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SELDOM SEEN

I was amused the other evening to read an item in the paper about the troubles up Waterloo way they are having with rats. The rats were moving in on Enos Martin, lean rats, fat rats, tawny rats and very nifty rats with eyes that glared in the gloom of the barn's dark corners and challenged all comers. It was getting they would eat the hogs' rations and the cows' supplements and if something wasn't done, there was danger they would eat the pigs and milk the cows.
 Mr. Martin hadn't a cat on the place. He tried all the likeliest farms around R.R.1 Elmira, but no one had a cat to spare. Then he advertised. The advertisement started all kinds of guessing. What did Mr. Martin want with grown cats? Did he like cats so much he couldn't get enough of them? Or, as one joker suggested, was he in the restaurant business?
 Max Becker of Kitchener was first to respond. Max had even more cats than farms so he sent Enos Martin a postcard telling him he could come and fetch some. Mr. Martin asked Wilf Tour, Elmira hog trucker, to call in at the waterworks farm and see what Max had. Wilf came back to Martin's with three cats. Enos put them in a chicken crate so they wouldn't run back to Kitchener.
 Manassah Gingrich near Elmira was next to notify Enos who went over and fetched home five more cats. These, too, went into a crate until they could get used to the idea of a new home. Next came Vernon Clemmer of Floradale who brought over two more. Here were cats not two miles away but Enos hadn't thought to try Clemmers before he advertised.
 Ten cats and twice that many rats now occupied the shadows of the big barn at Enos Martin's. Ten pair of glassy eyes terrified the cats for a few days but they found that at least five of the cats ventured down from the rafters only at night. This left the coast comparatively free for rats during the daylight hours. However the first five cats lost some of their wildness and began to make life miserable for the rodents.

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Scarboro Business Says Council Biased

The Scarboro Businessmen's Fact Finding Committee have issued a report favoring amalgamation with Toronto, despite noisy protests of Reeve Crockford, and his councilors. Copies of the report were distributed throughout the public meeting, and was read by R. Sinclair of the Allis-Chalmers Company who acted as chairman of the committee.
 In the conclusion of the report it was stated that any decision regarding amalgamation should be based on a careful estimate of the probable effect of the proposal, adding up the advantages to be gained and setting them beside the drawbacks involved. The report further stated that Scarboro Township officials had apparently not employed this technique, and that the submission made to the Provincial government was definitely biased.
 The report dealt largely with taxes to home-owners and education, as the committee felt that these two subjects were being discussed more widely than any other aspects of amalgamation. Two hypothetical cases, one dealing with properties in Scarboro and Toronto valued at \$3000 and the other with properties in this township and in the city valued at \$5,000, were compared as to tax costs and showed that in both cases Toronto properties had lower taxes than Scarboro.

This was worse than all the baits the farmer had put out for them. He had tried several brands of rat catcher but these Elmira rats were smart fellows and knew all the baits from friends of theirs on nearby farms. They even knew how to eat the edible portion of a bait and leave the poison undisturbed. But these cats—these horrible barn cats—slinking in the rafters or behind feed bins and up on boxes and shelves—these cats were strictly from hunger.
 And that's how Enos Martin saw the cats remained—strictly from hunger except for a dish of milk at milking time. He didn't believe in starving cats for they couldn't do their best hunting with starvation gnawing their inards. But an edge of appetite kept them on their well-nailed toes and hard at the job assigned to them. Nearly three weeks have passed since Mr. Martin advertised and now the "Pied Piper of Hamelin" would have difficulty stirring up a creditable parade on the Martin farm.
 Some rats have gone down the little red lanes of the 10 cats' stomachs. Some have been badly mauled and left for burial. Some, seeing the handwriting on the whitewashed walls, took the hint and left for happier hunting grounds. No one has appreciated their going more than Trixie, the little terrier with her two-week-old litter in a secluded corner near the horse stalls. They were bigger than her pups and she breathed easier with their going.
 The terrier was in the proverbial doghouse herself. For one thing, she knew Mr. Martin was not pleased with her. He had expected her to have a litter for full-blooded terriers. But apparently she had let herself be carried away by moonlight—or fear of rats—for the daddy of her five pups was one of Martin's big collies.

TOO MANY SWEETS NOT GOOD HABIT, PARENTS TOLD

Value of good health habits to pupils of grade 4, 5 and 6 age was stressed by Miss Anna Magnus in a talk before the Protestant Home and School Club at Penetang last Tuesday.
 Miss Magnus pointed out the distressing condition of children's teeth in the middle class families, due to the indulgence in too many sweets. Teacher of grade 4, 5 and 6, Miss Magnus placed English and Social Studies next to good health habits in order of importance.

BAREFOOT BOYHOOD

As the grass grows green and soft many sedate adults will have nostalgic for a boyhood or girlhood experience. They will wish that they might again take off their shoes and stockings and feel the soft cushion of the grass on the soles of their feet, and between their toes.
 In an earlier day children of the farms and villages went barefoot. And it wasn't just because families couldn't afford shoes, though in some instances this was true. It was rather that children just wouldn't put up with their feet enclosed in wool and leather when they could scamper about in their bare feet.
 Going barefoot had its disadvantages. One was fortunate to pass the summer without getting a toe so badly bruised the toe nail would fall off. But except for a temporary pain, that was no matter. The nail would grow on again. Also, there were thistles and the coarse stubble to hurt the feet. But by autumn the soles were so calloused it took a tough thistle to penetrate.
 One always associates barefoot boyhood with carefree days, and there was an association. True, one had to keep an eye out for stones or sticks which might bruise, but that was done almost unconsciously. And minor hurts didn't hurt much or long anyway.

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