

# New Things Strange & Curious

## REMARKABLE CALIFORNIA FISH JAM.

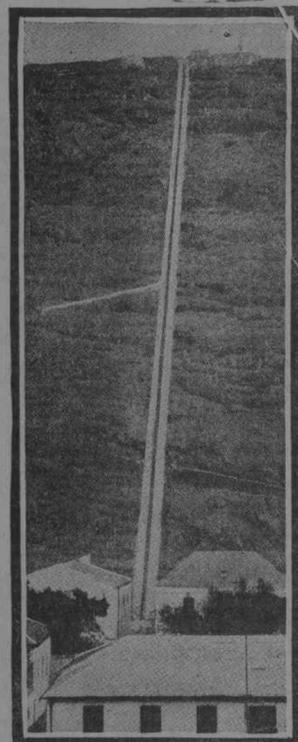


THIS photograph shows one of the most remarkable "fish jams" ever known in California. The scene is Kelsey Creek, Lake County. It empties into Clear Lake, and every season vast numbers of trout leave the lake and ascend the creek to find suitable spawning grounds. Sometimes the waters of the stream are swarming with fish.

waters of the creek are suddenly swollen to a great height. Very recently there was a heavy rainstorm and freshet and a very sudden subsidence. At one point vast numbers of trout had collected. When the floods subsided they were "stranded." There were literally wagon loads of trout to "scoop up." Thousands of the fish were carried away. The photograph was taken by O. E. McLaughlin, of Lakesport, Cal.

## LONGEST STAIRWAY.

AMONG long staircases the world over none, it is safe to say, is so long or difficult of ascent as "Jacob's Ladder." This remarkable flight contains more than seven hundred steps, all rising with the same lift in the same direction. The steps rise at an angle of exactly forty-five degrees.



steep hill at St. Helena. The steps are, naturally, the most direct route to the summit of the hill and despite their great length are traversed daily by hundreds of wayfarers. There are said to be many persons who from long practice are able to ascend the steep stairway at a rapid pace without once stopping for breath.

## BRIEFS.

Jupiter has forty-five hundred eclipses of its various moons in one of its years.

The St. Lawrence River is closed by ice four months in every year.

Paris has the biggest debt of any city in the world. It amounts to \$400,000,000.

Two thousand five hundred dollars' worth of feathers have been taken from a single ostrich during its lifetime.

Fifty-two thousand one hundred and fifty-seven varieties of fungi are now catalogued. Of these 4,900 have been added in the last three years.

At Hammerfest, in Norway, there are twenty-eight days of midwinter on which the sun does not rise above the horizon.

Coral reefs grow very slowly—Helprin, the German scientist, says at the rate of one foot in one hundred thousand years.

It costs on an average \$20,000 to dock, scrape and paint one of our big ironclads. Yet this has to be done often twice a year.

MR. C. A. CROMWELL, of Port Stanley, Ont., has in his possession a Bible which is 312 years old, a fact which in itself is enough to make the book remarkable. The history of the volume is still more remarkable. The Bible was owned by Oliver Cromwell, the Protector, and is in all likelihood the one read by him to his soldiers during the English civil wars of the seventeenth century. The present owner is a descendant of the great Oliver. For generations the old Bible has been treasured in the family as an heirloom. There is a tradition in the Cromwell family that the Bible was owned by Oliver's father before it passed into the hands of the Protector.

## TOWING A SPACIOUS TEN ROOM HOUSE.



Instances in which it has been cheaper to transport a house for miles rather than build one are surprisingly common. A spacious ten room house has been transported for miles recently and set up ready for habitation without mishap. In the instance illustrated herewith the house was transferred to a huge barge and

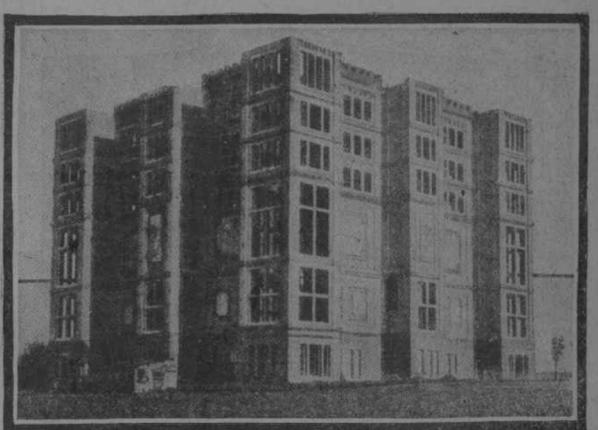
towed to its ultimate resting place. So successful was the work that the occupants continued to live on undisturbed, enjoying all the comforts of home throughout the entire voyage. It is safe to say that this has been the largest and most completely equipped houseboat ever seen in American waters.

## THE ODD SAVINGS BANK.

OFFICIALS at the Rue St. Ambroise police station, in Paris, recently discovered a curious hiding place for savings. An old woman who walked with the aid of two stout sticks was brought in charged with being drunk and annoying passersby on the street. The woman was somewhat abusive to the

inspector in charge, who consequently took one of the sticks from her. The woman was so distressed by the loss of the stick that the officer was about to return it to her when he noticed that it was hollow and had a cap. When the cap was unscrewed \$600 in gold fell out, and the owner acknowledged that the other stick was also "loaded."

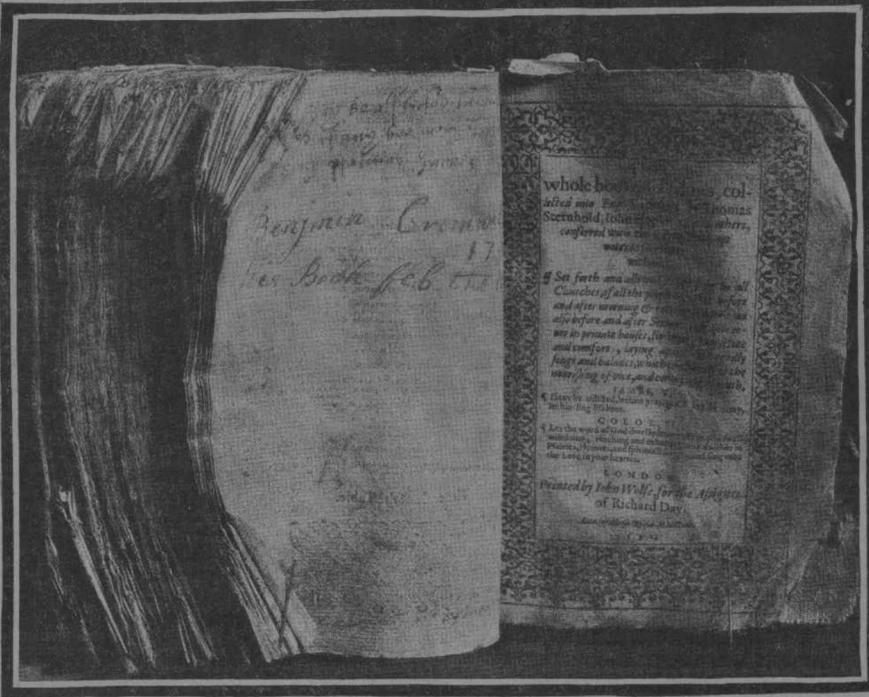
## INTENDED TO HOUSE 40,000 PERSONS.



AN enormous building was commenced in England some years ago for the purpose of housing forty thousand Hebrews. It was called Jezreel's Tower. The work was enthusiastically carried on until the walls had risen to the height of several stories. How many floors would have been required to accommodate all remains an interesting problem for mathematicians.

Both the capital and enthusiasm necessary for the project eventually parted, and the great shell was left roofless and windowless. The storms have demolished large sections of the walls and the great structure is rapidly falling into decay. It is said that in England and Wales no fewer than sixty thousand persons die every year from consumption.

## OLIVER CROMWELL'S BIBLE NOW IN CANADA



(This Week's Prize Winner.)

The old Bible was printed in 1581, and presents all the characteristics of the sixteenth century book. It is a fimo volume, bound in leather and is nearly three inches thick. Evidently the bookbinders of that day made their books with very weak backs, for that portion of the old Bible is so doubled and bent that the back edges of the cover touch each other, thus throwing the front of the pages in the middle of the volume, half an inch out beyond the cover's edge. The lining of the cover is coarse canvas. Oliver's thumbs and the thumbs of Cromwell's followers have left eloquent marks on the old volume. Notwithstanding the great age of the Bible,

it has nearly as many supposed modern improvements as the latest Oxford. The edges of the pages are bordered with columns of reference notes in the style current to-day. These marginal notes are not so numerous, however, as in a modern Bible. Between the Old and New Testaments are the Apocrypha and at the close of the New Testament is a subject index. Perhaps the most curious part of the volume is the metrical arrangement of the Psalms with which it closes. The preface to this part of the work states that the Psalms were collected into English metre by Thomas Sterns, John Hopkins and others; also with the Hebrew, with suitable notes to sing them. The notes are diamond

shaped and are arranged on a staff of five lines having a cleft not unlike the modern tenor. Each note is open, and the stem when used proceeds from the apex of one diamond. The Bible was brought to the United States in 1760 by Benjamin Cromwell, great-uncle of its present owner. During the war of 1800-65 he was in Charleston, S. C., where it was kept buried for four years in the ground by Mr. Cromwell's father for fear the bluecoats would get it. The metrical arrangement of the Psalms contains a title page which states that the volume was printed "Cum privilegio regis Maiestatis."

## SPIDER'S SMILE.

ONE gains an entirely new idea of the character and disposition of the spider from the accompanying portrait. The resemblance is absolutely faithful, since it is from an actual photograph.

The spider is commonly considered a loathsome little creature. The portrait shows one in the act of smiling. The impression it commonly makes is entirely changed. The smile appears to be open, not to say affable. It will, of course, be understood that this expression cannot be detected or appreciated with the naked eyes on a casual meeting.

The portrait was obtained with a microscope. A great many interesting poses or sittings were obtained in this way, but none is on record which present this engaging smile.



## HERE IS A PRIZE FISH STORY.

SO many claims to having caught large fish have been made that the story of the biggest fish caught may be difficult to accept. This monster, a pike, was caught with a hook by an English angler. It is said that it weighed more than seven hundred pounds. That's a tall story, isn't it?

Beside this all other stories of gigantic tarpon or titanic leaping tuna off the coast of Southern California pale to a puny, sickly hue. Twelve hours have been spent in landing a tuna, and the bold fishermen have been almost prostrated with exhaustion. Former President Cleveland and Senator Quay, who have accomplished prodigies with hook and line, may read this story with something like a jealous pang, but they have been merely

creatures of circumstance. Had a seven hundred pound pike come their way Mr. Fish would have had little chance of escaping, even though he towed the boat at racing speed for hours. It must appear to the imagination of even a layman when the mere fact of flight is mentioned in connection with a seven hundred pound game fish. The accompanying photograph shows the fish and its proud owner side by side. Of course, that the great seven hundred pound fish was not literally dragged from the water at the end of a slender fish line. After he had been securely hooked several bathooks and some lengths of a strong rope were required for this purpose.

Five dollars will be paid each week to the contributor sending in for this page the most interesting new procedure with 300 word description.



## COLORED RAIN.

THE curious phenomena of colored rain, which occurs in various parts of the world, has at last been explained. In some cases the coloring matter is found to be nothing but the pollen dust shaken out of flowers on certain trees at such times as a strong wind was blowing over them. Fir trees and cypress trees when grouped together in large forests at certain seasons of the year give off enormous quantities of pollen, and this vegetable dust is often carried many miles through the atmosphere by the wind, and frequently falls to the earth in a shower of rain. The microscope clearly reveals the origin of such colored rain, which has on more than one occasion puzzled and mystified the inexperienced.

## SALMON MICROBE.

SINCE the researches of the late Professor Huxley the well known salmon disease has always been regarded as caused by the attack of a fungus. Mr. Hume Patterson has recently conducted a research for the Fishery Board of Scotland and has come to the conclusion that the disease is due to invasion of the tissues of the fish by a special bacillus, which gains access through some abrasion or ulceration of the skin. When the skin of the fish is in a healthy state the disease is evidently not contracted. The bacilli remain alive in the dead fish, which therefore prove a source of infection. They should be removed and burned as soon as they are observed.

## SEAWEED HAT.

A HAT has recently been fished up out of the sea on the English coast which nature has been trimming for some years after design all her own. In form this piece of sea millinery resembles a complicated diving helmet.

The color scheme of the decoration is very successful, combining a bewildering variety of colors with considerable harmony of effect. The hat spent a long time at the bottom of the sea. It was brought up by a fishing line, thirty miles off Lerwick, Shetland. It rested for years at a depth of sixty fathoms. The seaweed trimmings, which have the effect of fine lace, hang in great folds like a shawl about the wearer's shoulders.

In Holland, Belgium, Italy and Switzerland a passenger can carry no luggage free.

To seize a man's residence for debt is unlawful in Turkey, and sufficient land to support him is also exempt from seizure.

## MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS.

### FAT FOLKS

267 POUNDS. 180 POUNDS. Mrs. E. Williams, 348 Elliott square, Buffalo, N. Y. Lost in Weight.....87 lbs. Lost in Bust.....8 inches Lost in Waist.....10 inches Lost in Hips.....29 inches This picture gives you an idea of my appearance before and after my reduction. My health is perfect. I never enjoyed better health in my life; not a wrinkle to be seen. Why carry your burden longer when relief is at hand? DR. SNYDER guarantees his treatment to be perfectly harmless in every particular. No starving, no detaining from business, no wrinkles or discomfort. A 40-page booklet telling all about it free. Call or write to-day.

H. W. F. SNYDER, M. D., Masonic Temple, Chicago, Ill., or 156 5th Av., New York.

## THE KING'S DOUBLE.

PRESIDENT MCKINLEY had a remarkable double. So has President Roosevelt. If you are familiar with portraits of Edward VII, you will readily see how like him is the gentleman whose pic-



ture is here given. He is an Englishman, too, and a fighting man—Colonel Cosmo Gordon—In command of the Royal marines at Plymouth.



## MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS.

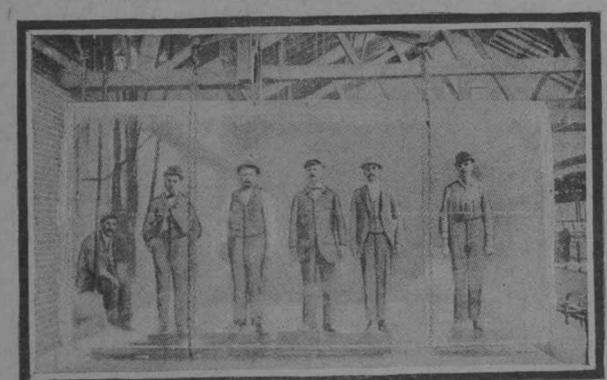
### SIGN THE PLEDGE

If You Will, But That Don't Cure Drunkenness!

Drunkenness is a disease and is so recognized by the medical profession. The diseased condition of the organs of the body and the abnormal state of the nerves of the stomach demand more than willpower to effect a cure. "ORRINE" will positively destroy all craving and desire for liquor. This remedy is prepared on well-known medical principles and is INDORSERD BY THE W. C. T. U., N. Y. C. A., clergymen, physicians, public men and temperance societies. "ORRINE" is tasteless, odorless and colorless and entirely without bad effect, and can be given WITHOUT THE PATIENT'S KNOWLEDGE, in water, milk, tea or coffee. In fact, it tones up the diseased stomach, and gives a hearty appetite and good digestion. Steady nerves and normal conditions soon follow its use, and THE CRAVING FOR LIQUOR NEVER RETURNS. We guarantee the above and write it.

REFUND THE MONEY IF "ORRINE" fails to destroy all desire for liquor. Sealed booklet mailed free on request. Thomas S. Hopkins, Past Commander of the G. A. R., Washington, D. C., writes: "Personal investigation has proven to me that "ORRINE" cures the liquor habit. I think all the temperance organizations in the country should take it up and distribute it." \$1 per box, or 6 boxes for \$5, by mail, postpaid, securely sealed. Address ORRINE CO., Pupe Building, Washington, D. C., or 111 1/2 St., New York. HEGEMAN'S, 200 and 205 Broadway, 125th St., cor. 7th av., 155th St., cor. Amsterdam av.; Riker's, 6th av., cor. 23d St.; Kallish, 4th av., cor. 23d St.; Rockey's, 8th av., cor. 34th St., 9th av., cor. 42d St.; Jungmann, 1020 3d av., 42d Columbus av.; Holmes, Jct. Broadway, Columbus av. and 45th St., New York; Bolton Drug Co., Brooklyn; Hartnett's, Jersey City.

## LARGEST PIECE OF MANUFACTURED ICE.



SCIENCE has improved considerably upon nature in making ice. The machinery for manufacturing ice has been so perfected of late that huge cakes of ice may be frozen literally as clear as crystal. Blocks of ice with a surface of one hundred square feet have been frozen practically without a flaw. The best machinery for ice making has

been invented in the United States and its form is largely imitated the world over. A novel scheme for illustrating the perfect quality of the ice made by the new processes is to photograph various objects through these huge cakes. The accompanying illustration is reproduced from a photograph taken through the largest piece of artificial ice ever frozen.