incongruous to many but not to Stephen Leacock. He is one economist who can still see the bright side of life and, what is more, write humorously about it. Born in Swanton, England, in 1869, educated at the Universities of Toronto and Chicago, Leacock first taught economy in Upper Canada college and then in the University of Chicago. In 1904 he became head of the department of economics at McGill university, Montreal. Considered one of the greatest of Canadian humorists, Leacock has written several books, among them being Moonbeams From the Large Lunacy and College Days.

OUR IGNORAMUS CLUB

By STEPHEN LEACOCK

EVER since we started in our town our new Ignoramus Club, of which I'm the secretary, I am stopped on the street by people asking, "What is it? What is it? How do I get in?" And letters! I'm simply bombarded by them—four yesterday and two more today! As soon as it got round that there was no fee, there was just a sort of stampede to get in when we set down at our Wednesday Luncheon meeting to hear a talk on Abyssinia (it's out west in Canada: the man had been there) I counted over a hundred present, and more came in after the tickets were taken up.

People get into the Ignoramus Club, you see, on their brains, or at least on their minds, the kind of minds they have. We do it by question and answer, just by questioning the people who want to get in and seeing if they have the right qualifications. For example, yesterday after the lunch we asked an applicant what was his idea of Mussolini; and he said that he was pretty sure it was an artificial silk made in Italy and used for lingerie!

Ho got in. That is exactly what the Club wants. You see it started from the idea that the world is all overworked and preoccupied about peace and war, and nations who live God knows where, and economics and unemployment. People just grab for their paper in the morning to see what's in the Polish corridor, and what's in the Saar Basin and whether the pliblicite among that Last will keep them Lats or turn them into Slats.

It's too much. We think the world's going crazy. Our President, McSorley, put it that way. "Going crazy!" he said, just like that, snapping his fingers, "going crazy!" And McSorley's finger, it's all silly about his ever having been in an asylum, because he wasn't. It wasn't an asylum at all, just a place! McSorley could have had the biggest law practice in town, but he was too versatile for it. He still has his office, and rows and rows of books in calf-skin. He sits there most of the day, working puzzles. So of course, when we started the Ignoramus Club he was just the man for President.

Well, we have got together on the basis of complete ignorance of all this foolishness. We don't know where the Polish Corridor is and we don't care. Ask us where Manchukuo is and we just laugh! Just break out silly and laugh! You see, we don't know where it is and if you told us we'd forget it tomorrow and think it was somewhere else. In fact we are just like everybody used to be before the world went crazy.

At the last meeting somebody asked one of our lady members something about Flandin. Do we have Indies? Well, do we! What do you think we are, professors? Of course we have lady members, real peaches, and not one knows where Paraguay is, either, and they think that Chaco is chewing gum. Perhaps you saw in the papers the other day the story of how a man said to a girl at a dance, "I'd like to ask you for a dance but I must confess I'm just a little stiff from Pele," and she said "Oh, that's all right, I don't care where you were born." Well,

that girl is one of our members: She qualified on that remark.

What did the lady say about Flandin? Oh, she said that tablets like that were all right if you couldn't sleep.

As a matter of fact some of our members seem to get into the club just in time. They look sick and worn out when they come in, and in a week or two they quit worrying about the Polish Corridor, and they think the Belgia is the name of a movie star and they're all right.

What do we do at the meetings? Come round some time and see. We have lunch meetings and evening meetings, too; generally have a paper or a discussion, anything, as long as the members don't know anything about it and don't care. We're having a lunch on Disarmament Wednesday. And of course in a way we're a "service" club. At least we're pledged to do something for the kiddies. We had a smoker for them, last time—you know, to raise money for the Scouts, great little fellows! But we lost out on it; the cigars cost too much. We had to borrow out of the little fellows' savings bank to get even. But we'll fix it all later. As McSorley said, "Bohhood is sacred." We'll see they get their money back. We can raise it from their parents. We're just starting up a Summer Camp for Underfed Kids. Some of us are going out next Saturday to see how the food is, and if there is fishing for the kiddies.

But come to any of the meetings and you'll see. The best thing we've started yet is our Legion of Honor. No, not honor, "Humor." It's a yellow ribbon the color of spilled egg; it goes on the lapel of the coat. Whenever any statesman or politician makes a special speech, the thing called a "vital pronouncement," we send it to him. But come round some time.

© Stephen Leacock.—WNU Service.

"Home of Giants"

About the middle of southern Norway there rises from the great central plateau a vast wilderness of peaks and glaciers, interspersed with hundreds of brooks and lakes, teeming with trout. The stupendous national park—for that is what it really is—is the Jotunheim, a name which means the Home of the Giants. In the Norse mythology it is considered the home of the Jotuns (giants), trolls and other oracles of the good gods, consequently the home of everything evil. Except for a few hunters, no one had seen much of this dreaded district until a little more than 100 years ago, when two scientists of Oslo "discovered" it.

Few Glaciers Survive

Only 60 remnants of glaciers now survive in Glacier National park as a reminder of the time when the entire region was covered with ice. Climate of this region was once almost tropical and infested with dinosaurs, according to the American Nature association, but as mountains appeared the weather grew cold. More snow fell than the summers could melt and it gradually packed into fields of ice. It is estimated that the ice in the valleys was once over 2,000 feet deep. But the climate warmed again and the melting ice left one of America's most beautiful parks.—Pathfinder Magazine.

Army's Military Engineers

The need for military engineers was recognized in the War of the Revolution, and General Washington was authorized to raise, officer and equip a corps of engineers. The corps was mustered out of the service at the close of the war. Commencing in 1794 a corps of combined artificers and engineers had a brief existence, but the union was discontinued by the act of Congress of March 16, 1802, which formally established the Corps of Engineers.

OVERCROWDING IS BAD FOR POULTRY

Raleigh, Oct. 8.—Overcrowding laying birds in fall and winter robs them of their vitality and makes them susceptible to disease.

Roy S. Dearstyne, head of the State College poultry department, recommends that the birds be given adequate housing facilities, with plenty of ventilation, but no drafts.

The colds and roup from which many flocks suffer during the fall months may be traced to inadequate ventilation, he said.

As cold weather approaches, he continued, it is advisable to check the birds again for parasites, both internal and external. Infected birds should be treated at once.

Birds to be used for breeding purposes should be blood tested for poldorum disease. When requested, the State Department of Agriculture will send an expert to make these tests for poultrymen.

Winter grazing crops should be sown in October, Dearstyne said, to provide a source of green feed for the flock during the winter. A mixture of Italian rye grass and crimson clover makes a good winter crop for this State.

He also stressed the importance of keeping accurate records on the flock. Records are essential to the development of a profitable poultry business, he declared.

Records help poultrymen ascertain which birds are good producers and which are falling down on the job. They show the cost of operation, and whether the poultryman is making a profit. They help him find weak spots in his system of management.

TIMELY FARM QUESTIONS ANSWERED AT STATE COLLEGE

Raleigh, Oct. 9.—Q. How can I keep my cows from eating dirt and chewing fence rails?

Ans. This is a sure sign that the animals are not getting sufficient minerals in the ration. Check the ration and add the minerals that are deficient. If legume hays such as cow pea, soybean, clover and alfalfa is being fed, this will usually supply the needed amount of calcium. If the ration contains as much as thirty percent of feeds rich in phosphorus, such as wheat bran, cottonseed meal and soybean meal, there should be a sufficient amount of this mineral. See that both minerals are in the ration. It will not do any harm to allow the animals free access to a mixture containing one part of salt and four parts of steamed bone meal.

Q. How can I renew an old, run down pasture?

Ans. Cut down all weeds and shrubbery, and scratch the soil to a depth of about two inches. Use a heavy, spike tooth harrow for this work, or it may be done with a disc harrow if the disc is set almost straight so as not to destroy the old sod. The fertilizer is applied as soon as the ground is scratched. Reseed the land with selected mixture of seed. If the old pasture is badly infested with obnoxious weeds it would be best to break the land and grow some crop before reseeding.

Q. Can I expect heavy egg production from cross bred birds?

Ans. Where well bred stock is used on the first cross the cross-bred birds will do well in the first generation. There is usually an increase in vigor and egg production in the first cross, but further crossing usually has the opposite effects. The birds fall off in production, are more subject to disease, and show a loss in vigor and livability. In the long run, it is best to sell all first generation crosses after one year and start again with baby chicks.

Dr. W. S. Chadwick

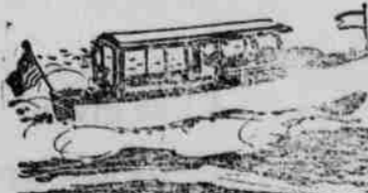
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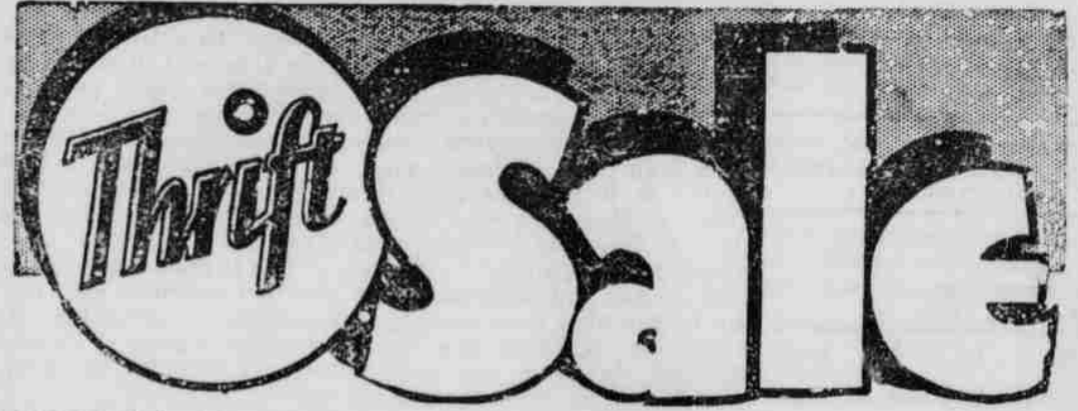


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