

The Boys' and Girls' Own Page

SPORTS, STORIES, GAMES, PUZZLES, HANDICRAFT, SCIENCE, ADVENTURE, JOKES, CARTOONS

A STRANGE CHRISTMAS TRADE

THE STORY SO FAR: Warren Knowles was making a trip across country in an auto to spend Christmas with his uncle. He was held up by a sudden snowstorm and had to take refuge in a lonely house belonging to a queer old man. On entering the house, Warren's dog, Rags, became terrified and refused to go further. Warren followed the old man into another room, where the light suddenly went out.

Warren followed helplessly as the old man led him down the narrow passageway. A match flared, lighting the cobwebbed ceiling dimly. Then they entered a little parlor with worn, red plush furniture. Here a cheery basburner was doing its best to push away the big black shadows that filled the corners of the room.

Warren took off his things without being asked to do so. Then he bent over the little stove. The old man turned up the wick of the dirty kerosene lamp which had guided Warren down the snow-hidden road. There were hesitating footsteps at the door and Warren turned quickly to face a boy about his own age who stood in the doorway. The boy had a slender face covered with



tiny brown freckles that stood out strangely against his pale skin. He stared at Warren.

"My name's Warren Knowles. I got stalled in the snow and you—"

"My uncle."

"Took me in for the night. It doesn't seem to be snowing so hard now. Guess it'll be all right by morning for traveling on."

Warren turned back to the fire. They surely weren't a sociable pair, though the boy seemed shy, rather than unfriendly. "Well," remarked Warren, "it's sure going to be a white Christmas."

"Christmas—oh, yes," repeated the boy dully. Warren felt sorry for him. Christmas evidently meant nothing to him at all. "Better get up to bed," commanded the old man, picking up the lamp. He turned to the boy. "He'll go in the front room. Budge, Light the heater in there." Then he led the way. Warren noticed, with a shudder, that one of his fingers was missing and there was a long scar winding up his hairy forearm.

They went up the creaking stairs and Warren entered a low-raftered room, furnished with a battered bed and dresser. In the corner was a rusty oil heater. Budge said goodnight and went out. Warren shivered in between the sheets, rolled himself up in a ball, and went to sleep.

A sudden strange sound awakened him. He sat straight up in bed. It seemed to come from within the house—a sound between a scream and a sob. It died away on the frosty air, with a final weird, inhuman note. Then Warren heard poor Rags whimpering in terror somewhere down below. He'd forgotten all about his dog.

The cold moonlight streamed into the room. Warren hopped out of bed, opened his bag, which he had brought in with him from the car, and took out his bathrobe and slippers. Then he pulled together his courage and opened the door onto the hall.

As he did so, he ran full-tilt into the old man, who was hurrying down the hall with a candle in his hand. At sight of Warren his face twisted with rage. "Pryin', will ye?" he thundered, and gave the boy a push which sent him hurtling back into the room. Then he slammed the door. Warren climbed back onto the bed and sat there, trembling.

There was an odd noise at his window. He jumped, and turned. Budge's pale face looked in at him. He put his finger to his lips, shook his head warningly at Warren, and climbed in over the sill.

(To be concluded next week.)

A CHRISTMAS SNOPPY CLAUS



"'Twas the night before Christmas," and all through the Boys' and Girls' Page not a creature was stirring except the Jigedies and the editor of the Animals' Newspaper, who were all terribly excited because Snoppy Claus was coming.

And what did Snoppy Claus have for the good little boys and girls? A nice, new left-handed roller skate stop signal for Peter Puzzle, a hand embroidered Fun Box for Randy Riddle, and a real four-cylinder picture products map for the Young

Scientist. I hope the Snoppy Claus doesn't get wet, for it looks as if it might reinder.

A Murray Christmas to all and to all a GOOD NIGHT.

Stories of Fur and Fur Trapping

RUSSIA'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE FUR MARKETS

FURS FOR CHRISTMAS: If you're looking forward hopefully to some fine fur gloves if you're a boy, or a snug furry neckpiece, if you're a girl, don't you think it would be interesting to know something about the kind of fur you get? Where the animals come from? How they're caught? How they're prepared for market? All these things you can learn in these articles about fur in the Boys' and Girls' Sunday Page.

In the days of the Czar's rule in Russia, the choicest of all the most select sable furs were designated Russian Crown Furs and appointed to fill the needs of the Russian royal family. They ranked in value with the gems for which that monarch was famous. Sables have always been a costly fur. A coat lining made of sable skins has brought \$30,000. For one thing, trapping them is a difficult matter. The animals dwell only in the most frozen, desolate wilds and the loss of human life is frequently to be reckoned in the price paid for them. In summer the furs are a reddish brown, but winter turns them dark brown, or a deep plum color.

Squirrel Fur Is Plentiful Russia supplies the fur markets of the world with squirrel pelts. The gray and red squirrels we have in America are useless because they do not really have fur coats, but only hair ones. Winters here are not long nor severe enough to produce a heavy coat, as do the long, rigorous Russian cold seasons.

Russia and Siberia bring forth from six to twelve million squirrel skins each year. Some of the animals are caught in traps, but many are shot with blunt arrows that do not in any way injure the fur. The latter is the easiest way to catch them, for in the fall of the year the squirrels migrate in large numbers, and may be brought down, one after another, in short order.

Many Furs Exported Archangel is the center of the squirrel industry for pelts that are to be used at home, but at least half of those caught are sent to other countries, mainly to Europe and China. Those exported are of several varieties—dark gray, blue, steel gray and striped.

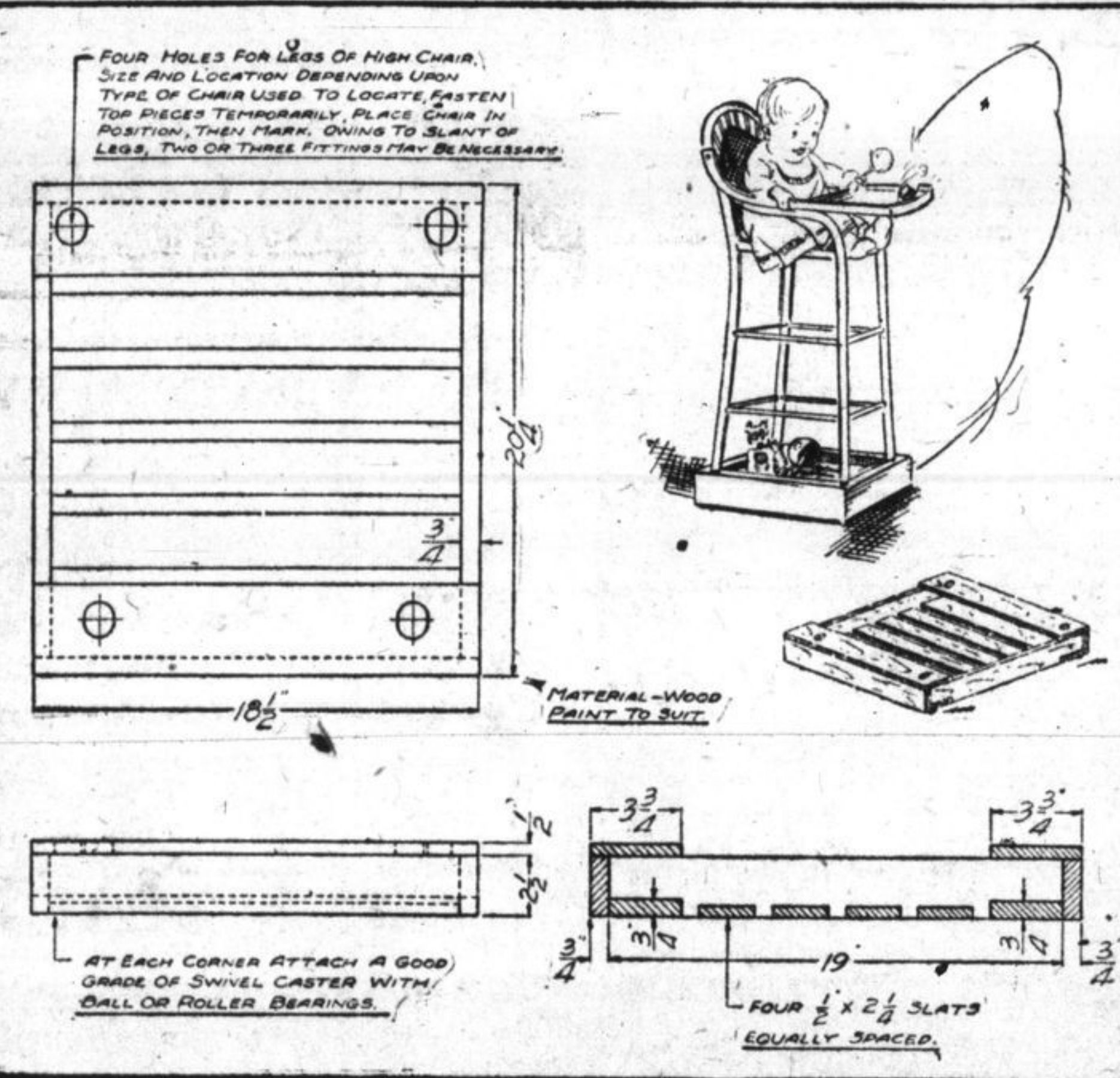
It is an interesting fact that the paint brushes used by artists, commonly known as imported sable brushes, are made of squirrel hairs that have been dyed.

Inferior squirrel pelts that are not of high enough quality to be used for a coat or trimming are frequently sewed up into coat linings. Sewing together so many small skins would be difficult, and expensive, because of the time required to complete such a task, were it not that sewing machines, specially designed for sewing up fur, are now in use.

Squirrel is a fur used to a great extent as a trimming for garments made from other animals. Seal and other dark furs made up into coats frequently have collars and cuffs not really have fur coats, but only hair ones. Winters here are not long nor severe enough to produce a heavy coat, as do the long, rigorous Russian cold seasons.



Tool-Craft All Sorts of Things for Boys and Men to Make By Frank I. Solar



The high chair stand is a contrivance serving two purposes, for at the same time that it holds baby's chair in place to prevent it from tipping over, it is also a container for his toys. The chair may be set in the room by means of the casters below. Constructing this is a simple matter. Use a good grade of wood and be careful in cutting to get all the similar pieces the same length, and to keep the ends perfectly square.

The diagram gives the dimensions and shows how to cut it. The assembling may be done with screws or finishing nails. As soon as the parts have been reduced to the proper dimensions, they may be assembled permanently, with the exception of the two top pieces. These should be fastened only temporarily, in order to locate first the holes for the legs of the chair. Remove them to cut the size hole that is required. Because of the slant of the legs, the holes need to

be cut oblong. If you experience difficulty in getting a good fit the first time, with patience you will be able to make them work out satisfactorily. When you have succeeded, fasten the top pieces permanently. The casters that you next put in place should be of high grade and noiseless as possible. Two coats of paint of a color to harmonize with the chair finishes the box.

Experience Had Taught Him. Tired Business Man: "Hello, Central. Would you please suggest what number I might ask for to get Main 2705?"

Its Death Was Fatal. Boy (to stranded motorist): "How did you get the puncture?" Autoist: "Ran over a chicken with pin feathers on it."

Knew His Numbers. "Now, Bobby, how much do six and four make?" "Eleven, sir." "Guess again." "Twelve, nine, thirteen." "How about ten?" "Oh, you can't mix me up that way! Five and five are ten!"

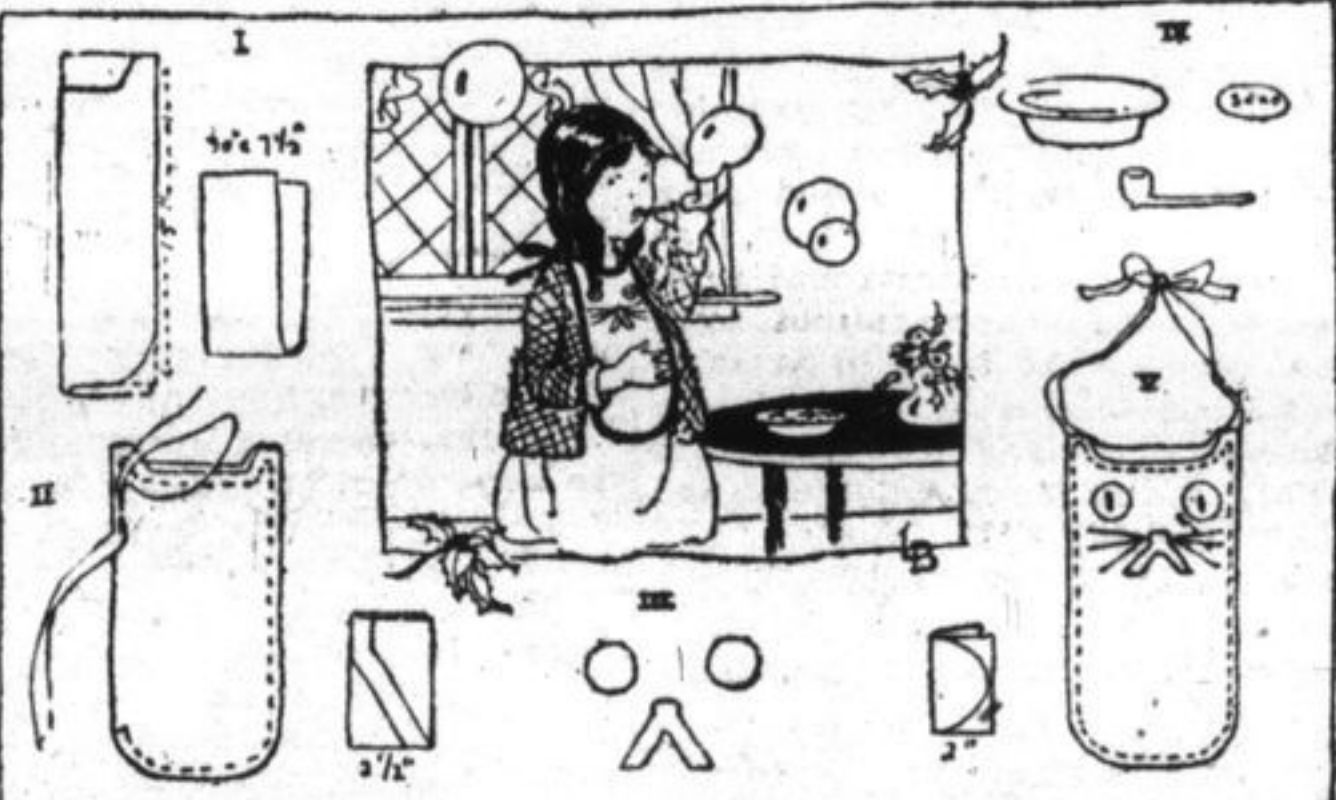
A Future Business Man. "James, my son, did you take that letter to the post office and pay the postage on it?" "Father, I saw a lot of men putting letters in a little place and when no one was looking I slipped in yours for nothing."

Another Language. Little Chicagoan (visiting in Boston): "Aw, fudge! You're bughouse!" Little Bostonian (deceply shocked): "Oh, such terrible and deplorable vulgarity! You should say 'beetle-garage.'"

Joke on Teacher. Jack: "Well, I showed up the teacher today before the whole class." Jill: "How'd ya do it?" Jack: "She asked me for Lincoln's Gettysburg address, and I had to tell her he never lived there!"

Simply Great! Polly: "What do you think of my shoes?" Percy: "I think they're immense."

HOW TO MAKE A CHRISTMAS BUBBLE POCKET APRON



A clay pipe inside will delight a child's heart. It's easy to make, too. The oilcloth you use may be either white or black. Take a strip thirty inches long and seven and one-half inches wide. Fold it in the middle crosswise and then in the center lengthwise. Round the corner on the open side—that is, the side away from the fold, as in diagram I, and cut a neck opening at the top. Fasten the two pieces together on three sides with a running stitch of colored yarn. Run stitches through each of the two top edges. Make green eyes for the cat face and a pink mouth from pieces of felt or scraps of percale or muslin.

Two colored tapes or ribbons fastened at the shoulders hold the apron around the child's neck, and are the suspension cord when it is hung away on a peg with the bubble toys inside. Be sure that the apron rubber kitten-face apron with a dish your color scheme is a harmonious is made like a big pocket, after the for suds, a cake of bubble soap and one.

HOW TO CARTOON—A LESSON IN DRAWING WOMEN

The lady of a cartoon should be one of grace and beauty. When you draw women, try to make them pretty. You can't put big noses and wide mouths on them, or make them stand in awkward, ungainly positions as you may do in a cartoon of a man. Keep your women up-to-date in the matter of fashion. When beads and earrings are the vogue, be sure your cartoon ladies are plentifully supplied with danglers. In Figure 1 you will notice that the same oval was employed that we used to draw men's faces. Figure 2 is a profile view of a pretty girl. Always draw a small nose and small lips. Two little dots will do for the nose. The eyes can be either large or small. In this connection I might say that it is best not to use too violent an action when drawing women. For instance, if you draw a man running you may go as far as you like, but in the case of a woman, angles. Remember, the ladies have shorter steps, and a reputation for being dainty. Show cartoonists use pretty girls as characters. Study them carefully.



Stop! Look! Laugh! All week long you've been guessing what Santa is going to put in your Christmas stocking, and what fun would be in the Boys' and Girls' Sunday page today. Glance around at the numerous good features. There's one of Peg Murray's side splitters—a Snoppy Claus on the gallop to spread Snoppy cheer. Then there's the second installment of that fine Christmas story that started off last week with a trip, a snowstorm and a mystery. Tool-craft and the Bubble Apron are two excellent suggestions for gifts to make. Moreover, here's the first edition of The Animal Times. News for all, the boy, the girl, the baby, even the dog!

PUBLISHED OCCASIONALLY THE ANIMAL TIMES BY EPHRIAM OWL

ADVERTISING, **MONKEY SHINES ARE BEST** *SUDDEN SERVICE*

AT THE POLICE COURT **MIKE, THE MOUSE IS CAUGHT IN CLEVER TRAP** A THIEF WHO HAS BAFFLED THE POLICE FOR MONTHS WAS TRAPPED LAST NIGHT BY DETECTIVE PUSSYFOOT. MIKE IS ACCUSED OF STEALING CHEESE STRAINS

EXTRA! POLITICAL NEWS EXTRA! **TURKEY HAS DECLARED WAR** SPECIAL DISPATCH SAYS TURKEY REFUSES TO FORM ALLIANCE WITH GOD. COOKS LEAGUE

THEATRE NEWS **THE CAMELS ARE COMING** A BURLESQUE HIPPODRROME