

been a great coup of finance; merely a right guess at the demand for breadstuffs. I am told that the deal has been wonderfully fair, and without any desire to mean tricks. I certainly have no desire to put any firm into the corner. All I want is the wheat."

"How much do you expect to get?" and Mr. Leiter looked up his eye. "I couldn't tell you if I would, and I wouldn't if I could," he said, as he again put his ear to the telephone and told his broker that he was really glad that three more ships had come into the river, bringing six hundred thousand more bushels, which Mr. Armour would transfer to him at once for the price which ranged last summer for December delivery. "It is near enough to know that all the grain-fleet of the lakes has been handling our lot during the last month, and there are still several million bushels to come from some place. The moment it gets here I start it east, either to Buffalo, Boston or Liverpool. It is no corner in wheat—although the effect may be the same. It all amounts to a simple proposition. I found a market for all the wheat I could handle, and at a time when men who had the wheat elevators in Chicago and the West were trying to sell it at a song. There has been no bad feeling. Mr. Armour is as good a friend of mine as he has always been of our family. I called upon him yesterday. Mr. Armour congratulated me that a young man should be so far sighted and so accurate in his judgment. He then spent an hour telling us some of his best new stories. I hope he will have the wheat in as good quantity and quality as he has the stories."

Mr. Leiter is disinclined to think he has done anything very wonderful. His deal has been carried on so modestly and quietly that its enormous proportions have only recently been disclosed. It is known on the board that he will handle at least ten million bushels this month, in case he can get all he has bought. He may be plunging in January and May. The pit expects it. He is no longer the greenhorn, nor the big, athletic, fashionable, Delta Kappa Epsilon school boy. He is the giant in Chicago finance. He is one of the richest men in the world for his years. He keeps a fine house, the best of horses and dogs, a valet, and a rare private library of rare books. He is a bachelor, a member of the gay set, lives like a lord, and the opinion of society has no more impression upon him than an idle wind. He does as he pleases.

H. R. LOWRIE.

SEA LIONS AS RAT CATCHERS.

The wonderful alertness and activity of sea lions in the water, which enables them to get fish for their food in Arctic seas, are qualities that are manifested in a still more striking way by the captive specimens at the Zoo, says the 'Philadelphia Record.' These three sprightly individuals in the big outdoor tank have developed into rat-catchers that never miss their prey. Rats are pests that naturally thrive about the animal houses, and at nights, when the Zoo is deserted by visitors, the rodents run in all directions. They are fond of water, and they find their way in considerable numbers to the sea-lion tank to slabble at the water's edge. They may go to the lake and seal pond with impunity, but when they venture to the home of the sea lions that visit is their last. Swiftly and noiselessly the sea lion dives and reappears at the surface precisely at the spot where the rat is peering into the tank. One snap and it is all over. The rat goes down the hungry throat at a single gulp. So many rats do that sea lions catch in this fashion that they are sometimes indisposed to take their early morning meal of fish thrown to them by their keepers.

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BRITISH WIFE BEATERS.

PUNISHMENT INADEQUATE.

A most interesting feature in connection with the sentencing of Actor Ratcliffe to six months' imprisonment for assaulting his wife is brought out by the fact that if he had committed the same offence in England he would simply have to pay a fine of a few dollars, and nothing further would have been heard of the matter. For it seems that in England such things are not treated nearly so severely as they are here. When a man marries a woman she becomes in a large measure his own personal property, and he may do with her as he pleases. In fact, the old saying, .

A woman, a dog, and a walnut tree,
the more you beat 'em the better they be,
seems to hold good there.

Mr. Henry Romeike, the proprietor of the big newspaper clipping bureau that bears his name, was some time ago struck with the great laxity of the English law in this respect, and set about keeping a record of these offences and the punishments meted out to woman beaters in the city of London alone.

A man in London may, it seems, knock down his mother for the trifling sum of two dollars and a half. A mother-in-law, however, may not be interfered with so cheaply, for a man who was ill-advised enough to try it was fined five dollars. The average cost for chastening an unruly sister-in-law seems to be about three dollars. But a man's own wife may be taught to behave more to the liking of her lord and master for the modest sum of one dollar and a quarter, and if "without intent to hurt," a poker or stove lid may be thrown at her for seventy-five cents.

But, according to the law, a man must be careful how he treats another man's wife, to do violence to whom costs a little more. For instance, a man who had the temerity to strike another's spouse was fined almost \$4, whereas he could have given his own wife the same handling for one-third the amount. He must have been reckless on that day.

A prisoner became very angry in court when he was asked to pay \$3 for showing his wife how to make a fire by beating her over the head with a poker. He thought the price too high, and told the Magistrate it was exorbitant.

On the other hand, nothing could be more economical than the enjoyments of a certain individual who knocked his wife down with a piece of wood five times for \$2, and average of only forty cents for each knock down. Immediately following this is an account of a man thrashing his wife in the fire three times for the same amount. At this rate he does not seem to have gotten full value for his money. There then comes a long string of other offences, to each of which Mr. Romeike has placed in the margin the average fine imposed by the London magistrate for such cruelties.

Here are some of them:—

For throwing firebricks at the head of his wife.....	s. d.
For beating his wife.....	2 6
For head with a piece of wood two months after marriage.....	5 0
For beating his wife several times, kicking her repeatedly, tearing her hair out, trying to strangle her and knocking her down.....	10 0
For throwing his wife in the fire and badly burning her.....	10 0
For trying to cut his wife's throat, blacking her eye, striking her in the breast, throwing a cup of hot tea in her face, after having boxed her ears.....	20 0
For blacking both his wife's eyes and cutting her head open with an axe.....	40 0
For thoroughly thrashing his wife, so that she lay in a disabled condition for weeks.....	60 0

These are only a few specimen items taken at random from the statistics, and from this range of fines Mr. Romeike has made a computation of how much suffering a man can inflict upon his wife in England to warrant in the eyes of the British magistrates a sentence of six months' imprisonment. Here is the startling result: He can knock her down, cut her with a knife, throw a lamp at her, break one of her arms, kick her while on the ground, tear her clothes off, burn her and then wind up with a first-class thrashing.