

Humorous Department.

Psychic Problem.—Two powerful colored stevedores, who had had some sort of falling out, were engaged in unloading a vessel at a St. Louis dock. Complimentary remarks and warnings of intended violence were exchanged whenever the two passed each other with their trucks.

"You jest keep on pesticatorin' around wid me," declared one of the men, "an you is gwine be able to settle a mighty big question for de scientific folks?" "What question, dat?" asked the other.

"Kin de dead speak!"—Harper's.

A Marine Spectacle.—A captain of Atlantic liner was bothered by a woman passenger who was always inquiring about the possibility of seeing a whale. A dozen times a day she brought him to have her called if one have in sight.

"But, madam," the captain asked her rather impatiently, after long suffering in silence, "why are you so eager to see a whale?"

"Captain," she answered, "my desire in life is to see a whale blubber. It must be very impressive to watch such an enormous creature cry."—Harper's Magazine.

Forethought.—Jeremiah's wife had locked him out, though he had telephoned that he was coming home. He broke in the door, however, and, hot from his exertions, found this note on the dining-room table:

"Dear Jerry: I decided to go out just the same. As this is Jane's day off, I took care to put the key under the mat for you."—Karrikaturen.

An Ounce of Prevention.—Sally (the farmer's wife).—"There's a letter from a London lady this morning, Timothy, as wants to take a hopen-air cure at this ere farm in the summer, and asks if we have a bathroom. What am I to say?"

Farmer.—"Write and tell her the truth at once, Sally. Say she'd better have her bath the day before she comes here."—London Mail.

Danger Ahead.—Little Tommie Brown was always interested in his new baby sister. One day he stood peering down upon it while nurse was singing it to sleep.

"Nurse," he whispered at last, "she's nearly unconscious, isn't she?"

"Yes," nodded the nurse, and continued singing the lullaby.

Tommie whispered in alarm: "Then don't sing any more or you'll kill her."—London Evening News.

Tied Up.—Brown and Jones, at the club, were lamenting the absence of their mutual friend Robinson, who had got married.

"We don't see much of Robinson now," said Brown. "I fancy his movements are not so free as they used to be."

"That's true," replied Jones dryly. "Since he tied the knot he's not had so much rope!"—Tit-Bits.

The Imitator.—The Boss—"What do mean, by such language? Are you the manager here or am I?"

Jones—"I know I'm not the manager."

The Boss—"Very well, then, if you are not the manager, why do you talk like a blamed idiot?"—The Stenographer.

Riches Have Stings.—"Would you marry a man for money?"

"No," replied Miss Cayenne. "I'd prefer a husband in moderate circumstances to one who is in a perpetual flurry about his income tax."—Washington Star.

The Main Point.—Miss Tiddles, will you marry me? I would gladly die for you," offered the wealthy, but aged suitor.

"How soon?" queried that practical twentieth-century maid. — Berkeley Gazette.

The Worst Speed.—"How fast can your car go?"

"Just fast enough," replied Mr. Chuggins, "to break the road rules, and not fast enough to keep ahead of the cop."—Washington Star.

Look Before You Leap.—"And would you love me as much if father lost all his money?"

"Has he?"

"Why, no."

"Of course I would, darling."—The Sydney Bulletin.

Fast.—"Is this a fast train?" the salesman asked the conductor.

"Of course it is," was the reply. "I thought it was. Would you mind my getting out to see what it is fast to?"—Sydney Bulletin.

Rank Extravagance.—The Insurance Agent—"But you surely agree to taking out an insurance policy to cover your burial expenses?"

Wily Scott—"Na, na, mon; I might be lost at sea!"—The London Passing Show.

Same Symptoms.—Simpson (greeting his old friend).—"Why, Jones, it's ages since I saw you last. Married now, aren't you?"

Jones—"No, old man, it's not that. Just business worry and nerves."—Sydney Bulletin.

A Rare Bird.—A peptimist goes in the back door when the front is shut; the window when the door is shut; the chimney when the window is shut, and blows off the roof if the chimney's shut. Let's go.—The Arklight.

WORLD DISARMAMENT

Powers to Hold Great Conference in Washington.

THE COMPLETE TEXT OF INVITATION

Among the Matters to be Considered Will Necessarily Have to be the Question of How Peace is to be Maintained Without Show of Force

Putting into definite terms its proposal for a disarmament conference, the United States on Friday invited the great powers to unite in "a practical effort to remove the causes of misunderstandings and so facilitate reduction of the world's enormous outlay for the materials of war."

In formal notes of invitation forwarded to Great Britain, France, Italy and Japan the American government pledges its unstinted cooperation in such an effort and further defined as follows its own conception of the principles involved:

That there can be no hope for peace or stability until the tax burden resulting from heavy armament has been reduced;

That such a reduction is possible only if troublesome international problems are solved by common consent.

That among these problems the Pacific and far Eastern questions occupy a position of "unquestioned importance."

That although there is no intention to dictate the scope of the conference, the discussions should touch upon matters which have been of international concern as well as those now admittedly controversial; and

That the question of naval armaments might well be considered first though there should be no barrier to a full consideration of armaments of every sort.

Bid for China.

Coincidentally with the dispatch of the invitations to the four great powers, China was asked to send a delegation to take part in these discussions of the conference which relate to the Pacific and the far East. All of the five nations thus invited have indicated informally that they would accept and formal responses are expected to reach Washington within a few days, opening the way for a more detailed preliminary negotiation on the scope of the conference.

While the official invitations were on the cables President Harding turned his attention to a survey of sentiment in the senate, which has a joint responsibility with the executive in foreign relations. He summoned to the White House Senator Borah (Republican) of Idaho, author of the resolution requesting the calling of a disarmament conference, held a conference of more than an hour and went over foreign problems generally as they are likely to affect the attitude of the American representatives in the conference.

One subject understood to have received special attention at the conference was the proposal for free tolls for American coastwise ships at the Panama canal. Mr. Harding is said to have expressed no objection to the Idaho senator's proposal to press his bill for such a provision, but at the same time is understood to have given it as his opinion that diplomatic negotiations now proceeding on the subject should be carried forward without interruption.

Senator Borah is said also to have urged the president to avoid any appearance of secret diplomacy in connection with the disarmament conference. Administration officials have held, however, that although public opinion must be brought behind the work of the assembled delegates to assure their success, the question of public sessions is one that only the conference itself can decide.

Text Made Public.

The text of the official invitations to Great Britain and China were made public late today at the state department. That to Great Britain, which was identical with the notes sent to France, Italy and Japan except for the insertion of the respective names of the powers addressed, follows:

"The president is deeply gratified at the cordial response to his suggestion that there should be a conference on the subject of limitation of armament, in connection with which Pacific and far Eastern questions should also be discussed.

"Productive labor is staggering under an economic burden too heavy to be borne unless the present vast public expenditures are greatly reduced. It is idle to look for stability, or the assurance of social justice or the security of peace, while wasteful and unproductive outlays deprive effort of its just reward and defeat the reasonable expectation of progress. The enormous disbursements in the rivalries of armaments manifestly constitute the greater part of the encumbrance upon enterprise and national prosperity; and avoidable or extravagant expenditure of this nature is not only without economic justification but is a constant menace to the peace of the world rather than an assurance of its preservation. Yet there would seem to be no ground to expect the halting of these increasing outlays unless the powers most largely concerned find a satisfactory basis for an agreement to effect their limitation. The time is believed to be opportune for these powers to approach this subject directly and in conference; and while, in the discussion of limitation of armament, the question of naval armament may naturally have first place, it has been thought best not to exclude questions pertaining to other armament to the end that all practicable measures of relief may have appropriate consideration. It

may also be found advisable to formulate proposals by which in the interest of humanity the use of new agencies of warfare may be suitably controlled.

For Practical Effort.

"It is, however, quite clear that there can be no final assurance of the peace of the world in the absence of the desire for peace, and the prospect of reduced armaments is not a hopeful one unless this desire finds expression in a practical effort to remove causes of misunderstandings and to seek ground for agreement as to principles and their application. It is the earnest wish of this government that through an interchange of views with the facilities afforded by a conference, it may be possible to find a solution of Pacific and far Eastern problems, of unquestioned importance at this time, that is, such common understandings with respect to matters which have been and are of international concern as may serve to promote enduring friendship among our peoples.

"It is not the purpose of this government to attempt to define the scope of the discussion in relation to the Pacific and far East but rather to leave this to be the subject of suggestions to be exchanged before the meeting of the conference in the expectation that the spirit of friendship and a cordial appreciation of the importance of the elimination of sources of controversy, will govern the final decision.

"Accordingly, in pursuance of the proposal which has been made, and in the light of the gracious indication of its acceptance, the president invites the government of Great Britain to participate in a conference on the subject of limitation of armament in connection with which Pacific and far Eastern questions will also be discussed on the 11th day of November, 1921."

The note to China was in the same language except that the detailed discussion to the burdens of armament was omitted and the following was substituted as the concluding paragraph:

"Accordingly, in pursuance of the proposal which has been made, and in the light of the gracious indication of its acceptance, the president invites the government of the republic of China to participate in the discussion of Pacific and far Eastern questions in connection with the conference on the subject of limitation of armament to be held in Washington, on the 11th day of November, 1921."

Consistent.—"Can I have the five pounds I lent you?"

"You can have it next week."

"You told me that last week!"

"Yes; do you think I'm a man to say one thing one day and another thing the next?"—Karrikaturen (Christiana).

STUDIES IN NATURAL HISTORY

By JAMES HENRY RICE, Jr.

THE RED FOX

Class—Mammalia; Order, Carnivora; sub-Order, Fissipedia; Genus, Vulpes; Family, Canidae; Species, Fulvus. The Latin word, vulpes, means a fox; the family name is from Canis, a dog; and fulvus is Latin for red or fulvous, the fox color.

The length of the Red fox is 40 inches, one inch more than that of the Gray fox. This fox is also known as Back fox, Silver fox and Cross fox, different colors signifying nothing as to species. A vixen has frequently brought forth a Silver whelp, along with a litter of Red ones.

The Red fox that is known ranges from Nova Scotia and New Foundland, south to Georgia.

In the sketch of the Gray fox it has been stated that the Red fox is more found, larger in size and heavier in weight, and much swifter in speed.

Dr. John Henry Logan, in his charming History of Upper Carolina, says that the Red fox came over the mountains from Tennessee, when the Gray fox became reduced in numbers; but of this he gives no proof and probably repeated what hunters told him—and hunters are usually inaccurate observers, with superheated imaginations.

Relying on the same class of information Mr. John Burroughs stated that the Red fox was not found south of Virginia.

Once Abundant in Upper Carolina. Formerly, the Red fox abounded in Upper Carolina; and at no time was more abundant than at the close of the War between the States. Up-Countrymen were assiduous fox hunters, and nowhere was the sport pursued with more ardor than in the old Ninety-Six District, the heart of which were the original counties of Abbeville, Edgefield, Newberry and Laurens.

Crayton McCants, with a rare genius for this class of narration, has immortalized the Red fox in his story, "Vulp, of the Carolina Reds."

Red foxes sometimes make a straight-away dash for twenty miles and then return on a parallel course, some two or three miles distant from the first.

One historic Red fox had given the dogs and hunters the slip many a time. He seemed a phantom fox. The trail was always cold when the dogs struck it.

One day, an idea came to a young man, a member of the hunt, namely, that the Fox heard the horn when it was sounded for the dogs in the early morning, and, guided by this, got a safe start.

So on the next hunt no horn was sounded, with the result that the fox was started and caught after an exciting race.

It will be noted that mammalogists have put the Red fox and the Gray fox in separate genera, and have allied the Gray fox with South American foxes.

Foe to Woodchuck. Wittmer Stone states (Stone & Cream; American Animals) that the Red fox is a foe to the Woodchuck and digs him out. At any rate they are

wider rangers and more persistent hunters for game than the Gray fox; for which reason they take heavier toll.

In parts of the country where the Red fox has become scarce, hunters have gone to much expense to import them. Sometimes this leads to trouble with the farmers, who are always against foxes, regardless of the color. The splendid Hunt club, at Gates Mill, Ohio, near the city of Cleveland, at which I was recently a guest, has brought in many foxes and they have multiplied. The farmers in the surrounding region are raising a clamor. These matters are usually adjusted by the exercise of tact without interfering with the sport of fox hunting, which has appealed to many men for centuries, and to women who like the great out of doors.

Wherever he goes, the Red fox seems to prefer a hill region. One reason may lie in the fact that in the hills he can make the kind of den he fancies. In lower lands this would not be so easy, and in places the burrow would be flooded by water. The clay hills, especially the red hills, fit his notions of a dwelling place.

NO REUNION IN CHARLOTTE.

Mecklenburgers Can't Raise Money for Meeting of Wild Cats.

Because of the belief that between \$12,000 and \$15,000 for entertainment and at least 3,000 places in private homes secured, the invitation to members of the Wildcats Veterans' association was withdrawn at a chamber meeting of citizens at the chamber of commerce in Charlotte Monday morning.

Board of directors of the Rotary, Kiwanis and Civitan clubs, chamber of commerce, merchants' association, and other organizations attended the meeting and agreed to withdraw the invitation to the ex-soldiers.

Monday's meeting was called by Mayor Walker and he presided over the prolonged session.

For many weeks city officials, chamber of commerce directors and others have been pondering over the situation incident to the coming of the soldiers, former members of the 31st division, A. E. F.

Recent experience in campaigns for funds for worthy causes led officials to shudder at the task of going out on the streets and soliciting for \$15,000. Acute house shortage, with families doubled up in many homes and with no available vacant rooms was the determining factor in reaching the decision.

—Lee Hallman a young white man of a prominent Union county, N. C. family, was convicted in the superior court at Monroe, last Thursday of assault with intent to ravish. The prosecutor was a young woman of Concord, also of good family and the offense was alleged to have been committed on the night of July 21, while the two were out riding along a lonely road near the town of Wingate. The trial including the argument lasted about a week. The defense admitted illicit relations; but claimed mutual consent and the issue was whether the young woman was a prostitute or the man a guilty criminal with no right

THE CROP PROSPECT

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SAVINGS ACCOUNT

With us, and no one has to hold the umbrella over him now while he seeks other employment to support himself and family.

HAVE YOU SAVED ANYTHING FOR THE RAINY DAY?

Better profit by this man's experience.

\$1.00 will start a SAVINGS ACCOUNT, and We pay You 4 per cent Interest, Compounded Quarterly.

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The record of sales for the past twelve years is as follows:

- Sept. 3rd, 1909—S. J. Clinton.
- Sept. 12th, 1910—Ernest Partlow, col.
- August 23rd, 1911—Arthur Black.
- Sept. 5th, 1912—E. A. McCarter.
- August 27th, 1913—S. J. Clinton.
- August 22nd, 1914—J. E. Beanguard.
- Sept. 9th, 1915—J. H. and J. P. Adams.
- Sept. 1st, 1916—W. A. Cook.
- Sept. 12th, 1917—W. A. Cook.
- August 31st, 1918—W. A. Cook.
- August 28th, 1919—Jim Adams, col.
- Sept. 10th, 1920—W. A. Cook.

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