

New Things Strange and Curious

A CURIOUS MOOSE.

Woodsmen are utterly at a loss to account for the strange antics which moose in the immediate vicinity of Moosehead Lake continue to perform. By nature the moose is a shy, wary, ever fleeing at the approach of man, ever on the lookout to avoid him; but within the last year or so there have been several notable variations from this general rule.

Take, for instance, the case of Molly, the cow moose who first made her appearance in the vicinity of the camps of the Night Hawk Club, at Sugar Island. When Molly first came she was timid and kept at a re-

spectful distance, but she was, like all of her sex, curious, and in due time this curiosity made her forget her real nature. At the end of two weeks she would feed from the hands of the members and allow herself to be stroked.

When the members broke camp they drove Molly on board the steamer and brought her to Kinco, where she was released. The animal remained on the hotel lawn for several weeks and would doubtless be there yet but for the fact that she fell from a high bank while feeding and broke her neck on the rocky shores of the lake.

CAT PLAYING MOTHER TO TEN RATS.



Messrs. Anderson and Chanslor, grocers in a Southern California town, owned a handsome Moggie cat, named "Mrs. Muggins." She was a good rat catcher and kept the store free from the destructive rodents. Some time ago a market near the grocery store was being cleaned out and a litter of

ten little rats was found. The men who found them carried the litter over to the grocery, where "Mrs. Muggins" was about to become a mother. They turned the rats out on the floor, expecting to see "Mrs. Muggins" devour them. But, to their surprise, after looking them over for a time,

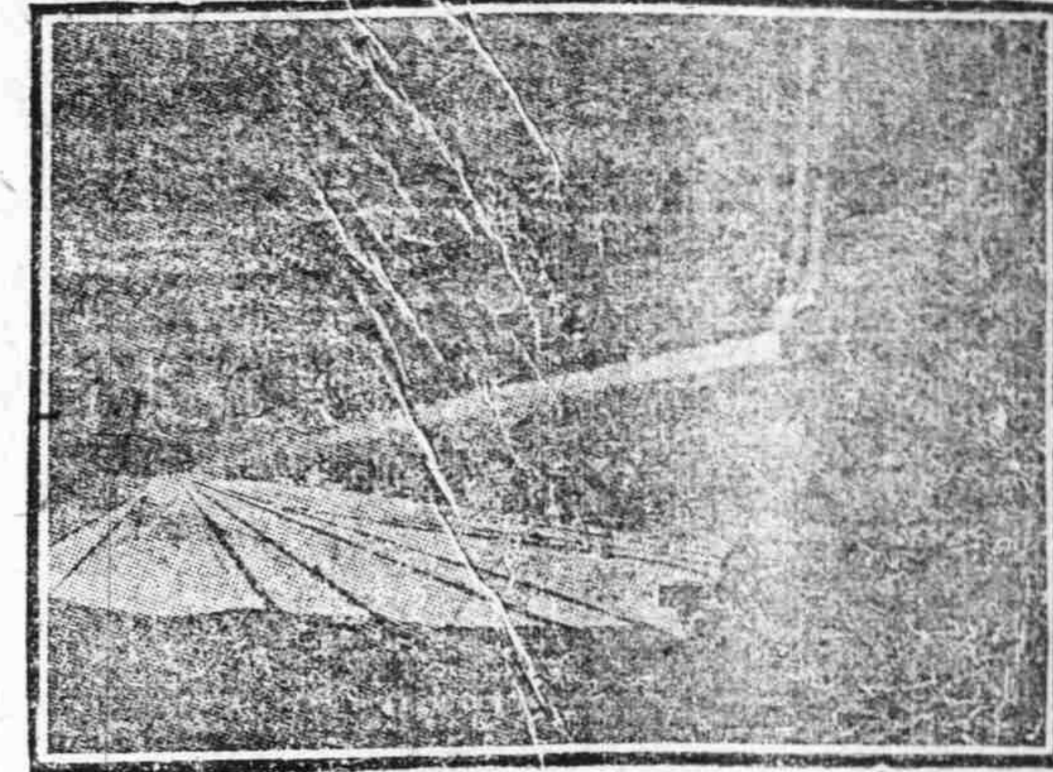
she began to lick them. Then she lifted them by the tops of the necks and, carrying them away to a quiet corner, fed them. After nursing them for three days her own kittens were born, and then she devoted her attention to them.

NEW ELECTRIC HEADLIGHT.

In the accompanying picture is shown a new electric headlight for railway engines, which in addition to sending a powerful ray along the tracks in front of the engine also projects a powerful "critical beam." Indeed, the latter causes such an illumination that it is possible not only to detect the presence of an engine but also in many cases to follow its path and determine which way it is head-

ing. An engine driver is by this means placed in touch with the movements of other trains in his vicinity and is enabled to detect their presence.

In France there are 15,310 women employed as gatekeepers at the railway crossings. They get very small pay, but are provided with houses.



Japanese Goddess.

O Kame is the name of the dainty little lady who is shown in the accompanying picture, and for centuries she has been regarded as one of the most potent deities who hold sway over Japan. A popular goddess she is, too, and in many legends she plays a prominent part.

The figure in the picture is fashioned of a curious Japanese metal, which is a combination of copper, gold and silver. An exquisite piece of workmanship the figure is, so beautiful indeed that more than one Euro-

Pharaoh's Corn Fake.

Some time ago there was a wonderful story in the European journals about certain grains of ancient Egyptian corn which had been planted in Germany and had duly come to life. The grains, they said, had been found in an Egyptian sarcophagus and had been planted by a Dresden florist. Some days later the corn appeared above ground, much to the surprise of scientists, who did not suppose that there was any life in grain, which were from four to five thousand years old.

The corn, however, was certainly growing, and even the most incredulous among them soon became convinced that grains have a lease of life to which there is practically no limit.

Alex. A boy, employed by the Dresden florist, has now confessed that he planted some ordinary grains in the same place where his master had planted the Egyptian ones and only a few hours after the florist had completed his work. This was sad news for the scientists and for the numerous journalists who had written enthusiastically about the miraculous qualities of the ancient grains. The corn is still growing in the garden of the Dresden florist, but no one now imagines that any of it is of Egyptian origin.

Pitcher Plant.

One of the most remarkable carnivorous vegetables in the world is the pitcher plant of the Tropics. It is safe to say at least that no other plant in its kingdom is more ingenious in catching its prey and in disposing of them afterwards.

The plant, as will be seen in the accompanying illustration, is shaped very much like a pitcher, with the mouth, of course, at the top. The pitcher is, moreover, perfectly water tight and is usually well filled with

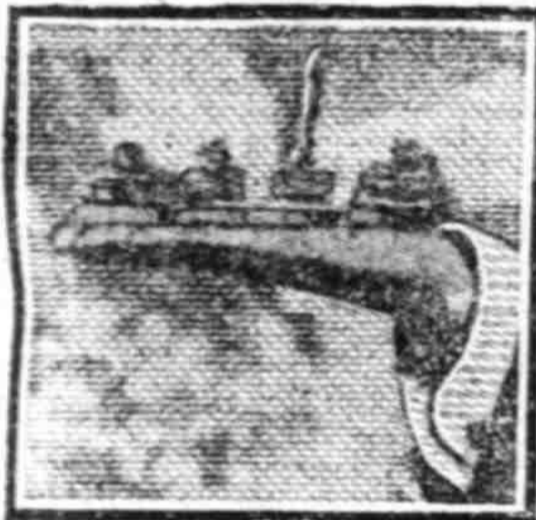


rain water. The sides are very smooth and inviting. The plant thus equipped lies in wait, if the expression may be used, until some fly or small insect enters or falls into the water compartment. So smooth are the sides that when the prey is once in the water it has great difficulty in getting out, and, as a rule, quickly drowns. The insect is then devoured by the plant.



Liliputian Cacti.

Of all the wonderful varieties in both color and shape of plants which grow in all parts of the world nothing is more curious than the cactus plants. For years they have been studied and experimented with by horticulturists until now no floral exhibition, public or private, is deemed complete without a collection of cacti. Recently enthusiasts



introduced a novelty in the many varieties of cacti in the shape of miniature plants, many of them so small that they stand in tiny flower pots scarcely an inch in height. Anyone may hold four or five of these plants in the palm of the hand, as illustrated above.

There is a penalty of \$50 for importing into England a live specimen of the Colorado beetle.

Mme. Napoleon.

From Marengo to Moscow was the long swing in the pendulum of Napoleon's life, the one the greatest battle out of which he came with his life, the other the abyss which engulfed him. Mr. J. M. Buckley, who is a literary expert on coincidences, points out how strangely the letter M played a part in the life of the great conqueror.

Marble was the first to recognize the genius of Napoleon, at the Ecole Militaire, Meles opened to him the way to Italy, Mortier was one of his first generals. Morano betrayed him and Murat was the first martyr to his cause. Maria Louise partook of his highest destinies. Metternich conquered him on the field of diplomacy.

Six marshals—Massena, Mortier, Marmont, Macdonald, Murat, Moncey—and twenty-six of his generals of divisions had names beginning with the letter M.

Murat, Duke of Bassano, was the counselor in whom he placed the greatest confidence. His first great battle was that of Montenotte; his last was that of Mount Saint-Jean. He gained the battles of Moscow, Montmirail and Montereau. Then came the assault of Montmartre. Milan was the first enemies' capital and Moscow the last in which he entered.

He lost Egypt through the blunders of Menou, and employed Miotto to make Pius VII. prisoner. Maitel conspired against him, afterward Marmont. His Ministers were Maret, Moutonnet and Mollat. His first Chamberlain was Montesquiou.

Lincolnshire has the largest English farm. Over two thousand acres are under plough. The second largest is near Coldstream, in Northumberland.

HARD ON STOUT PERSONS.

There is a small town in Sweden which will very probably soon be deserted by those of its residents who are unusually stout. The reason is because the local authorities recently issued an ordinance to the effect that they intend to impose a graduated tax on the

residents, according to their weight, and to spend the money thus collected in making public improvements.

Persons who weigh 100 pounds or less will not be taxed; those who weigh from 100 to

200 pounds will each be taxed \$1 a year; those who weigh from 200 to 350 pounds will each be taxed \$2 a year and a tax bill for a larger amount, which will be in strict proportion to the weight, will be sent annually to every one who weighs more than 350 pounds.

HIPPO POSES FOR A PORTRAIT.



A lifelike portrait of a hippopotamus is one of the least attractive studies of physiognomy in the entire animal kingdom. The facial expression is at least declined, yet the lines of the face, when considered by themselves, are even repulsive. The ac-

companying photograph shows the face of one of the largest hippopotami in the world. From having gazed stolidly at millions of spectators and listened to many thousands of uncomplimentary remarks he has gained that expression of sphyllike

calm which dominates his features. The portrait was taken just after the "hippo's" morning toilet, which consisted of a vigorous scrubbing of soap and water, had been completed.

NATURAL BRIDGE IN WYOMING.

One of America's most widely advertised curiosities is the Natural Bridge, in Victoria. It is one of the great wonders of the Yellow Stone, the canyons of the Colorado and the Falls of Niagara. It is this marvelous as one of the sights of good Americans should see before they die.

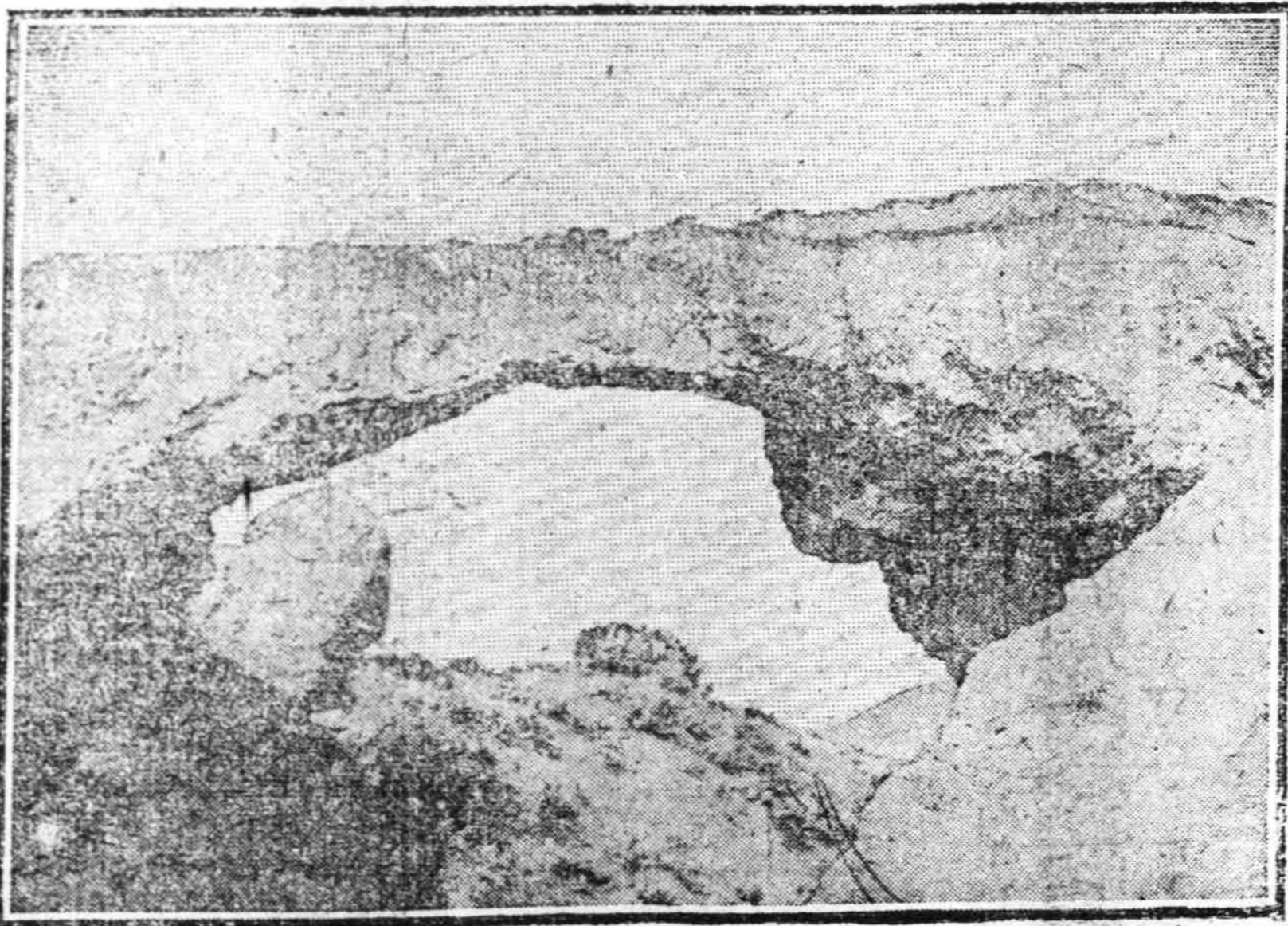
Within a few years another natural bridge has been discovered which, while perhaps not as large as that of Virginia, is quite

as symmetrical and more picturesque in its setting of bad lands, with some brush the only vegetation near it and limestone furnished for its construction by nature's architect.

Bridging a chasm high up on the bad lands near the Frost Road ranch, between Meeteetse and Cody, Wyo., it commands a view of the undulating plains, barren bad lands and "benches," while in the distance

loom the snow capped Rockies on one side, the McCullar peaks on another and to the south the Big Horn range of mountains.

Under the bridge, in its shadow, sometimes rests a lone elk, while prairie dog scurries from house to house and bark at each other. An occasional magpie lights on the plains, and once in a while a rattlesnake glides out from some nearby crevice to bask in the sun.



Remarkable Snails.

Recently a Frenchman named Combes called at a friend's house in the morning on some important business and was disappointed to find that he was still in bed. As he could not wait, he left a brief message and was going away when he noticed through the kitchen window that the cook was preparing a savory dish of snails for his friend's breakfast. This furnished him with an idea for a joke, and a few hours later he telephoned to his friend from a neighboring town, whereupon the following conversation occurred:

"Hello, Combes, is that you?"

"Yes, my dear."

"Sorry I missed you this morning."

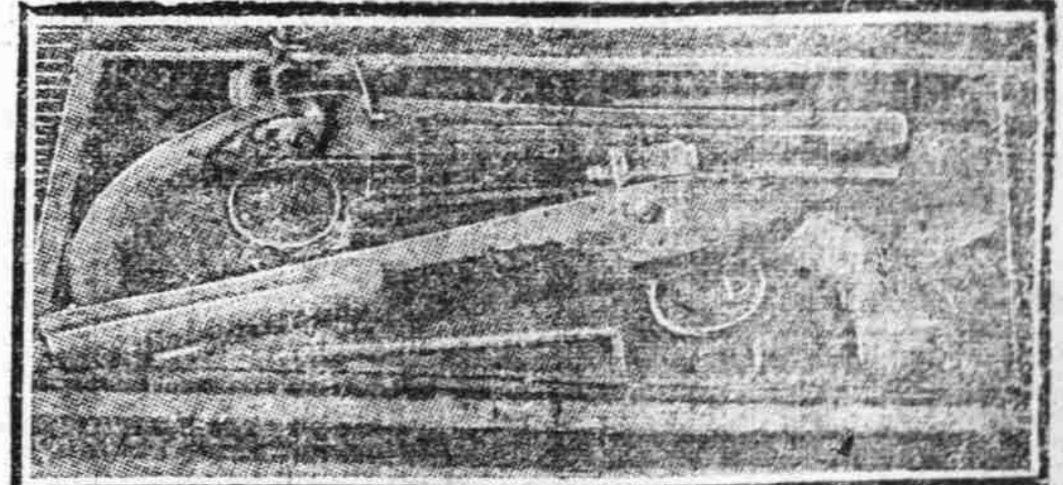
"I wanted to consult you about—Great heavens, what a smell of snails! You must have eaten some this morning."

"Snails! Heaven preserve us! Do you mean to say that you can smell them at this distance?"

"Hell has the cheapest crematorium in Great Britain. The charge is only a guinea (\$5.25). At Woking the charge is £5 (\$25).

rain water. The sides are very smooth and inviting. The plant thus equipped lies in wait, if the expression may be used, until some fly or small insect enters or falls into the water compartment. So smooth are the sides that when the prey is once in the water it has great difficulty in getting out, and, as a rule, quickly drowns. The insect is then devoured by the plant.

BURR-HAMILTON DUELLING PISTOLS.



The famous pistols which Aaron Burr and Alexander Hamilton used in their duel are still preserved, being now the property of Major Richard Church, of Rochester. The quaint old weapons have a remarkable history, well worth the telling, having figured in several famous duels, both before and after the tragic Hamilton affair. The pistols were made in the middle of the eighteenth century by Wozden, the famous gunsmith of London. They are very simple in construction. The barrels are smooth bore, octagonal in form, with flintlocks and a quick trigger.

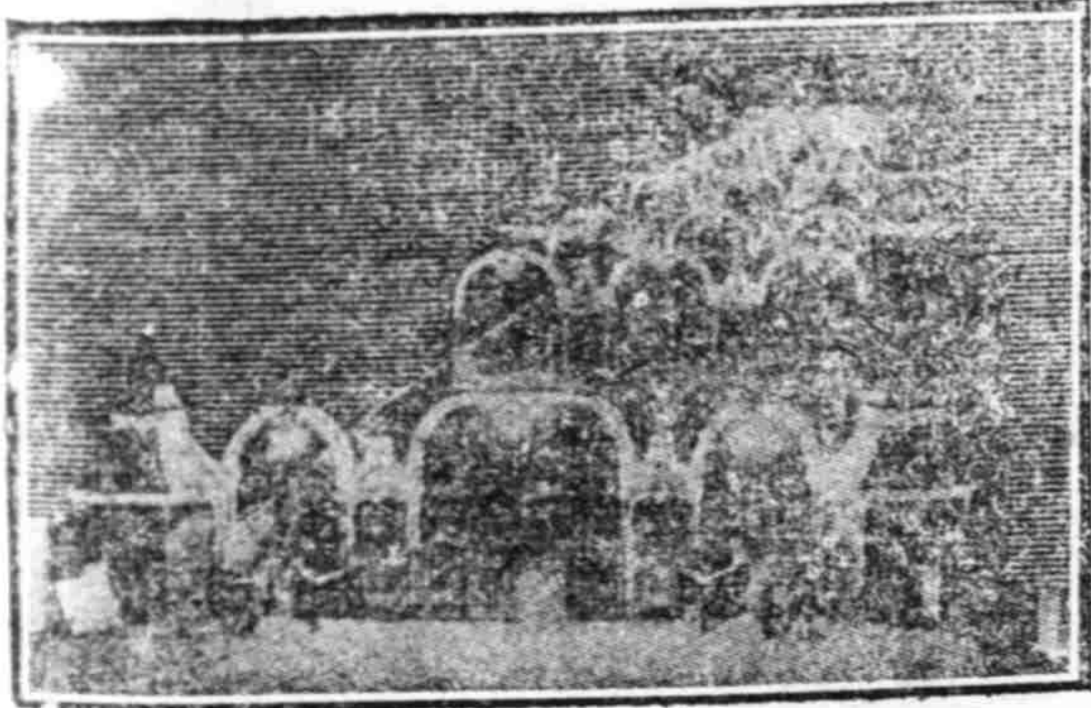
The stock and forepiece are of one piece of heavy polished black walnut.

When Alexander Hamilton received Burr's challenge he decided to accept, he said to his brother-in-law, Mr. Church: "I don't know what weapons to use against Burr."

"Why don't you use my weapons?" replied Church. "I used them once on Burr and they made his bottom fly."

Hamilton took and used them, with the well known tragic result. The same pistols were twice used afterward in settling affairs of honor, but without fatal results.

EXCELLENT NIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY.



The great steel pier at Brighton, England, is said to be the most brilliantly illuminated structure by night in the world. It is hard to believe that any public thoroughfare could be so brilliantly lit up as this one. The arrangement of lights is artistic and effective. The illustration is considered one of the most successful night photographs ever taken.

oughfares in London is interesting to the American. The accompanying photograph of the great new Collins Pier at Brighton would seem to prove that it is, without doubt, the brightest thoroughfare in the world. The arrangement of lights is artistic and effective. The illustration is considered one of the most successful night photographs ever taken.