

SNAKES CATCH RATS.

USE FOUND AT LAST FOR THE MUCH-ABUSED SERPENT.

South American Idea of Training Reptiles to Clear Plantations of Vermin Is Being Adopted in Southern States.

New Orleans (La.) Special.

"If a big snake looks lazily at you from the top of a fence when you go calling in South America, don't shoot him," said the man who had just returned from Panama. "The chances are that he is the house snake, and by killing him you would hurt the feelings of the planter just as much as you would offend your American host if you put a bullet in the St. Bernard who barks a welcome to you from the front steps. It has been found that snakes can be utilized in the killing of rats and other vermin, and planters in South America train them to do duty in keeping the plantation free from such pests."

Some farmers in the south, according to the New Orleans Times-Democrat, have adopted the plan of the South American planters and now encourage snakes of the nonpoisonous kind to consider the farm their home, no interference with them being allowed, so long as they keep the place clear of more objectionable free boarders. As rat-killers the snakes are said to be superior to ferrets, as they can wriggle and squirm into holes that the ferrets cannot, and so can kill off the little nesting rats, as well as the parents, thus insuring a complete extermination of the nuisances. A hungry snake turned loose in a rat-infested barn will speedily find his way behind the boards and into the fastnesses of the rodents' retreat. If a fight ensues, the snake has the advantage, for, quick as the rat is, a snake can be quicker, and once the snake strikes it is little use for the rat to struggle.

To effectually clean out a rat-infested barn, however, it is necessary, according to those who have seen the snakes at work, to turn loose about a dozen snakes at once. There should be snakes of various sizes, so that holes and crannies too small for the big fellows will admit the little ones. The snakes will glide around the barn looking for holes, and as soon as they find those big enough to admit them, they



RAT IN SNAKE'S CLASP.
(In the South Reptiles Are Now Trained to Kill Vermin.)

will all disappear from view in search of provender. The big snakes will wriggle along the rat holes until the nest is reached and the rest may be imagined. The little snakes will follow the baby rats in their wild flights through smaller crevices, and eventually will catch them and make a meal of them. The fact that the snakes swallow the rats, and do not merely kill them and leave them to poison the air from hidden retreats, is one of the reasons why farmers like to use snakes as rat catchers, rather than ferrets, the work of the latter being marred by their habit of killing the rats and leaving them on the scene of the battle, or merely chasing them out of their holes for the rat-catcher to give them their quietus.

The only risk involved in this odd method of rat extermination is that the snakes, finding such good feeding in their new quarters, may decide to make a permanent stay, in which case the owner of the barn has on his hands a more distressing trouble than the rat plague, for to have a barn infested with snakes, even though they be of the harmless variety, is not calculated to add to the peacefulness of the farmer's slumbers. It is usual, however, for the snakes, when the quarry is thinned out, and no more rats can be found, to make for the open again, in search of food. They are promptly caught and dropped into the snake rat-catcher's bag. Sometimes one or two of the snakes persist in remaining behind the scenes, and then strategy has to be resorted to to "retrieve them." A live rat is tethered near the hole from which it is expected the snake will appear, and the watching owner of the snake soon sees the flat head emerge, the hungry snake eager to pounce on the helpless rat. The snake is added to the bunch in the bag, and as soon as the last bunch has been "retrieved" the rat-catcher is ready for another job.

Hint for American Heiresses.
Americans who are so fond of titled foreigners that they gladly give their daughters to them in marriage, pay the husband's debts, and agree to maintain them in idleness, may find a few deserving ones in Vienna. In that city, among the 5,000 car drivers, there are 400 knights, 50 barons and four counts.

Walks Many Miles in Sleep.
The extraordinary case of sleepwalking a pig of a young London servant turning down to bed the other night—being your house at Roughton, Sussex. She found herself on Moushold Heath, Norwich, 18 miles away.

BRISSON LOVES CHILDREN.

Famous French Statesman, Satirical in Parliament, Writes Rhymes for Little Tots.

Paris (France) Special.
M. Henri Brisson, who recently succeeded Paul Deschanel as president of the French house of representatives, is a many-sided old parliamentary warrior, who advocated the cause of the republic with voice, with pen, and, occasionally, with the sword, long before it was proclaimed.

Keen, cold, impassive and satirical in the chamber of deputies, M. Brisson is about the last man in French politics



M. HENRI BRISSON.
(New President of the French Chamber of Deputies.)

to-day whom one would suspect of being, when off duty, a boon companion of "les petits," as children are called in Paris. As a matter of fact, however, M. Brisson might be either Lewis Carroll or Eugene Field, so far as popularity with the tots is concerned, and his methods of amusing them, too, recall those of the authors of "Alice" and "Little Boy Blue." The president of the "chambre" is a widower and childless, but his distinguished "chief of the cabinet," Jacques Girard, has two little olive branches, and by them "Bison," as he is known to the small Albert and Suzanne, is regarded as just about the best fellow in the world. Often he spends hours in making nonsense rhymes for them, and some of these presidential efforts would not disgrace Carroll himself.

Brisson really is an amateur verse writer of no small ability, a good many of his sonnets having found their way into print. He also is an enthusiast on the subject of poetic drama. His friends declare that he can recite both "Hernani" and "Ruy Blas" with as much facility as Mounet-Sully, who plays them; and he has Moliere at his fingers' ends. One of M. Brisson's few boasts is that, in his youth, he could deliver Racine's "Iphigenie" from beginning to end.

He is nearly as strenuous as the president of the United States, and is like Mr. Roosevelt in having a habit of taking his friends out for walks, and forgetting that they are less energetic than himself, bringing them back in a state of collapse. The other day, some miles from the end of one of these walks, the president's confere, M. Steinhilber, elected to follow ingloriously in a cab. Brisson rises at five o'clock every morning, summer and winter alike. Old man as he is, he still fences every day, and all his writing is done standing at his desk. Though the recent sessions of the chamber have been extended far into the night, and been exceedingly stormy, the president has not yet missed a "seance," and it is not at all likely that the vice president will be overworked.

M. Brisson is a great authority on political economy. Several years ago he traveled extensively both in Egypt and the Holy Land, and the fortunate folk who received letters from him while on his wanderings declare that their wit, insight and general literary quality made them well worth being preserved in print.

PANAMA'S COAT-OF-ARMS.

It Is Pretty to Look Upon and Its Motto Is a Collection of Good Words.

Panama Special.
Panama, the new republic, has already its coat-of-arms, showing an attractive and comprehensive design. It consists of a shield surmounted by an eagle, in whose beak is the ribbon upon which is written the motto of the state: "Paz, Libertad, Union, Progreso;" (Peace, Liberty, Union, Progress.) Below, on the upper part of the shield, side by side



PANAMA'S COAT-OF-ARMS.
(Officially Adopted by the Republic's Executive Council.)

are the implements of war and of peaceful occupations. Below this, occupying the central place, is a land and water view, the site of the canal, and the fruits of the harvest; a rushing train on a track fills up the point of the shield. Flags drape it on either side, and stars surmount the eagle.

Were Proud of Big Feet.
Greclian women had longer feet than the average man has now.

EXILE FROM POLAND.

COL. JOHN SOBIESKI IS A PICTURESQUE CHARACTER.

Has Served His Adopted Country in War and Peace—Woman Suffrage and Prohibition Are His Hobbies.

Bloomington (Ill.) Special.

The protecting bosom of the United States shelters no more picturesque character than Col. John Sobieski, a Polish exile, who for 56 years has made his home in this country and for 20 years or more in this city. His life history reads like a romance and he is in many respects one of the most remarkable men in public life to-day. He was born in Warsaw, Poland, September 10, 1842, and was the only son of Count John Sobieski, who lost his life in the revolution of Poland in 1846. One of his ancestors was John Sobieski, who reigned from 1640 to 1696 as king of Poland under the title of John III. He was one of Poland's greatest warriors. Two Counts Sobieski, the father and grandfather of Col. Sobieski, met their deaths at the hands of Russian headmen because of their devotion to their native land. Col. Sobieski's father, who was the owner of 15,000 serfs and also of rich mineral lands, was the leader of the rebellion of 1848 against Russian rule. The revolution was unsuccessful and Count Sobieski was imprisoned and finally met his death on the block, and his devoted wife and the boy were forthwith banished from Poland. They went to Austria, but the feeling in that monarchy was hostile to Polish patriots, and from there the pair proceeded to free Switzerland, where they were warmly received by the colony of Polish exiles who had preceded them. Afterwards Mrs. Sobieski and her son went to Italy and later to England, from which country, in 1855, a midshipman smuggled young Sobieski on board ship and brought him to free America.

On arrival in the United States the military talent of the young man asserted itself and in the spring of 1855, a short time after his arrival here, and when but 13 years of age, he enlisted in the United States army as a bugler, being too young to serve as a soldier. He was assigned to the First artillery, under command of Capt. John B. Ma-



COL. JOHN SOBIESKI.
(Polish Exile of Royal Blood Who Is a Citizen of Illinois.)

gruder, who afterward became a general in the confederate army. When the civil war was declared the First artillery was assigned to duty with the Army of the Potomac. Col. Sobieski was assigned to Gen. Fitz John Porter's division and was a great admirer of that commander and Gen. McClellan. Col. Sobieski served with distinction in the battles of Bull Run, Yorktown, Williamsburg, Fair Oaks, Gaines Hill, Frazer's Farm, Malvern Hill, South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. At the latter battle he commanded a battery of artillery that rendered most effective service against the legions of Lee. He almost paid for his bravery with his life at Gettysburg, being severely wounded, a bullet passing through his body. Other famous conflicts in which he was engaged were those of the Wilderness, Petersburg, Five Forks and Appomattox. Following the surrender of Lee, Col. Sobieski enlisted in Washington under the banner of the Mexican revolutionists and was commissioned a colonel by the republican government. He left for Mexico with a party of soldiers, but all were arrested at New Orleans by Gen. Phil Sheridan.

He afterward released them. Sobieski soon afterward reached Mexico and was made chief of staff of the patriot army of Juarez and helped drive Maximilian from his throne. After the execution of the emperor Col. Sobieski returned to the United States and settled in Minnesota, and then, according to the Chicago Chronicle, he was elected to the lower house of the legislature and afterward became state senator. In the legislature he introduced three measures which have been his life work to sustain—viz., the removal of sex as a qualification of the voter, the abolishment of capital punishment by the death penalty and the prohibition of the liquor traffic. After studying law Col. Sobieski ascended the lecture platform and for 35 years has been speaking upon various subjects, being probably one of the best known men upon the platform to-day. He has lectured extensively through Great Britain and Canada. A soldier of fortune in two wars, and in whose veins flows the royal blood of Poland, Col. Sobieski is a unique character and a man of whom the United States, his adopted country, can well feel proud.

Filipino Students in America.
The Filipinos are drifting this way. Already there are 250 students from the Philippines in American colleges.

A FORTUNE FOR PROPHETS.

Senator Bard Wants Government to Give \$150,000 to Successful Weather Predictors.

Washington (D. C.) Special.

Anyone who can find out what causes the weather, and apply his knowledge to forecasting what the weather will be for 30 days at a time, can get \$150,000 from the United States government, if a bill introduced by Senator Bard, of California, becomes a law. This bill offers \$150,000 in two prizes, one of \$100,000 and the other of \$50,000, for the discovery of the physical basis of meteorology.

Even government weather experts admit that they do not know what causes



HON. THOMAS R. BARD.
(California Senator Who Is the Friend of Weather Sharps.)

the weather. They can tell with some accuracy what the weather will be for 24 hours, because they can find out certain things about the weather conditions surrounding points for which predictions are made, but they can't say what is going to happen next.

There are scientists in Washington who believe that there is a fixed basis of the weather, and that once this basis is discovered, it will be possible, say on May 1, to predict exactly what the weather will be for every day that month, including rainfall, temperature, and all other things necessary to be known for the benefit of agriculture, horticulture or commerce.

These scientists have consulted with Senator Bard, and the result is this bill, which provides that the president shall appoint three men as a board of meteorology, to be selected from expert meteorologists nominated from or by Yale, Harvard, Johns Hopkins, Leland Stanford and Chicago universities.

The board will conduct the contest for the prizes. The prize of \$100,000 will go to the person who produces the best results as to temperature, which shall include the discovery of the physical basis of meteorology and the best system of forecasting temperature. The prize of \$50,000 will go to the best discovery in predicting rainfall.

This is not to be a guessing match, because each contestant must select three different localities of varying climates, and predict the exact weather that will visit these three localities every day, making his predictions for 30 days in advance, and keeping them up for six consecutive months. Then the contestant must go before the board and tell how he did it. His explanation must be upon scientific principles, or the experts will not award the prize to him.

TOLD ABOUT MISS LEITER.

Rumor Has It That Former Chicago Belle Is Engaged to Marry Lord Kitchener.

Chicago Special.

Is Daisy Leiter, of Chicago, to become Lady Kitchener? This is the society rumor that is heard in Chicago, London and several European capitals. In St. Petersburg the report has gained such credence that it is understood that the famous African conqueror and the Chicago woman had already been married, making Lord Kitch-



MISS DAISY LEITER.
(American Heiress Said to Be Engaged to Lord Kitchener.)

ener brother-in-law to Lord Curzon, viceroy of India.

Since Kitchener won fame as a leader in Egypt, South Africa and India, his name has repeatedly been connected with that of famous women, actresses, heiresses, and other women of note, while Miss Leiter has been similarly favored with reported engagements.

The Nove Vremya, St. Petersburg's leading organ, in commenting on the rumored engagement, which the writer evidently thought had reached the marriage stage, says:

"Two American millionaires have changed the destinies of India. Since Lord Curzon became Lord Kitchener's brother-in-law, their personalities seem to have been merged. Curzon spoke with the words of Kitchener on the glacial theory, and Kitchener adopted the policy of Curzon in sending an alleged diplomatic mission into Tibet."

NORTH DAKOTA NEWS.

Officers Elected.

The regular asylum meeting of the trustees occurred at Jamestown, there being present Messrs. Hackney, Elkins and Mudgett. The annual election of officers of the institution occurred and Supt. Moore, Assistant Superintendent Guest, Dr. Hill, Mrs. Archibald, matron, were re-elected as well as John Milsted, steward. A large number of bids for furnishing the institution with supplies were received in response to advertisements for proposals, and contracts were awarded as follows:

Dry Goods—Strong's Dry Goods house, Jamestown.

Groceries—Andrew Haas, Jamestown.

Dried Fruits—Rathan Bros. & Hall, Jamestown.

Meats—Brockman & Wells, Jamestown.

Shoes—Gotzian & Co., St. Paul.

Clothing—Sam Brand, Valley City.

The bids were very close in each instance. After allowing the usual monthly accounts the board adjourned.

Error Corrected.

Through an unfortunate error the winners in oratorical contest were wrongly announced. At the conclusion of the program it was stated that Smith Stimmel of Fargo college had won first place, and Miss Stevens of the North Dakota Agricultural college at Fargo, second. The audience was somewhat surprised, but retired. The markings were turned over to the oratorical committee and two hours later at the hotel the mistake was discovered, and members of the committee telephoned the judges to verify percentage scores, which showed that Miss Stevens had won first place and Mr. Totten of the North Dakota university at Grand Forks had won second place. Miss Stevens has won first place two years in succession.

Engagement Failed.

An engagement through a matrimonial bureau that didn't materialize is reported from Medina. A lady and a young sister arrived last week to meet the prospective husband. They were escorted to the hotel and afterwards drove out to the homestead of the future home of the bride. The sisters took a good look at the surroundings and the party returned on the train to Jamestown, ostensibly to be married, but for some reason the engagement fell through and the prospective groom returned to his lonely claim alone to meditate on the situation. The ladies reside in Minnesota, and the older one remained in Jamestown.

Found Dead.

James Lunny, a farmer living nineteen miles from Portal, Ward county, was found dead beside a box car at Portal.

Lunny, who had been drinking with a crowd of companions in the car, got into a fight with them and was murdered. The blood was still running from his ears, and there was a frightful wound on his face.

The fatal wound must have been given to him in the car, for there was evidence of his having crawled from the car to the ground, and under the car. He was lying on the opposite side of the car when found dead. The companions had skipped.

Birds of the State.

Supt. Schmidt, of Jamestown, has just completed a catalogue of birds of the state of North Dakota, which will be published by State Superintendent Stockwell for distribution among the teachers and pupils. The work is something in which Supt. Schmidt takes an active interest, and he has spent much time in vacations making his investigations. The catalogue contains the names of 354 varieties of birds.

Lost An Arm.

Lars Hungen, an old man employed on the Great Northern coal docks at Rugby, got his arm caught in the hoisting machinery and the member was so badly injured that amputation was found necessary after the patient had been taken to the hospital at Minot. The screams of Hungen attracted a train crew nearby and a portion of the machinery had to be moved before he was extricated.

Application Denied.

The application of the state to suspend Sheriff Moody of Richland county temporarily, pending action for permanent removal from office for alleged malfeasance, was denied by Judge Glaspell. The case was dismissed on motion of the defendant for want of jurisdiction.

News Notes.

McIntosh county will pay a bounty of two cents for gopher tails.

The business men of Bowbells propose to give prizes to boys under 16 years of age for killing gophers. The boys will get in addition the bounty offered by the county.

Bottineau county has paid 104 wolf bounties, amounting to \$260. The sport has been quite good this winter.

A suit has been brought by a farmer living near Perth for \$150 damages which are claimed to have been inflicted by the stock of a neighbor running at large.

Jacob Hummel, who lives 14 miles northwest of Ashley, had the bad luck during the recent storm that the roof of his barn was blown off and a cow, three steers and all his chickens froze to death.

Some of the rural carriers kick because patrons appear to expect them to fish pennies out of mail boxes, and lick and stick the stamps, which is not a part of the duty of a carrier.

THE NEWS IN BRIEF.

For the Week Ending April 16.

Congressman Amos D. Allen, of Alfred, was renominated by the First Maine district republican convention. Congress has been formally invited to attend the opening of the Louisiana Purchase exposition on Saturday, April 30.

The supreme court decided that books are not entitled to transmission through the mails as second class matter.

Twelve prisoners confined in the military guardhouse in Des Moines escaped by sawing their way out with a case knife.

It is officially announced at the world's fair in St. Louis that the total number of employees may slightly exceed 100,000.

In the Fourth Michigan district republican convention Congressman Edward L. Hamilton, of Niles, was renominated by acclamation.

Martin Hannen, a laborer, was killed and five other persons were injured in a collision between an electric car and a wagon in Minneapolis, Minn.

The steamer Ranger, with 12,000 seals; the Bloodhound, with 10,000, and the Leopard, with 4,000, arrived at St. John's, N. F., from the ice fields.

Hadji Mohammed Bui Abdullah, the Mad Mullah against whom the British have been conducting a campaign in Somaliland, has escaped into Italian territory.

Thirty-four anacondas were born in the New York zoological park, and the mother snake fought to prevent the keeper from approaching the little ones.

The United States is held liable by federal court for damages to the owners of a British steamer run down and sunk by a cruiser during the war with Spain.

The plant of the Pittsburg Lumber company, about two miles north of Wilmington, N. C., was destroyed by fire. Loss, \$100,000; insurance about one-fourth.

William MacQueen, an anarchist who returned from England to serve out a five years' sentence for inciting the silk riots at Paterson, N. J., two years ago, surrendered himself to the sheriff at Paterson.

E. H. Harriman, of New York, president of the New York world's fair commission, will deliver the address on behalf of the domestic exhibitors at the opening exercises of the world's fair in St. Louis.

Capt. Richmond Pearson Hobson was defeated in his fight for the nomination for congress from the Sixth Alabama district, J. H. Bakhead, the incumbent, being renominated at the primaries.

The president has contributed the sum of \$100, and the secretary of the navy a like sum, as the nucleus of a fund for the relief of the dependent next of kin of the enlisted men who lost their lives in the disaster on the Missouri.

D. T. Larkin, a United States deputy marshal of Virginia, has been allowed \$10,000 by the house committee on claims towards the expense he was put to in defending himself in the courts for having killed a moonshiner.

According to a dispatch received from Windhoek, German southwest Africa, a captain, a first lieutenant and six men were killed and a lieutenant and seven men severely, and five slightly, wounded in a battle with the Hereros on April 13.

Samuel Hoar, a distinguished lawyer, and nephew of United States Senator George F. Hoar, died at Concord, Mass., of paralysis. He was 59 years old, and for nearly 20 years had been general counsel for the Boston & Albany railroad.

The jury in the case of the United States against Charles F. W. Neely, former director of finance of the post offices of Cuba, in which it was sought to determine the exact amount of his speculations, failed to agree in New York and was discharged.

The Federal bank, a state institution in New York city, has closed, and officials of the state banking department are in charge. The bank's capital is \$250,000. According to the last statement in January the individual deposits were \$485,410 and loans and discounts \$632,160.

THE MARKETS.

| New York, April 16. | |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| LIVE STOCK—Steers..... | \$4 50 @ 5 30 |
| Hogs, State, Penn..... | 5 70 @ 5 75 |
| Sheep..... | 5 00 @ 5 25 |
| FLOUR—Minn. Patents..... | 5 15 @ 5 40 |
| WHEAT—May..... | 95 1/2 @ 96 |
| CORN—July..... | 55 1/2 @ 56 |
| OATS—May..... | 46 @ 46 1/2 |
| RYE—No. 2 Western..... | 77 1/2 @ 80 |
| BUTTER..... | 18 @ 22 |
| CHEESE..... | 45 @ 11 1/2 |
| EGGS..... | 18 @ 18 1/2 |

| CHICAGO. | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| CATTLE—Fancy Heeves..... | \$5 70 @ 5 85 |
| Red Texas Steers..... | 3 50 @ 4 15 |
| Medium Beef Steers..... | 4 25 @ 4 75 |
| Heavy Steers..... | 5 25 @ 5 65 |
| Calves..... | 2 00 @ 5 00 |
| HOGS—Assorted Light..... | 4 90 @ 5 15 |
| Heavy Packing..... | 5 10 @ 5 30 |
| Heavy Mixed..... | 5 00 @ 5 20 |
| SHEEP..... | 4 50 @ 5 75 |
| BUTTER—Creamery..... | 14 @ 22 |
| Dairy..... | 12 1/2 @ 21 |
| EGGS—Fresh..... | 15 1/2 @ 15 1/2 |
| POTATOES (per bu.)..... | 1 05 @ 1 18 |
| MESS PORK—Cash..... | 12 87 @ 13 00 |
| LARD—Cash..... | 6 82 @ 6 85 |
| WHEAT—May..... | 83 @ 84 |
| Corn, May..... | 52 1/2 @ 53 1/2 |
| Oats, May..... | 37 1/2 @ 38 1/2 |
| Barley, Feed..... | 43 @ 43 1/2 |
| Rye, May..... | 72 @ 72 1/2 |

| MILWAUKEE. | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| GRAIN—Wheat, No. 1 Nor'n..... | \$1 96 1/2 @ 99 |
| Corn, July..... | 75 1/2 @ 80 1/2 |
| Oats, Standard..... | 43 @ 43 1/2 |
| Rye, No. 1..... | 73 1/2 @ 74 |

| KANSAS CITY. | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| GRAIN—Wheat, May..... | \$1 83 1/2 @ 82 1/2 |
| Wheat, July..... | 75 1/2 @ 77 |
| Corn, May..... | 46 @ 46 1/2 |
| Oats, No. 2 White..... | 42 @ 43 |

| ST. LOUIS. | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| CATTLE—Beef Steers..... | \$3 90 @ 5 30 |
| Texas Steers, Grass..... | 2 75 @ 4 25 |
| HOGS—Packers..... | 5 00 @ 5 25 |
| Butchers' Best Heavy..... | 5 10 @ 5 25 |
| SHEEP—Natives..... | 4 75 @ 5 75 |

| OMAHA. | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| CATTLE—Native Steers..... | \$2 50 @ 5 25 |
| Stockers and Feeders..... | 2 75 @ 4 20 |
| Cows and Heifers..... | 2 00 @ 4 20 |
| HOGS—Heavy..... | 4 85 @ 5 00 |
| SHEEP—Wethers..... | 4 70 @ 5 50 |