LONDON STREET DANGERS

238 KILLED AND 16,772 INJURED IN 1907.

The Introduciton of Fast Moving Traffic Is Causing Many Deaths.

It is abundantly clear that some definite step must betaken without delay for the regulation of the vast volume of London traffic, preferably by the institution of a Central Traffic Board, says the London (England) Express.

The most serious and at the same time the most alarming phase of this great problem is the increasing peril of the London streets. Until three or four years ago the danger increased gradually, almost keeping pace with the ever-advancing population; but during the last few years the tale of death and injury has bounded up out of all proportion to any natural growth, and to-day it stares us in the face as the gravest menace to the London citizen.

KILLED NUMBERED 283.

An idea of this growth can be obtained at a glance by placing the statistics of the last three years together. Thus in 1905 there were 172 persons killed and 11,688 injured; in 1906, 212 were killed and 14,060 were injured; and in 1907—the latest completed year—283 were killed and no fewer than 16,772 were injured. Compare these figures with those of ten years ago—when 165 were killed and 9,082 were injured—and the increase in the risk of accident is seen to be appalling.

Nor is it difficult to discover the cause of this great and rapid increase of death and injury in the London streets. A careful examination and analysis of the figures that are available show that it is speed which is the real determinant of danger. When speed was uniformly low, the growth of risk was slow; since speed has become greater, the growth of risk has been rapid.

CARTS AND CABS.

Let me first illustrate this by a simple comparison between the injuries inflicted by light carts, travelling at a comparatively rapid rate, and heavy carts, travelling at a comparatively slow rate. In the last year, light carts are responsible for 1,223 accidents and heavy carts for 230. So, too, with light vans and heavy vans, the former accounting for 1,767 and the latter for 1,120. This proportion is maintained by comparing light motor cars with heavy motor cars—the former being responsible for 1,420 and the latter for 138 accidents. Extend the comparison to hansom cabs and four-wheelers and the swift gondola of the London streets inflicts injuries in 896 cases as against the 240 inflicted by the staid growler. Clearly, speed may be said to be the great determinant of danger.

CARS AND MOTORS.

But still more striking evidence of this is forthcoming when one examines the "killed and injured" record of the motor trams and motor omnibuses, and compares the holocause they annually compile with the damage done by the horse tram and the horse omnibus. During the last three years the motor tram and the motor omnibus have been rapidly evolving, and nere are the figures which show at what cost to the life and limbs of the Londoner that evolution has proceeded:—

	Injured by Motor Tram.	Injured by Motor Bus.
1905	725	149
1906	1,130	1,108
1907	2,119	1,108

INCREASING RISK.

The above figures are appalling evidence of the rapidly increasing risks of the London street. The 212 accidents caused to persons by horse care, and the 460 accidents resulting from horse omnibuses for the year 1907 are as eloquent of the comparative safety secured by slow travelling as the figures of the motor tram and motor omnibus are eloquent of the great danger of speedy traffic in busy thoroughfares. Even in the square mile of the city, while the number of persons injured by horse traffic has in the last year gone down, the number of those who have been injured by motor traffic has more than doubled in twelve months.

Curiously enough, and contrary to expectation, this swifter traffic does not seem to select the old and feeble for its chief victims. It is even more relentless to the young and active, who, almost certainly, take greater risks. For instance, while nearly 1,500 persons of sixty years and over were caught and injured in the deadly traffic of the London street, no fewer than 4, 817 youths and children under the age of fifteen succumber to its dangers.

When one finds that for all those between the ages of fifteen and sixty the number of injured is not more than 10,491, the foregoing figures show an extraordinarily high proportion of risk attending the young and active.

THREAD USED IN SURGERY.

Are you aware that the modern surgeon employs in his work dozens of different kinds of thread for sewing up cuts and wounds? Among them are kangaroo tendons, horsehair, silk, and very fine silver wire. Many of these threads are intended to hold for a certain number of days and then naturally break away. The short, tought tendons taken from the kangaroo, which are used for sewing severe wounds, will hold for about four weeks before they break away. Silk threads will remain much longer, sometimes six months, while the fine silver wire is practically indestructible. With the entire outfit a surgeon is able to select a thread that will last as long as the wound takes to heal, and will then disappear completely. To accommodate this assortment of threads, special varieties of needles are required. Besides the needle craned in different segments of a circle, surgeons use needles shaped like spears, javelins, and bayonet points.

PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS.

Interesting Gossip About Some Prominent People.

The Duchess of Hamilton has a great belief in the flesh and milk of the goat for human consumption. Her four children—of whom the eldest is not yet six years old—have been brought up on goat's milk, and a goat accompanies them on their juvenile travels. She considers that the flesh of the goat would be indistinguishable from Welsh mutton in appearance and flavor except that it is a little whiter. Her Grace is president of the British Goat Society.

King Peter of Servia is one of the most—if not the most—absent-minded rulers on the Continent. On one occasion he went to call upon the widow of an officer. "How is your husband?" he began. "My husband is dead, sir," replied the astonished widow. "Well, well, well," exclaiming the King impatiently, "how is your late husband?" Meeting an official one day, he inquired: "How many children have you?" "Five sir," was the reply. "How many boys?" "Three, sir." "Yes; and how many girls?"

The Crown Princess of Montenegro is the champion Royal lady wrestler of all Europe. Before her marriage to the future ruler of the little principality the Princess Danilo was the Duchess Jutta of Mecklenburg, Germany. She is a brilliant pianist, an expert needlewoman, and a caricaturist of no little skill, but her most favorite activity seems to be the masculine sport of wrestling. She has specially studied the Japanese art of jujitsu, and has so thoroughly mastered it that she is almost invariably successful in the bouts in which she engages.

The list of European Royalties who write is a fairly long one. The King of Italy writes books on numismatics; the Queen of Italy is a poet; the Queen of Roumania (Carmen Sylva) is a poet, dramatist, novelist, and magazine writer; the German Emperor is described as dramatist, poet, etc., the Crown Princess of Germany is a poet and magazine writer; Princess Henry of Battenberg has written historical plays; the Crown Princess Elizabeth of Belgium is a dramatist; the Queen of Portugal is a novelist, the Emperor of Japan a poet, while the Prince of Monaco has written books on marine science.

Sir Joseph Ward, the Premier of New Zealand, tells a good story of a certain Maori "witch-doctor," who was held in great awe and reverence by the superstitious natives. This man claimed that he was enabled by his magic to walk upon the water, and one day a number of his disciples went with him to the sea-shore expecting to see him perform the miracle. When they reached the water's edge, the man of mystery turned to his followers. "Do you really believe that I can walk on the sea?" he asked in solemn tones. "Yes, yes," they replied reverently, "we do." "Then," said the witch-doctor as he walked coolly away, "there is no need for me to do it."

Nikola Tesla, the famous inventor, is possessed of wonderful strength of mind, and even as a boy he was noted for his courage and invincible perseverance. One day, his father told him the story of the martyrdom of Cranmer, who held his right hand in the fire and watched it until it was burned. Master Tesla was apparently much impressed at the martyr's courage, and presently, without saying a word to anyone, he left the room. When he returned, he carried a lighted lamp, and to the astonishment of his relations he put one of his fingers in the flame, and held it there without uttering a cry until the flesh began to burn. Had his relatives not compelled him to desist, his finger would soon have been charred. After that, people were very careful about the kind of stories they told to the future inventor.

The recent death of Mr. Soloman Andrews, of Cardiff, Wales, closes a cereer picturesque and romantic to a degree. Mr. Andrews commenced life as a pedlar, and many are still living who remember him, carrying a tray suspended from a string around his shoulders, hawking pies and tarts of his own baking in Cardiff. When his will is read it will be found that he died possessed of immense riches. In early life he had practically no education—indeed, it was only in his later years that he learnt to read and write—and yet he had at his fingers' ends the particulars of each of his varied undertakings, involving the circulation of hundreds of thousands of pounds annually and the employment of an army of workmen. His first venture was to supply Cardiff with cabs. Then he established his own carriage factory and started lines in omnibuses in many towns. Twenty years ago he extended his business to London, where he ran a line of vehicles, known as the "Star" line, between the Elephant and Castle and the Angel, Islington.

EMBLEM OF GOOD LUCK.

Clover Emblem is a Very Ancient Superstition.

The clover as an emblem of good luck is a very ancient superstition; either a two-leaved or a four-leaved specimen was supposed to bring the good luck. A common superstition in this country is that if a girl puts a two or four leaved clover in her shoe she will meet her lover as soon as she goes out of the house. The same charm is used to bring back an absent or wayward swain. In more ancient days the carrying of the four-leaved cloved was believed to bring luck in play and in business, safety on a journey, and the power of detecting evil spirits. In rural districts it is looked upon as a capital barometer, the leaves becoming rough to the feel when a storm is impending. A person who found a four-leaved clover and put nine grains of wheat on it was supposed to be able to see the fairies, while an ointment made with a four-leaved clover, gathered at a certain time of the moon, was supposed to render fairyland visible, and the anointed one invisible to human eyes.

LESSEN BRUTAL SPORT

A SOCIETY HAS BEEN ORGANIZED IN ENGLAND.

Discouragment of Brutal Sports the World Over is Aim of the Society.

"The Society for the Discouragement of Brutal Sports" is the title of a society recently organized with the central bureau in London, empowered to establish branches in the United States, with New York as headquarters. Offices are to be established in Spain, Portugal and in all South and Central Americas, countries where bull fights continue to be the principal form of amusement.

The society does not intend to interfere with boxing contests, or even with the battles in the prize ring, which are essentially British, and demand prowess and endurance, but the ban is to be put on cocking mains, dog fights, rat killing with ferrets or with terriers in a pit, and cat battles—a recent diversoin organized in Lancashire, where big tomcats in close confinement have been goaded into fighting humor by alternate starving and feeding on raw meat.

SPORT OF "PURRING."

The formation of the society was brought about primarily by the revival of the so-called sport of "purring," in Wales, which has been unheard of for twenty years or more, although purring maches have taken place in the coal regions of Pennsylvania among the Welsh miners in the last half dozen years. There is probably no other form of contests between human beings that embraces so many elements of brutishness and cruelty, and with the certain of life-long injury to one or the other or both of the contestants.

Originally, in the early part of the last century, the contestants were stripped to the waist, and wore tight-fitting trunks with an extension which came to the knees. Below that point the legs were bare. The feet of each man were enucased in wooden sabots, and the object was to disable an opponent by kicking and stripping his shins.

AGONY EXCRUCIATING,

When the contestants faced each other they took a collar and elbow hod somewhat similar to the hold used in that style of wresting, and then began sparring with their wooden-shod feet. In this way they became wonderfully expert, and thrusts would be made and countered, sometimes for twenty minutes, before an effective blow was landed, but when it did land there was either a fractured shinbone, a dent or a gash that was followed by hemorrhage bleeding. The breaking of the shin-bone invariably ended the wretched spectacle, because the agony was too excruciating to be endured.

This style of "purring" gave way eventually to foot fighting, in which the contestants kicked and sparred with their bare feet, still maintaining the collar and elbow hold. In these matches the shin-bone suffered little or no injury, but toes were broken, and the arch of the foot smashed, for it was permissible to stamp on the instep with the heel. Permanent lameness was generally the result of these foot-fighting contests, and they fell into desuetude.

PONIES OF SABLE ISLAND.

They Have Fair Speed, Great Endurance, and Are Easily Kept.

Situated about eighty-five miles eastward of the coast of Nova Scotia is Sable Island, the home of herds of wild ponies. Once a year, writes Mr. Silver in "Farm-Cottage, Camp and Canoe in Maritime Canada," the wild ponies are rounded up. They are driven into a pond, and are bound and taken to the hold of a government boat.

Certainly Sable Island does not exactly tally with one's preconceived notion of the character of a horse-ranch. Yet here the ponies thrive in average seasons; here they roam in ignorance of the labors which most of their race are fated to endure, until at last the evil day arrives of the annual end, and a kicking, snorting, terrified mass is driven into a large pound.

Two or three dozen of selected ponies are then lassoed, thrown down, bound, rolled over upon a hand-barrow, lifted up and slid into the surf-boat, rowed out, and finally hoisted on board for conveyance to Halifax.

The horses of Sable Island are seldom seen lying down to rest. They often sleep standing. They persistently refuse the shelter of a stable, or even the rough sheds erected for their comfort, and shun the near presence of man.

In severe weather it is the habit of the horses to gather in the gulches or hollows between the sand-hills. Here they arrange themselves in regular order, the colts in the centers, their elders outside of them.

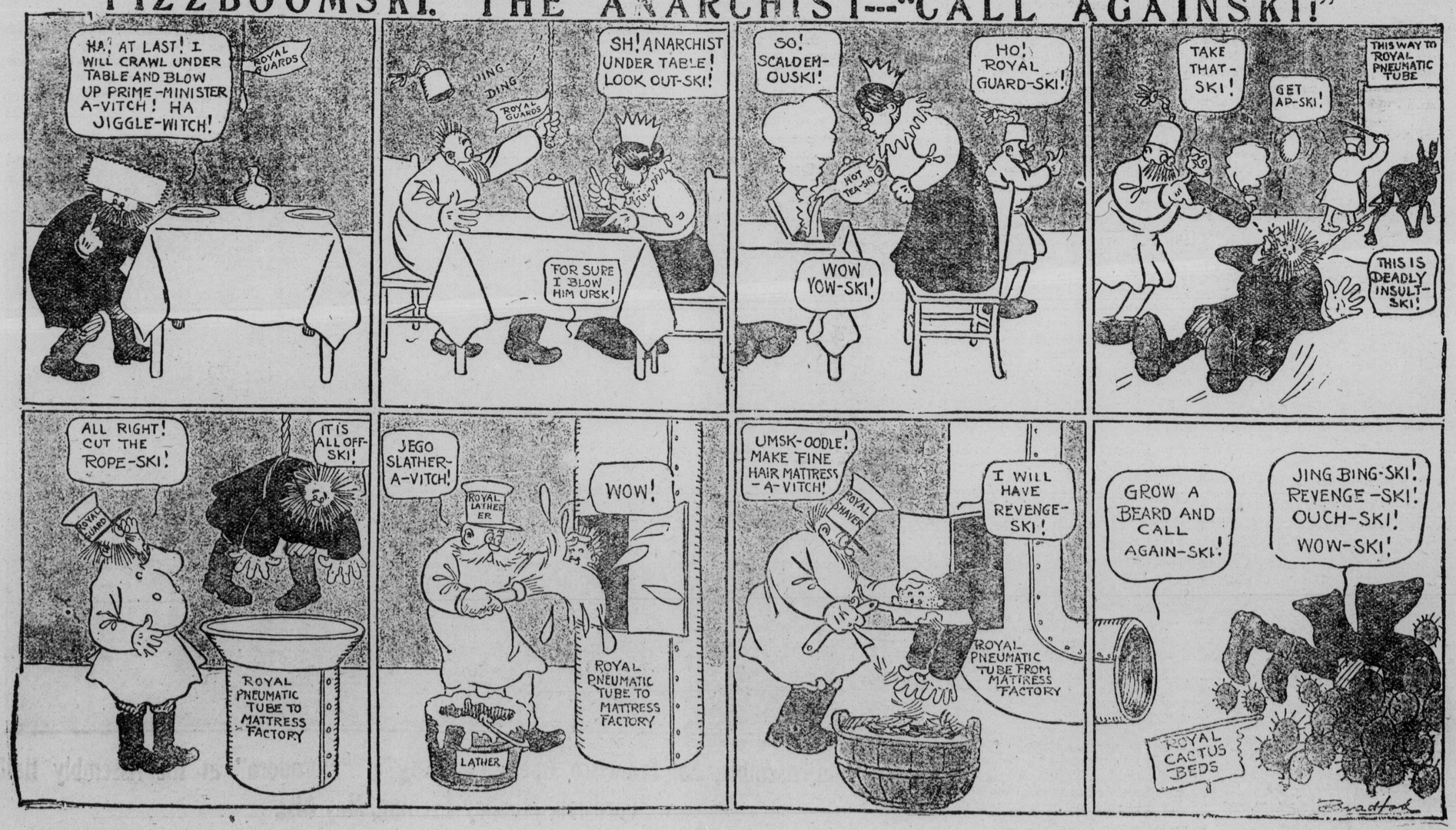
As all the ponies are under thirteen hands, their usefulness is restricted. Some prove extremely serviceable animals, easily kept, with fair speed and great endurance, especially under the saddle. As a rule, when once broken and well cared for, they become affectionate and docile.

LIFE'S JOURNEY.

Lift up your load and go away
The mortal vale along,
With spirits blithe and manner gay,
And courage ever strong.

In spite of sorrows and defeat,
And troubles that annoy,
A cheerful heart makes labor sweet,
And life brimful of joy.

He wastes the golden time who 'plains
From morn to dewy eve;
A frowning face no guerdon gains,
Despair wins no reprieve.

Be brave, be honest till the close,
Nor yield a hope forlorn;
The poorest weight may pulck the rose,
And still escape the thorn.

FIZZBOOMSKI, THE ANARCHIST—"CALL AGAINSKI!"