

The leader is not afraid of spring
It looks as if the harem skirt were
to be abolished.

The trouser skirt is not popular
even on the Paris stage.

The skirt hat is threatened, but
discussions have not begun.

In unobscured a street car a harem
skirt has a harem skirt skinned a
skirt.

There ought to be no trouble in get-
ting a little light on the so-called
match trust.

New uses are continually being
found for radium. All that is needed
is the same radium.

Sometimes when you think that op-
portunity is knocking at your door it
turns out to be a collector.

The meanest man has been found in
Texas. He was arrested for stealing
milk from an orphan asylum.

A hospital physician declares that
everybody is crazy now and then.
So it isn't always the other fellow.

An unusual happening is reported
from Connecticut. A woman found
\$2,000 in her dead husband's pockets.

To teach the young idea how to
swim Chicago educators think it is quite
as important as teaching it to shoot.

The harem skirt has been causing
trouble in Rio Janeiro, but Buenos Ayres
seems to be making an effort to take
it tranquilly.

Now we are told that a woman's
skirt is her crowning glory. All of
which is our notion of no place to
wear a skirt.

In parts of Nova Scotia automobiling
is allowed four days each week.
The rest of the time the roads are
perfectly safe.

You can send a day letter by tele-
graph now, but old-fashioned people
will cling to the "arrived safely" and
"am well" formula.

A New York physician promises to
make bad boys good by proper breath-
ing. It is a far cry from a strap in
the woodshed to a breathing exercise.

A foot race has been arranged for
one-legged men from Minneapolis to
St. Louis. And thus the great work
of the twentieth century goes on.

A New York office boy made \$50,
000 speculating in Wall street, but
they got \$20,000 of it away from him
the next day—and he is still fooling
around in Wall street.

In New York a woman is trying to
prove that she loved a man and she
offers in evidence letters in which she
called him her "ugly monkey" and her
"cutie bear." It must be splendid to
be loved like that.

By an astronomer it is alleged that
because comets are composed merely
of dust collisions with them need not
be feared. Just the same they give
the solar system the appearance of
needing a vacuum cleaner.

Wanted, Conn. has a fisherman
who claims to have caught a pickerel
because the latter mistook his nose
for bait and jumped at it. It strikes
me that said fisherman must have con-
sumed a vast amount of bait to ac-
quire a nose so brilliant that a pick-
erel would jump at it.

Under the new law it costs \$10 to
carry a pistol in New York instead of
only \$2.50. But those who expect to
see the difference reflected in a de-
crease of shooting affrays will prob-
ably be disappointed. If the fee was a
million, and it was not enforced more
strictly than the \$2.50 one, it would
be just as ineffectual.

Mr. Hiram Maxim is still singing the
praises of that great American dish—
pork and beans. Some of these days
the humble and much-abused pig will
find an authority abroad who will sud-
denly elevate it to the heights, and
make us ashamed that familiarity and
travitation have made us belittle the hid-
den sweetness and light we have with
us.

A jittered Brooklyn man is suing the
Slick fair one for the time lost in
suing her. She pleads by way of
defense a woman's inalienable right
to the pursuit of happiness by chang-
ing her mind. In fact of this consti-
tutional right the unlucky swain has
no case. All the courts appealed to
on this issue have hitherto upheld this
right, which, indeed, antedates every-
thing but the creation.

King Sodaluteh Choa Fa Maha Za-
-Stavutti, of Siam, cables thanks for
sending an American representative to
his late father's cremation. That is
nothing. We are quite willing, on gen-
eral principles, to send representatives
to more cremations of oriental potes-
tates, considering that the Orient has
such potatoes to burn. But it is to
be hoped that Siamese court etiquette
will not require an American tongue
to get twisted around His Majesty's
given name.

A gallant court in Pennsylvania has
ruled that a woman with beautiful
eyes can use them in any way she
pleases. There is a large measure of
goodness in the gallantry, for no court
under Heaven could keep beautiful
eyes from being used.

Michael von Artozy, a Hungarian
baron, was arrested in New York the
other day for carrying brass knuck-
les. Evidently he had heard of the
Smyth's Headless Horseman case and
thought to be prepared when he broke
into American territory.

Cummins Seeks Rigid Merit System



WASHINGTON.—Senator Cummins of Iowa, as chairman of the committee on civil service and retraining, proposes to push the consideration of a comprehensive civil service measure that will provide for the designation by law of all places under civil service classification, instead of leaving them to executive order, and which will regulate promotions and retirements.

As a member of the committee on interstate commerce he already has done some work on a bill to reorganize the interstate commission, increasing its membership and dividing it into five parts, these parts to have jurisdiction respectively over sections of the country corresponding to the traffic divisions as designated by the railroads.

It is not certain that the scheme for reorganization of the interstate commerce commission will be advanced beyond the preliminary stage at this extra session.

With respect to the subject first mentioned, however, it is the intention to introduce a bill within a short

time and to do as much work on it as possible in committee during the summer.

Hearings may be held as an indication of Senator Cummins' intention to keep his committee busy, the first thing he did after reaching Washington the other day was to move his quarters in the senate office building from the northwest corner to the southeast corner, immediately adjoining the room allotted to the committee on civil service and retraining.

For years, until Mr. Cummins became chairman, this committee has been one of the "do-nothing" committees of the senate. In the last congress it held hearings on the proposition to provide for the retirement and pensioning of superannuated employees of the various government departments.

It now is proposed to embrace the civil service classification and the promotion and retirement features in one comprehensive measure.

There is no intention, it is understood, of assailing the executive branch of the government through the proposition to designate by law the positions that shall be filled under the civil service rules. It is designed, however, to make the rules more rigid and to prevent in the future the securing of certain places from the application of the rules by executive order.

GATHERED SMILES

SHAKESPEARE'S CLASS.

David Belasco's play, "The Girl of the Golden West," has been used, as all the world knows, by the famous Puccini as the libretto for his new opera.

A New York critic congratulated Mr. Belasco on this honor the other day. Mr. Belasco replied:

"To be Puccini's librettist is, of course, an honor. But it isn't a supreme honor. Some folks, though, seem to think so.

"It all reminds me of a story about Ardit. Ardit was once invited to lecture on Shakespeare.

"Shakespeare," he said, with a puzzled frown. "Shakespeare?"

"Don't you remember, maestro," said a disciple, "Don't you remember 'Amleto' and 'Romero e Giulietta' and 'Otello' and so forth?"

"Oh, yes, of course!" said the famous conductor. "Shakespeare! The librettist!"

Willie's Lessons.

Miss Smith, who is in the habit of assigning long and difficult lessons, called the other evening at the home of her brightest pupil, who had been absent several days.

"Is Willie ill?" she inquired solicitously.

"Oh, no," responded the mother; "he is quite well, thank you."

"He has been absent several days," hinted the teacher.

"Yes," replied the mother, looking innocently at the teacher. "Willie is so busy studying his lessons that he hasn't time to go to school."—Lippincott's.

Oh! the wandering foot
Loves a seven league boot,
But the homesteading foot loves a slipper;
So when cruel fates plan
To put both on one man—
How can the poor fellow feel chippier?

Oh! the call of the sea
Has long clamored to me,
And now half of me hark to it only;
But here's one of my feet
That would beat a retreat
To a hearth where two others wait
lonely.

Oh! the terrible strain
Has long clamored to me,
And the other at home by the log!
Faith, this spry young fella
Isn't quite the right thing
For a fellow unless he be single.

Oh! the wandering foot
Loves a seven league boot,
But the homesteading foot loves a slipper;
So when cruel fates plan
To put both on one man—
How can the poor fellow feel chippier?
—Tom Daly in Catholic Standard and Times.

THE BOUDOIR

Dame Fashions Daily

IS LIGHT AND WARM

WOOLLEN WRAP THAT WILL GIVE REAL COMFORT.

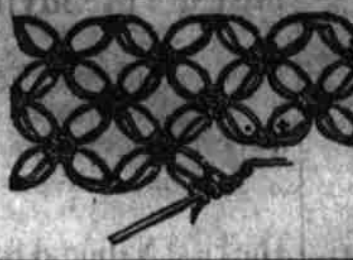
Can Be Made Any Size if Simple, Rule is Observed—Explicit Directions That Should Be Carefully Followed.

A very light warm wrap this, that is worked in Solomon knots with Andalusian wool or some wool about that thickness and a medium size bone hook. The wrap can be made any size, but when making the foundation chain, let it be a little longer than you wish the width of the finished wrap to be; always make three chains at beginning of the row to turn.

The detail of the pattern is very clearly shown in No. 2.

1st row.—, draw up one long loop, draw through it, then work a double through the back loop, draw up another long loop, draw through it, then

strong thread, under the strands of wool at one side, draw it up and tie lightly; cut through the wool at the other side, bind round the strands at the tied end with wool to form a top, then sew to the gathered end of wrap.



ON EXTREME PICTURE ORDER

Parisian Design for Young Girl's Evening Gown Can Be Made Charmingly Effective.

Picturesque styles have been happily received for some time, but one of the gowns designed for summer which has just arrived from Paris is so extremely on the picture order that one wonders whether today's smartly attired young woman will really be willing to accept it. The gown has a plain, narrow skirt of thin batiste set on the belt with a few scant gathers. It is very short-waisted, and the bodice is almost entirely concealed by a huge fichu of the finest embroidered muslin. The fichu reaches almost to the belt in the back and crosses in front just above the waist line. The sleeves are almost entirely concealed by it also. This model is now being copied in simple evening gowns for young girls, the materials of these gowns being either soft silks or flowered chiffons or nets.

New Pouch Bags.

Pouch bags are cut with an oval bottom, covered with black velvet on one side and a bright-colored satin on the other. The top, which is joined to the bottom without fulness, is finished on top with black satin ribbon. It is lined with the satin.

The top has draw string of satin ribbon through a casing, long enough to hang over the arm. The lining may be in coral, green, burnt orange or royal purple.

AT THE VAUDEVILLE.

A Learned Parent.

"Pa, what is a hedonist?"
"A hedonist, my son?"
"Yes, pa."
"Ahem! Let me see. Do you remember my taking you to a vaudeville show last week?"
"Yes, pa."
"And you saw a man there who walked down a flight of stairs on his head?"
"Yes, pa."
"Well, he was a hedonist."

Not That Kind.

"Is your clerk a believer in the occult?" asked the facetious man, watching a bottle being made up into a neat package.
"I don't know," said the proprietor.
"Why do you ask?"
"Because," replied the facetious one, "I notice he is engaged in spirit wrapping."



How It Worked Out.

She married him for money,
But when she was his bride,
Although it may seem funny,
For love she sighed and sighed.

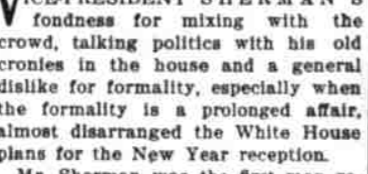
Plain Old English for Him.

James Wilson, the secretary of agriculture, does not like foreign languages and he cannot persuade himself that Latin is good for anything at all. As the new building for the department of agriculture was being finished off, the stone carvers began a Latin inscription over the main door.

Mr. Wilson came along when the work had been half done.

"None of that Latin," he ordered. "English is good enough for me."—Popular Magazine.

Sherman Hard to Keep in Line



VICE-PRESIDENT SHERMAN'S fondness for mixing with the crowd, talking politics with his old cronies in the house and a general dislike for formality, especially when the formality is a prolonged affair, almost disarranged the White House plans for the New Year reception.

Mr. Sherman was the first man received by the president. The vice-president then became a member of the president's receiving party. The presiding officer of the senate continued to bow sweetly as long as possible, and then quietly stepped into the line of guests which had already passed the president and walked out to the east room, where there were hundreds of politicians of various brands. The vice-president was having a fine time when he was interrupted by Capt. Archibald Butt, the president's military aid.

"Mr. Vice-President," said Captain Butt, "you have been misled from the receiving line. Permit me to escort you back in time to receive the diplomats."

"So long, boys," said the vice-president, waving his hand to his old cronies in the house. "See you later."

Diplomat after diplomat passed the

president, and behind them the vice-president saw an endless line of gold braid adorning the breasts of countless officers of the army and navy stationed in Washington.

"Those fellows don't want to see me for anything," said the vice-president, as he slipped back into the east room. Half an hour later, while the vice-president was exchanging the compliments of the season and telling and hearing stories, he was again accosted by Captain Butt.

"I have been looking all over the White House for you," said the military aid.

"Well, here I am," remarked "Sunny Jim," slapping Butt on the back. "What do you want this time?"

"President Taft's party is ready to go to luncheon," said the captain, "and we are waiting for you to escort Mrs. Taft."

ESSENTIAL.



Mrs. Rastus Johnson—Fo' gracious sake, ain't yo' ready to go to dake-walk yet? Wot's keepin' yo'?

Rastus Johnson—I can't find mah cakewalk razah.

HE KNEW.

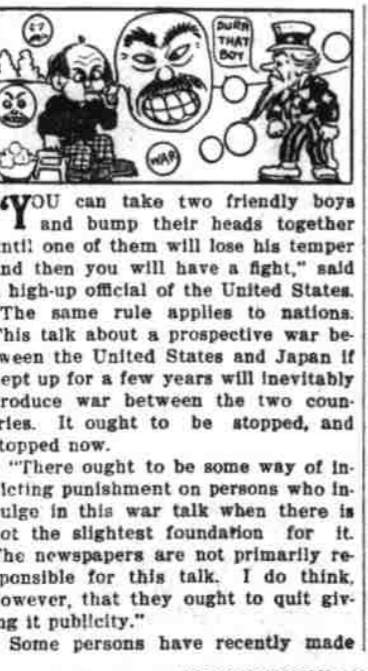


Of Clara Bell.
"Tu, very fond.
A brunette once,
She's now a blonde.

Somewhat Bitter.

"No," said the senator, "I shall not go to Mrs. Upperton's reception."
"But you have a card."
"I know, but people will think I stole it."

Jap War Talk Is Called Criminal



YOU can take two friendly boys and bump their heads together until one of them will lose his temper and then you will have a fight," said a high-up official of the United States. The same rule applies to nations.

This talk about a prospective war between the United States and Japan if kept up for a few years will inevitably produce war between the two countries. It ought to be stopped, and stopped now.

"There ought to be some way of inflicting punishment on persons who indulge in this war talk when there is not the slightest foundation for it. The newspapers are not primarily responsible for this talk. I do think, however, that they ought to quit giving it publicity."

Some persons have recently made

the suggestion that it might not be improper for congress to start an investigation with a view to ascertaining why this talk of hostilities between the United States and Japan continues. It is pointed out that such an investigation ought to reveal whether as a matter of fact there is any basis for the stories that are constantly put in circulation. For nearly four years this talk has gone on here at the capital, and naturally has spread to other sections of the country.

President Taft has recently found it necessary to invite the ambassador of the Japanese empire to the White House and assure him personally that the administration is in no way responsible for the war talk that has recently been indulged in, and to reiterate to him that the United States has only the kindest feelings for Japan.

During the last month many stories, circumstantial in character, have been passed around here tending to show that Japan is preparing to fight this country. Every one of them on investigation has been found to be baseless.

Boy Didn't Know.

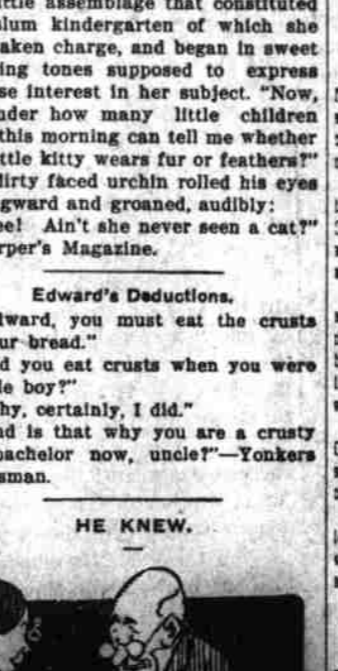


"Your wife wants you on the telephone," announced the new boy in an office where the phones of two separate companies were installed.

"Which one?" inquired the boss, thinking of the two telephones, of course.

"Please sir," said the boy, "I don't know how many you have."

Makes a Difference.

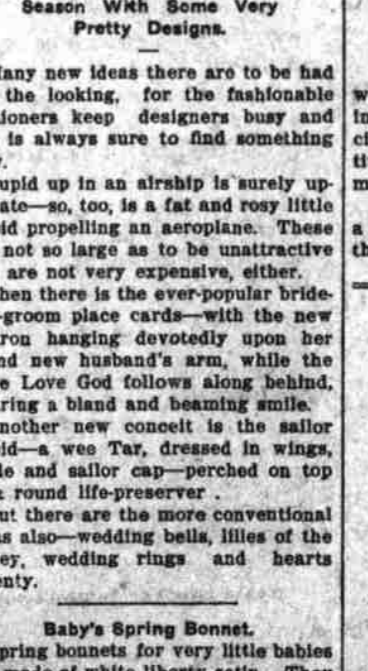


The sun set up this morning bright
And found me still in bed,
But he wasn't out so late last night
As I was, he it said.

Granted His Request.

Said the hobo: "I went around to a back door today and asked for something to eat, Madam." "I said, if you will only give me the food you gave your cat I will be satisfied." "If you want to go around the barn and catch mice I haven't any objections," she told me."

NEW WEDDING PLACE CARDS



Designers Have Come Forward This Season With Some Very Pretty Designs.

Many new ideas there are to be had for the looking, for the fashionable stationers keep designers busy and one is always sure to find something new.

Cupid up in an airship is surely up-to-date—so, too, is a fat and rosy little Cupid propelling an aeroplane. These are not so large as to be unattractive and are not very expensive, either.

Then there is the ever-popular bride-and-groom place cards—with the new matron hanging devotedly upon her brand new husband's arm, while the little Love God follows along behind, wearing a blind and beaming smile.

Another new conceit in the sailor Cupid—a wee Tar, dressed in wings, smile and sailor cap—perched on top of a round life-preserver.

But there are the more conventional ideas—wedding bells, lilies of the valley, wedding rings and hearts aplenty.

FOR MEASURING THE DROPS

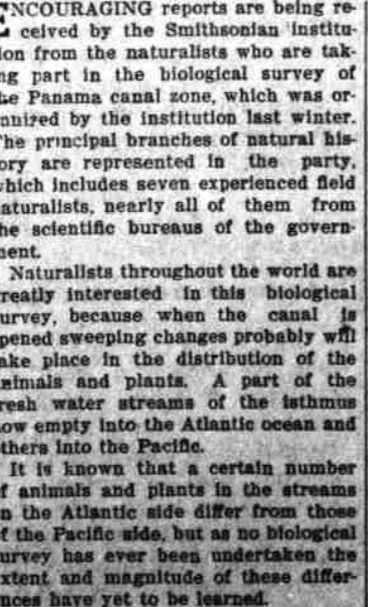


Useful Hint in Suggestion That Bone Knitting Needle May Profitably Be Employed.

The hint contained in our sketch will be found very useful for measuring liquids by drops, such as medicines that have to be taken in quantities of so many drops, photographic materials, etc., etc.

It merely consists of a portion of a bone knitting needle run through the center of the cork so that the head and part of the needle itself are immersed in the liquid. When the cork is withdrawn from the bottle, the moisture adhering to the needle will run down and drip from it, and in this way drops can be easily and accurately measured with little trouble, the head of the needle being from time to time inserted in the liquid until the required number of drops has been obtained.

Naturalists Busy on Canal Zone



ENCOURAGING reports are being received by the Smithsonian institution from the naturalists who are taking part in the biological survey of the Panama canal zone, which was organized by the institution last winter.

The principal branches of natural history are represented in the party, which includes seven experienced field naturalists, nearly all of them from the scientific bureaus of the government.

Naturalists throughout the world are greatly interested in this biological survey, because when the canal is opened sweeping changes probably will take place in the distribution of the animals and plants. A part of the fresh water streams of the isthmus now empty into the Atlantic ocean and others into the Pacific.

It is known that a certain number of animals and plants in the streams on the Atlantic side differ from those of the Pacific side, but as no biological survey has ever been undertaken the extent and magnitude of these differences have yet to be learned.

It also is of great importance to science to determine the geographical distribution of the various organisms inhabiting these waters, as the isthmus is one of the routes by which the animals and plants of South America have entered North America and vice versa.

When the canal is completed the natural distinctions now existing will be obliterated, while by the construction of the Gatun dam a vast fresh water lake will be formed, which will drive away or drown the majority of the animals and plants now inhabiting the locality and might exterminate some of the species before the scientific experts had a chance to study them.

Clara.

"She's very proud of her child."
"Doesn't she know that mere children are unfashionable?"
"But I believe she has some sort of a modified baby."

Not Yet.

"Two Indians have become members of the faculty of the University of California."
"All right, but I haven't heard of any Indian who has become a ribbon counter clerk."

The Close Vote.

"Did you regard that close vote in my favor as a vindication?" asked the statesman.
"Not exactly," replied the other. "I should rather call it a narrow escape."

No Advancement.

Experts in Brazilian agriculture unite in affirming that methods of growing tobacco, gathering the crop and curing it have changed little, if at all, since the days of the early colonial centuries ago. Practically nowhere is there any idea of tilling the soil and cultivating the crop with an instrument more modern than the spade.

Better Fitted.

"Well, who got the summation—the chap who looked like Daniel Webster?"
"No. The fellow that looked like the rusty money."—Pack.

Childhood Souvenirs.

A good idea for mothers who like to have souvenirs of their little one's childhood is to paste in a book samples from every sew dress or suit, with a picture of the pattern if possible. Not only is this interesting for both mother and children in time to come, but it forms a valuable history of costume for the period, and is of practical service as well by insuring variety in dress from year to year.

City Air Destructive to Wire.

A telegraph wire strung through the country will last about four times as long as one passing through the city.