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CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND.

KENT NEWS $1.50 A YEAR IN ADVANCE

MUSKRATS TO STOCK WATERS

Stocking the waters of the entire world with muskrats has created an industry that has caused the trappers of tidewater counties to cast about for some means to take the animals alive. This has been accomplished and those who are taking the "rats" alive have a market that reaches every country on the globe at a price ranging from six to ten times that of dead animals.

The trapping season in Maryland closed March 1st, and it will be illegal to have a muskrat thereafter. According to E. Lee LeCompte, State game warden, it has been a profitable season, 750,000 to 1,$00,000 hides having been taken at prices ranging from $1.00 to $2.50 apiece. In 75 days, the industry has brought to residents of the State nearly $2,500,000. Dorchester county leads Maryland in the number of muskrats trapped, with Wicomico and Somerset next. Mr. LeCompte says Dorchester leads the United States and it is in this county that artificial propagation of "rats" has been made possible and is now being employed in order to supply the worldwide demand for Maryland muskrats.

W. A. Gibbs, Church Creek, has evolved a scheme for taking muskrats alive. He also has apparently solved the problem of increasing the supply. He has established a muskrat farm and his orders for the season just closing amounted to 1,000 pairs of muskrats.

The animals being shipped by Mr Gibbs at present are not from his ranch, but from the wild marshes. Maryland muskrats run 65 per cent. black fur and are being marketed at $20 to $25 a pair, while the brown ones sell for $15 to $20.

It is from the black rats that Hudson seal is made, Mr. LeCompte said. Wherever rats go the efforts are being made to interbreed the black and brown animals to porduce the black strain. In his propagation idea, Mr. Gibbs pairs the rats and gives them a home of sheet metal, with a fence of poultry wire surrounding the yards. Their food consists of apples chiefly, tops and roots of carrots, beets, etc. They also are fond of leaves of kale and cabbage, all parts of corn and chicken scratch food. Plenty of fresh water is supplied for drinking and bathing. The daily diet for a pair is four ounces of vegetables and one and a half ounces of grain.

During the year these animals have bred from three to five times, with a litter of up to seven little ones. It required but six months for the young ones to grow to marketable size.

Mr. Gibbs has found many enemies of the baby rats, which includes dogs, cats, owls and eagles, and hawks find as dainty a morsel as do humans in the older "marsh rabbits."

After the hide is removed from the animal the meat is shipped to Baltimore, New York, Philadelphia or Wilmington, Del., where it readily finds a market at 25 cents apiece.

Another angle of the muskrat industry is the improved marketing of the animals taken dead. Many of the trappers of Dorchester county are no longer selling to the dealers, but are having the hides tanned and sell now directly to the garment maker.

The margin of profit in the new order is not obtainable, but it is said to be much more than that obtained at the present price of untanned hides, which, according to Mr. LeCompte, is from $1.50 for brown fur and $2.50 for black.

The State Game Warden recommends the destruction by fire of all muskrat homes during July to get rid of the vermin, but does not believe in letting the fire run wild over the marshes to destroy the tender plants on which the animals feed.

CAMP DATES SET AT JULY 29 TO AUGUST 12

The Federal inspection of teh Medical Detachment of First Infantry Maryland National Guard will be held at the Armory here on the afternoon and evening of March 29. The Federal Inspector will be Captain Meyers. He will be accompanied by Colonel John D. Markey.

Major F. B. Hines, the commanding officer of the detachment said today that there were 35 men in the unit. This is five over the quota. He also stated that the Medical Detachment would take a few more men if they are to enlist.

Through an error from the Maryland National Guard headquarters the dates set for the encampment of the Frst Infantry were given wrongly The First Infantry will train at Camp Ritchie from July to August 12.

The men in the local unit are looking forward with pleasure to the annual outing at Cascade, Md.

Lieut. R. G. Beachley and First Seargeant Herman Blackway are next in command here after Major Hines

Smallest Photograph

So small that it cannot be seen with the naked eye save as a tiny speck in the middle of a piece of glass, a photograph was recently on show in London. One hundred of these would occupy about the space of a pin's head.

Marion Davies At Lyceum

The same effervescing spirit of youth for which Marion Davies is famed among her friends off the screen, makes her newest film vehicle, "The Patsy," one long uproarious laugh from the instant when she first sticks her head in the door at the home of the Harrington family until the final second when she "gags" her loving "fadeout" clinch with her handsome leading man, Orville Caldwell.

"The Patsy" is breaking all comedy records wherever shown, and there seems to be no good reason why it shouldn't do as well at the Lyceum Theatre on Tuesday, March 27; for in the role of the hoydenish younger sister, the Davies is, to put it in the parlance of an emphatic generation, " a wow!"

Miss Davies is said to have selected the vehicle which King Vidor directed, but the executives of the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer organization surely coud not have taken long to realize how amusing Miss Davies could be as the heroine who trains herself from a book to improve her personality—and incidentally cop her sister's beaux for herself.

Scots in Ireland

The term Scotch-Irish first came into use with the planting of the province of Ulster in Ireland with Scotch Irish settlers in 1609, six years after the accession of James VI of Scotland as James I of England. The actual settlers were mostly Scotch and the Ulster plantation took on the character of a Scotch occupation of the north of Ireland.

Size of Tree Hole

Size and shape of the excavation for the individual trees should be sufficient to receive the roots of the tree extended in their natural positions, says the American Tree association The depth of the hole should be more than enough to receive the roots in the same manner.

Pain Lies in Truth

In many cases it is worse on the aggrieved party when the truth is told by scandal mongers than it would have been if a lie had been told. We have found that to be eminently true. —Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Raising the Deuce

Helen Wills, in a facetious moment, set out to prove that tennis and matrimony are much alike. "You see," explained the California tennis star, "they have many things in common—the net, the love score, and the racket."—Los Angeles Times.

SUNDAY CONCERT AT COLLEGE

Plans are being made for a concert to be held in the auditorium of Wm. Smith Hall, April 1st. This concert is to be given by the Glee Club of twenty members and the college orchestra of twelve members. The program will consist of glee Club selections, orchestra selections, as well as vocal and instrumental solos and duets.

There will be no admission charged the concert being open to faculty, student body, and to the people from the community. Providing this program meets with a favorable reception, it is the hope of the committee to provide several similar Sunday afternoon programs during the spring months.

SCHOOL BUILDING PROPOSALS

Sealed Proposals will be received until 10.00 A. M., on Tuesday, March 27, 1928, for:

1. The construction of an addition to the school building at Galena, Kent County, Maryland.
2. The installation of a heating system in the same.
3. The installation of plumbing, and
4. Wiring the building, for the Board of Education of Kent County, Maryland.

In accordance with drawings and specifications prepared by Alfred C. Leach, Architect, Baltimore, Maryland.

Drawings and specifications may be seen at the office of the Board of Education (3nd floor of Chestertown Elementary School) Corner of High and Mill Streets, Chestertown, and a copy thereof may be obtained upon a deposit of ten dollars ($10.00) which will be refunded upon the return of said drawings and specifications.

The successful bidders will be required to furnish sufficient bond with approved security for the construction and completion of the work on which the bid is made. All proposals or bids shall be addressed to the "Board of Education of Kent County, Chestertown, Maryland," and the envelope marked "School Bid."

The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any or all proposals or bids.

By Order of Board of Education
of Kent County, Maryland.
LOUIS C. ROBINSON, Secretary.

The 5 Great Hazards



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"It has been in this house fifty years. You can't find another piece like it. This, ladies and gentlemen, is genuine! What am I offered for it? These old treasures are going for a song. Give me a bid."

—As the auctioneer rattles on, the neighbors think of the old days of entertainment and open hospitality in that house. They wonder how long the proud and lonely mistress has been fighting off the inevitable.

WHILE presenting our Annual Statement showing Assets of $2,388,647,636—2 Billion, 388 Million Dollars—representing savings and investments of 25 million people in the United States and Canada, the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company desires to make clear what a life insurance company can do, what it should do and what, so far, it has been unable to do toward meeting what have been called the five great hazards of life:

Death
which may come early, before one's dependents have been provided for.

Accident
always sudden and often causing lessened earning power.

Sickness
which may cause want as well as suffering.

Dependent Old Age
which must seek charity if self-support is no longer possible.

Unemployment
which may bring distress to others in addition to the one unemployed.

* * *

Annuities for old age, protection in case of death, accident or sickness — almost every financial requirement can now be met by insurance. Only one problem is still unsolved—unemployment insurance—and that only because legislation permitting it has so far been refused. The day must come when every family can and will plan to meet every one of the five great hazards so that none of its members will ever face the need of charity.

* * *

The United States and Canada pay higher wages than other countries. Nearly all their workers earn enough to provide for both present and future needs. If they will but plan ahead they may have in their years of retirement, not merely bare existence, but real comfort.

* * *

Thousands of those interested in life insurance have asked how the family income should be expended. Send for our Home Budget Booklet which tells how much should be spent for necessities—food, housing, clothing, fuel—and how much should be laid aside for protection. It will be mailed free.

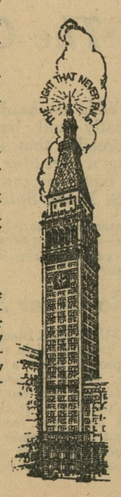
Fiscal Report to Policyholders for Year Ending December 31, 1927

Assets		$2,388,647,636.32
Liabilities:		
Statutory Reserve	$2,086,410,639.00	
Dividends to Policyholders payable 1928	$68,286,637.58	
All other liabilities	$92,583,792.86	
Unassigned Funds	$141,366,566.88	
	$2,388,647,636.32	
Increase in Assets during 1927		$280,643,251.02
Income in 1927		$651,068,588.43
Gain in income, 1927		$55,472,082.55
Paid-for Life Insurance Issued Increased and Revived in 1927		$2,834,975,738.00
Total Bonuses and Dividends to Policyholders from 1892 to and including 1928		$371,918,295.48

Life Insurance Outstanding

Ordinary Insurance	$7,157,922,228.00
Industrial Insurance (premiums payable weekly or monthly)	$5,877,465,375.00
Group Insurance	$1,768,398,187.00
Total Insurance Outstanding	$14,803,785,790.00
Number of Policies in Force (*Including 1,154,888 Group Certificates*)	40,166,107

Amount expended during the years 1909-1927 inclusive for Welfare work in all Departments and Divisions . . . $74,314,293



HALEY FISKE, *President* FREDERICK H. ECKER, *Vice-President*

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Mixed.

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