

## MANY FREAK LAWS REMAIN ON STATUTE BOOKS OF U.S. BALTIMORE MAN HAS COLLECTION

That "the law is a ass" was the irreverent but much quoted opinion of one Mr. Bumble in "Oliver Twist." And it is well known that for centuries the patron saint of all lawyers has been Satan. With the aid of Baltimore barristers it may be proved that the law as well as lawyers at times is asinine and that there may have been occasional individual lawyers who well deserved their patron saint, says a writer in the Baltimore Sun.

Recent publication of extracts from on the statute books—although no on the statute books—although no longer enforced—which imposes a penalty on women who beguile men into marriage by means of rouge, powder, perfume and similar aids to feminine beauty has recalled to Baltimore lawyers the fact that like legislation has been attempted at various times in the United States.

### Judge Files Freaks.

And in the "Freak Legislation" file which Judge Eugene O'Dunne, of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore, has kept for most of his career, appears mention of many other choice bits of legislation tending to prove that Mr. Bumble was right and that, he might well have extended his opinion to include lawmakers as well.

Although Oklahoma and Texas seem to have carried off the palm—trunk and all—in the production of freak legislation, every other State has had its share (Maryland included) and the House of Representatives in Washington has not always been free from it. There are those, in fact, who say "not often" rather than "not always."

Some of the freak bills which have been preserved in Judge O'Dunne's file follow:

An Act requiring hotels to furnish bed sheets at least nine feet long.

An act requiring husbands to cook breakfasts on Sundays, so that their wives may go to church.

An act requiring railroad companies to remove the last car from any train to prevent rear-end collision.

An act making six visits by a young man to the home of a young woman the equivalent of a proposal of marriage.

An act forbidding passengers on trolley cars to cross their legs on muddy days.

An act prohibiting the use of cracked crockery on hotel tables.

An act making it unlawful to use a roller towel for more than two days.

### Maryland Not Clear.

None of these acts happened to originate in the Maryland Legislature, but in that eminent body there was introduced a bill aiming to have the practice of treating abolished in hope that the demon rum thereby would suffer greatly. This bill, which was laughed out of existence, was presented a short time after a Western statesman—also a Prohibitionist—had asked his Legislature to pass a statute requiring every saloon to exhibit before its doors a red light and a sign marked "danger."

A president of the board of aldermen in Frederick once came close to having his city pass an ordinance taxing all bachelors over 21. In supporting the measure he said it would encourage young men in matrimony. Opponents wise-cracked to the effect that the gentleman wanted company in his misery, and that the proposed ordinance would be in effect a pleasure tax—on single blessedness.

And there was once an Eastern

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Shore member of the Maryland Legislature who argued long and fluently in behalf of a bill of his conception which would have empowered land owners to shoot any dog found on their premises "with felonious intent." Just how a person was going to determine whether or not a dog had "felonious intent" is hard to say, because by the time such intentions have been put into action the landowner would be justified in shooting the dog anyway.

### Laundry Victims Peeved.

Gentlemen of the fine old school of statesmanship have arisen in the Capitol at Washington to purpose that laws be passed curbing the ferocity of laundrymen who return collars with saw-tooth edges and hard-boiled shirts with washboard finishes.

And in this same august auditorium of erudition as applied to legislation men have deplored the numerous international marriages that have caused the daughters of American millionaires to take their dollars abroad and have suggested that heavy taxes be put on such doings. Every suggestion, of course, was put in the proper written form.

There, too, it was that a man arose in his full frock coat and fuller dignity to indulge his oratorical fancy in hope of securing an appropriation to build a magnificent highway, a mile wide and reaching from the Atlantic to the Pacific oceans. Great cities were to be constructed at either end, with small towns the size of Baltimore scattered copiously along the route.

The highway was to have a trolley line, a pathway for pedestrians and roads for almost every conceivable variety of vehicle except submarines, so that nothing could get in the way of the speed maniac or mar the pleasure of those who wished to travel in leisurely fashion.

### Would Change Calendar.

And it was also in the lower house of Congress that bill was introduced which would have provided—had it not died very young—that Good Friday, on the occasions it should fall on Sunday, should be observed the following Monday.

It was Oklahoma again which saw (in prospect only) a legal measure making it a "reversible error" for a court of law to receive as authority any book sold in the State for more than 35 cents a hundred pages, if it was a textbook or encyclopedia, or for more than 15 cents a hundred pages if it was a volume of statutes or law reports.

The bill further would have provided, for the benefit of statesmen whose ambitions were longer than their purses, that it should be a misdemeanor to sell such books at more than the prescribed price, or for a judge to give a recommendation by letter or word of mouth to any book so sold.

And Illinois actually had a law—perhaps now repealed—providing a fine of \$500 for any woman convicted of opening and reading her husband's mail. In other States bills have been introduced making it illegal for women to go through their husband's pockets, but none was ever passed.

In one session of the Kansas Legislature a bill regulating the length of macaroni was killed and a bill defining as intoxicated any man who had taken one drink and prohibiting said person thus under the unholy influence of the Demon Rum from driving any vehicle but a wheelbarrow was passed by the lower house, to be killed by the Senate. It will be remembered that Kansas is one of the States where the insidious cigarette is legally prescribed.

### Law For Biddies.

A Democratic leader of Colorado introduced a bill, apparently in good faith, providing that chickens which did not go to roost by 7 P. M. should be guilty of infringing the curfew laws and should suffer the regular penalties.

During the same year—1914—another Colorado legislator proposed that black rabbits be eligible to election as State Senators and cottontails as Representatives "the same as other qualified voters of the State." This was the result of charges that in portions of Colorado a vote was cast for every sheep, horse and rabbit as well as every legal citizen.

An interesting quirk of Federal law is this: "Before January 1, 1910, when the Federal Penal Code went into effect, one year's imprisonment was the severest punishment which could have been inflicted upon anyone convicted of a larceny committed within the exclusive jurisdiction of the United States.

"Some years earlier a famous professional criminal, while in the post-office in Baltimore, stole the satchel of a runner of the Merchants National



## Of Interest to the Women

### HOW TO WASH RUGS.

Rugs of the washable type are becoming more and more popular every day. There are the old-fashioned rag rugs, woven or braided, various other sorts of fabric rugs, and even hooked yarn rugs which have to be cleaned if they are used constantly.

Washing with soap and water is really the only satisfactory method of cleaning these rugs. And in spite of the general impression they can be washed just as well and almost as easily without a washing machine as with one.

For hand washing of rugs, the equipment consists of a wide table or bench, a stiff scrubbing brush and a bar of laundry soap or box of chipped soap.

Spread the rug over the table. Soak with water and sprinkle well with soap chips or rub the surface with white naphtha soap. This will cleanse thoroughly without fading even blues or pinks.

With the brush scrub the surface vigorously adding more soap and water if necessary. Move the rug along until it is all scrubbed. Then rinse thoroughly—the quickest way is to hang it on the line and turn the hose on it. If this is not feasible scrub it with clear water until all traces of soap are removed.

Hang straight on the line to dry in a shady, airy place.

### CHILI SAUCE.

24 ripe tomatoes, large  
4 white onions  
3 green peppers  
4 tablespoons salt  
1 tablespoon cinnamon  
½ teaspoon ground cloves  
½ teaspoon allspice  
1 cup sugar  
1½ pints vinegar  
Peel tomatoes, chop onions fine, cook 3 hours and bottle.

### CORN RELISH.

2 dozen large ears corn  
6 onions  
2 cabbages  
1 bunch celery, if liked  
6 red peppers  
½ cup salt  
2 quarts vinegar  
4 teaspoons mustard  
Cut the corn from cob, chop or grind the rest of ingredients, boil until it thickens add mustard pack in jars and seal.

### TOMATO MINCE MEAT.

1 peck green tomatoes  
5 cups sugar.  
2 pounds seeded raisins  
1 cup vinegar  
Juice of 2 lemons  
6 apples  
2 teaspoons cloves  
2 teaspoons allspice  
2 teaspoons cinnamon  
Grind tomatoes, let green water drain out; grind raisins and apples; add all together. Cook and can.

### SALMON LOAF.

1 can salmon  
2 eggs  
1 cup stale bread crumbs  
½ cup milk  
1 teaspoon salt  
Mince the salmon and remove the bones. Add bread crumbs, beaten eggs and milk. Season with salt. Put in well greased moulds and steam 30 minutes. Serve hot or cold with white sauce.

### STUFFED STEAK.

½ pounds steak  
Stuffing  
2 cups soft crumbs  
½ teaspoon salt  
2 tablespoons chopped green pepper  
1 tablespoon parsley  
1 teaspoon sage or ½ cup cut mush rooms  
2 tablespoons chopped onion (if desired)  
¼ cup hot water  
2 tablespoons melted shortening  
On steak place stuffing, fold over

al Bank. He was arrested, tried and convicted. He received the maximum penalty. That was only one year. Had he taken the same satchel on the west side of Calvert street instead of on the east side he might have been sent to the penitentiary for fifteen years."

and fasten with toothpicks. Spread with cooking oil. Dredge with flour, salt and pepper. Sear in hot skillet on all sides. Place in oiled baking dish and set in oven at 325 deg. F for 1¼ hours.

### THE MEADOW LARK.

I saw a field as lovely as the sun—Colors of mauve and green and yellow grain

Blending in shadows, like a garment spun

In wayward pattern on the glowing plain.

As over all a silver noted bird

Rose with the measure of a wild refrain,

I scarce knew it, at what I saw and heard,

My mute soul thrilled with ecstasy or pain.

—ANNA S. HARLAN in New York Sun.

September's here,  
The days grow short

And foot ball's near,  
Oh, there's a sport!

Agent—No matter what kind of writing you do, this fountain pen is just the thing for you.

Jones—That so? I'm a skywriter.

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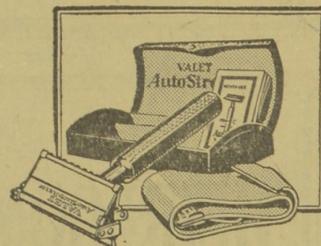
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