

TO KILL BOLL WEEVIL

ENTOMOLOGISTS FIND RELIEF FOR COTTON PLANT'S ENEMY.

Beetle Will Be Attacked by a Hard-Working Team of Ants—Drawback Is That Appetites Must Be Cultivated First.

Washington.—The doom of the boll weevil is believed to be in sight. After working for a decade and a half upon the problem the "bugologists" of the department of agriculture are confident they have at last found the solution. The beetle is to be killed not by poison or fumigators, not by fungous diseases or the industrious Guatemalan ant, but by a hard-working little team that cotton growers have had right in their plantations for generations, the common red ant and the larvae of a certain wasp-like fly that abounds throughout the south. The reason the cotton men did not use these insects before is the fact that neither they nor the experts of the agricultural department had any idea that the ant and the larvae liked boll weevils for food. There is just one drawback. It is necessary to educate their taste for the weevil. They may live side by side for generations before it occurs to the former to try the latter for food. But when they do acquire the weevil taste they become possessed of an insatiable hunger for it that never dies until they either eat up all the weevils in sight or give up their efforts to live.

The only task that confronts the agricultural department scientists and the cotton planters, therefore, is to cultivate the appetites of these insects as rapidly as possible. With the end in view of educating the proper taste for weevil food the agricultural department has started on the task at the Dallas experiment farm. The scientists discovered that in those parts of the country where the weevil has been established for a number of years the red ants and the fly larvae were eating the cotton pests in great numbers. In the locations where the weevil has lately made its appearance they did not molest them. It was, therefore, apparent that the ants and grubs with the educated taste were the ones needed on the experiment farm, so a large number of them were collected from the neighborhood of Waco. A map just issued by the department shows that the territory infested by the weevil has extended in all directions, this season making the usual advance of about 50 miles.

This brings it directly up to the Mississippi river, and while it was at one time thought that a stand might be made at that point and its advance might be stopped the idea has been given up. Through Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia, states which have not yet been attacked, the experts believe the weevil will thrive to a greater extent than in Texas, for there is more moisture and vegetation and the development will be helped by the climate.

The last winter has been mild and dry and the department scientists fear that these favorable conditions will make the weevil plentiful the coming season. The same conditions will produce many ants and weevil-destroying worms, and they will be taken into the newly invaded territory, where there are experiment farms, and every inducement will be given the planters to introduce them privately. Instruction will also be given as to the destruction of certain weeds upon which the ants and flies live, and it is held that this will drive the insects more extensively into the cotton field and cause their adoption of the new food. The region now included in the infested district embraces one-third of the cotton-producing lands of the United States. The weevil has traveled altogether 585 miles since its appearance in 1892, or an average of 4 1/2 miles each year. Through the various methods of combating it the production of the infested country has been brought back to an approach to the normal and in the ant and fly there is hope of a permanent solution of the problem of protection against the pest.

Emigration from Italy.

Washington.—Consul J. E. Dunning, of Milan, reports as follows concerning Italian emigration: "During the year 1906 417,573 emigrants departed from Italy and 132,190 former emigrants returned to the old country. In 1905 the ebb was 360,381 and the inflow 102,889, so that the emigration for 1906 was greater than that for 1905 by about 67,000 persons. The greater number of emigrants went to the United States, the Italian records showing 287,090 persons so departing. A total of 114,818 went to Argentina, 13,143 to Brazil, 1,097 to Central America, 1,148 to points east of the Suez, and 277 to other countries. The United States also contributed the largest number of returning fortune seekers, the total for 1906 being 94,445; from Argentina, 24,602; from Brazil, 11,861, and from Central America, 571."

Army Training Its Cooks.

Washington.—Gen. Sharpe, commissary general of subsistence, has returned from an inspection of the newly established school of army cooks and bakers at Fort Riley, Kan., which he found to be in an admirable condition. Already 400 enlisted men have been graduated as fully trained cooks and bakers, while a number of officers have received special training with a view of fitting them to pass upon the qualifications of the army cooks and the sufficiency of the ration.

LONE SETTLERS HUNT WIVES.

Young Bachelors of Riverton, Wyo., Organize Club to Secure Helpmates.

Riverton, Wyo.—Many of the young men who have fled on homesteads on the Wind river or Shoshone Indian reservation, part of which was thrown open to settlement last summer, are unmarried and living alone in shanties on their claims, and are very desirous of procuring wives for themselves.

In furtherance of this end they have organized what is known as the Riverton Bachelors' club, and through the agency of this club have begun a systematic search for helpmates to relieve their loneliness and do their household work.

They have inserted in state papers an advertisement for wives, and they will later advertise in papers throughout the country unless they should in the meantime obtain helpmates.

Young women who may desire to correspond with any of these young men with a view of matrimony are requested to address the secretary of the club, who will promptly give them any information they may desire regarding the age, personal appearance, habits, financial circumstances, etc., of any of the wife seekers.

The members of the club are willing to pay the railroad fares and other traveling expenses of any young woman who may come here with the expectation of getting married, and should any young woman who may come change her mind after arriving on the ground and desire to go back home single, her expenses will be paid.

YOUNGEST CRIMINAL YET.

Child of Three Years Gets a Sentence in French Town.

Paris.—Georges Tolut, aged three years, living at Neuilly, has been sentenced by default to ten days' imprisonment for assault and battery. An appeal has been lodged—not by himself, as he is obviously under age, but by his father acting as his legal guardian—and the infant defendant will be called up again before the courts this week. The plaintiff is a full-grown man, M. Winkel. How could a child of three years have assaulted him? The answer to the riddle is that plaintiff alleges that he was assaulted by a man of about his own age, named Tolut, and he took out a summons against Georges Tolut. But Georges is the baby, aged three, and the father, whom plaintiff really intended to prosecute, is Albert Tolut. Nevertheless, baby Georges was sentenced by default and the conviction stands against him. The courts for the present know of no case against any other Tolut and accordingly the three-year-old Tolut will have to appear in person in the dock at the hearing of the appeal, supported by his father. If the baby were not to come forward in person the appeal would fail and the conviction would be confirmed. No doubt the court will solemnly dismiss the charge against the infant, who will be set free, probably by that time screaming.

DEER GRAZE ON COMMON.

Iowa People Indignant Because They Can't Shoot 'Em Away.

Shelby, Ia.—W. B. Cuppy, owner of a herd of 20 pet deer, made no provision when he died for the care of the animals. His heirs since have permitted the deer to run at large and to make their own living. They have multiplied rapidly and the herd now numbers 100. It is now a common sight in Shelby to see deer grazing on the commons and strolling leisurely about the streets, attracting the attention of strangers by their graceful antics. But the people of Shelby and vicinity have ceased to look with favor upon the graceful and fleet-footed animals. They complain that the deer raid their orchards and gardens in the summer and their straw stacks in the winter.

The law forbids the killing of the animals and all the indignant farmers and householders can do is to "shoo" them off their grounds. It is said to be the purpose of people living here to petition the legislature either to permit the slaughter of the animals or to make some other disposition of them, as they allege that in their present protected and prolific state they will soon overrun the country.

PASTOR A DRUG CLERK.

Also Does Farm Hand's Work to Support Wife.

Laporte, Ind.—Though still pastor of the Friends' church, Rev. Piny Cox has gone to clerking in a local drug store. When he came here he agreed to take the work of the pastorate for \$35 a month and board. Last Christmas he married a girl from Noblesville, Ind., whom he had known and loved for years. The young people have tried to maintain a certain style on the \$35 a month all this time. The young minister seems to think that it is his duty to work for the sum he agreed to take when he came.

The congregation has only one member of wealth. This man is likely to agree to an increase in the young pastor's stipend, and the Rev. Piny Cox, religious enthusiast as he seems to be, will continue to labor at what his hands find to do week days. He recently worked out one week as a farmer and general field hand, and on the Lord's day directed the minds of the little flock to higher things.

TEXANS RAISE PECANS

NUT-GROWING INDUSTRY SPREADING IN STATE.

Value of Product Proved by Late Governor Hogg—Northern Investors Enter Field and Begin Planting of Orchards.

Austin, Tex.—Texas has at last come to a realization of the pecan's importance as a revenue producer, and the tree that once fell indiscriminately before the thoughtless woodman's axe is now carefully protected.

More than \$2,000,000 worth of these unimportant looking little nuts were shipped out of Texas during the year 1906, and there now are nurserymen in Texas who devote themselves exclusively to pecan propagation.

Texas is the chief pecan state of the union, although the tree flourishes in many other southern states, even as far north as the southern part of Indiana and the Egypt district of Illinois, and the culture is spreading year by year.

There was a time not so very long ago when all pecan trees were of the wild variety, but the enterprising nurseryman has brought about a marked improvement, and statistics now show that Texas has 358,955 artificially planted trees, while the number of wild ones in bearing condition is estimated at nearly a million.

The late Gov. James S. Hogg, of Texas, was among the first to appreciate the commercial value of the pecan, and on his plantation near the historic old town of Columbia there stands a large and select pecan grove as a monument to his planting.

It is also a matter of official record in Texas that in his dying moments, Gov. Hogg directed his law partner, Frank Jones, of Houston, to see that his funeral was marked by simplicity, and that his son, William, and his daughter, Miss Ina, be requested to plant as early as possible a pecan tree at the head of his grave and another at the foot, and that when these trees reach a bearing state their product be distributed so far as they will go among the plain people of Texas to be used as seed in spreading pecan culture.

It is the rule rather than the exception for an ordinary pecan tree to bear from three to five barrels of nuts, hence it can be calculated at a glance that in the course of time, an immense quantity of pecan forestry will result from the two trees that stand as sentinels over Gov. Hogg's grave in the Austin cemetery.

As soon as practicable after the funeral the trees of the most improved variety obtainable, were planted in accordance with the dying governor's request, and their growth thus far has been entirely satisfactory.

Nuts grown from wild pecan trees sell for about five cents per pound, while the cultivated nut brings from 20 cents to 50 cents per pound. The trees are long-lived, and it is not unusual for a ten or 12-year old tree to produce a crop worth from \$50 to \$100. The average, however, is somewhat below that figure, but 25 or 30 trees find ample room upon an acre of ground, thus making pecan raising a highly profitable industry.

Pecan growing has now reached the dignity of classification as a horticultural pursuit, and many northern investors, appreciating the great profit that is possible, are forming syndicates to plant and operate large commercial orchards.

Since the nurseryman has taken hold of the pecan, numerous varieties are springing up, each vying with the other in the matter of early production. The best that has ever yet been reached is a tree warranted to bear fruit in four years from date of planting, while others of the improved varieties require all the way from five to seven years. The wild tree is much slower.

Hardiness is one of the chief characteristics of the pecan tree. It belongs to the hickory family, and grows to a large size. Almost any kind of soil satisfies the pecan sapling, no difference whether it be along the river or along the high plains. Its roots penetrate deep into the ground, and it thus at once becomes able to withstand the severest drought. Owing to its size and spreading branches, the pecan tree serves well for shade, and in many of the towns and cities of Texas, pecans are being planted for the dual purpose of ornament and usefulness.

Experts who have indulged in various tests, assert that the pecan possesses a nutritive value of great merit, and is more easily digestible than most of nuts.

Electricity as Anesthetic.

Paris.—Professor La Duc of the Medical college of Nantes has perfected a method of anesthesia by electricity. He sends a mild electric current through the body, which so perfectly hurls the sensory nerves that any surgical operation can be performed without the patient feeling pain.

Le Duc claims that his method produces anesthesia as deep as that of chloroform or ether, has none of the dangers of chloroform and is much more conveniently used than ether. Besides, the patient revives in a stronger condition than from chloroform or ether.

A few days ago Le Duc himself submitted to a test of his discovery before many of his colleagues, who seemed much impressed by the results.

PROSPERITY IN HOLLAND.

Agriculture and Dairy Farming Flourished Last Year.

London.—The following dispatch from The Hague to the London Times is of interest:

"On the whole the year 1906 may be described as one of the most prosperous years in Holland's recent history. Agriculture and dairy farming, the economic corner stones of the Netherlands, have been more than usually profitable; the dry summer, combining with normally abundant water supply, produced excellent cereal and grass crops and prices ruled very high. Industrial activity was at a high pitch and commerce and shipping left little to complain of. The low water in the Rhine and its estuaries caused some loss and delays to the transit and river-shipping trades, but on the whole these trades also were very active, reflecting, as they did, the state of the German industries which use the Dutch waterways."

"Still more conducive to the national welfare was the remarkable prosperity of the produce trades of Holland's vast East India colonies. Tobacco, tin, sugar, spices and coffee came in abundant supplies and sold at high prices and this caused a degree of prosperity to prevail in Java, Sumatra and the other possessions which could not fail to affect the numerous Dutch capitalists who have invested enormous sums in these tropical possessions."

USE PORTO RICAN COFFEE.

Effort to Be Made to Cultivate a Taste For It.

Washington.—Uncle Sam is about to make a systematic effort to cultivate a taste for Porto Rican coffee among the people of the United States. Persons who claim to be authorities in coffee matters declare that the bean grown in Porto Rico furnishes the richest and at the same time most delicious coffee that can be made. Yet for some reason or other there is very little market for the product in this country.

The government will undertake to hold Porto Rican coffee and give it away in order that the people may become acquainted with its delightful qualities. This will be done at the coming Jamestown exposition, where a special booth will be fitted up to dispense cups of Porto Rican coffee. Pretty dark-eyed girls from that tropical island, attired in neat and attractive native costumes, will serve the coffee and the government will pay the bill.

This exhibit will be somewhat similar to the famous corn kitchen which the government maintained at St. Louis in order to exploit the possibilities of this cereal.

MUCH USED WEDDING GIFT.

Silver Card Tray Which Has Been Presented to Many Brides.

Providence, R. I.—A Providence girl who has been married about six months had wedding cards a short time ago from an old school friend who had given her a wedding present, which, of course, demanded one in return. Among her wedding presents the Providence girl had duplicates in the shape of two silver card trays, and in a spirit of economy she decided to give one of these to her friend. It was marked with her own initials, but it would be only a matter of a few minutes to have them removed and the proper monogram cut.

She took it to the jeweler and explained what was to be done. He picked up the tray, looked at it closely and smiled.

"Mistake," said he, "it will be impossible. I have already changed the initials on this same tray five times and it has worn so thin that I cannot do it again without cutting through the bottom."

TRIPLETS EXHAUST PURSE.

Laborer Now Has Seventeen Children and Asks for Help.

Omaha, Neb.—Mrs. Anton Machal, of South Omaha, gave birth a few days ago to triplets, two girls and a boy, whose combined weight was 18 pounds, the boy weighing five pounds, one of the girls seven and the other six pounds.

Mrs. Machal is the mother of 18 children, all but one of whom are now living. One died in infancy a number of years ago. The children living are all strong, healthy youngsters and none of them has ever been seriously ill.

The father of this large family of boys and girls is a laborer. So many and so heavy have been the demands made upon his slender purse by his fast-growing family that he has been at last reduced to straitened circumstances and with the birth of the triplets he was compelled for the first time to call for financial aid to keep the wolf from his door.

Whistle to Cure Snorer.

White Plains, N. Y.—In a divorce suit of Mrs. Henry D. Archer against her husband the defendant alleged cruel and inhuman treatment on the part of his wife on the following grounds:

"The plaintiff has continually annoyed the defendant by taking a tin whistle to bed with her and blowing it when the defendant wanted to go to sleep, giving as an excuse that the defendant had been snoring, and that this was her remedy to wake him up and breaking him of the habit."

In the papers originally filed Mrs. Archer charges her husband with turning her mother's picture to the wall in their home.

HAS SIGNATURE OF MURILLO.

Duplicate Engraving of Famous Picture Owned by Denver Woman.

Denver.—Mrs. Samuel Guy, of 733 South Ninth street, has in her possession a steel engraving more than two hundred years old, from which she expects to realize a neat fortune. This ancient work of art is entitled "The Virtue of Holy Charity" and is a duplicate engraving of Murillo's famous painting.

The engraving was made in the year 1700, and was presented to Pope Clement XI, by the artist himself. It is the only engraving ever made of the painting, and two centuries ago was considered a thing almost sacred. In an inscription below the picture the great Italian artist dedicates the engraving to Pope Clement and asks the pontiff's blessing.

There is a pretty little story in the way in which it came to Mrs. Guy. Fifteen years ago her mother, Mrs. Robbie, was visiting her old home in Scotland. Just before she left her native town to return to the United States her brother, a man of advanced age, brought to her a package.

On examining it she found the engraving. Mrs. Robbie was not impressed with either the value or beauty of the picture, and told her brother she did not believe she cared to take up trunk room with a dirty old representation of a painting. Her brother insisted, however, that she should keep the engraving, and told her that years before it had been presented to him by a wealthy man for whom he had once performed some important duty. Mrs. Robbie, after hearing this explanation, packed up the engraving and brought it with her to America, but never gave the matter much thought.

IS SCULPTOR OF ABILITY.

King Edward's Sister Carves Statues of Queen Victoria.

London.—King Edward's sister Louise, the duchess of Argyll, lately permitted her photograph to be taken. That is something rare, for two reasons. In the first place, pomp and parade and homage are distasteful to her, and, in the second place she travels a great deal incognito as the countess of Cowal (using one of her husband's minor titles) and does not wish to be recognized by strangers.

Had she been born in a private station she would have achieved distinction in both literature and art. Glasgow university conferred on her the degree of LL. D. One editor frequently accepted articles from her before her identity was revealed and Princess Louise declares that one of the proudest moments of her life was when she received a check for literary work made out to "Myra Fontenay," the name she had assumed. As for her art work, she was a pupil of the late Sir Edgar Boehm and she has long had a studio in Kensington palace.

Among her principal works are a sitting figure of Queen Victoria, another statue of her late majesty for Manchester cathedral and the striking memorial to the colonial heroes in St. Paul's cathedral as well as various pictures and designs for chimney-pieces and candlesticks.

DINNER GIVEN BY XIII CLUB.

Begins at 8:13; Thirteen Courses; 413 Present on April 13.

Washington.—The first out-of-town dinner of the XIII club of New York, in this city, was given the other night. The club, in defiance of the common superstition and in accordance with its established rule, arranged its entire program on the basis of 13. There were 413 in the party, which left Jersey City at 12:13 over the Baltimore & Ohio in a special train of 13 Pullmans and arrived here at 6:13. Awaiting them were 13 specially chartered cars, in which they proceeded to the White House, under the escort of 13 policemen, and were shown through the various rooms. President Roosevelt was not at home when the visitors arrived. He had made an engagement to receive them earlier in the day, but they were delayed at Philadelphia.

The dinner, which was composed of 13 courses, began promptly at 8:13 o'clock. Col. John F. Hobbs, the chief ruler, presided. The principal speakers were H. B. MacFarland and Henry L. West of the board of district commissioners and Dr. Harvey W. Wiley of the department of agriculture. George W. Stake acted as toastmaster.

NEWSPAPER MEN WILL FARM.

Colony of Writers to Take Land in Little Snake River Valley.

Denver, Col.—A colony of newspaper men is to be established in the Little Snake river valley in Routt county, Colorado, where the state of Colorado will throw open for settlement this summer, under the Carey act, 50,000 acres of land. This land is under the Little Snake river canal system.

The plan is to make this colony an up-to-date farming community, where each man will own his own farm and improvements, the only connection in which the community idea will prevail, if at all, being in regard to labor.

Under the Carey act, any citizen of the United States may select 160 acres, the price of land and perpetual water right in the canal system being fixed by the state at \$22.50 per acre.

Warren R. Given, a former newspaper man, has taken options on 40 sections of 160 acres each for the newspaper men.

AFTER LOVERS' COIN

MARRYING JUDGE ADVERTISES IN STREET CARS.

Enterprising Clayton, Mo., Justice of Peace Out for Dollars of Cupid's Victims—Uses Business Methods.

St. Louis.—Justice of the Peace A. H. Werremeyer, of Clayton, has created a little stir in his section of country by his rather original way of advertising himself as one authorized to perform marriage ceremonies. Justice Werremeyer is out for the dollar and as many of them as he can get, so he is advertising in the good old-fashioned way. The justice hasn't had his signs painted on barns or fences as yet, but in the cars of all lines running into Clayton he has put up large cards with the following wording and arrangement:

"To choose the one you love the best, then come to Clayton for the rest."
JUDGE A. H. WERREMEYER,
Justice of the Peace,
Kinloch phone, Clayton No. 7. Immediate appointments.
Residence, Olivette, Mo., County Court House, Clayton, Mo.

Back of this enterprise of the Clayton magistrate is the increased cost of a marriage license in St. Louis. A few weeks ago the price was raised from \$1 to \$1.50. In Clayton it remains at one dollar. There has been a perceptible increase in the number of marriages at Clayton since the new schedule became effective.

"I am going to let the people know that I am in the business," said Justice Werremeyer. "I want my share of this revenue from performing marriage ceremonies, and I am going right after it. People must come here on one of those car lines, and they will learn that I am prepared for them. Besides, I think that getting people to come here to be married will be good advertising for Clayton. They will look around and see what a fine town we have."

Heretofore Justice Preiss has held the championship as "marrying justice." Two other justices who are pleased to officiate are Frank Strible and L. W. Campbell. Including Werremeyer, there are four justices who can be found at the Clayton court house at practically any hour of the day. Two Clayton ministers, Dr. North of the Methodist church, and Dr. Lanzy, of the Presbyterian, have shared in the matrimonial fees, couples being sent to them by friends at the court house.

Justice G. A. Wurdeman, of the probate court, has presided at a sufficient number of weddings to attract attention.

Justice Werremeyer isn't saying what he thinks his advertising will do to reduce the business of his rivals, but his plans are of a substantial character. The advertising is to be continuous, with a change every month.

The verse on the first card was chosen from a large collection of verses. For next month's card the verses will be as follows:

"Where are you going, my pretty maid?"
"I am going to Clayton," she blushing
"May I go with you, my pretty maid?"
"If to the Justice's office," she said.
"Nor are these simple black and white cards. That would be too conventional for the justice, who had his first cards printed in blue and red on a white background."

HAS NEW FLYING MACHINE.

Professor of Johns Hopkins University Preparing to Build Air Ship.

Baltimore, Md.—The preparatory experiments for the flying machine that is being built by Prof. Robert W. Wood, professor of experimental physics in the Johns Hopkins university, with Otto Luyth, a local engineer, are practically completed and the work of construction will begin soon. Prof. Wood has been carrying on these experiments in the Hopkins laboratory for several months.

The purpose of the experiments has been to test the lifting power and the steadiness of action of screw propellers as the means of ascension and propulsion. On the basis of the results obtained by Prof. Wood a large flying machine will be constructed at Sparrows Point under the direction of the two inventors.

The projected machine is of the "Helicopter" type, which depends on a series of screw propellers variously arranged for the power of rising in the air and for propulsion. The models which have thus occupied the attention of Prof. Wood do not resemble the popular idea of the flying machine at all, and appear to be nothing but a set of electric fans, with a few weights hooked to them.

Cruises by Liquid Fuel.

London.—The Times is informed that the steamship Goldmoth, a vessel which burns liquid (petroleum) fuel, recently arrived at Thameshaven after a passage from Balli Pappan, in Borneo, a distance of over 12,000 miles, without a stop. The revolutions averaged 54.3 and the speed throughout the passage averaged over nine knots. This is the third nonstop run made by this vessel while burning liquid fuel, the first being from Singapore to Rotterdam in May-June, 1906, and the second from Singapore to Thameshaven in September-October, 1906. Probably there is no other recorded instance of a single vessel having made three non-stop runs of such duration with liquid fuel.