

# You are invited



to come to  
**Our Housewarming**  
 in our new home recently completed at 1810 Ridge Avenue corner Lyons Street  
*Open House January 19th*  
**Cadillac Motor Car Company**  
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Dancing from 9 to 12  
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 Husk O'Hare's Aces

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## SIX BILLION RATS IN NEW YORK DOCKS

### THREATENING IMMIGRANTS

**Health Authorities Wage Continual War Against Dangerous Pests; Great Damage To Country**

There is one kind of immigrant to this country so utterly obnoxious, so dangerous, that no quota whatever is allowed to him, and every possible effort is made to keep him out entirely. The shipping companies, also, regard him with aversion, and co-operate fully with the authorities to exclude him. Yet he is so skilful a stowaway that often he slips by every barrier and lands safely on our docks. This undesirable immigrant is the rat.

It is estimated that the rat population of the 800 miles of docks in New York harbor is no less than 6,000,000, or equal to the entire human population of the city. A small part only are actually foreign born, but there can be no doubt that they receive each year fresh accessions from various parts of the world. It seems impossible for shipowners to rid their vessels of the pests at sea and equally impossible for the health department of the city to keep them from landing after the vessels dock. A common method for the creatures to get ashore is to crawl along the hawsers with which the ships are made fast. To prevent this the port authorities require the use of metal disks two feet in diameter on all ropes and cables. This presents an insurmountable obstacle to rope walking and forces the rat to resort to some other method of escape. Contrary to the general opinion the rat swims readily, and if forced to do so will jump into the water and swim ashore.

Accepting as impossible the complete exclusion of these foreign rats, the health department has organized a squad to run them down after they land. These men operate in many parts of the city, but most of their time is spent along the waterfront near the docks. The prevalence of bubonic plague in various parts of the world since the war has lent special importance to this work. In the last few years the plague has actually broken out in a number of American ports, among them Pensacola, Mobile, Galveston, New Orleans and San Francisco, and the authorities intend to take no chances in regard to New York. Often hundreds of rats are caught in a single day. The body of the rat is subjected to a thorough examination in an special laboratory to determine whether or not the plague germs are present. The fact that negative results are almost invariably obtained does not cause a relaxation of vigilance, for the possibility of infection is always present.

Equally important with the health department in keeping down the rat population of New York city are the homeless cats, which operate ceaselessly, clearing out nests of rats from under piles of lumber, from trash heaps and similar places of refuge.

Formerly New York was infested with the gray rat, but some years ago vessels from abroad introduced the larger and more vicious Japanese brown rat. Gradually this newcomer has eliminated the native rats, until in this locality they are almost extinct.

Since the discovery that the rat is the carrier of bubonic plague, which is transmitted to human beings by the medium of the flea, he has become the object of suspicion in regard to various other diseases. It is now established that he carries trichinosis and tapeworms, as well as epidemic jaundice or Weil's disease. Recently a New York investigator produced interesting evidence to show that the animal is responsible for the spread of infantile paralysis. This is only a theory, however, and until more complete evidence is supplied the rat cannot with certainty be held guilty.

But the count against him is great enough as it is. Not only is he a disease carrier, but each year he succeeds in destroying enormous quantities of food by ruining plumbing and injuring masonry and woodwork. It has been estimated that the national rat bill is no less than \$180,000,000 a year, and that the pest nullifies the work of 200,000 men.

The United States Public Health Service has made a close study of the problem, and feels that the only adequate protection is to be found in making all buildings rat proof. Poison, cats, traps, disease cultures all are effective only in part, and whereas they often succeed in clearing a given house or a given community, the remedy is only temporary. Rats have the habit of migrating from one place to another, and when things are made uncomfortable for them in one house will often leave in a body. Thus one household will gain at the expense of another. It is estimated that the rat population of the country is between 200,000,000 and 300,000,000, and it is a question whether at present they are declining or increasing in numbers—New York Sun and Globe.

**You Tell 'Em**  
 "I like your new gown, m'dear—it fits perfectly."  
 "Yes—it does fit well—but not nearly as perfect as the fit George had with the bill."

## KEEP MOTOR WARM IN COLD WEATHER

"Probably 50 per cent of the cars one sees on the streets today are without radiator covers," says a bulletin issued by the mechanical service department of the Chicago Motor club, "yet we may expect really cold weather any time now, and unprotected cars are likely to suffer trouble in the form of cracked water jackets and later on scored or cut bearings, pistons and cylinder walls. A cold engine requires more fuel, much of which is not consumed, but finds its way to the crank case with a consequent dilution of the oil that invariably means serious trouble. The motorist should for this reason take care to see that his engine is properly covered so that there will be enough heat to volatilize the gasoline and thus prevent the seepage of raw gas into the lubricant. If the engine is kept properly heated the fuel will be more easily turned into inflammable vapor, and more nearly consumed when the explosion takes place."

## Looking Ahead

LAST Spring a total of 350,000 people were disappointed in not being able to obtain deliveries of Ford Cars and Trucks, as orders were placed faster than cars could be produced. The demand for Ford Cars and Trucks this Spring will, according to all indications, be far greater than last Spring. Winter buying has been increasing at a greater rate than ever before.

*Actual retail deliveries the past 60 days totaled 308,170 Ford Cars and Trucks, an increase of 1,961 a day over a year ago.*

Over 200,000 people have already ordered Ford products on our purchase plan, the majority of whom will take delivery in the Spring.

The above facts are given with the suggestion that you list your order promptly with a Ford dealer if you contemplate the purchase of a Ford Car or Truck for use this Spring or Summer and wish to avoid delay in delivery.

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