

## Modern World Devours Figures

Experts Count Everything  
From a Bird's Meals to  
Blue-Eyed Babies

Before writing a paper for a scientific journal on the skylark, Noble Rollin took the trouble to time more than a thousand songs of that bird. He found that the range varied from one to nineteen minutes, and that the autumn song was twice as long as that in July.

During the past century the whole GENERAL TRAVIS universe has been reduced to figures. There is nothing too small or too great to be carefully counted, from the number of electrons in an atom to the distance between our sun and the star Sirius remote in space.

We Spoke of the skylark. The statistics accumulated about birds alone are sufficient to fill many volumes. We know the exact size and weight of several thousand kinds of birds, the size and weight of their eggs; we know the weight of food each eats and the speed at which they fly.

The Farmer's Worst Enemy

Immense pains have been taken to find out exactly what amount of fish each sort of British gull eats, and how much in each case consists of the kinds of fish that man eats. It has been found that the gull-eater is the worst offender, 51.42 per cent. of its food consisting of food fishes. The razorbill comes next; while the common gull eats only 5.16 per cent. of the same sort of fish that human beings can eat.

Naturalists have analyzed and counted the contents of the crops of numberless birds, and so proved that the wood-pigeon is the English farmer's worst enemy. Eight hundred grains of wheat were found in the crop of one bird.

By watching a pair of spotted flycatchers for sixteen hours on end, a naturalist was able to prove that a family of these invaluable birds consume just over 15,000 insects per week.

Russians Die Earlier

We have recently had a census. Man is, of course, man's principal study, and the facts revealed by censuses are extraordinarily interesting. For instance, we learn that the average age of French people is thirty-two and a half years, while that of the people of the United States is only twenty-five. France has 126 persons in each thousand over sixty years of age, but Russia only forty-six.

The census enumerator does not ask the color of your eyes or hair, but scientists have collected figures on these and similar subjects, and some of the results are distinctly odd.

Among them 446 per thousand have light or pale-colored eyes, but among women the proportion is only 342 per thousand. One hundred and twenty-three men in each thousand have dark eyes, but the feminine proportion is 207.

Twins occur thirteen times in every thousand births, triplets 160 times in a million births, but quadruplets are twenty times rarer than triplets.

Our Favorite Names

Botanists are fond of figures, and have told us that a bushel of wheat contains 556,000 grains, a bushel of rye 888,000, but it must have taken much patience to prove that there are no fewer than 16,400,000 seeds in a bushel of clover. A peculiar fact is that a twenty-year-old mulberry-tree produces 217 pounds of leaves suitable for feeding silkworms.

Careful statistics have been collected as to names, from which we realize that John is the favourite Christian name in England, followed by Thomas, William, Richard, and Robert, in that order. Mary is the favorite among women's names, and during the past hundred years sixty-eight girl babies out of every thousand have been christened Mary. Ella, Sarah, Anne, Jane and Ellen come next among girls' names, or did so up to the date of the Great War.

Nothing is too small to be covered by the statistician. He can even tell you the number of pins we use, the average number being 520,000,000 a week all the year round.—London "Answers."

America Knuckles Down  
To Marble Playing

This is the marble season. Boys are "knocking down" all over the United States with shouts of "clearance" and "dubs" and with arguments over the value of "immies" and "agglies." In New York the annual tournament for the marble championship of the city was recently concluded and the winner received a gold watch given by the Rotary Club and presented to him by Aldermanic President Joseph V. McKee.

The game of marbles is played differently in different sections. Some play "ringers" and some play "liners," and some play a game in which the marbles are tossed into a hole scooped in the dirt. The game played in New York City championships is a form of ringers. Thirteen marbles are arranged on a small mound around which a ring has been drawn. The object of the game is to hit the marbles out of the ring. Each player gets a turn lasting as long as marbles are successfully hit out or until his "immy" does not roll out of the ring.

## Delightful for cooking, too!

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## Owl Laffs

Miss Ima Hardnut, of Brushville, has returned the lavalier her sweetie gave her because it made a green spot on her wishbone.

Teacher—"Robert, here is an example in subtraction. Seven boys went down to the creek to swim, but two of them had been told not to go in the water. Now, can you inform me how many went in?"  
Robert—"Yes'm; seven."

If you want to find out how valuable you are about an institution, lay off a week and see how easy it is to fill your place. This is a good cure for a person who has allowed his conceit to assume undue proportions. Flattery often leaves a pleasant feeling even though you know it is flattery. There ought to be a law against travel bureaus sending their alluring summer trip folders to busy folks. They disrupt the entire day's work. It is now claimed that no man can really love until he is 60. A lot of people are lying about their age if this is true. The radio inventor who will invent a radio which will tune out programs filled with boring advertising broadcasts, will make a fortune. An optimist is a guy who thinks his wife has quit cigarettes when he finds cigar butts around the house. A Scottish lassie, who applied for a job as an artist's model, was told to come down again the next day and to bring along a pair of tights. She brought her father and mother.

Gerald—"Hello, aren't you a stranger around here?"  
Imogene—"Yes, to you!"

Any store, any business, that lets a gang of loafers hang around it, no matter how fine and charming they may be personally, is sure to fail. These hangers-on won't buy much. But they will keep real customers out of a place.

Mrs. Pemberton—"It is said that the young girls-to-day are abandoning all restrictions."  
Mr. Pemberton—"Well, I'd better not catch Mary Katherine without hers on."

Simpson—"Hallerston is the most brutally frank business man in town."  
Lewis—"How so?"  
Simpson—"When he remits in payment he writes: 'You have already found the enclosed cheque.'"

It's Up to the Girls  
When skirts were short, some funny things  
Both fat and thin were viewed;  
We hope those props will be improved  
Ere short skirts are renewed.

Father (to son who is leaving on summer vacation)—"Don't let me hear any bad reports about you."  
Son—"I'll try, Dad, but you know how these things leak out."

Wedlock often develops into a deadlock. Bathing beauties are among the bare necessities of life. The late husband catches the early morning lecture. The turning point in a man's life often is when he begins turning his pay envelope over to his wife. Men have only themselves to blame. Women buy nearly everything on their account. Some wives seem to think

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ISSUE No. 26—31

their husbands are made to order. A girl may allow herself to be led to the altar, but that's when the leading ends. Dashing young ladies often lead fast lives. Even in these swift modern times occasionally a girl may be found who is so slow that it takes her thirty years to reach the age of nineteen.

Paul—"Are you going to kiss me good-night?"  
Eve—"Mercy, No! That's the last thing I'll do."  
Paul—"All right, then, what'll we do first?"

It's terrible to be poor and old, but it isn't very much better to be old and rich, either.

## The Sun's Munificence

Bounding up through Night's wall dense and dark,  
Emball'd crags and clouds, outbroke the Sun  
Above the conscious earth, and one by one  
Her heights and depths absorbed to the last spark  
His fluid glory, from the far fine ridge.

Of mountain-granite which, transformed to gold,  
Laughed first the thanks back, to the vale's dusk fold  
On fold of vapor-swathing, like a bridge  
Shattered beneath some giant's stamp.  
Night wist  
Her work done and betook herself in mist  
To marsh and hollow, there to bide her time.

Blindly in acquiescence. Everywhere  
Did earth acknowledge Sun's embrace sublime,  
Thrilling her to the heart of things:  
since there  
No ore ran liquid, no spar branched anew,  
No arrowy crystal gleamed, but straightway grew  
Glad through the furish—glad nor more nor less  
Than, 'neath his gaze, forest and wilderness,  
Hill, dale, land, sea, the whole vast stretch and spread,  
The universal world of creatures bred  
By Sun's munificence, alike gave praise.

—Robert Browning, in Poems:

**Paris Suburbs Grow**  
Paris—Paris suburbs are growing rapidly, the recent census shows, while the city itself expands more slowly. The explanation lies in the housing problem and in suburban communications.

In 1926 the census showed an increase of 220,000 inhabitants in the suburban districts of the Department of the Seine, while the population of Paris itself decreased by 27,000. Since then Paris has annexed the outer zone, where the old fortifications stood, with a population of 40,000, and apartment buildings have been built within the city limits accommodating 39,000.

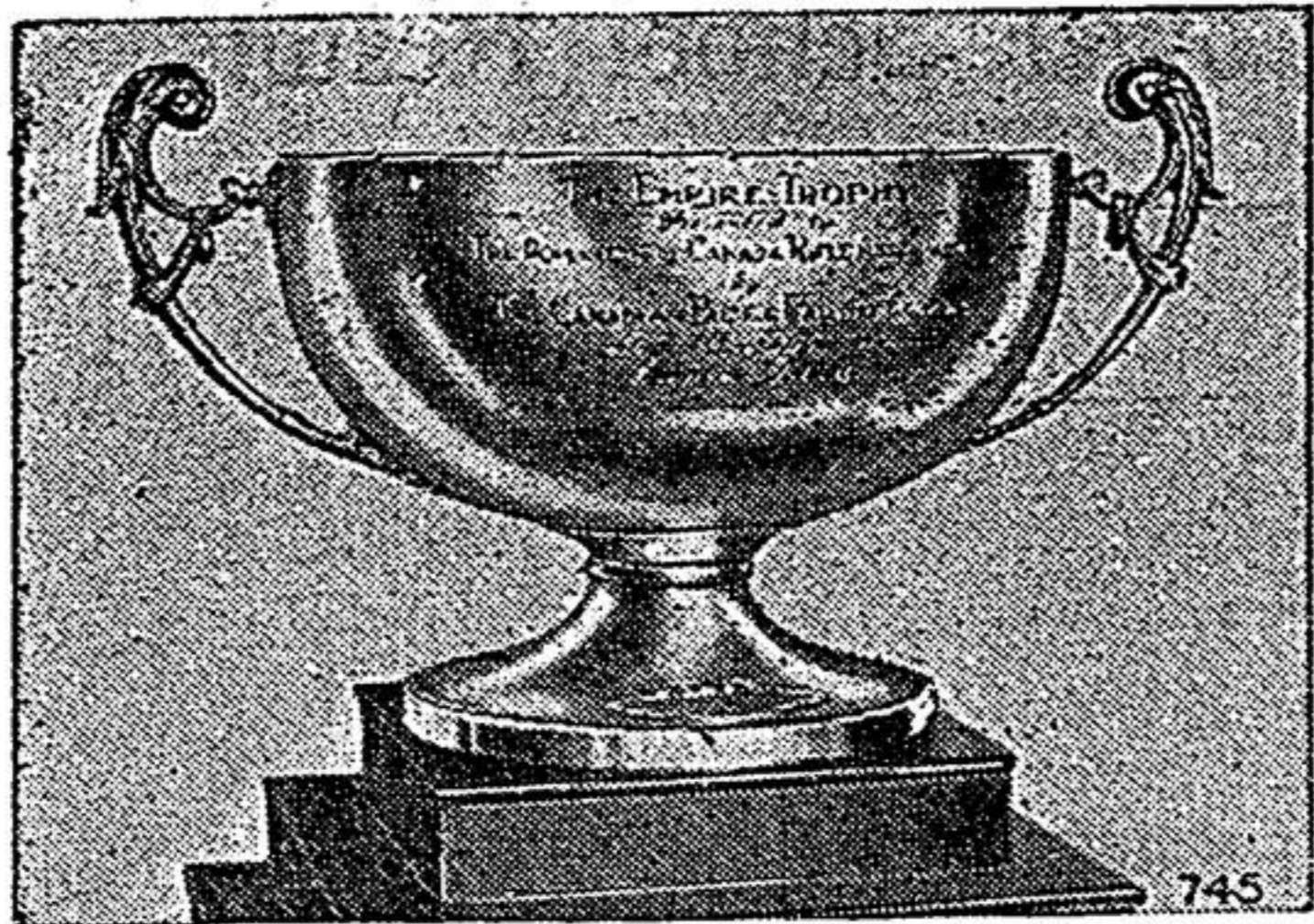
Notwithstanding their increase, the total gain in the 1931 census was 20,000 for the city, while the population of the Seine Department was augmented by 280,000. Migration of the Paris population to better quarters in the suburbs has been made possible by improved transit facilities.

**A Sense of Progress**  
I was dining once in London, quite informally, with a great electrical engineer, a very trim mald in attendance. At the table near my host's right hand was a small block of white marble and a tiny silver mallet. When he wanted the mald, he struck the marble a resounding blow.

I was somewhat amused, and asked him if he had ever heard of a push button for the same purpose.  
"My boy, I have," was his reply, "but I get enough of electrical devices in the city; I don't want a single one of them in my own home. I've not come yet to using gas; I prefer candles; they are not so likely to get out of order. I hate this pushing a dimple and waiting for something to happen. When I make a noise myself I begin to feel a sense of progress; that's what we stand for in this country,—with a knowing wink,—progress."—A. Edward Newton, in "A Magnificent Farce."

A bullock weighing 950 lbs. will yield about 500 lbs. of meat.

## For Empire Marksmen



The handsome silver cup, shown above, was sent to Lt. Col. R. J. Bird-whistle, secretary of the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association, Ottawa, by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, to be shot for at the famous meeting at Bisley, England, by teams from various parts of the British Empire, at long ranges. It is 30 inches high, including the triple wooden mounting which forms the base. The figure of a marksman in the prone position is reproduced on the base of the cup, coinciding with the front and rear faces of the pedestal.

## Egypt Yields Secrets Of Animal God Cults

The Crocodile of a Sanctuary Recently Dug Up Was One of Many Creatures the Ancients Held Sacred

New knowledge of an ancient Egyptian cult will result, it is believed, from the recent discovery of the first complete sanctuary, with all annexes, of the crocodile god Sekhneb-tun. This sanctuary, composed of a long processional way, a temple and priests' dwellings within a walled enclosure, has been unearthed by an Italian archaeological mission in the Fayum district. Limestone reliefs in a vestibule at one end of the way show Sekhneb-tun in several aspects, as well as a procession bearing the sacred crocodile on a litter.

Much has still to be learned of the many cults of the ancient Egyptians, though it is known that hundreds of them were recognized by theologians even in late dynastic times when animals, beasts, birds, fishes and reptiles were worshipped. The Egyptians extended their veneration to human beings, to the great powers of nature, and to the large numbers of beings with which they peopled the earth, the air, the earth, the sky, the sun, the moon, the stars, and the water. These animals were not venerated in dynastic times as animals, but as the abodes of gods.

The cults had their origin in the precarious life of primitive man when the physical conditions of Egypt were similar to those in certain parts of Central Africa to-day. The land was covered with forest, and the ground obscured by dense undergrowth. Great numbers of beasts roamed about the forests; huge serpents of various species, including hosts of deadly reptiles, lived in the undergrowth, and the river was filled with great crocodiles such as may be seen even to-day in the Blue Nile. When the canals dried up, the crocodiles wandered about the field at will and ate whatever came their way. When man captured them he tamed them, fed them honey, put crystal and gold earrings into their ears, and bracelets on their forepaws. After death he embalmed their bodies and buried them in vaults.

Worship Because of Fear  
Facts now available indicate that primitive man worshipped animals because he feared them. They possessed, he thought, greater strength, power and cunning than his own; they were endowed with some quality which enabled them to do him harm and to cause his death. He regarded them as the personification of the powers of evil and of death, and came to believe that he might court their good-will by offerings and prayers, for their spirits must be appeased.

The Egyptians, having developed the idea that individual animals were the abodes of gods, believed that certain ideas were incarnate in them. They were beloved by him and treated with reverence and care. Apartments were set aside for them in the temples throughout the country; whole cities were dedicated to them. Sacred animals were washed in hot baths, their bodies anointed and perfumed. Rich beds were provided for them to lie upon and the greatest care was exercised to give them the most comfort.

The Fear of the Serpent  
The abject fear of the Egyptians for the serpent seems to have been constant in all generations and many prayers were said to deliver the human dead from the "Serpents which are in the Underworld, which lie upon the bodies of men and women and consume their blood." The Egyptian so coveted the power of the serpent that he learned those prayers which were most certain to bring him its powers after death, when his soul wandered about the earth: "I am the serpent Sata whose years are many. I die and I am born again each day. I am the serpent Sata which dwelleth in the uttermost parts of the earth. I die and I am born again, and I renew myself, and I grow young each day."

At the period when the serpent was being worshipped in Lower Egypt the vulture was the chief object of adoration in Upper Egypt. So powerful were these two centres of worship that the kings gave themselves the title, "Lord of the Shrines of the Vulture and Uraeus," to proclaim their sovereignty. Other wild animals which were worshipped by the Egyptians were the lion, the lynx and the hippopotamus. Not much is known of the cult of the fish, but several species were venerated.

The beetle or scarabaeus became the symbol of the god of creation and resurrection. It was often placed in tombs because it was thought to give potential life to the dead body upon which it was placed, provided the proper words of power were first said over it or written upon it. The idea of life appears to have been associated with the scarab from time immemorial in Egypt, for to this day, the insect is dried, pounded, mixed with water, and then drunk by the women, who believed it to be an unfailing specific for the production of large families.

One of the oldest animal cults was that of the Apis or Bull which was worshipped throughout the Nile Valley. His birth was commemorated by an annual festival which lasted seven days, and during this period no man was ever killed even by a crocodile. The bull was turned loose in the court.

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The minister was visiting a woman noted for grumbling. She had a good crop of potatoes. The person said, "Now, Mrs. Higgins, you have nothing to grumble about." She replied, "Indeed I have; where's the little ones for the pigs?"

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