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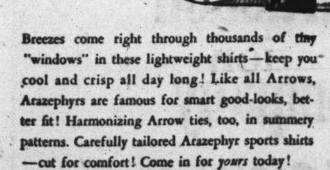


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Reader's Courtroom

Jurer Furer **Fast Train Ventilated Onions** By Will Bernard, LLB

State laws vary. For personal Must You Have a Completely Open Mind In Order To Sit On a Jury?

A woman was summoned for jury duty in a murder trial. Asked whether she had an open mind on the case, she admitted that she had read about it in the newspapers and had formed a tentative opinion as to the guilt of the accused man. However, she added that she felt no personal prejudice



sion on the basis of what was brought out in court. Under the circumstances, the judge decided that the woman could qualify as a juror.
He commented: "Most intelligent
people and all educated people read newspapers, and they would have to be more than human if they did not form some opinion. Therefore, to reject them as jurors for this reason is to put a premium upon ignorance!"

#### If a Railroad Passenger Is Left Behind At a Stopover May He Collect Damages?

A man took a train trip with his three-year-old son. In the course of the journey, the train halted at a station and the conductor announced a 20-minute stopover. Leaving his son aboard, the man stepped outside to have a sandwich. To his dismay, the train pulled out in 10 minutes, leaving him still seated at the depot counter! The man jumped into a taxicab and hastened to the next town. 30 miles away, where he got back on the train. The youngster enjoyed the excitement, but the father was just plain mad. He sued the railroad for damages, and the court granted his claim. The judge said "ditching" a passenger, in such careless fashion, was a matter of pure and simple negligence on the part of the company's employees, gas

#### May You Prevent Your Neighbors From Cooking Onions?

An elderly couple lived in an apartment over a shoe store. As it happened, both husband and wife dearly loved onions and cabbageand they ate these succulent foods every day in the week. In fact, they even kept their windows closed, so as to preserve the beloved odor as long as possible! As a result of this habit, the smell seeped down into the store below. When the storekeeper's complaints were unavailing, he went to court for an injunction. The judge decided that it was perfectly legal to cook onions and cabbage in an apartment, but it wasn't legal to impose the aroma on the neighbors. He therefore ordered the couple to provide ventilation so that the odors could go outside, instead of downstairs!

# If a Bus Window Drops On Your Elbow, May You Collect Damages?

A man was riding downtown on a bus, resting his arm on the sill of an open window. As the bus jogged over a street car track, the window dropped down on the man's elbow. He was painfully injured, and later sued the company for damages. The company insisted that this was



just an unfortunate accident, but the court nevertheless granted the rider's claim. The judge said that, there being no evidence of anybody tampering with the latch, some-thing must have been wrong with the mechanism-and that was the fault of the bus company.

A childless couple took in a 22year-old orphan as a boarder. Soon they became so fond of him that they went through a formal pro-ceeding to adopt him as their son. After the couple died, several of their relatves went to court to contest the validity of the adoption They said that the law authorized ption of "children" only-and that a person who is over 21 is no longer a child. However, the court disagreed and held the adoption perfectly valid. The judge said the parent-child status still existed.

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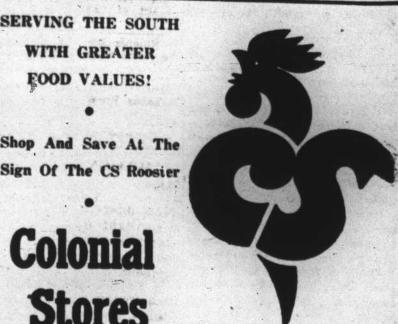
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