

London Advertiser.
TWO EDITIONS DAILY - WEEKLY.
TELEPHONE CALLS.
 Business Office 107
 Job Department 175
 Editorial Department 134
 London, Thursday, August 4.

The Presidential Election.

The presidential contest will begin in earnest at the end of the vacation season and hot weather. Next week the Democratic candidate, Judge Parker, will be formally advised of his nomination and will make the customary speech of acceptance. His address is awaited with keen interest, as it will be his first public utterance, and he will give the keynote of the Democratic campaign.

The President, as every reader is probably aware, is not elected directly by the people. He is chosen by the members of the College of Electors, who are elected by popular vote, but who are merely "dummies," tagged and labeled for a particular candidate. The college this year will comprise 476 members, distributed among the different states in proportion to their population. The successful candidate must have a clear majority, or 239 votes. The "solid South"—Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia, thirteen states in all, with 151 votes—is conceded to the Democrats in advance. Maryland with 8 votes, Delaware with 3 votes, and West Virginia with 7, were in McKinley's column in 1900, but are confidently counted upon by the Democrats this year. They are historic Democratic states, but bolted on the money question. West Virginia is made doubly sure by the nomination of Ex-Senator Davis, of that state, as Parker's running mate. These three states added to the "Solid South" give 169 electorates votes, or 70 short of the necessary number. In 1900 Bryan carried four western states—Colorado 5 votes, Idaho 3 votes, Montana 3 votes, and Nevada 3 votes. If these do not change their party allegiance, the Democrats with the "Solid South," West Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware will have 133 votes. They admit that they must have New York to win, and they profess to be confident of getting its 39 votes. That will leave 17 votes to be made up, and these would have to be found among the following disputed states: Connecticut 7, Illinois 27, Indiana 15, Wisconsin 13, New Jersey 12. The Democrats, it is said, will make a special effort to capture Illinois, where a faction fight exists in the Republican party and where the labor troubles in Chicago are expected to react against the administration. Illinois, Wisconsin, and Indiana all went Democratic in 1900 before the free silver issue broke the party. On the other hand, Colorado, Idaho, Montana and Nevada, which went for Bryan four years ago, are silver states, and may not follow the lead of a gold Democrat such as Parker.

The situation is such that each side can figure out a victory on paper. While the balance of probability leans toward success for the Republicans, it is certain that the Democrats do not go into the contest hopelessly beaten as they were in 1900. The shedding of the silver heresy has vastly improved their chances in the east and middle west. The serious depression now being felt, particularly in the manufacturing states, must tell also against the Republican party, which has relied on the prosperity cry and the full dinner pail.

The Session.
 Parliament will be prorogued on Saturday, but whether dissolution will follow is a state secret. Expressions dropped by members of the Government seem to imply another session, but it is probable that the Government has not yet made up its mind.

Last year the House sat for the record period of seven months, accounted for by the debate on the Grand Trunk Pacific contract. This year there was not the same reason for a prolonged session, though the House has been sitting for five months. Some members of the Opposition complained of its length, and were naively told by the Premier to look around them for the cause. The average member of Parliament cannot spend five or six months at Ottawa, except at great sacrifice, and it is not surprising that the House has not to do business day after day with one-half the members in attendance.

The present session, like its predecessor, was pre-eminently a railway session. The Government submitted amendments to the Grand Trunk Pacific contract, which the promoters claimed were necessary to the financing of the undertaking. The contract, in its amended form, is not likely to place any additional financial obligation on the Canadian people. In the original agreement the Government undertook to guarantee the bonds of the mountain section to the extent of \$30,000 a mile. Under the new agreement the Government guarantees 75 per cent of the cost of construction, whatever it may be; and there is reliable engineering testimony that 75 per cent of the cost will not exceed \$20,000 per mile, the limitation in the original contract. The debate was remarkable for the sudden conversion of the leader of the Opposition to the policy of state ownership, and operation of a transcontinental line. Undaunted by the record of the Intercolonial he would extend it to the Pacific coast. The road describes a semi-circle between Quebec and St. John, and if carried around the north shore of Lake Superior it would have a double hump like a camel's back. This circumlocution has been wittily termed by a western member a "loop-

the-loop" railway. The politicians who have been telling the country that the Grand Trunk Pacific was a commercial impossibility and would not carry a pound of freight or a bushel of grain east of the Great Lakes, are quite ready to pin their faith to a road 200 or 300 miles longer. There has been a subsidence of discussion over the Grand Trunk Pacific contract, and the Opposition will find it difficult to raise any fighting spirit on that issue. There are influential elements in the Conservative party strongly opposed to Mr. Borden's policy, and the indications are that it will be kept in the background during the campaign, the Opposition contenting itself with merely negative criticism of the Government's scheme.

The session has been notable for Mr. Fielding's popular budget. His financial statement was the most buoyant ever presented by a Canadian finance minister. An original feature of the budget was the anti-dumping clause, which is intended to prevent the slaughtering of goods on the Canadian market by requiring imports to be involved at the regular selling price in the country of production. The clause has been already applied successfully to shipments of various kinds from the United States. Mr. Fielding announces that a general revision of the tariff will be undertaken in the near future by a parliamentary commission. A graduated tariff will be framed, maximum duties to be levied against countries which oppose Canada with prohibitive tariffs, minimum duties to be levied on imports from foreign countries which show a desire to trade with us, and below the minimum tariff a preferential tariff in favor of British goods.

The new militia bill is another important item of legislation. The office of commander of the Canadian militia has been abolished, and the control of the militia will be vested in a council composed of the Minister of Militia and several leading officers, the minister being solely responsible to Parliament and the country. The old system proved unworkable. The imperial officers who have been sent to this country to command the militia have, as a rule, tried to exceed their duties and over-ride the civil power. There was continual friction between the commanders and the respective ministers of militia owing to the failure of the former to recognize in the latter their official superiors. The Dundonald episode was by no means the first of the kind, and the change had been resolved upon before his act of insubordination.

In addition to the matters referred to, the session has been fruitful of useful legislation, and if a general election is on the cards the Government can go to the country confidently upon its record.

Russians isn't the only nation the Japs are surprising.

The United States treasury shows a deficit of \$1,000,000 for July alone. They need a Fielding over there.

Mr. Whitney has appeared for the first time on a platform with Gagey. It is the old story.

"Seen too oft, familiar with her face, We still endure, then pity, then embrace."

The Toronto piano companies are turning out 220 pianos per week, as compared with a weekly output of 77 ten years ago. Those pianos sound a pean of prosperity.

The Mail and Empire has an article on what Scotchmen have done for Canada. Among others, it mentions Lord Elgin; but it doesn't mention what the loyalists after the Mail's own heart did to that distinguished Scotchman.

The Detroit Free Press wastes no sympathy upon the deported Grand Trunk Pacific engineers. It says:

"If Canada sees fit to pass an anti-contract law the shall bar civil engineers, it has an inalienable right to do so; and from their own attitude on the subject, the United States are the last country on earth that could consistently complain at such a course."

Leonard, M. P. of Laval, wants an investigation into the "depressed condition of the cotton industry." He says it is being damaged by the British preference. The investigators might consult Mr. Chamberlain on that point, and also take a trip to Massachusetts, where 20,000 cotton operatives have struck because their wages were cut to \$5 a week in spite of the highest tariff in the world.

Britain's Continued Prosperity.

[London Chronicle.]
 In the middle of 1903, Mr. Chamberlain said doom impending over British trade. We are now in the middle of descending. On the contrary the exports of British merchandise, which for the six months ending June, 1903, amounted to £142,522,625, amount for the past six months to £144,116,667. Losses from heavy taxes, also, by 11 millions; and according to Mr. Seddon, "golden sovereigns" should have gone out to pay for them. But this is not so. We imported bullion and specie during the six months more largely by two and a half millions sterling than we exported. The detailed figures for the month of June alone tell a similarly satisfactory tale.

Condensed.

[Chicago News.]
 "Mamma," said 5-year-old Bessie, "can't I have a milkmaid's costume for Cousin Nellie's party?"
 "I'm afraid such a costume wouldn't be suitable for a little girl like you," replied the mother.
 "But," persisted Bessie, "I can be a condensed milkmaid, can't I?"

Romance of the Cables.

[New York Tribune.]
 From Berlin comes a story that Japan's most brilliant soldier, General Kuroki, is a Pole, his father having fled to the Orient after the revolt in 1831, and on his deathbed having charged his son to avenge the wrongs of Poland.

land upon Russia. The story reads like that of Hannibal, sworn to eternal enmity to Rome, and lends a romantic interest to the achievements of one now acknowledged to be a genius in strategy and the ablest general developed so far in the Russo-Japanese war.

Things and the Man.

[Elyard Kipling.]
 "And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren; and they hated him yet the more."—Genesis XXXVI, 5.
 Oh, ye who hold the written clue To all save all unwritten things, The answer to your worst longings, The accomplished fact with flouts and flings.

Look to your knee your baby brings The oldest tale since earth began, The answer to your worst longings, Once on a time there was a man.

He single-handed met and threw Magicians, armies, ogres, kings; He, looking west, he looked to the east, In all the loneliness of wings; He fed the flame, he filled the springs, He locked the ranks, he lunched the van, Straight at the grinning teeth of things, Once on a time there was a man.

The peace of shocked foundations flew Before his risked and his swings, He broke the oracles in two, And bared the patrie wires and strings; He heeded desert wilderness; He led his soul, his cause, his clan, A little from the rack of things, Once on a time there was a man.

Thrones, powers, dominions block the view With episodes and underlings; The meek historians, the true, Nor heed the song that Chlo sings, The simple central truth that stings The mob to loe, the things that things Things never yet created things, Once on a time there was a man.

A bolt is fallen from the blue, A wakened realm dreams anew Where Dothan's dreamer dreams anew Of vast and foreboding harvestings; And unto him, the things that things That grips the purpose of his plan, My lords, who think the things that things, Once on a time there was a man?

American Athletics.

[Cleveland Leader.]
 Nothing more courteous in the annals of sport is of record than the attitude of the Englishmen who have escaped the recent victory of the Yale-Harvard teams over those from Oxford and Cambridge. In a well-known conversation, frankly that in all sports in which scientific precision can be applied, the Americans win, and always will do so "unless we reform our own game." Other papers assert that it was a case of brain against muscle, and brain won. All this is very pleasant, but it is not so satisfactory to know that in the contests requiring dogged persistence, exceptional wind, and training that commences with infantile tabling, our British cousins are well ahead of us. We are indeed possessed of the brains attributed, it would seem they might be entitled to have, to our own, but we are lacking in the direction of staying power. That Americans can be taught to endure has been shown by sundry thousands of our regular soldiers, especially our cavalrymen, and by other thousands of cowboys and frontiersmen. A Texan, New Mexican or Arizona cowboy would willingly wear out the best athlete in any American university in a contest in which endurance is the only test. It is not at all improbable this same cowboy would make the best of the long-distance Englishmen throw up his hands.

High.

[Chicago Chronicle.]
 The alps are blue the azure deeps, The eagles mount the sky, The mountains loom above the plains And stoop they are high.

The clouds are far above our reach, The stars are far above our sight, The sun's rays have to travel years To reach us, so they say.

But high above the highest star That we are conscious of, The sun is far above the farthest sun Now soars the price of meat.

Nothing Unusual.

[Baltimore American.]
 King Edward lately went from the races to the poorhouse. But plenty of other men have taken the same journey before him.

Toronto's Awful Water.

[Toronto Mail.]
 Until further notice citizens should follow the advice of the medical health officer to drink no water that has not been boiled.

The Autocrat.

[Washington Star.]
 There's just one person on this earth Who seems contented quite, Existence is a round of mirth From morning until night. He lets the toiler plod his way, And turns a rest away, The man who has a lot to say, And nothing much to do.

Ages of the Japanese Generals.

[Japan Weekly Mail.]
 Marquis Yamagata, field marshal, 60 years.
 Marquis Oyama, field marshal, 62.
 Baron Nogi, second division, 57.
 Count Katsura, premier, 57.
 Viscount Sakuma, 59.
 Baron Kuroki, first army, 60.
 Baron Okuma, second army, 58.
 Baron Yamaguchi, fifth division, 58.
 Baron Okazawa, Emperor's aide-de-camp, 50.
 Baron Nogi, at the front, 55.
 Baron Hasegawa, Imperial Body-guard, 54.
 Baron Nishi, second division, 52.
 Baron Kodama, chief of staff, 53.
 Prince Pushimi, first division, 46.

Kuropatkin to the Czar.

[Baltimore American.]
 Peking, Aug. 2.—Dear Nick: O, my poor head and my tired legs! The Japs, after chasing me most scandalously, are now playing ring-around-a-rosy, and I'm it. I don't like it, either. There are Japs between me and everything except the sky and the bowels of the earth, and I'm looking for a balloon of them at any minute.

By the way, I'm out of stationery of the official sort, and wish you would send me a few pads of blanks like the enclosed one.

DAILY RETREAT REPORT.

Time of start
 Length of start
 Number of Japs in rear
 Losses from heavy taxes
 Miles per hour
 Distance run
 Distance walked
 Losses from windmill
 Losses from exhaustion
 Losses from fright
 Losses from heat
 Total distance retreated
 Total distance remaining
 Prospects of a fight
 You might leave off the last item in the report, as I never fill that out anyway, and it would save a lot on composition. Yours, disengagedly, PAT.

Going for Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy.

Don't put yourself in this man's place, but keep a bottle of this remedy in your home. There is nothing so good for Colic, Cholera, Morbus, Dysentery and Diarrhoea. It is equally valuable for Summer Complaint and Cholera Infantum, and has saved the lives of more children than any other medicine in use.

When reduced with water and sweetened it is pleasant to take.

You, or some one of your family, are sure to need this remedy sooner or later, and when that time comes you will need it badly; you will need it quickly. Why not buy it now and be prepared for such an emergency? Price, 35 cents.

IN THE RUSSIAN "HELL ON EARTH"

A Glimpse Into the Penal Inferno at Sakhalin—How Convict Settlement Works.

Paris, Aug. 4.—The Island of Sakhalin, to which Russia now sends most of her hard labor convicts, has long been a sort of "terra incognita" to the civilized world. Such glimpses of it as from time to time reach the west are the result either of personal sojourn of the island or of the accounts of those taking their prison experiences with them, or of adventurous travelers who, risking the danger of being found in Sakhalin, have remained there long enough to confirm the popular view of it as "a hell on earth."

As this description of Sakhalin has never been to the taste of the Russian Government an effort is being made to have the island "written up" in such a way as shall represent the "facts" without admixture of sentiment or prejudice. Among the articles that have appeared giving the official view of Sakhalin is one in a well-known conservative Russian journal which substitutes for the "sensational" account of Sakhalin as a place where nobody's life is safe, provided somebody with money is willing to pay for the taking of it, a picture of Sakhalin as a thriving island of convicts, surrounded by moral purpose and humanitarian ideals.

The sketch begins with a description of the Sakhalin climate. It is a little more than 1,000 miles long, and is twice the size of Greece, is a fertile island, and has a fine climate. Its latitude being that of France, yet the temperature of its northern parts makes them uninhabitable, while the weather in the rest of the island is forbiddingly severe. This is due partly to the proximity of the sea of Okhotsk, on which ice floats as late as in June, and partly to the fact that the spring ice from the River Amur blocks up the narrow strait between Northern Sakhalin and the mainland, retaining there and lowering the temperature. The result of these and other conditions is that Sakhalin is a well-known convict city of Sakhalin, Alexandroffsky, is colder than Archangel.

In its several aspects the island presents a picture of a penal settlement. That we are dealing with a convict island is evident from the first. The convicts are rocky and inhospitable, and so depressing is the sight of them upon the arriving convicts, who look for the first time upon the wild rocks and solitary mountains, that they frequently burst into tears.

Prison discipline at Sakhalin is not severe, except when crimes are committed. There is a special provision for corporal punishment, by which the convicts are whipped. The whip is used against convicts who are idle, who drink or use filthy language, and especially those who are found guilty of an amusement of which the convicts are passionately fond. The Sakhalin convict population, however, is not a military tribunal, the sentence being laid down by the Governor-General of Siberia. The long convict cloak, used in other parts of Siberia, is not seen at Sakhalin, because the convicts are not allowed to wear it. The movement of the laborer, whose dress resembles that of a Russian peasant, for the same reason the convicts on the island are not required to wear leg fetters.

After the "hard labor convict" has served his term, he is sent to the "free convict" colony. The "free convict" is aided to establish himself, and becomes a member of the "Sakhalin Village Improvement Society." He is expected to build a house for himself and cultivate a farm, receiving from the authorities the necessary tools and materials, but also a monthly supply of food, including 40 pounds of flour, five pounds of meat and five pounds of butter, which is compounded for two years.

The work on the farm is arduous, and the authorities frequently have to extend their help beyond the two years. One reason for this is the forbidding character of the climate, which makes it difficult to grow crops. The convicts, however, are not discouraged by this. They are expected to build a house for himself and cultivate a farm, receiving from the authorities the necessary tools and materials, but also a monthly supply of food, including 40 pounds of flour, five pounds of meat and five pounds of butter, which is compounded for two years.

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"What We Advertise Is So."

Ringsmills

Our Special Sale of Golf Jackets, White Lawn Blouses and Ladies' Skirts will commence Friday morning at 8 o'clock. Come quick. These prices are for Friday only.

\$3 GOLF JACKETS FOR \$1.99

Golf Jackets, in blouse style, trimmed with pearl buttons, Russian sleeves, very new and stylish colors, garnet, white and navy, regular price \$3. On sale Friday at.....**\$1.99**

Golf Jackets, double-breasted, blouse style, garnet, navy, white, with stole collars; greatest bargain ever offered; regular price \$3.00. On sale Friday for.....**\$1.99**

Golf Jackets, in tight-fitting styles, double-breasted, in navy, garnet and white, extra value; regular price \$3.00. On sale Friday for.....**\$1.99**

\$3.00 LADIES' FANCY WHITE SHAWLS FOR \$1.99.

Ladies' Fancy White Shawls, very pretty, woven with silk. Regular price \$3.00, for.....**\$1.99**

White Honeycomb Shawls, all wool, regular price \$1.50. On sale Friday for.....**\$1.10**

LADIES' WHITE LAWN BLOUSES, AT HALF PRICE.

Ladies' Print Blouses, well-made, clearing at.....**19c**

Flannelette Dressing Sacks, clearing at.....**25c**

\$2.00 LADIES' SKIRTS FOR 99c

Ladies' Skirts, navy blue chevrons, light weight, nicely trimmed with braid. Special at.....**99c**

Ladies' Skirts, in navy and black, tailor stitched, regular price \$1.50. On sale Friday for.....**79c**

ON SALE FRIDAY ONLY.

paid for recapture, and small as is the amount, it does not prevent the convicts and the soldiers from planning "recaptures," in the field of which both are financially interested.

The island is presently divided for administrative purposes into three districts—those of Alexandroffsky and Tsimoshinsky on the north, and that of Koriokovsky on the south. Alexandroffsky is now the chief city of Sakhalin. It had its foundations in 1881 and began with three houses in a setting of swamps, bogs and forest. Since then it has grown into the semblance of a Russian provincial city with about 4,000 inhabitants. It has an Orthodox Russo-Greek Church, a Roman Catholic church and a mosque for Mohammedans, as well as a school taught by while the exiles, and a museum. Thus far there is no port at Alexandroffsky, the convicts arriving here being landed half a mile or more away at a temporary landing stage.

The island of Sakhalin is above everything else a convict settlement. Its total population, as shown by the census of 1897, is now nearly 20,000, the majority of whom—something over 20,000—are men. There are 1,000 women, numbering about 14,000, is divided into hard labor convicts, who spend a period of time in prison, and free convicts, who do hard labor outside of the prison; exile convicts, who are sent to the island for life, and who have served their time, and may settle where in Siberia, and the free official, professional and trading class.

The hard labor convicts in prison number 4,379, 4,220 of whom are men and 159 women. The hard labor convicts outside the prison are estimated at 6,394 (6,655 men, 263 women). There are 17 settlements and 4,712 homesteads in the island. In addition to the convict and official population, Sakhalin contains the remnants of several aboriginal races, including 2,000 Gilyaks, 1,300 Ainu and a few Chukchi, who mostly occupy the eastern parts of the island; in the south are to be found a considerable number of Japanese. The aborigines, after the arrival of the Europeans, began to suffer from epidemics of small-pox, an evil which has been much reduced by the arrival of the convicts. The industry of the island is fishing, the rivers being exploited to the utmost.

In the convict population many nationalities are represented. Great Russians, Little Russians, Poles, Finns, Tartars, Cherkess and members of many of the other races under Russian rule. The convicts are brought from one of the ports of European Russia, and reach Sakhalin after a long sea voyage on a steamer belonging to what is known as the "volunteer fleet."

A CLEAR, HEALTHY SKIN.—Eruptions of the skin and the blotches which bluish beauty are the result of impure blood, caused by the unhealthy action of the liver and kidneys. In correcting this unhealthy action and restoring the organs to their normal condition, Parment's Vegetable Pills will at the same time cleanse the blood, and the blotches and eruptions will disappear without leaving any trace.

Spend Your Vacation In Highlands of Ontario.

All ports on Georgian Bay, Muskoka lakes and Lake of Bays are reached via the Grand Trunk express leaving London 6:30 a.m. Tourists tickets are on sale, comprising trip through the lakes. For tickets, illustrated literature and full information call at city office, corner Richmond and Dundas streets, or at depot ticket office, 655b.

BE THERE A WILL, WISDOM FORGETS THE WAY. The sick man pines for relief, but he dislikes sending for the doctor, which means bottles of drugs and a long wait. He has not the resolution to load his stomach with compounds of small villainousness, and taste worse. But if he have the will to deal himself with his ailment, wisdom will direct his attention to Parment's Vegetable Pills, which, as specific for indigestion and disorders of the digestive organs, have no equal.

Special Sale of Golf Jackets.

Our Special Sale of Golf Jackets, White Lawn Blouses and Ladies' Skirts will commence Friday morning at 8 o'clock. Come quick. These prices are for Friday only.

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THE FINEST SWEETS FOR DESSERT ARE

Cowan's
 Queen's Dessert Chocolate, Chocolate Cream Bars, Chocolate Ginger, Chocolate Wafers, Milk Chocolate.

THEY ARE PURE AND GOOD.

THE COWAN COMPANY, LIMITED, TORONTO, ONT.

ALWAYS SEE THAT THE MATCHES

For Sale by Dealers Everywhere.

A QUICK, SURE, every time by of the above.

DONALD McLEAN, Agent 436 Richmond St., LONDON.

Immense Coal Output.

New York, Aug. 4.—According to a report which is about to be issued by the United States geological survey, the United States broke all previous records in the output of coal for 1903.

The total amount of the output of the coal mines of the country during that year was 359,421,311 tons, an increase of nearly 58,000,000 tons, or 19 per cent over the preceding year. The value of the product of 1903 is given as \$508,196,722, an increase in value of 38 per cent over the preceding year.

PLEASANT AS SYRUP. nothing equals it as a worm medicine; the name is Mother Graves' Worm Exterminator. The greatest worm destroyer of the age.

A REFRIGERATOR TO ALL. The soldier, the sailor, the fisherman, the miner, the farmer, the mechanic, and all who live lives of toil and spend their existence in the dull routine of tedious tasks, and who are exposed to injuries and ailments that those who toil not do not know, will find in Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil an excellent friend and benefactor in every time of need.

Saturday to Monday Outing Trips. Spend your Sundays in the fresh country air. Return tickets are on sale from London to Clinton \$1.00, Goderich \$1.50, Ingersoll 70c, Kincardine \$3.10, Lucan 80c, St. Marys 75c, Sarnia \$1.90, Stratford \$1.05, Woodstock 55c, and proportionate rates to several other points. Good going all trains Saturday and Sunday, valid returning until Monday. For tickets and full information call at Grand Trunk city office, corner Richmond and Dundas streets, 655b.

GIVE HOLLOWAY'S CORN CURE a trial. It removed ten corns from one pair of feet without pain. What it has done once it will do again.

IT REACHES THE SPOT.—There are few remedies before the public so efficacious in removing pain and in allaying and preventing pulmonary disorders as Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil. It has demonstrated its powers in thousands of instances, and a large number of testimonials as to its great value as a medicine could be got were there occasion for it. It is for sale everywhere.

A CO. OWNED BY Ulrich Adams, of Mount Holly, N. J., recently killed a rat that had about its neck a diamond ring belonging to his daughter. Search for the lost ring had been abandoned.