

BIG PIGEON RACING

GROWING INTEREST IN GREAT INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS.

England Declared to Be Suffering from an Aggravated Case of Pigeonitis Owing to Demand for Speedy Birds.

It is said that England's latest sporting mania is "Pigeonitis," that is, in plain English—not picketing, but the raising of pigeons for flying, breeding, message-carrying and other purposes. The extent to which pigeon fancying is carried may be judged from the fact that no less than 10,500 carrier pigeons, worth \$60,000, were entered in the recent great "Pigeon Derby." The birds were turned loose at Nantes, in the south of France, and flew 450 miles to Lancashire, England. Prizes of more than \$5,000 were awarded. The extent and importance of the new sport may be further judged from the fact that both the king and prince of Wales entertain special "pigeon trains" were run from the Midlands to the embarking ports on these occasions, and "pigeon stations" fitted up on the cross-channel steamers. The whole arrangements were carried out with the most elaborate care, and quite regardless of cost.

Even the ordinary "man in the street" in London shows his pigeon-fancying proclivities by feeding and watching the flocks of birds which have taken up their abode in the public buildings, such as St. Paul's cathedral, Westminster abbey, the British museum, and elsewhere. It is a rather singular thing that certain families of pigeons attach themselves to each of the great public buildings, and some fanciers say they can tell whether a bird is a citizen of the British museum or of St. Paul's. Doubtless the latter are of a more religious turn of mind, while probably the British museum variety would know more about Egyptology than their clerical comrades.

When a pigeon show is on in London thousands of people flock to see it. Judges of fine birds are appointed with as much care as would be a judge of the supreme court, while probably the pigeon judge a whit happier than the man of law. He runs a chance of making mortal enemies every time he renders a decision. As a consequence, pigeon judges have taken refuge in a numerical system for all birds, so that they can "not" be suspected of partiality, which they might be suspected of if they knew the owners' names. It has only been within recent years

that bird fanciers have gone in so extensively in England for raising pigeons with big prizes attached to them. A few years ago you could buy a really fine bird anywhere for about 30 cents. Now they are asking \$200 and \$300 for pigeons, which, judging from the mere appearances, do not seem to be up to the mark.

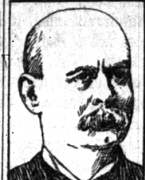


Liberating Thousands of Pigeons at Nantes for Great Race from France to England.

to make it a valuable bird, must be length of neck and beak, and a curious, bulging sort of growth on each side of the latter. Just why this ugly-looking "wattle," as it is called, should be considered a good point it is hard to tell. Doubtless fanciers have some profound reason which they only divulge when in secret among themselves, with doors closed and lights out. However, the wattle goes and brings prices. It does not add to the facial dignity of the bird. It resembles two rather large and distinct ripe strawberries, placed on either side of the beak. You can not help sympathizing with a bird with a strawberry nose (like this), and the perpetuation of such a feature by breeders might well be done away with. While they are about it—and considering fanciers claim that they can obtain any result they wish—they might as well give the pigeon a small moss rosette, or even a three-leaf clover, to wear instead of an overripe strawberry.

Prominent People

BACK IN POLITICAL ARENA



Adlai E. Stevenson, vice-president of the United States during the second administration of Grover Cleveland, has emerged from the simple life he has been living for some time at Bloomington, Ill. At the recent primary election he won the Democratic nomination for the governorship of Illinois, and he will make a strong fight for the office.

Besides being vice-president with Cleveland from 1892 to 1897, he has been more than a slight possibility himself at three or four different national Democratic conventions. He was talked of strongly in 1892, he was given a still stronger boost for the nomination in 1900 and it really looked as though he might land first place on the ticket in 1904. In 1900, however, he was placed on the ticket again only as a candidate for his old place of vice-president, and with Bryan went down in defeat at election time.

Mr. Stevenson is really what might be called to-day one of the Democrats of the old school, one of the type of which Col. Henry Waterston of Kentucky is another conspicuous example. Partisan and platform, aims and goals, facts and philosophies have shifted and changed in a sort of kaleidoscopic whirl since Stevenson went actively into the political game, and yet there has never been a moment, in all probability, when it could fairly and consistently be charged that he was not "regular."

Before his term as vice-president he was in congress two separate times and four years each time. He was also first assistant postmaster general during the first Cleveland term.

PLANNING AFRICAN TRIP



Frederick C. Selous, the famous British hunter, who "owns" the jungles of Africa as many men know sections of their own towns, is the man who is planning the coming African trip of President Roosevelt. Selous is one of the notable hunters of big game in the world. He was born in London on New Year's eve, 1851, of mixed French, Scotch and English blood, and with some of these he inherited also a "disposition and a dislike for the humdrum existence of the upper class Englishmen."

Selous was 20 years old when he first left England for Africa. Starting at Matabeleland, he began a sort of endless, hair-raising expedition, personally conducted, through the denser portions of central Africa, which continued for 20 years. During this time he made his living by elephant hunting and the collection of specimens of natural history, including some magnificent members of the jungle's animal royalty. In 1892 he returned to England, but in less than a year he was back again for his savage playland, and therefore he hurried back in time to get into the first Matabele war.

A number of books on various phases of his life and experiences in Africa have been published by Selous, and he has received many honors at the hands of the Royal Geographical society and other similar organizations. At present he is living in Surrey, England, where he occupies himself with shooting, cycling, hockey, cricket and thinking about the good old days in inner Africa.

Put Your Money In a New Country

The Pacific Coast extension of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway now under construction, opens to the settler thousands of acres of excellent agricultural land. The new country in Adams, Hettinger, and Bowman Counties, North Dakota, and Butte County, South Dakota, is now reached by the new track. The soil is a dark loam with clay subsoil, and produces in abundance wheat, oats, barley, speltz, flax, corn and potatoes. The land is well adapted to farming, good water is found at a depth of from twenty to fifty feet, and the whole country is underlaid with lignite coal that outcrops along the streams, and in most cases can be had for the digging.

The climate is healthful, the air is dry and invigorating, and the percentage of sunny days is high. Outdoor work can be done almost every day in the year. Rainfall is amply sufficient to raise the crops. Regular mail service has been established, the roads are good, rural telephone lines traverse the country, and automobiles are in common use. The deeded land in this district sells for from \$10 to \$18 per acre. There are many instances this year where the crop equaled in value the cost of the land.

In Butte County, South Dakota, there is considerable government land open for homestead entry. Government land offices are maintained at Lemmon, Hettinger and Bowman, where filings and final proofs may be made. All of these towns are on the new line of the

Chicago Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway

In Montana, the new railroad traverses good farming land. It has been demonstrated that big crops of grain may be raised. Along the Yellowstone and Mussellshell rivers, the water is used for irrigation, and phenomenal yields of alfalfa, sugar beets, and grain, are always certain. In the Judith Basin near Lewistown, Montana, is one of the most remarkable sections to be found on the new line. Under natural rainfall, the famous bench lands produced this year an average of 35 bushels of hard wheat to the acre, and the price was 94 cents per bushel. The basin contains about 1500 square miles and is sparsely settled. Some government land still remains open for settlement. A government land office is maintained at Lewistown. In Fergus County, outside the Judith Basin, is one of the greatest stock countries in the world, and good ranches can be purchased at a reasonable figure.

The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway Co. has established an immigration department for the purpose of assisting in the settlement and development of the new lands now being opened. Pamphlets descriptive of its resources will be forwarded free on request.

F. A. MILLER
General Passenger Agent,
CHICAGO

GEORGE B. HAYNES
Immigration Agent,
35 ADAMS STREET, CHICAGO

Two Things Worth Remembering. In the Blue mountains, three hours from Sydney, are many beautiful country houses, mostly hungalows with wide verandas all round, where Sydney people fly in February and March to get away from the heat of the city by the harbor.

Learn these two things: Never be discouraged because good things get on so slowly here, and never fall daily to do that good which lies next to your hand.—George MacDonald.

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MOORISH ROMANCE

STORY OF AN ACT OF TREACHERY AND MURDER.

The Voice from the Grave Accomplished its Mission, Then Was Stilled Forever by Bou Amara the Pretender.

The following story tells of an act of treachery and murder, and is typical of oriental life. It concerns the Moorish pretender, Bou Amara, and was on everyone's lips in Algeria some months ago.

At the time of the incident Bou Amara was much troubled. His followers were fast losing faith in him. Day by day fresh news of desertions reached his ears, and the situation was becoming serious. At night Bou Amara sat in his tent brooding in solitude over his waning popularity. Then one morning he arose, his mind cast at ease as it had been in the old days when men rushed daily to be enrolled under his standard. Bou Amara had conceived a plan. Now should all men know that he was indeed the chosen leader of the faithful.

Bou Amara sent for one of his followers—the man he knew as the most faithful in his army. To him he would intrust the carrying out of the great scheme. Calling the man in to his tent Bou Amara hit by hit divulged the secret that was to restore him to fame. Then the chief and his faithful follower betook themselves secretly to a neighboring burial ground. There he commanded the soldier to dig a grave, and while the man worked explained more fully the part that he was to play. At last the grave was completed. And now a strange scene followed unseen by anyone else the two conspirators. The faithful follower himself first lay down in the water. Bou Amara threw him a skin of grave and some provisions. Then with feverish haste he began to place boards over the hole. On these he piled up the earth, carefully leaving an aperture for ventilation, until a mound was raised.

Towards evening on the same day a Moor, half-demented, with horror, dashed suddenly into the camp, and with loud cries threw himself at Bou

Amara's feet. In words shaken by fear he told that while passing through the burial ground he had heard a voice speaking from one of the graves.

"Bou Amara rose to his feet and commanded his men to follow him. As they drew near to the burial ground they saw that a great crowd had collected in a circle about it. A breathless silence pervaded the place. No one dared to speak beyond a whisper. As the chief drew near all eyes turned to him, and his hands were raised signaling to him to listen. Then, suddenly from the ground a strange voice fell on the ears of the newly-arrived soldier.

"Praise be to Bou Amara, the messenger of God, and our true sultan."

The faithful follower was acting his part well. Again the spirit, for all regarded it as such, spoke the same words. The soldiers turned to their chief. Bou Amara, with head bent, was accepting the tribute with becoming humility. A fierce joy was in his heart. But suddenly a fear crept into his mind. What if he were betrayed by his faithful follower?

"A saint has revealed himself to us," he cried. "Let us therefore each place a stone on this blessed man's tomb."

A murmur of approval ran through the crowd, and soon a high cairn of stones was raised up over the mound.

Pop's Gues.

"Pop!"

"Yes, my son."

"What do they call that awning which goes from one of those houses to the other?"

"I guess that is what they call a house-to-house canvas, my boy," Yonkers Statesman.

Figuring It Out.

"But remember, my dear," he said "that you and I are not to be seen."

She looked at him scornfully.

"One!" she echoed. "Nonsense! We are ten! I'm the one and you are the cipher!"—Half-Holiday.

How She Earned It.

"Where's my kid, Maudie get that dandy \$500 gown?"

"She earned it by writing an article on 'How I Dress on \$50 a Year.'"

Judge.

from either side.—John M. McNeely, in Judge.

Starting Candor.

"Do you keep boards?"

"None," answered Farmer Cornfossel. "We don't keep 'em. But there's always one on droppin' along. An' I tell you the truth, a summer boarder ain't very good company after the first three or four days, now."—Washington Star.

Inexcusable.

"Why do you persist in your avee alone to that settler?"

"He's impractical an' in business. He's one of those people who say 'don't worry' one minute and the next ask you if it is 'enough for you.'"

Washington Star.

Search for Minerals in Oklahoma.

Parts of Oklahoma are being prospected and mineral deposits in various districts show that gold, silver and copper are likely to be found in large quantities. It is also being found that this latter mining is likely to be started immediately.

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