

FIGHT THE LOCUSTS

Austrian Method May Be of Value in United States.

Destructive Little Pests Due to Arrive Again Next Spring, Entomologists Declare—How War May Be Waged.

Washington.—That the seventeen-year locust is due to appear by next spring is the announcement recently made by entomologists who have kept track of the little pests' visits, and while heretofore measures against a locust invasion have proved futile, there is a possibility that the plan of the Chemical-Agricultural Institute of Austria, to reduce their numbers, may be of benefit here, not only in the case of the seventeen-year locust, but of the annual supply of grasshoppers. Vice Consul de Marini, at Trieste, in describing these measures, says:

Under the guidance of their managers the boys of all the communes of the province of Goers were trained to intercept the march and capture the locusts in their invasion of that agricultural district in 1909. Exact statistics have just been published, giving interesting particulars which may prove useful to other agrarian fields, even in the United States.

The official report describes the method used to combat the pest and shows the results of each commune, the number of litres of locusts killed and prizes awarded to each school, and the number of days' work done—a day's work consisting of three hours—by each boy. The days of work are stated to have been 36,845, during which eleven railway wagon loads of locusts were captured. The total amount in prizes awarded to the boys was 17,000 crowns (\$3,451). Each boy received 13 cents a day for three hours, capturing on an average four quarts of locusts each day. The total expenditures were as follows: Prizes to boys, \$3,451; implements and their repair, \$690; overseers, \$408; schoolmasters, \$609; administration work, \$608; total, \$5,564.

This work, due to proper organization of the schoolboys, shows what might be achieved by similar means on a much more extensive scale to wipe out this plague. If it is computed that each locust consumes daily food to half the volume of its body, it follows that locusts thus captured would have devoured sixty railway wagon loads of hay (six tons to a load), besides damaging cultivation. Of the locusts captured, 400 made a litre. The 100,000 litres gathered represented, therefore, about 40,000,000 locusts, 20,000,000 of which were females that would have laid 2,000,000, 400 eggs for a new generation.

The implements consisted of collectors, reservoirs and litre measures. The collector is a quadrangular framework of zinc wire, 11 1/2 inches on each side and of the shape of a cone, 17 1/2 inches deep, covered with a linen bag. On one side of the frame is attached a movable wooden handle forty-seven inches long. The two sides of the frame that touch the ground are covered with leather. These collectors, when opened wholesale, cost 4 cents each.

The collection or the capture of the locusts is effected by agitating the collector to the right and left or by dragging it forward along the ground at a brisk pace. Every now and then the collector must be shaken briskly to let the locusts gathered on it fall straight to the bottom. The reservoir is simply an empty petroleum tin box, in which a square opening is cut, closed by a tin door. When the reservoir is full the locusts are destroyed by pouring boiling water into it. The locusts die within five to ten minutes after being scalded, when the reservoir is emptied and the dead locusts are measured with the litre measure.

Locusts may be turned from a pest to a valuable food for fattening cattle, pigs and fowls. For this purpose the locusts, after being killed, are spread on the ground and sprinkled with a solution of kitchen salt and water and dried in the sun. The boys keep turning the locusts over to dry on both sides.

GIRLS TAKE UP HOMESTEADS

Young Women in Colorado Prepare to Teach School and Also Prove Claims.

Greeley, Col.—Teaching school and homesteading land will be the combined industries of some fifty young eastern girls in Weld county this school year.

Recently these teachers have been busy building their claims, situated, and in many cases the girls have done the work themselves.

Whenever possible four girls have taken up adjoining quarter sections and have erected a common home at the point where the four claims meet, the house being so arranged that one room is located on each claim. Each young woman will occupy the room on her own land, thus fulfilling the requirement of the homestead law which demands that the person taking up the land live on it for a certain period of the year.

New York Horse Care Co.

New York.—Within a few weeks the antiquated horse care service on several cross-town lines in New York city will be discontinued and replaced with storage battery cars of the latest type.

WHAT IS IN YOUR POCKET?

London Journal Discovers That Many Men Retain the Habit of School-boy Days.

Many a laugh has been raised at the expense of the schoolboy whose pockets are filled up with string, bits of pencil, toffee; but is the schoolboy any better when he becomes a man? "Nineteen men out of twenty retain the schoolboy pocket-stuffing habit," writes "B. J. N." to the Daily Mirror, "the twentieth man, who always keeps his pockets a brutal type of the methodical business man."

Yesterday the Daily Mirror put to the test the theory that the majority of men are schoolboys in this particular. Members of the staff of a well-known city firm kindly supplied a list of the contents of their pockets to the Daily Mirror yesterday. They were as follows:

First—Loose money, two keys, memorandum book, key-chain, ring of keys, cigarette case, watch, sovereign-purse, two pencils, three letters, pocketbook, pipe, matchbox, tobacco pouch, knife, nail file and a pen-nib.

Second—Half a sovereign, some silver and coppers, cheque-book, seven loose cigarettes, toothpick, income-tax demand, eight-day-old telegram, seven cigar pictures, loose matches, key, handkerchief, crumbe, various bills.

Third—Two timetables, one pipe, pipe-filer and cartridges, eleven pencils, two boxes of matches, packet of cigarettes, three keys, handkerchief, numerous letters.

Fourth—Empty tobacco tin, ten letters, knife, tobacco-pouch, hotel bill, five pencils, odd piece of paper, packet of cigarettes spectacle-case and other odds and ends.

Fifth—Pouch, keys, silver, coppers, matches, fountain pen, cigarette-case, pocketbook, letters, pipe, knife, watch, sovereign. (This man had thirteen pockets—a separate pocket for each article—a methodical man.)

Sixth—Two handkerchiefs, pince-nez glasses, two loose cigarettes, a cherry-stone, season ticket, eight letters, pictures, pipe and box of tobacco cartridges.

Most men's character could be told from the contents of their pockets. Untidiness, however, seems general from the instances cited above.—London Daily Mirror.

TREASURE WELL PROTECTED

How Uncle Sam Carefully Guards the Gold and Silver in His Mints.

The precautions taken at the United States mints against waste of the precious metals are of a most extraordinary character. No miser could guard his treasure with more sedulous care than does your Uncle Samuel.

Every evening the floor of the melting room is swept cleaner than a good housewife's kitchen. The dust is put carefully aside, and about once in three months the soot scraped from every flue is transferred to the same precious dust heap. This is then burned and from its ashes the government derives a handsome income.

The earthenware crucibles used in melting are not employed more than three times. Then they are crushed under heavy rollers and in their porous sides are found fine flakes of fine silver. Like Aladdin with his lamp, Uncle Sam would not exchange old crucibles for new ones.

In the melting room when the casters raise their ladles from the melting pots a shower of sparks flies from the hot surface of the metal. For the most part they are bits of incandescent carbon, but clinging to the carbon is often a minute particle of metal. Least such particles should escape the sahes and clinkers below the furnaces are gathered up at night. The dross is ground into powder by a steam crusher and then is sold to a smelter, like ordinary ore, at a price per ton warranted by the assayer.

The ladles that stir the precious metal are the big iron rods, the strainers and the dippers all are tested in a most curious fashion. After considerable use they become covered with a thin layer of oxidized silver, which looks for all the world like brown rust. The implements are then laid in baths of a solution of sulphuric acid, which eats away the iron and steel and leaves the silver untouched. Gradually the ladle, or whatever the implement is, will disappear, and in its place remains a hollow silver counterpart of the original, delicate as spun glass. These fragile casts reproduce the ladle with perfect accuracy in all its details, although their surfaces are perforated with innumerable little holes. Scarcely have they been molded, however, before they are cast into a crucible, to become in time dollars, quarters and dimes.

There is a large tank in one corner of the melting room and into it pour the silver bits are dropped and left to cool. Intestinal flakes of silver scale off and rise to the surface of the water, which acquires the metallic lustre of a stagnant pool. Here is a filter which must not be lost, so the pipe through which the tank is emptied is packed a thick layer of sand. As the water filters through the sand it retains the precious dross.

Four times a year this mud is removed, and each experiment shows that some 150 has been saved by the device.

Flying Versus Flies.

Morrison is an iconoclast. "All this hysteria over flying machines makes me tired," he said. "I wish the newspapers and the magazines would stop such stuff. What use is flying? What use is the million-minute train or the five-day boat? We have a fit every time a frog lings takes a few minutes off the coast record, or some fool railroad puts off a train to slip the time to Chicago by an hour, and now the biggest hero is the man who goes highest in the air or who skims through the air the longest distance.

"If this sort of thing does anything for the welfare of mankind I have not all my buttons. It is nothing but mania—speed mania. A thousand thousand times greater benefactor to the human race than the Wrights and the Bleriot and all such persons will be the man who does away with the mosquito or the fly. More persons are killed by flies than fall from airplanes, are drowned at sea or are killed in railroad wrecks, and what the mosquito means in human sacrifice is enough to stagger belief. If the world ever gets its proper bearings we are likely to have less flying and less flies, fewer Mauretias and fewer mosquitoes, but I'm afraid that time is a long way off."

Asked For a Mirror.

"It was an interesting experience, but I must own to being a little shaky about the issue when the crucial moment arrived," said Mrs. Irene Buell of St. Paul, in discussing her recent visit to Washington, where she was admitted to practice in the Supreme court of the United States. "Of course," she continued, "the whole affair is much more awe inspiring than the state supreme court, because the judges come in dressed in their imposing silk gowns, having been cried out by an impressive bailiff, who closes his remarks with a 'God save the United States.'" Mrs. Buell spoke of the extreme formality observed and said she was asked to remove her hat before proceeding to the counsel table to take oath. "The first thing I said when they asked me to do that was: 'But I don't see any mirror here.' It seemed the natural observation to make until I heard Senator Clapp, who was my sponsor (uncle and surmount, 'The eternal feminine.' Then after a formal address had been made to me I took oath on the same Bible that Clay and Calhoun swore upon that I would defend the constitution and conduct myself in every way as bedicted by office."

Call for Dr. Blank.

To have themselves publicly called out of a crowded place of entertainment on the pretense that they are presently wanted by important patients is stated to be one of the stock methods of advertising resorted to by young doctors who wish to build up a practice. A bedding physician tried this device. He instructed his boy to go to the doorman of the theater and say that a patient of his was in urgent need of attention.

"Right you are, sir!" said the servant in a gleaming wink. "You leave it to me. I'll manage it all right."

At apparently the honest retailer proceeded instruction in his soul, for at the end of the second act the man appeared before the curtain and made the announcement:

"If Dr. Blank is in the audience, I am requested to tell him that he is wanted at once, as the poor fellow has given some physic to this afternoon has been having fits ever since!"

A King's Memorial.

It has been suggested that Crystal Palace be bought and turned into a children's palace of education as a memorial to the late King Edward. The king was always interested in any charity that was for the benefit of the children of the world.

When It Kills.

"Surely after that the scrumptious is not very good as a man killer in kind of war."

"Further is the automobile, but look what a delay it is in time of peace."

DUMAS AS EDITOR

HIS ECCENTRIC MANAGEMENT OF THE MOUSQUETAIRE.

Paris Periodical Founded by the Famous Novelist Had a Brilliant Existence, but Didn't Last Long.

Perhaps there is no more interesting story in the annals of journalism than that pertaining to the Mousquetaire, a Parisian periodical founded by the redoubtable Dumas Sr. It flourished for a short time and then became extinct. During its brief but brilliant existence its business affairs were administered with an eccentric and astonishing disregard of methods commonly in vogue.

It is said that the staff of the Mousquetaire was "the largest and most varied ever known." It seems, too, that persons would walk into the office, propose working for the paper and at once find themselves accepted.

"What compensation am I to receive?" a new man would ask.

"Whatever you like, my dear fellow," Dumas is reported to have replied on each occasion. "By the way," he would hasten to explain to the newcomer, "one thing must be clearly understood—I mean that you shall be handsomely paid. You must have a thousand francs a month, and should you want a month's pay in advance don't hesitate to ask for it."

"Everybody was dazed," say the chroniclers of the time, and Dumas himself more than all the rest. And no wonder! No business enterprise, however, could exist on such a basis, and the journal began to languish. Then came an individual named Boule, proposing to take the speculation out of the hands of the great Alexandre. He offered Dumas something like a hundred francs a day, which meant more than \$7,000 a year.

Proffering a check-book so full of those "little tinted leaves" whereof Dumas was so fond, Boule said:

"Here! Every morning you have only to write your name at the foot of one, send it into the office and get your one hundred francs."

The scheme appealed to Dumas. He beamed. But, upon reflection, the smile on his face died and he asked:

"Suppose that some day I should want three or four hundred francs?"

"That is no problem at all," responded Boule. "In that event all that you have to do is to send in three or four of your checks. It is very simple."

And so the check-book lay on the desk of Dumas, a delightful and ready resource. Did a creditor call, a hasty scribbling on a piece of paper and he was paid! A poor family was about to be turned into the street. Some more alms and they were relieved. At the end of the week nothing was left of the check book but the cover. Boule found it necessary to change this method of procedure.

Odd English Words.

"Trug," according to Dr. Wright's "Dialect Dictionary," is used to denote various measures in different parts of the country. In Yorkshire it means an oblong wooden trough for milk, also a milking pail. In Cumberland it is a wooden box used for carrying coal or peat—in fact, an over-grown or exaggerated coal scuttle. In Oxfordshire it is a kind of basket used by gardeners and in several counties a "trug" is a measure of which three to make up two bushels. Hence "trug corn" or wheat signifies a measure of wheat totaling a clergyman as a kind of title. "Trug corn" was payable at Loomister as late as 1888. Keat possesses one of those portmanteau words that every one seems to understand but no one can pin down and define. The word is "bodge." It is a sort of "trug." And this writer once tried to get the definition from a farmer schoolfellow who is now an eminent agriculturist. And it seemed that a "bodge" was definitely and generously anything that could contain anything.—London Chronicle.

Do Not Fear Flashen.

"Added to all their other accomplishments New Yorkers are flashlight broken," said the photographer. "I have photographed big assemblies the world over, but I never met a crowd explosion with as much equanimity anywhere that could focus a flashlight as a roomful of New York people. That is due to private training as well as to public photographing.

"One of the most distressing thoughts to many persons who expect to attend a banquet or club meeting that is sure to wind up with a flashlight is how will they stand the shock. It takes training to show up well in a flashlight picture. The uninitiated jump, blink, and make faces.

"New Yorkers hate to look foolish even in a picture, so before the entertainment they visit a photographer individually and in groups and rehearse for a flashlight picture. In that way they have learned to sit still with an explosion right under their noses, and have become what photographers call flashlight proof."

Health's First Soujalette.

Miss Caroline Hazard says that "it is to the device used in household economies and in general training that I should ascribe the growth of Walter's college girl." Walter Hazard (son may be) took his first with any or so-called "dressed" in his functional dinner. The health of a girl is considered of paramount importance in the beginning of her college work.

FOOD HEAT VALUES

WHERE THE GOVERNMENT'S EXPERIMENTS ARE FAULTY.

More Valuable Information Could Be Obtained if Man Fed Badly Cooked Meat Were Put in Calorimeter.

The department of agriculture is conducting a series of novel experiments to determine the relative energy of heat value of certain foods. The subject selected for experiment is required to eat a particular food. He then passes into the calorimeter, or heat measurer—an airtight glass cage which has a system of pipes filled with cold water running around the inside walls.

The heat generated by the body in assimilating the food just eaten causes the water to grow warmer. The increase in its temperature is carefully recorded by a compartment of the calorimeter due to different foods gives a fair measure of their relative heat-producing qualities.

No one will deny that the arrangements here described are most ingenious. They seem admirably adapted to shed much light upon the subject. But that they will fail to record the highest heat effects of beefsteak, chops, rice, cabbage and other foods must be obvious to the most superficial observer.

To get that information we must go to the home. And we must have, not the well-cooked roast beef and cabbage and chops, etc., which the government scientists are feeding the subject, but very badly cooked food indeed.

It is a fact of common knowledge that nothing makes a man hotter than a breakfast chop cooked until it is as tough as leather, or a steak that can hardly be masticated, or ham fried when he likes it boiled, or four-minute eggs instead of the favorite two-minute eggs, or well-done roast beef when he wants it rare.

If the department of agriculture could sneak up and get the irate father of the family inside a calorimeter while in the inflamed state due to these foods—well, he would probably burst the calorimeter. The cold water would turn to steam so quickly that the pipes would have to give way.

All will admit the difficulty of securing a scientific registration of such remarkable heat effects. But this difficulty does not alter the fact that only under these or similar conditions can the observer get any idea of the tremendous caloric possibilities of certain foods.

The utmost heat that a man in a comfortable calorimeter, fed on well-cooked food, could generate in an hour would be practically infinitesimal compared with what a small, dyspeptic man confronted with a leathery chop at the domestic board could emit in a minute.

It may be that the department intends to make farther and more illuminating experiments somewhat later. If it does not, it might as well confess that it is not trying to find out the extreme heat production of various foods—that its investigation, in a word, lacks scope and thoroughness.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

Preserving String Beans.

"I thought I knew as much as the next person when it comes to preserving fruits, vegetables and the like," said a New York housekeeper to a friend while waiting for her change in the grocery store. "But I've just learned of something new—a very simple way of making it possible to have fresh string beans throughout the winter, and at their lowest summer cost too.

"The process is extremely simple. As soon as the beans are picked they are sorted and care should be taken to see that they are clean and dry. Then in the bottom of a wooden box lined with paper place a layer of dry table salt. On top of this place a layer of beans, then more salt and more beans in as many layers as you wish. Put a generous layer of salt on top of all, cover over with paper and set in a cool dry place. The beans can be taken out as wanted and will be found as fresh as when picked.

"Indeed, my informant assured me she had had fresh beans in March, which had been picked the previous summer. You must be careful to get the real string bean, though, green in color, for the other kinds, like wax beans, won't keep."

Dog Went Through the Paper.

A story went the rounds in New Richmond that Chief Brooks had been attacked by a vicious dog. The New Richmond News found that the story was exaggerated. Mr. Brooks had a dog that he had been teaching to jump through a hoop covered with paper—just like the circus pup.

The other day when the chief was trying on the rug he picked up the newspaper to read, not thinking of the dog. The dog thought it was the game and made a good running jump through the paper, landing his north rear paw in the dog department chief's eye and his south paw in his mouth.

The dog went through the paper all right, but the New Richmond News and Republicans (who insist that he also, in about three seconds, went through the window screen and all 10-year fire and shooting evidence of having been recently lifted.

The chief now has one sporty dog eye out for eyes had his had above some signs of sprain.

Advising the Mothers.

Miss Winfield (Miss) gives lectures to poor women in New York under the auspices of the Society for Improving the Condition of the Poor. She tells them how to buy at the market, what to buy, and gives them means for the children. The lectures are all in the simplest language in order that the most uneducated woman may understand.

Asking Advice.

"Professor, as you know, I was the champion debate of 1888."

"Quite so, my boy."

"As such a champion, is there any special reason why I shouldn't start a saloon?"

TURTLE VERY HARD TO KILL

One Found Alive Embedded in Clay, but Glacial Period Theory Was Disputed.

The weekly meeting of the Faunal Naturalists' club of West Hurley, N. Y., was enlivened by a debate on the subject. "Resolved, That the turtle is a hinsect." The negative got the decision, holding that it is a parable.

The members of the club work on the Ashokan dam. They were ten feet down in a seam of clay when one of them came upon a rock. With difficulty he persuaded the other men to quit work long enough to look at it. After they had viewed it they called the engineers. These men made the laborers dig further; then it was seen that one side of the rock was marked like a turtle shell.

When the caked clay had been removed from the other side of the rock the engineers were satisfied that they had found a petrified turtle. They put it into a pall of hot water. By and by one man said sadly that he guessed "petrified" should begin with "pu" instead of "p-e."

The author of this suggestion upset the pall with his foot, and soon the turtle himself settled the question. A seamed and wrinkled head, in which a pair of white eyes blinked, was shoved out from the shell, and then a foot appeared. The other feet came into view within a few moments, and the turtle crawled painfully away.

The F. N. club eagerly seized upon the discovery as a topic for its next meeting. The members were tired of hearing essays on the hydro-headed monster, which has figured so much in the affairs of the Ashokan dam, and the presiding officer had trouble in keeping the debates in order when the new subject was declared open.

One engineer told the club that the turtle had probably become imbedded in the clay in the glacial period and had been caught in a trap in the winter of, say, 34,673 B. C.

The argument that won the debate for the negative, however, was that the turtle had been caught the winter before work was started on the Ashokan project. Every requirement of antiquity being met by this theory, which had the added virtue of symbolizing the rate of progress on the dam work, the judges found accordingly.

Cause of the Tides.

The tides are due wholly to the attractive force of the sun and moon. Every particle of matter composing the earth gravitates toward the moon inversely as the square of its distance.

By the law of gravity the attractive force of the sun and moon decreases with the square of the distance. For that reason the nearer surface of the earth is attracted with greater force and the further surface with lesser force than the center. The resultant effect is to cause a tendency to recede from the earth's center in parts immediately under the sun or moon and also on the side most remote from them.

The waters of the ocean are free to yield to this tendency and hence they tend to be heaped up into four tidal waves a day—two lunar and two solar. The lunar tides greatly predominate, the others being observable chiefly by their action in reinforcing or diminishing them.

As the earth turns on its axis these waves cause two principal alternations of high and low water every twenty-four hours in every part of the ocean, called flood tide and ebb tide.

When the solar and lunar tides are in conjunction the maximum, or spring, tide takes place. When they are 90 degrees apart there occurs the minimum tide.

Some Speed.

Major George W. Tiedman of Savannah, condemning a municipal bill that he deemed too hastily drafted, said to a reporter:

"Why, they drafted this bill the way the old-time Georgia editor used to perform his wedding ceremonies. 'The old-time editor of Georgia was usually mayor as well. He was also justice of the peace, conveyancer and real estate agent, deacon of the church, leading lawyer and head of the building and loan.

"As one of these editors was writing a two-column editorial on the tariff a Georgia couple came in to be married. The editor, without once looking up, without slackening the steady movement of his pen, said:

"Time's money. Want her?"

"Yes," said the youth.

"Want him?" the editor continued, heading toward the girl.

"Yes," she replied.

"Man and wife, pronounced the editor his pen traveling smoothly and rapidly. 'One dollar. Bring a load of wood for it—one-third pine, balance oak.'"

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