

## A Luther Burbank of the Fish

The creation of new varieties of fish by the methods that have made Burbank celebrated in the vegetable kingdom is looked forward to as possible by a contributor to Le Matin (Paris). Transformations of the kind have already been made, he tells us, by Dr. Schmidt of Copenhagen, who has gained fame by practical discoveries in ichthyology, and especially by finding that the French eel brings up its families far from home, near our own continent. We read in the newspaper named above: "A Danish scientist, Dr. John Schmidt, has demonstrated a disturbing fact. By keeping fish in water at a different temperature from that to which they are accustomed, he has shown that after several generations he can produce individuals of a new type, modified in form and structure, especially in the number of vertebrae and the rays of the fins."

"No other agency has the same result—neither ultra-violet rays, nor feeding, nor anything else. Only the temperature of the medium has an influence. This is a very important matter to those who are looking for the origins of life and of living species on our globe. It is nearly certain that we now hold a key that will permit men—again rivals of the gods—to create new fish as horticulturists turn out new flowers in greenhouses. Dr. John Schmidt is well known in the world of science, especially among zoologists. Although still young—about forty-five—he is director of the Carlsberg laboratory at Copenhagen, which is a kind of Pasteur Institute. Dr. Schmidt is also a bold sailor who has placed his scientific ability at the disposal of deep-sea fishermen."

"Thanks to him, and to his experiences gathered in eight successive exploring expeditions in Iceland and the Faroes, herring fishing no longer rely wholly on chance for a good catch. They now know the precise spots where, according to the indications of the moment, their nets should be cast."

"The interest of Schmidt's work may be understood when we remember the importance of the fishing industry. This investigator has also acquired a singular title to fame. He has solved a puzzle that has occupied the attention of scientists for several centuries. Our edible eels of France, celebrated by Rabelais, interest them very much. No one has ever discovered how they reproduce their kind. Now Dr. John Schmidt has shown that the eel of our streams is an extraordinary creature, who leaves France and emigrates to the sea to lay its eggs in the open ocean, in the neighborhood of North America, to the northeast of the Antilles."

"In this relatively small region the young eel develops slowly and reaches again the shores of France, where it arrives at the age of three years. Our fishermen then call it civelles, houloun or piballe, and catch it in vast numbers. Those that escape the nets ascend rivers and brooks, even travelling over solid ground on wet nights, and establish themselves in lakes, ponds and ditches, far inland. Dr. Schmidt has calculated that the civelles that penetrated our water-courses in 1923, for instance, are the offspring of the adults that left France in the autumn of 1919. On an average, the eel lives with us eight years, and after full growth, seeks the sea again to find a mate and found a family. She goes to 'hide her happiness'—according to the words of a well-known opera—on the American coasts."

"Thus, there are no unimportant problems in science. One discovery brings another, and we must take off our hats to the men who, silently and with patient labor, starting from the most trivial facts, or what are apparently so, reach practical results, capable of transforming a



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flourishing industry—and also the works of creation."

**Mr. C. B. (Charlie)  
Foster**

**HOLDS THE FORT.**  
Singers may come, and singers may go, but popular Charlie Foster still goes strong, and, owing to the illness of Mr. Hawkes last evening he was obliged to "go it alone." That he did this in a creditable and qualified way, was shown by the applause that greeted his appearance; secondly in the masterful and accomplished way he sang "Aspen in the Deep," and to which he had to respond with an encore, "Any Old Port in a Storm"; thirdly from the big applause that greeted him at the finish. This gentleman has, since his coming here, treated his audiences to a class of entertainment that has never been equalled, and will take some to keep up to, and the thousands of friends and admirers he has made for himself since his arrival, speak volumes for his popularity. He last evening entered upon his seventh and final week, and as a parting final will put forth the very best that is in him, and no doubt all will hear him during his change. St. Patrick's Day programme is to be found on another page, and it will as usual bring full houses.

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## Rivals of Ruin

PLACID STREAMS THAT SOMETIMES BECOME RAGING TORRENTS, SPREADING DEATH AND DESTRUCTION EVERYWHERE.

We have recently been reminded by the floods in France of the ravages which, even in modern times and in highly developed countries, can be wrought when a great river overflows its banks.

But the damage done by the Seine and other great French rivers on such occasions is not very considerable as compared with the havoc caused by other streams in similar circumstances.

The most tragical river in the world is the Hoang-ho, or Yellow River, which is known throughout the Celestial Empire as China's Sorrow. Earthquakes and eruptions claim their victims in tens of thousands occasionally, but this river "thinks" nothing of drowning several millions of human beings in one fell flood.

Not many years ago, when the Hoang-ho devastated an area as large as England, its victims were estimated at ten millions. In historic times it has changed its mouth eleven times and its present outlet is three hundred miles away from its former one. When Human Fever is vain.

Another river of tragedy is the Mississippi, which also has a tendency to alter its course and run amok across field and farm and city. Its great plain is very flat, and when it overflows it overflows a long way, carrying stock in vast numbers to feed the sharks in the Gulf or Mexico. As time goes on, its banks are being more and more strengthened, but when a big river takes matters into its own hands, human devices are apt to look foolish!

The Nile is a river of blessing, and a river of blight. If it comes up to scratch and does its duty it is worth tens of millions to Egypt and mankind; but if it fails—as it has many times done in history—that failure means famine. Since Britain has come to the rescue, however, and built the Assuan Dam to conserve and regulate the water, so that the river does not wash the land away one year and leave it barren the next, the Nile has done nothing to justify its former sinister reputation. But in the past its failure to function normally has cost millions of lives.

The eyes of the world are on the Chevrolet—watch Chevrolet lead!

## Sea Superstitions

The sailor inherits many strange superstitions from the distant past, and even in these modern days of steel and steam his outlook is still influenced by them.

From time immemorial sea birds have been regarded by sailors as sacrosanct. Woe betide the man who slays one of "Mother Carey's Chickens." The fate of the man who shot the albatross is well known.

But there are other superstitions concerning sea birds. Many sailors, for instance, believe that they are the wandering souls of evil-doers condemned to continual movement. Some believe they carry the souls of masters of lost ships plaintively crying in the still watches of the night until their bodies shall be carried to the land for Christian burial.

The small grey gulls which fly swiftly up and down the Bosphorus, near the Golden Horn, skimming close to the surface of the water without ever seeming to alight, are said by sailors to be the souls of wicked captains of ships sentenced to wander thus till the Day of Judgment.

Rats foretell disaster by leaving an ill-fated ship just before she sails. They have often been seen swimming along the hawser securing the ship to the wharf.

The possession of an infant's caul is regarded as a certain protection against drowning, and it is a fact of melancholy significance that during the late war the price of cauls went up considerably.

At table if a glass tumbler is inadvertently struck, a sailor will instinctively put out his hand to prevent it from ringing out and say "Save a drowning man."

Cats are lucky, especially black ones, but dogs are not always regarded with favor. Scots fishermen say that to mention the name of a dog will bring on a storm, and that the wind will come from the direction in which a dog points his nose when he howls.

Icelandic fishermen regard it as unlucky to have a dog near their nets or boats, while in Cornwall storms are foretold by the appearance of a spectral dog.

## LUMBAGO

Rub the stiff parts with Minard's. It eases pain, relieves stiffness.



## Government's First Bill

A Children's Charter—Many Changes in Present Laws.

The text of the first Government Bill was issued yesterday. It is a far-reaching Children's Bill, the introductory memorandum extending to eight pages, while the Bill itself runs to 143 closely printed pages, or 184 sections.

This measure is introduced by Mr. C. G. Ammon, Parliamentary Secretary to the Admiralty, and the following are among the chief provisions:

Prohibition of marriages for persons under 16.  
Five years' penal servitude to be the maximum penalty for cruelty to children on conviction before a jury, instead of (as now) £100 fine and two years' imprisonment with hard labor.

The maximum penalty for a summary conviction in cases of cruelty to be raised from six months' hard labor to twelve and a fine of £200 (instead of £25).

The present penalty for the exposure of children under seven to the risk of burning or scalding through unprotected fire-grates to apply to children under ten, and to all mentally defective children or young persons.

Corporal Punishment.  
Children under 16 may no longer, on any conditions whatever (as at present, when a license may be obtained), be sent abroad for the purpose of performing for gain.

The existing prohibition on persons under 14 being in the bar of licensed premises is extended to persons of 14 and 15, while the age under which it is illegal to give any intoxicating liquor to children, except in pursuance of medical directions, is raised from five to ten.

Street betting with persons under 16 will render the offender liable to a fine of £100 and six months' hard labor, instead of (as now £50 or six months (or, on summary conviction, £30 or three months) without the option of a fine.

The age of competence to commit crime is raised from seven to ten. A boy under sixteen convicted before a jury is not to be liable to corporal punishment; a boy under fourteen summarily convicted is.

Publishing in a newspaper, without express authorization from the court, of name or address or sketch or any information of any child or young person charged with or convicted of any offence, other than murder, or attempted murder, or wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm, to be made punishable (on summary conviction) with a fine of £100 or six months' imprisonment. Where this offence is committed in respect of a case tried before a Court of Assize it is to be punishable as contempt of court.

Among the general provisions of the Bill it is proposed: To extend the law of homicide to the protection of children not completely born.

Offences Against Girls.  
The penalties for offences against girls are regraded. In no case is reasonable ground to believe that a girl is over sixteen to be a defence in any proceedings with respect to a girl under that age.

The limited period within which proceedings can be instituted for an offence against a girl of fourteen or fifteen is abolished in the case of prosecutions instituted by or with the sanction of the Director of Public Prosecutions.—London Daily Mail, February 12.

## Unfrosted Clergyman as Brazilian Hero

For some time past rumors have reached this country of the surprising doings of a religious revivalist in the secular life of a town in Brazil. Details have lately come to light in a recent book on his travels in South America by Arns Perse, a British student of international economics.

Ten years ago a Jesuit priest, Cleoro Romano Baptista, was excommunicated by Roman Catholic authority on account of anti-religious teachings.

Some years later he appeared on the scene in a little town in Northern Brazil, proclaiming that he was sent by Christ to announce the coming of the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. Many followers were soon converted to his doctrines and he came to be regarded as a supernatural being. Finally he was elected as mayor of the little town, and his followers being in the majority, important decisions in all matters concerning the community were left to him. He soon exercised the rights of a ruler, never, however, for his own ends, but solely for the good of the community.

Thousands of men and women from all the neighboring districts go daily to consult him on religious, as well as on worldly matters. His word is regarded as gospel and it is not exaggeration to say that his decisions carry greater weight than the orders and decrees of the Brazilian government. Father Cleoro also practices as a doctor, and people have more faith in his advice than in the prescriptions of other doctors.

In the space of a few years the ex-

priest has caused the little town to prosper in an extraordinary way. He has had a railway built making it accessible to trade and transport. Although he has never boasted of supernatural qualities, the people attribute them to him, and this excommunicated minister is honored as a prophet.

Molly Horan and Percie Jardine will line up on St. Patrick's afternoon in "Rose O' My Heart," at Holy Cross Schools.

## Wealth From the Wind

THROUGH THE STEEL WINDMILL NATURE SUPPLIES US WITH THE CHEAPEST POWER IN THE WORLD.

The railway killed the road for a time, but now the road is rapidly getting its own back, and to-day far more money is being spent on roads than on rails.

The case of the windmill is very similar. In the old days all our corn milling was done by water and power. The water-mill survived, but steam killed the old-fashioned, clumsy windmill, with its great wooden sails.

Then came the modern steel windmill, which was first used in America for pumping water. Very light, very portable, and very cheap, it was soon introduced into this country, where before the War one could be erected for as little as £50.

Doing Eleven Men's Work.  
Trials were conducted by the Royal Agricultural Society, and it was found that a steel windmill, costing £70, would pump from 1,400 to 10,000 gallons of water a day, according to the speed the wind was blowing, to a height of 200 feet.

A light steel windmill of modern construction will do the work of two horses at practically no expense whatever, except that of a little oil. Such a mill, with 12 ft. steel sails, can raise 3,200 gallons of water 1 ft. high in a minute, when a man working at a pump can only raise 300 gallons in the same space of time.

One of the principal uses to which these little windmills are put nowadays is to generate electricity. The wind may go on strike for a day or two at a time, but the electricity generated can be stored for purposes of lighting and heating, so in this way we are able to make good use of wind-power.

Wind, after all, is the cheapest of all natural powers, and there is no reason why it should not be utilized all over the countryside.

Your opportunity St. Patrick's night, at the Grenfell Hall to hear the finest music ever played by any Orchestra in St. John's. St. Andrew's Orchestra have a new hit that will make you dance. Tickets: \$2.00 Double; Gent's, \$1.50; Ladies, \$1.00.—mar11,31.eod

## McMurdo's Store News

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DAN DELMAR.

G. BURTON—Irish Step Dance.

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