

The Times Nature Club

Keeping Cats.

The domesticated cat is closely related to the lynx, panther, tiger, and lion. In the cat, however, through close association with man for so many generations, the wildness has to a large extent been given place to a docility which is remarkable.

It does not take long for a cat to revert to its wild state. Let a mother cat steal her nest outdoors and bring up her little family without being disturbed by man and it generally follows that the little creatures become as wild as tigers, and, when caught, will scratch and bite almost as fiercely as their forbears did before domestication was started. Even pet cats will when startled by strangers, become very



"BABY BUNDI,"

First Prize Kitten, Owned by Mrs. Rathorn.

wild. As an example of this may be noted that one of the high bred cats from Seattle that took prizes at the recent cat show, caught the judge by the hand and bit and scratched, refusing to let go until forced to do so. It is said that dogs become attached to persons and cats to places. While this is often true to some extent there are many cats that become very fond of their owners and will follow them about just as a dog will do. They will also, on the return of their owner or one of the members of the family, show every sign of pleasure, prancing



Nest of Russet-backed Thrush. Often Called Whistling Thrush.

around and rolling over in the hope of getting a crumb.

Who has not heard the soft murmuring puss as she sits contentedly in her mistress' lap? While her coat is being stroked she purrs or hums a song of sweet content. She is a very contented creature and is like a gentle lady, needing to be coaxed and humored before making friends.

It is never a good plan to feed too much meat to a cat. If not only has a tendency to make her treacherous, it is injurious to her health. A full meat diet should be accompanied by the same kind of when the cat is in the house gets when living wild in the woods where the wild creature has often to walk for miles, to climb trees, to fast now and then, and to go without shelter. A cat that is kept in the house should be always kept on a milder diet than meat.

Milk is good for almost any creature, especially when it is young. Milk contains almost all the essentials of a balanced food. With a small amount of cooked meat, and a little vegetable food the cat should keep healthy. Cream in large quantities is no more good for the cat than it is for people. It is too rich for an ordinary food. Fresh milk is much better.

Miss Puss should always sleep in the open air, that is in a house or box which opens on one side to the air, while being closed on the other sides to prevent draughts. It is only by keeping the cat in a cool place that the coat will develop properly. Throughout the winter the cat is much better in an open house than huddled beneath the stove. The coat is thick and warm, and when the weather gets cool it grows thicker, so that the family pet is amply protected. Of course it would be wise to take her in during a severe frost, but in British Columbia these do not occur.

If the cats are kept in pens or houses, apart from the dwelling, it should be seen that they get plenty of sun. Sun is essential to the health and growth of almost every living thing, and cats are no exception. When they are in the sun in its light and heat they not only are enjoying themselves, but are getting one of the things which Nature has decreed is necessary to perfect health. Cats need sunshine just as much as children. They cannot be very healthy without a good deal of it.

There is talk of a society being formed in the city in the autumn for the purpose of discussing the care and breeding of cats, and of comparing notes. The formation of such a society would be helpful to those who are making an honest effort to keep their cats under better conditions than formerly, or who would like to go in for thoroughbred stock instead of being satisfied with the mongrel degenerate creature that, like the yellow dog of the Indian, is the lowest type of its kind.

Those who attended the dog and cat show recently in the drill hall could be struck by the difference between the high bred cats and those of the miscellaneous class. The former

were admired by everyone while the latter were scarcely noticed.

Curious Nesting Place.

Birds choose many curious sites where they build their nests and rear their young. Among the oddest that has come to hand of late was that of a wren which chose the sleeve of a scarecrow for the purpose.

The scarecrow was a very simple one. An upright stick was driven into the ground and another nailed across it to represent the arms of a man. On this a framework was hung a coat, the cross stick being put through the coat sleeves. The sleeve of the coat hung loose, and this the pair of wrens crept and decided that it was just the place for a nest.

They at once set to work. They had just arrived from a long journey to the south, but they did not seem tired. They carried straw and roots and piled them into the sleeve of the coat and when they fancied they had enough they began to collect small soft feathers from the neighboring chickens yard. These were placed around a little hollow place about nine inches from the entrance.

Soon the nest was all ready. It was very warm and soft, warmer than a feather bed because there was no draught in it. On this cosy nest the wren laid six little eggs, one each day. The eggs were white, covered with pink spots, and the wrens thought they were the most precious things in the world.

They were quite safe, for the nest was in a garden surrounded by a high wire fence, and the children of the house who had watched them build the nest, and who had caught a glimpse of one of the pretty eggs, would not for the world have disturbed them. Every day, and sometimes often, they took a peek into the sleeve of their coat, and there they saw the little mother sitting on her nest undisturbed by the visitors.

One day the children carried the story of the nest to the camera man, who soon took a break around to try to get a photograph. It was a puzzle, for the nest was out of sight, only some straws and roots at the end of the sleeve indicating that there was anything in

side. The lady who lived there solved the problem, however, for she took her scissors and cut the sleeve open as far as the nest. The cloth was pulled back, and the six little eggs in their downy nest exposed to view.

A photograph was quickly taken and then the sleeve was quickly and cleverly sewn up, and after a general view of the scarecrow had been taken, the camera man withdrew. Before going right away, however, he waited until the little bird came to her nest, and did not like the look of it at first, but after several little flights of inspection she alighted on the coat sleeve, and a moment later was inside, covering the eggs.

Tragedy of Bird Life.

Mr. Editor: The following tale of loss of life in nature may interest your young readers.

On the lawn where I live two small birds have been very busy and are suspected that they had a nest in the ivy that thickly covered an oak tree near by.

Last week, a little girl whose family has just arrived out from England and bought a ranch at Duncan, came to stay with her mother at this house.

This little girl was very bright and happy and liked playing in the open air in these breezy sunny days. Not knowing any other children to play with she looked round to find something with which to amuse herself. Near the oak tree is a water tap and alongside of that is a piece of drain pipe about large enough for you to put your hand down. This is sunk into the ground and at the bottom is a key to turn off the water in very cold weather.

The little girl being of an inquiring turn of mind, thought she would like to see what the effect would be of filling this pipe with water from the garden hose which was attached to the water pipe alongside. She did so and the only result was a great number of big black beetles came floating to the surface and scuttled off as fast as they could. Our little friend considered this very amusing, but after a while got tired of it.

The next day these birds were seen to be in great excitement, hopping around in front of anyone that went on the lawn, especially if they came close to the ivy.

Two cats were attracted by these birds and were seen to take their places near the tap. The birds did their best to escape the cats by hopping close to them. The cats knew better than to try to follow the birds, but sat as still as a cat watching a mouse.

waiting for one of the birds to come so close that they could make the fatal spring. It was interesting to watch the cats sitting there as if nothing was further from their minds than the birds, until one bird would hop a little nearer. Then you could notice the cat's demeanor change and their muscles quiver with excitement, but Mr. Birdie was too wise and was off again with lous chirruping.

The little girl, after a while, thought she would try if she could bring some

more beetles out of their hole in the pipe, so she let the hose run into the pipe until it was filled up to the level of the ground. What was her astonishment to find instead of beetles, two little birds not quite fully fledged, floating on the water. They were dead, and must have fallen out of their nest in attempting to fly and, probably sought the hole in the ground as a safe refuge spot, where the dampness and cold must have killed them.

The little girl thought there might have been a nest in the pipe and that she had, unfortunately, drowned the young birds, but I had curiosity enough to dig up the pipe and so prove that there was no nest in the pipe. This shows that accidents will happen in birdland as well as among men.

NATURE'S CALL.

At times my heart grows weary With the struggle, stern and dreary, And I hie me from the city's beaten ways, To haunt the banks of streams, Where the sunlight softly gleams, And wander by the shore and ocean bays.

At the misty break of day, When the dawn is cold and gray, And the deer along the clearings get their fill, On the waving dew-wet grass, And the roses as they pass, On the trail that leads to rest 'mid rock and hill.

When the tide is ebbing low, And the mink a hunting go, For the fish and crabs along the sandy shore, And I hear a clamorous cry From the faintly lighted sky, Where the sea fowl in the dawning daily soar.

There's a place of swampy land, By the creek on either hand, Where the willows and the salmon berries grow, Near that hollow in the hills, Where the water softly trills And the frosts of maidenhair are drooping low.

And the murmuring winds stir In the branches of the fir, And the hemlock and the balsam stand by, O'er the high green fronds of fern, Where the huckleberries turn To a brighter red as summer's moment's fly.

And the lively winter wren, You will hear him now and then, From the mossy roof of windfall in the brake; And the songsters whistled call, O'er the varied thush will fall Where the winds the boughs of sapling hemlock shake.

As the summer days go by, And the air is warm and dry, And the humming grouse is heard upon the hill, There's a smell of ocean breeze Mingled with the breath of pine, And of honeysuckle round the window sill.

Of a cabin by the sea, In a place where I would be, Where the humming birds are buzzing round the door, And the great bald eagles fly From the dead pine towering high, And the sound of waves upon the shingles roar.

Where the loons their plumage lave In the rolling surf and wave, Or diving seek the eagles stoop to flee; Where Nature's voice is heard, In the haunt of beaver and otter, Is a land and life that's good enough for me.

JAMES G. FRENCH, The Menagerie, Spanish Road.

TAXATION CONVENTION.

International Gathering is to be Held in Toronto in October.

The second international conference on state and local taxation will be held in Toronto, October 8th to 9th. This date has been chosen to avoid intruding on the summer vacation of college men and public officials, and also to have it early enough to permit of the publication and distribution of the proceedings in time to make the same available for use of all legislative bodies convening the first week in January, 1904.

Universities and colleges, governors of states and premiers of provinces will be invited to attend.

YOUNG MAN CONDUCTS SCHOOL FOR THIEVES.

Theory and Practice of Mischief Art of Burglary Taught.

A flourishing "academy," equipped on the most modern lines, for the training of thieves, has just been discovered at Toulouse. The Fagin of the establishment appears to have been an upholsterer named Olovio Rondo, aged 25.

The "academy" carried on business in premises that had once been occupied by a religious association. Theoretical and practical instruction was given in every known form of thieving, from shoplifting and pocket-picking to housebreaking, each class being in charge of a "professor" who had graduated at the "school."

A course of physical exercise formed part of the curriculum, and a very fine gymnasium was fitted up on the premises. Here the pupils, who numbered about fifty, hardened their muscles, and at the same time were taught the most efficacious methods of escaping garden walls and like obstacles.

Working models of every known variety of safe and strong box were among the equipments of this institution. The students passed qualifying examinations. Entering as "apprentices" they became successively "workmen" and "masters." By way of a closer insight into the practical side of their calling, those qualifying in the burglary sections were taken on night excursions, and actually assisted in the robbery of dwellings.

MUST BE AMPUTATED. Fennie, June 5.—An accident occurred this morning near Michel, in which a young man, a brakeman, aged 26, of Cranbrook had his foot so badly jammed that amputation will be necessary. While coupling cars he went to kick the knuckle of a couple over, and he had his foot caught between the cars. He was taken to the Michel hospital.

REPORT FROM PORTLAND CANAL.

C. H. DICKIE ON PROSPECTS OF MINES.

He Tells of Showing at Property and Gives Assays.

The Portland Canal Mining & Development Company, of which C. H. Dickie of Duncan, is manager, are very optimistic concerning the Lucky Seven, Little Joe and other properties. Mr. Dickie, who has always taken such a deep interest in the mines of this island, has made a report on the conditions at the new scene of attraction, the mines of Portland Canal. His report to the shareholders of the company, made a few days ago, is as follows:

"I left Duncan on April 22nd and arrived at Stewart at the head of Portland Canal on April 25th, and found that owing to soft snow in the valley, it had been impossible to get our supplies to the foot of the mountain. On May 3rd we succeeded in getting a load of supplies through and packing up the mule train began. On May 10th we started mining. Our assayer plant was installed at the mine and in operation on May 15th.

"When I left the mine on May 25th, fifty feet of tunnelling had been done and everything was going satisfactorily. "No. 1 tunnel was in forty-one feet in, and at its face we have 14 feet 6 inches of ore of same grades as No. 1. "No. 2 tunnel was in 27 feet 6 inches from the portal and when I left we were expecting each day to encounter pay ore as the index was proving rapidly. There is no doubt but that we will get the ore shot in this tunnel at an early date.

Our property is considered by all who have recently seen it, to be one of the best, if not the best in British Columbia, and although adverse as a general rule to advising the acquiring of mining shares, in this particular instance I have no hesitation in recommending that shareholders increase their holdings in what I am convinced is a most excellent mining property.

"I expect to visit the mine before our general meeting in August, when I will be able to place the matter more comprehensively before you."

An appended list of assays shows the following results from samples taken from the Lucky Seven and Little Joe.

Rough selected sample south face 25 feet from portal, 20 oz. gold, 14.20 oz. silver, 7.04 per cent lead.

Galena and iron pyrites equal parts 20 feet in, 46 oz. gold, 11.55 oz. silver, 5.82 per cent lead.

Iron pyrites as free of galena as could be selected, 40 oz. gold, 3.20 oz. silver, 2.87 per cent lead.

Fairly selected sample of ore dump, 45 oz. gold, 41.41 oz. silver, 5.06 per cent lead.

Sample showing zinc (massive) and antimony, 20 oz. gold, 37.30 oz. silver, 1.20 oz. gold, 2.35 oz. silver.

Sample showing native silver, fair average this class ore, 2.80 oz. gold, 58.50 oz. silver.

Sample solid galena occurring through workings, 30 oz. gold, 34.50 oz. silver, 2.61 per cent lead.

Sample iron pyrites practically free from galena, 20 oz. gold, 14.70 oz. silver, 4.10 per cent lead.

Sample hard black quartz sparsely mineralized, 10 oz. gold, 1.30 oz. silver.

Sample hard black quartz well mineralized, 50 oz. gold, 40.40 oz. silver, 3.36 per cent lead.

Sample graphite rock, trace gold, 1.70 oz. silver.

Sample pyrite ore, 25 oz. gold, 13.25 oz. silver, 4.70 per cent lead.

Sample black quartz, 40 oz. gold, 20.10 oz. silver, 9.77 per cent lead.

Sample black quartz showing native silver, 1.20 oz. gold, 45.80 oz. silver, 4.29 per cent lead.

Series No. 2 assays of wall rocks: Sample slaty footwall, 1 oz. silver.

Sample hanging wall, 30 oz. gold, 4.90 oz. silver.

Sample footwall, gold, trace, 1.40 oz. silver.

Sample footwall, gold, trace, 1.40 oz. silver.

Sample footwall, gold, trace, 1.40 oz. silver.

OKANAGAN MOUNTED RIFLES.

Newly Organized Corps is Proving Popular and Filling Fast.

Vernon, June 4.—An orderly room has been opened for the newly organized corps of the Okanagan Mounted Rifles on Mission street, just back of W. R. Megaw's implement warehouse. The full strength of the squadron is rapidly being filled, about 55 men having been sworn in during the past few days. The officers of the corps are: Major commanding, H. A. Perry; captain, H. A. Holland; lieutenants, R. S. Muir, C. C. McRae and R. C. Bennett.

The following regimental orders have been issued: Lieutenant R. O. Bennett, orderly officer for the month of June.

2. Officers are requested to attend the orderly room on Wednesday, June 3rd.

Appointments.

3. H. E. Featherstone-Griffin, acting squadron sergeant major.

4. Monday, June 8th, and Tuesday, June 9th, all non-commissioned officers will parade at their drill room, Mission street, to be measured for clothing.

5. June 11th, all non-commissioned officers and men will parade at the skating rink for squad and physical drill. Drill nights until further orders will be every Monday and Thursday after June 11th.

6. Officers and men are requested to attend as many drills as possible.

HERBERT A. PERRY, Major Commanding, O. M. R.

MINING INDUSTRY IN ROSSLAND CAMP.

Alexander Hill Inspects Le Roi Two—Pot Fraction Leased.

Rossland, June 5.—Alexander Hill, consulting engineer for the Le Roi No. 2, arrived here on Thursday last week from London, and left on Monday evening for the Vancouver mine, and from there returns to London. He came to look over the properties, and was particularly well pleased with the excellent condition of the Le Roi No. 2 properties in this camp, and says they have improved considerably since his last visit here about four years ago. The Vancouver mine is being operated by the Le Roi No. 2 Co., and is shortly to be floated as a separate company.

A contract has been taken by Messrs. Felder, Selter and Walters from the owners to deepen the shaft of the Golden Rule, a distance of 50 feet. It has already been sunk to a depth of 30 feet. Some assays, running into the hundreds of dollars in gold were obtained last year from ore taken from the Golden Rule shaft, and it is thought development will make it a valuable mine.

The lessees of the Evening Star have resumed operations, which have been suspended during the last week. The account of the poor condition of the road, which was washed away in places by the spring freshets, and which prevented the hauling of ore. There is plenty of ore in the Evening Star and it will not be long before the shipping of ore will be resumed.

The Pot fraction has been leased by John Edmond Sorbin to Messrs. Hooper, Dalley and Nottingham for a period of three years. The property adjoins the Evening Star on the east, and has some excellent surface showings. The lessees feel assured that they will be able to make a good profit out of their labor on the Pot fraction.

Work continues on the Blue Bird along the usual lines, and another shipment will shortly be made. The last carload sent from the Blue Bird to the smelter was not well selected, and hence the grade was not as high as expected. In the future more care will be taken with the sorting, and the result will be higher smelter returns.

PREPARATIONS FOR COWICHAN REGATTA.

Strong Committee is Appointed to Handle a Lengthy Programme.

Duncan, June 4.—A strong committee composed of W. H. Hayward as honorary president, F. Maitland-Douglass as chairman, R. J. Jewell as secretary, and H. My and W. Forrest of S. Cowichan; S. A. Dighton, R. Hincks, H. D. Irvine and N. Brownjohn of Cowichan Bay; A. H. Lomas, H. D. Morten, J. Maitland-Douglass, and F. E. Price of Duncan; G. Chee of Shawnigan; J. Mutter of Soanemo, M. Elliott of Crofton, have been appointed to make arrangements for the regatta at Cowichan Bay on July 1st.

The racing will consist of single and double sculls, canoes, Columbia river dory sailing races, motor boats, Indian canoe and upset races, greyhound, mop fight, and a log-rolling contest, etc. F. Maitland-Douglass and H. D. Morten will be starters; A. H. Lomas and R. N. Hincks will be judges.

Last year the P. R. excursion boat from Victoria had its full complement of passengers. If the weather is fine an immense crowd is expected.

Big Potlatch.

Indians from all the near-by reservations are gathering in Duncan for a large potlatch next week.

King's Daughters to Convene.

The annual convention of the King's Daughters will be held in Duncan on the 11th and 12th inst. Delegates are expected from Vancouver, Victoria and all the nearby points.

Philip Stanhope, who has been in England during the last few months, has returned to Duncan.

Mrs. Robertson of Victoria has been visiting Mrs. Louis Cuppage.

SUCCESS AT COVENT GARDEN.

London, June 5.—Miss Edyth Walker, the American singer, scored another success in Covent Garden last night as Brunhild, in Die Walkure.

FLAX INDUSTRY FOR PORT HANEY DISTRICT.

Prosperous Times in Municipality—Sawmills Working Full Time.

Port Haney, June 4.—To a resident of Maple Ridge, the reports of dull times that continue to come from points east of the Rockies and south of the line must seem strange. Here in this prosperous municipality there has been no cessation of the business activity that has characterized the last few years. All the saw and shingle mills, brickyards and logging camps have continued to work full time.

With the opening of Mr. Jackson's handsome new building, Port Haney, the capital of the municipality, has now three large general stores, each doing a good business. In the short space of two years the buildings and population of this growing town have both about doubled. Notwithstanding the many new buildings recently erected, the hotels and boardinghouses are all crowded, and several projects are on foot for providing more accommodation.

Now as a further stimulus, comes the announcement of more new industries for the district—a fruit packing and evaporating plant in Port Haney, and linen and linseed-oil mills on Lilloet prairie, three miles back of the town.

Already, in consequence of the forthcoming fruit-factory, Mr. Perkins, the local representative of the Fraser Valley Nurseries, has received orders for the fall delivery of several thousand fruit trees, prunes especially.

A New Enterprise.

The undertaking of the Lilloet Flax Company includes the reclamation of a large tract of the richest alluvial bottom land. On this the company will erect a flax manufacturing plant. It will consist of a large mill, a large steam engine and pump are being installed for drainage purposes.

Real Estate Active.

Business in real estate continues to be remarkably good. Tales of late auction might be made of two deeds consummated during the last week. Ten acres, near the English church, for \$6,000, and the Best estate of 200 acres for around \$30,000. This latter place will be subdivided into small blocks, for which there is such a heavy and ever-increasing demand. These prices, however, are for highly improved land, and should not deter prospective settlers of moderate means from visiting the district, as there are still thousands of acres of cheap land to be had.

HEARD ARGUMENT IN SLAUGHTER HOUSE CASE.

South Saanich Council to Show Reason for Refusing Permit.

The question of the slaughter house, which McFadden and Mout wish to erect in the Saanich municipality, was this morning ventilated before the chief justice sitting in chambers, when a motion to set aside the injunction against them was discussed. The matter was finally allowed to stand over until a week from next Tuesday in order that the municipal council might give their reasons for refusing the right to build.

Opening the case R. T. Elliott, K. C., said that according to the by-law the council had no power to refuse or suppress slaughter houses but simply to regulate. They could pass by-laws for the other purposes of the by-law, but so far they had not done so.

The chief justice remarked that a slaughter house was a highly offensive thing and the council really had power to prohibit their being built in one place or to grant permission in another. If they slaughtered in the open air they might have some right to continue. He considered the council had objected in this case because they did not consider the site a suitable one. Even when regulating they had the power to refuse. They would have power, he thought, to prevent a slaughter house being built near a church, and if so they could prohibit this one.

Mr. Elliott—When power is delegated to the council by by-law they cannot proceed by resolution. They are acting in this case as a legislative capacity instead of in an executive one. If it is shown that the by-law is a nuisance then we are quite willing to withdraw.

W. J. Taylor, K. C., on behalf of the municipality, showed that there was little difference between regulating and prohibiting. Further, he showed that the council was a local board of health and that their duty was to see the provisions carried out.

The chief justice then ordered that the case be secured from the council showing their reasons for refusing the permission.

MUSIC EXAMINATIONS.

New Westminster, June 5.—A large number of pupils of Columbian college are preparing for the examinations of the Toronto College of Music, which is affiliated with Toronto University, and the exams will be held at Columbian college on Saturday next. Dr. Torrington, musical director of Toronto college, will be in this city on Thursday, June 11th, and will conduct piano and vocal examinations at Columbian college.

AUTO DRIVER FIGHTS CASE.

ANOTHER POSTPONEMENT IN TAKING EVIDENCE.

J. Watcher Will Not Admit He Exceeded the Limit.

(From Friday's Daily.)

The feature of the police court this morning was the number and character of passages at arms between Mr. Moore, the prosecutor, and J. C. Lowe. These encounters, which were of a more or less personal character, occurred during the further hearing of the charge against Joseph Watcher of driving his automobile at a greater speed over the causeway than ten miles an hour. This case is also establishing quite a record for itself in the number of times it has been before the court, and if it is not soon the number of times it has been before the court, as after some evidence for the defence had been heard to-day it was again adjourned until Thursday next to allow Mr. Lowe to secure some further evidence.

When the case was called Mr. Lowe again urged the objections to the charge which he had presented at a previous sitting, and also said that he wished to remind the magistrate that he had urged the same objection in this case as Mr. Bodwell, K. C., had successfully done in the Falconer case yesterday.

Mr. Moore in reply said that the cases were different. In the present case it was an official city witness who had been presented, while in the other it was merely a sewer man.

Mr. Lowe undertook to argue that it was not so, when Mr. Moore broke in with the remark that he cannot congratulate my learned friend either on his memory or his courtesy.

Mr. Lowe pressed his argument that the prosecution had taken advantage of an objection similar to Mr. Bodwell's, as he said that in this case Mr. Adams had sworn to the distance.

Mr. Lowe then took exception to the evidence of the charge, and on this point also the magistrate ruled against him.

This having disposed of all Mr. Lowe's objections, the evidence for the defence was commenced. The first witness was Joseph Watcher, the defendant, who