

"IF" As an authority says—"Truth well expressed makes the best advertisement"—then here's one of the best advertisements in the paper.

"SALADA"

CEYLON TEA

Is the best flavored and most economical Tea in the World.

Beware of high profit bearing substitutes.
Sealed Lead Packets only.

RATS HEAD LIST OF PESTS

UNITED EFFORTS NEEDED TO DESTROY THEM.

Brown Rodent Is the Chief and Was Introduced From China in 1775.

Rats are found in women's head-dresses, in houses, barns, on board ships and in markets, and even the sacred halls of legislatures are not exempt from the ravages of these pests. The brown or Norway rat (*Mus Norvegicus*) is the worst and most common mammalian pest which inhabits this country, says Washington Post. The losses from its depredations amount to many millions of dollars yearly, and to more, probably, than those caused by all other injurious animals combined. In addition to its destructive habits, this rat is now known to be an active agent in disseminating infectious disease, a fact that renders measures for its extermination doubly important.

Introduced into this country in about 1776 from western China, the brown rat has nearly driven out its less robust relative, the black rat, and despite the incessant warfare of man, has extended its range and steadily increased in numbers. This is due in large measure to its great fecundity and its ability to adapt itself to all sorts of conditions. It destroys grain, causes disastrous conflagrations, floods houses by gnawing water pipes.

Devours Eggs and Young Poultry.

Rats have developed so much intelligence that attempts to exterminate them have rarely been successful, but the failure to get rid of them has been due not so much to lack of effective methods as to the neglect of certain precautions and the absence of concerted action. Many interesting stories are told of the feats performed by rats. Old employees at the capital take great pride in telling of the strange acts committed by them in the building. One story that is told for true is that at one time there was a big fellow who inhabited the house of a luncheon and was in the habit of making off with eggs in great numbers. This rat, according to the story, was seen one day by three people with an egg under his foreleg climbing a steam pipe which ran near a grating which admitted air to the building. It is a common story at the capital that before the doors were changed from the old type to ratproof, it was as much as a man's life was worth to venture into any of the storerooms alone when they had been closed for a long period. As soon as the door

was opened, rat faces would appear from behind all possible hiding places and seemed to dare anyone to enter the premises which they held sacred to themselves.

Those days, however, are over at the capitol, and to a certain extent the rat is now kept in subjection, but it requires constant work to prevent them from taking the place and doing great damage to public documents and furniture.

Market houses are probably the worst sufferers from these pests. Authorities at Center market say the only way they can get rid of the rats is to keep after them all the time. They would consider it an easy matter to destroy them in places where there were no food stuffs and where poison could be used, but in a place like a market, where it is impossible to use poisons, the only way to keep them low is by building everything of cement and tile, and keeping a careful lookout for new traces of them. When a rat hole is discovered in the market it is dug out to the end and concrete and glass are used to fill in the hole thus made.

The miner is the rat's only friend, and if he sees a procession of them filing out of a mine he will drop everything and follow them, as he knows from experience that there is something wrong or these intelligent little animals would not be moving. Even he, their only friend, must look out or they will get to his oil and soon eat it. It is an interesting thing to watch a rat dipping oil from a can.

With his tail and then bringing it around to his mouth and sucking the oil from it. Often two rats will work on the same can and take turns, one dipping the oil out and allowing the other to lick it from his tail.

Among the natural enemies of the rat are the larger hawks, owls, skunks, foxes, coyotes, weasels, minks and dogs. Cats and ferrets, while they hate the rat, are not very effective in driving them away, as they often grow to such a size that a cat cannot well handle them, and if ferrets are allowed to roam and increase they are soon as much a nuisance as the rat.

In England and some of the British colonies rat-killing contests for prizes are held, and clubs are formed in different localities for the extermination of the pests. From 2,000 to 10,000 rats are often killed by those participating in the contests.

This is the time of year that rats are looking for winter quarters, and careful work is being done by rat experts in the vicinity of the different public buildings of the district and the market houses where great numbers of the animals are found.

BIG FIRE LOSSES IN JAPAN

FIRE BRIGADE LIKE A TROUPE OF EQUILIBRISTS.

Fireproof Structures for Storing Valuables and Works of Art.

Wood, paper and straw—everything that fire likes best—that's what Japanese cities are made of. For centuries the Japanese have stood exactly midway between the devil and the deep sea. They have been afraid to build of brick and stone for the devil might fly in a rage any minute and shake their houses to pieces and beat them to death with the fragments. So for centuries they have built low wooden houses, with wooden legs pivoted on round stones in such a way that a house may rock mightily and yet come back to equilibrium and not be twisted and rent apart, as a wooden house might be if made fast to a firm foundation.

The castles built of stones were made of huge blocks, with enormously thick walls, broad at the base and sloping inward after the manner of Egyptian construction, and therefore have lasted through the ages. But these are few and far between. For the most part Japanese buildings are of the flimsiest, most inflammable material.

In trying to keep out of reach of the earthquake demon, says James Gordon in Building Progress, they have placed themselves in constant danger of being swallowed bodily—figuratively and not physically speaking—in seas of flame which sweep over all the thickly populated cities with appalling frequency. Japan is lucky if a year goes by without at least

One Great Devastating Fire.

In January of 1912 Osaka, the great manufacturing centre of Japan, was visited by a fire which destroyed over 5,000 buildings and rendered 30,000 people homeless. In August of 1909 fire in Osaka destroyed over 11,000 buildings, while in Hakodate, another important city, there was a fire in 1907 which destroyed \$15,000,000 worth of property. The extent of damage by these fires cannot be properly estimated by us in money because of the great difference in the value of property here and there. It must be measured by areas, number of buildings and people rendered homeless if one would have a true idea of the horror of these frequent disasters.

Many things about Japanese houses would indicate that the Japanese have come to accept frequent conflagrations as a part of the natural order of things. Against the outer wall of many country houses a ladder is fastened together with an axe and a bucket or some sort of primitive hand engine, which is supposed to be kept in working order but as a matter of fact rarely is. If an attempt is made to use one of these engines the operator is apt to be deluged in his excitement and his house burned to ashes before he is ready to work.

On the peak of some houses may be seen a small platform with a tub or bucket, likewise supposed to be kept full of water. Beside it is a long-handled brush, which in case of fire in the neighborhood is used to sprinkle water on the thatch or other inflammable roof to keep the sparks from starting fire there.

The typical Japanese fire brigade is more like a vaudeville troupe of equilibrists and acrobats than a piece of municipal machinery.

On New Year's Day they are fond of giving exhibitions, standing on their heads or hanging by their hands or their toes on any part of their ladders, and they are pretty clever at swinging an axe while their bodies are thrust at right angles to the ladder.

On hearing of the great fires of Japan one naturally wonders how their works of art have been preserved through the centuries when artists have done their work in the fire traps, and when treasures are kept by art lovers in homes differing from the humblest in degree, perhaps, but not in kind. Looking across the waste of ashes on the day after a fire, the answer is found.

For centuries past it has been the custom for people moderately well to do or more to build adjoining their houses, or perhaps with the space of a porch between, kura, or fireproof storehouses, into which they hastily carry their valuables when threatened by fire.

The simplest form of kura has walls from eighteen inches to two feet thick, made of mud plastered on a framework of great strength. The heavy beams of the framework are notched and bound with coarse fibred rope, and small bamboos are closely secured to the beams. Pieces of the rope a foot long are secured to the crossbeams and uprights—all these things being done for the purpose of holding securely the successive layers of mud.

The roofs are of immense thickness, with high ridges ornamented with designs in stucco and usually covered with tile. The Japanese artisan is usually more or less of an artist, and the ridge ornamentation is often quite a work of art. A frequent design is a conventionalized pattern of dashing waves, and this watery design on the ridge and the use of the Chinese character representing water out in the thatch of country houses below the ridge pole are thought to have originated in a superstition that their use

might ward off the red peril.

Windows are few and small and fitted by sliding doors or double shutters. The doors are massive, built with rabbets on the order of the door of a bank safe, made also of mud and plaster on a stout frame. In time of fire by way of additional precaution when the valuables have been placed inside and the doors and windows closed the crevices are plastered with mud, which is always on hand mixed for such an emergency. Latterly in some districts kura are made of stone and cement, and in the big cities steel doors and iron shutters are often used.

Usually after a big fire these kura are all that is left standing above the level of the vast desert of ashes and scraps of tile and pottery vessels, for Japanese houses have no chimneys, the smoke from their crude kitchen stoves going out of the hole in the wall near the roof. The owners are very cautious about opening the doors of the kura after the fire to see if their lars and penates are intact.

Occasionally living rooms are fitted up in the kura as one might fit up a room in an attic or storehouse, but their real purpose is an easily accessible storage place for valuables in time of danger.

Few of the better shops are without a kura, and of late years these have increased in size in the larger cities, and it looks odd to see here and there on the business streets a big shiny black building with ponderous doors and windows for all the world like a giant safe. They are known by foreigners as "godowns," and are the warehouses of manufacturers and other big business men, and possibly space in them is let to individuals after the custom of our storage warehouses.

Plausible. Repairman—"Is this the place where the 'phone is out of order?" Mr. Syko—"Yes, wife talked through it so much that the wires seem to be exhausted."

You can't always tell by appearances. The weakest sometimes carry around the biggest opinions of themselves.

Doctor—"Well, I hope you predicted by my advice?" Patient—"Yes, doctor; but not so much as you did."

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WHAT SPEED MEANS.

Just How Good Roads Can Affect a Nation.

Speed has a distinct and measurable value in terms of money. The "mechanization" of the universe, to imitate the phraseology of the German, has greatly increased the rapidity and the volume of business transactions. The mechanical inventor, to quote a writer in the London Economist, gives us much greater returns for the same output of energy. If, in spite of this, we are busier than our forefathers, the fault rests with us. We could have more leisure if we so desired. (Since the mending of roads in England forty or fifty years ago, so Adam Smith told his class at Glasgow in 1782, "the opulence has increased enormously." Every boy can perceive that the difference be-

tween a good road and a bad one means less strain on the horses, less wear and tear for wagons and carriages, and above all, an increase in speed. It means, in short, our writer goes on to say, a saving of time and money in both goods and passenger traffic.

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It's the "Best Ever"
Send Post Card to-day for particulars.
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LOOKING FOR TROUBLE
Every farmer who allows an outside closet to remain on his farm is looking for trouble—disease and illness—for himself and his entire family.

It Has Been Proved
That nine out of every ten cases of illness on the farms are directly traceable to the outside closet—that horrible sink of disease and filth.
Just think! You allow this horror to remain within a few steps of your home—and force your family—your wife and daughter to use it—in all weathers—winter and summer.
Why, man, it's outrageous! Especially when you consider how little it would cost you to install a Good Health Sanitary Closet—right in your own home. Imagine how your family will appreciate its privacy and convenience. Make up your mind now to get rid of that outside privy. We will show you how.
Mail This Coupon to Us RIGHT NOW
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Gentlemen:—Please send me literature giving full particulars of the Good Health Sanitary Closet.
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NA-DRU-CO Headache Wafers
stop them in quick time and clear your head. They do not contain either phenacetin, acetanilid, morphine, opium or any other dangerous drug. 25c. a box at your Druggist's.
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We Receive **FURS**
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This Bracelet Free TO ANY GIRL

This Expansion Bracelet is a beauty. It is well made of rolled gold plate and will fit any arm. Send us your name and address and we will send you 40 sets of Easter and other scenic and floral postcards to sell at 10 cents a set (all beautiful cards in each set). When sold send us the money, and we will send you the Bracelet, all charges prepaid.

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PRIZE COMPETITION
In the interest of purity of goods involving an outlay of \$500, divided into 4 prizes varying from \$100 (first prize) down to \$5.00.
Competition is limited to users of the GRIMM CHAMPION EVAPORATOR.
Should you own a grove and want to get the best value out of it, and are not using one of our EVAPORATORS, write to us, stating how many trees you tap and we will quote you necessary cost suited to your needs. You can then enter contest and may win a cash prize, thus reducing cost outlay. Prizes will be given for the best samples of syrup and sugar sent out. Prizes will be exhibited in the magnificent show windows of "The Montreal Star," Montreal, during the last two weeks of April.
Don't fail to write at once for copy of our "Prize Contest Circular," giving the fullest information.
THE GRIMM MANUFACTURING COMPANY, LTD.
Wellington St., Montreal, Que.

CONCRETE watering-troughs and feeding-floors help to keep your live-stock healthy.
HORSES and cattle watered from a concrete trough are less likely to contract disease. Concrete is sanitary, easily cleaned—does not rot or leak. Once built, a concrete watering-trough will last forever. You need never waste time "patching it up." Like all concrete improvements, its first cost is its final cost.
MANY diseases of hogs are directly due to feeding from the filthy, unwholesome mud of the barn-yard. This manner of feeding is also wasteful, because the grain is trampled into the ground, in such a condition that not even a hog will eat it. Concrete feeding-floors, with concrete swill-troughs are clean, sanitary. They keep hogs in better health and save feed.
WATERING-TROUGHS and feeding-floors are only two of scores of valuable, every-day improvements that may be made of concrete. All are fully described in our 160-page, illustrated book,
"WHAT THE FARMER CAN DO WITH CONCRETE"
sent free to any farmer upon request. This book has shown thousands of Canadian farmers how to make their farms more profitable. In asking for it, you do not place yourself under the slightest obligation to buy cement, or to do anything else for us. Simply ask for the book, by letter or post card, and it will be mailed at once. Address,
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