

BUGS TO EAT MOTHS

Massachusetts Forestry Department Begins War on Pest.

Believed That Problem of Destruction by Parasite Has Been Discovered—Most Ferocious is Predaceous Beetle.

Aceton, Mass.—The woods will be full of gipsy and brown-tail moth parasites next summer, for the moth division of the state forestry department already has on hand at the experiment laboratory in Saugus between 40 and 50 different kinds of them to be released during the heydays of the pests.

The forestry department believes that it has solved the problem of moth destruction by parasite, and that from next summer the work of the moths' natural enemies will do what men have been unable to accomplish in the work of extermination.

Forester Frank W. Rabe does not expect the moths ever to be completely destroyed, but he does believe they will be reduced to a point where their damage is minimum.

W. F. Fiske, who has charge of the laboratory at Saugus, says that of the two score or more of parasites to be released last summer, ten show no preference between the gipsy or the brown-tail, devouring both with evident enjoyment. The remainder are exclusive in their tastes.

It has been discovered that the cycle of the parasite's activity, with one or two exceptions, is about ten days. Each has his specialty during that time. One may attack the eggs, another the caterpillar, and a third the moth itself, but no one has yet been found that is available for a general campaign.

One of the most ferocious of the parasites now on hand is the large predaceous beetle, which attacks the gipsy moth caterpillar, tearing it to pieces. Its ability to kill is measured only by the time at its disposal. It is a particularly desirable parasite for a number of different reasons, not the least of which is that the female raises a family of 500 children in a season. Another desirable feature of the predaceous beetle is the fact that it lives to be three years old.

There is also the monotonous, a parasite so small that individuals can hardly be seen by the naked eye. This little fellow is voracious on all insects in proportion to his size, however, and his particular fodder is the pupa of the gipsy moth.

The managers of the Saugus laboratory imported the monotonous from Europe in 1906, and the first consignment was liberated in the same year.

Very soon the colony was lost, and not a trace of it was seen for three years. Last summer it was located, and the entomologists discovered that it had spread and had covered an area of 500 square miles, over all which it was doing excellent work for the forestry department.

Another of the gipsy moth parasites in the schedule, an immigrant from Japan which has a scheme of its own for working destruction. The female deposits its eggs among the eggs of the gipsy moth eggs. The larva hatches and feeds, developing to the pupa stage before leaving the gipsy moth egg. There will be liberated from the Saugus laboratories about 2,500,000 of the scheduled parasites.

MAPLE SYRUP BAD VARNISH

Whaleman Gives Employer's Automobile Coat of Sweet Stuff in Mistake for Paint.

Riverhead, L. I.—County Treasurer Charles E. Fitz is fond of maple syrup on his hot cakes, but he does not care much for it for use instead of varnish on his best runabout.

Fitz runs a livery stable in Southampton and recently a quantity of fine maple syrup was sent to him by a friend. When it arrived in a big can an employe of Fitz thought it was varnish and put it in the carriage house. He did not say anything to his employer about the can.

Fitz, before starting for Riverhead, sold one of his men to varnish a light-colored wagon. The man went to the carriage house, got the can of maple syrup, and set to work varnishing the wagon. When Fitz got home he didn't like the appearance of the wagon, but the man assured him the varnish was of excellent quality.

In his examination of the wagon Fitz learned the "varnish" had a sweet taste, and he called for the can from which it had been taken. Then the discovery was made that the "varnish" was the maple syrup. There is enough left to permit Fitz to enjoy his hot cakes, so the employe wasn't fired.

Valuable Fox Pelt.

Averill, Mass.—A local hunter had a very successful day recently. Offered \$500 for the hide of a black fox he killed, he is holding out for \$1,000. This is the first black fox seen in this part of the country for over twenty-five years.

The man was hunting two miles north of here when his dog began baying. He found the animal standing at the entrance of a hole, into which he instantly retreated. The hunter blocked the entrance, then walked two miles and borrowed a spade.

After digging 27 feet he found the fox and killed it with a blow on the head.

BOYS STEAL NAVY MESSAGES

Gender Missives Sent Through Air Intercepted by Youthful Wireless Operators.

Washington.—The latest contributions to the mass of data being collected by Representative Ernest Roberts of Massachusetts, a member of the house naval committee, in support of his bill for the federal licensing of wireless stations, include a navy department report of false official orders sent to a warship by an amateur operator, signing Admiral Bob Evans' name; the interception by boys of official and social messages, some of the latter extremely personal and very lively, and an offer by a wireless company to discontinue all its stations along the Atlantic coast where there are navy stations nearby if the latter will handle its commercial business.

The report of the interception of social messages comes from the Mare Island navy yard and was transmitted to the department by the commandant.

Here are a few samples, with names and details slightly changed for obvious reasons: "Miss Brown, Oakland: Can't meet you tonight. No shore leave. Be good in the meantime."

"Mrs. Blank, Alameda: Will see you tomorrow night. Didn't like to take too many chances yesterday."

Another naval officer, according to this book, addressed his best girl at Mare Island like this: "Honestly, could not show up last night. Am arranging so I can see you oftener. Will take you to dinner Wednesday afternoon."

And here is another gem: "All lovely. Am sure you are mistaken. Call again."

BOY "INJUN" FIGHTERS QUIT

Three Juvenile Would-Be Scouts from New York Find Hardships Too Many for Them.

Middletown, N. Y.—Armed with hatchets and with pockets full of nails and carpenter's tools, "Diamond Dick," "Young Wild West" and "Buffalo Bill," all of New York, were sent back to their homes the other day, satisfied that fighting Indians is not what it is cracked up to be. Before starting back for New York the boys threw away several dime novels in which they had lost faith.

The boys were Eugene Mishop of 666 East One Hundred and Twenty-seventh street, 16 years old; George Mann of 14 West One Hundred and Twenty-seventh street, 14 years old, and Robert Hill of 38 West One Hundred and Twenty-fifth street, 13 years old.

When they left home they bought tickets for Oxford, Chenango county, where they were going to build a hut and watch for Indians.

Mishop got faint hearted at Middletown and left the train. He was picked up by the police and told the story. The other boys left the train at Livingston Manor and it was so cold that they spent their last cent to get a place to sleep. They were picked up, hungry and tired of their adventure, and the police notified their parents.

BROOM CORN IS ATTRACTIVE

High Prices Attract Attention of Pennsylvania Farmers—Many to Cultivate Crop.

Westfield, Pa.—Now that it is predicted that the scarcity of broom corn is liable to bring farmers away up before 1910 is run, the attention of many North Tier farmers has been directed to the raising of broom corn, and it is likely that many will cultivate a crop the coming season who never tackled it before. Some farmers in the river bottoms of Lycoming have met with marked success and the acreage is to be largely increased.

Intelligently handled, broom corn is a sure crop, it is said, and in value there is nothing that the ordinary farmer can raise that compares with it. An acre of land should produce from one to one and one-half tons of broom corn, which at 13 cents a pound, if the price keeps up, would insure a large reward. Many Cowanque valley farmers are going to investigate the crop, and if it promises what some are claiming for it, will likely grow it in place of tobacco, which has been such a disastrous crop so account of the low price for so many years.

Queer Address on Letter.

St. Paul, Minn.—"See the rabbits, Jack Barn, la." was the remarkable address on a letter that was deciphered by H. M. Jewett of the inquiry department of the local post office to mean "Cedar Rapids, Jack Barn, Iowa," or, when properly transposed, "Jack Barns, Cedar Rapids, Ia."

Mr. Jewett does not mind figuring out addresses that are badly written through carelessness or ignorance, but when somebody gives him an enigma just for a joke his patience is sorely tried.

Joke Sprains Man's Jaw.

Cincinnati.—For 18 hours Jacob Shueiling, aged 23, former city champion bowler, suffered the terrible pains of a dislocated jaw as the result of a joke. He and some convivial friends met and one of the men told a story. Jacob laughed and laughed and laughed.

Later, when he tried to quit, he couldn't get his jaws together again. He went home and waited for the jaw to get back into place. After waiting for 18 hours he gave up and went to a doctor.

NO FADS IN SCHOOL

Two-Thirds of Students' Time Devoted to Three R's.

Cleveland Superintendent Publishes Results of a Study of Work in Fifty of Largest Cities in United States.

Chicago.—There is no foundation in fact for the cry that "fads and frills" are overshadowing the fundamentals in the curriculum of America's city schools. Almost two-thirds of the time in the schools of 50 leading American cities is given to the three R's, and with the time spent on history and geography three-fourths of the school day is occupied with fundamental subjects.

These are the conclusions reached by Supt. William H. Elson of the Cleveland public schools after an investigation of the elementary school work of the 50 largest cities in the United States. The statistics gathered and the results obtained are reading, spelling, language and composition, writing, arithmetic, geography, history, music and drawing. Grammar, manual training, sewing, physical training, physiology and hygiene are taught in 38 or more of the cities, while of the remaining subjects cooking is taught in 32 cities, elementary school science in 30, algebra and civics in 18, bookkeeping in five, geometry in three and typewriting in one.

"Few cities give place to geography before the third grade, and this instruction is confined largely to the fifth, sixth and seventh years, and though it is taught in the eighth grade, there is a tendency to complete the work in this branch in the seventh," said Prof. Elson. "Despite the attractiveness and educative value of historical materials, only here and there is history taught before the fifth grade, and is taught by all the cities in question in but one—the eighth."

"As a rule, manual training is completed during the first four years with drawing, and notwithstanding it is given separate place in some cities in the fifth and sixth, the real work in this branch is confined largely to the seventh and eighth grades; so also with cooking for girls, which takes the place in these grades of the manual training for boys; sewing, on the other hand, seemingly finds its proper place in the fifth, sixth and seventh, yet where sewing is taught in the seventh cooking is as a rule confined solely to the eighth."

"Though physical training and hygiene are practically taught in all the grades in all the cities where they have been introduced, physiology is taken into account more generally in the fourth and thereafter. Likewise, with elementary science, where it is given place, it is taught on the whole in all grades."

In the time devoted to different subjects Mr. Elson found that reading was given first place with arithmetic, second, language and composition third, and geography and history fourth.

Next in emphasis come spelling, writing, music, drawing, manual training, physical training, physiology and hygiene, while grammar and elementary school science come last.

In discussing some of the facts brought out, Mr. Elson says: "Reading, spelling, language and composition, writing, music and drawing, are the only studies that are actually or practically taught in all the grades of the schools of the 50 cities under consideration. Though grammar finds place in other grades, it is confined in the main to the last three. With regard to arithmetic there is a growing movement either to omit it altogether or to make the work in it during the first two years incidental, regular and systematic instruction beginning only with the third."

OLD STYLES ARE BACK AGAIN

Spring Hats for Women Will Be Much Smaller Than Those Seen in Streets To-Day.

New York.—Feminine styles this spring will show many startling changes in the arrangement of headgear and the trimming of hats, and there will be also a revival of the famous cashmere shawls so much used and admired by women in the early thirties, according to Charles C. Kurzman, authority in millinery matters, who has just returned from Paris.

Mr. Kurzman said women would catch the latest Paris effect in hair-dressing with the same aptitude that they would seize upon the newest models of hats from the French capital.

"There must be a Grecian effect in dressing the hair," said Mr. Kurzman, "and it will be placed high on the head, with innumerable small curls in every direction."

"The new spring hats are really a revival of the styles so much admired in 1830. The new hats will be much smaller than those now the rage here."

An author, aged 67, has just died of starvation in New York. She did not write poetry, or she might not have lasted that long.

HOPE FOR FILIPINOS

Col. Harbord of Constabulary Praises Islanders' Ways.

Mohonk Conference Told Majority of Natives Wish Only Knowledge and to Be Let Alone—Few Want Home-Rule.

Mohonk Lake, N. Y.—There is a bright industrial future for the Filipino, according to Col. J. G. Harbord, assistant director of the Philippine constabulary, author of a paper which was read before the Lake Mohonk conference of Friends of the Indian and Other Dependent Peoples.

Col. Harbord paid a high tribute to the Filipino people, dwelling on their politeness, their devotion to home and family and their unlimited hospitality.

He declared that the great majority of Filipinos are the poor villagers toiling and enduring in good seasons and bad with unquestioning acquiescence in conditions as they are, asking only to be let alone and to enjoy a reasonable measure of prosperity.

The great majority is little interested in politics. Only a small educated minority clamor for office or independence, thereby giving the impression that the people generally desire self-government.

Col. Harbord considers that in the universal desire of the Filipino for education is to be found the ultimate solution of the Filipino problem, and that while at present it is along professional channels, it does not follow that the Filipinos' alleged indolence bars them from an industrial future.

He ascribes the difficulty experienced by whites in managing Filipino labor to the lack of tact in not yielding to certain immemorial customs of the Filipinos regarding hours of labor and other small details.

Like the American, the Filipino clings to that to which he has been accustomed, and to command his labor the wise employer will not attempt to force on him the customs of America. Col. Harbord expressed the belief that much can be accomplished by Filipino labor under right conditions.

"Education in the English language," said the colonel, "the constant travel between the islands and America, with hundreds of Filipino students returning after several years of the most impressionable period of their lives spent in our country, must in a few years very noticeably affect the character of the Filipino people."

"Their really admirable qualities will endure, and some sterner attributes, including great stability, will be added. The commercial prosperity now believed to be dawning will greatly modify the Filipino's views of his own welfare."

"Their best friends have faith that when they are some day fitted for popular self-government they will be drawn by ties that will bind into a choice of a relation with the United States like that of Australia or Canada to the remainder of the British empire, not desiring separation, and realizing that independence, no matter how near or how remote, would be disastrous."

BRILLIANT FARMS OF JAPAN

Rarely Consists of More Than an Acre in Extent and Made Up of Bright Little Patches.

Tokio.—Land is so scarce in Japan and the people are so numerous that a farm rarely consists of more than an acre or two. These little farms are divided up into tiny fields.

During the season of the year in which we made our journey, one of these fields was filled with sprouting barley, light green in color; another field—perhaps the next—with vetch, a lavender-colored, clover-like fodder.

A neighboring field was covered with a dark green grass, from the seed of which a lamp oil is manufactured; another with the pale yellow flowers of the mustard, and scattered here and there fields filled with what looked like a variety of lily—some white, some red, some yellow, but all equally brilliant.

Then to get the complete picture you must imagine patches of flowering azaleas dotting the roadside; towering round-topped camellia trees breaking the skyline with frequent splashes of bright green, usually in the shade of these trees houses with white plastered walls and red tiled roofs; about the more pretentious of these houses white plastered walls, above which appeared a profusion of palms, roses and strange native flowers; and in the doorways or the garden walls kimono-clad Japanese girls—the kimonos as many and as gayly colored as the gardens that framed them.

Fined for Profanity.

Durand, Wis.—The city council recently passed an ordinance making it a misdemeanor to swear. The judge of the city court is a radical "antiscurs" agitator, and is punishing the offenders to the limit.

On the first day the law was in effect three residents used profanity and were fined \$25. The trio swore some more then, but did it on the quiet. The court fined the parents of a boy who swore \$5 because they had not properly educated the youngster.

SEES SON IN DREAM

Boy Had Been Missing for More Than Ten Years.

Mother's Vision Impels Her to Write Naval Authorities in Washington for Information Regarding Lad.

San Francisco, Cal.—Mrs. Hannah Friedman, a resident of this city, saw in her vision her eldest boy, who had been missing for ten years, in the uniform of a blue jacket of the United States navy. So vivid was the impression upon her by the dream that she obeyed an inexplicable impulse to write to the naval authorities at Washington. The officials not only substantiated the vision, but were able to bring the mother and son together.

The finding of one son led to the finding of another. Both young men now are working in this city, striving to save sufficient money to pay their mother's railroad fare from New York.

Mrs. Friedman and her husband were living happily together ten years ago. Their two boys, Mervyn, eight years old, and Jesse, six, were attending school. The little family had little or nothing to worry them.

Then Friedman began to neglect his wife for other company. He gathered together whatever funds he could, and in company with his affinity and the two children, he went to New York.

At the age of 16 Mervyn was entered in the United States navy by the father. Jesse, who had some talent as an amateur actor, appeared successfully in theaters in New York.

The mother never gave up hope of seeing her boys. Had she not moved she would have heard from them, for the boys, never forgetting their parent, wrote to her at various times, but the letters were returned. This led them to think she was dead.

Mrs. Friedman dreamed that her eldest boy was in the United States navy. He stood before her as in real life, grown stalwart, looking every inch a blue jacket. Then she awoke.

The more Mrs. Friedman thought of the vision the more she felt that it was true. She wrote to the navy department at Washington in the hope of ascertaining whether a boy named Mervyn Friedman was in the ranks. The letter was referred to the bureau of navigation. The roll was examined, with the result that the boy was found.

The tidings were sent to the mother, who was overjoyed at her good fortune. She sold the few effects she had, and with barely enough money to pay her fare, she hurried on to New York. She went to the home of her sister, Mrs. E. Schumacher, and at the first opportunity visited the navy yard.

With her heart full of expectation, she boarded the Prairie and asked to see young Friedman. The boy came on deck. Mother gazed upon son, son upon mother. There was no recognition. The mother yearned to take the boy of her dream in her arms, but she feared that she might be mistaken.

Her voice trembled as she asked if he were Mervyn Friedman and whether he came from San Francisco. Then the boy quickly identified himself. When the mother told of her own life he mingled his tears with hers.

Young Friedman then told of his brother Jesse and of his father. Jesse, through his aid, was soon found. Then there was a joyful reunion.

Having found his mother, Mervyn declared he wanted to return to civil life that he might be with her. He did not want her to work any more. Jesse also joined in the idea.

As Mervyn had two more years to serve in the navy, it was impossible for him to get his release unless influence was brought to bear on the authorities at Washington. Mrs. Friedman enlisted the services of Senator Bourne of Oregon and Congressman Julius Kahn of this city. She wrote letters to each, telling of her need for her boy. Congressman Kahn, touched by her appeal, submitted the correspondence to the secretary of the navy.

After some delay the navy department acquiesced in the recommendations of the Pacific coast representatives. Young Friedman was given an honorable discharge. Bidding his mother good-by, he hurried to San Francisco to find employment. He was accompanied by his younger brother. Mrs. Friedman remained with her sister in New York.

Ban on Tobacco.

Liberty, Mo.—The faculty of William Jewell college has given out the statement that the college would no longer give financial aid to ministerial students who smoke. It has been the custom of the college for many years to admit ministerial students free of tuition and give financial assistance to needy students. The ruling is causing much comment, but the faculty declines to give out any statement concerning the ruling at present.

Rats Eat Tax Money.

Boston.—When the genial tax collector of the little town of Leicester brushed the dust off the town rate and opened the big iron door for business his eyes bulged with amazement. He discovered that rats had eaten up all the money, \$200 in crisp new bills. A portion of the money, after being prepared in small bits for the rats' feast, had been left over. The tax collector says he is glad he made a bank deposit the night before.

WERE ONCE ASIATICS

California Professor Thinks Come from Across Pacific.

Claims Dialects and Records Throw New Light on Ethnological Problem—One Tribe Related to Famous Aztecs.

Berkeley, Cal.—Confronted with the problem of aboriginal languages of the California Indians so highly developed that it must have taken thousands of years to work out their evolution, Prof. A. L. Kroeber of the anthropological department of the University of California has suggested the theory that the tribes must be related in some way to the Asiatic peoples across the Pacific.

This theory, he believes, is borne out by certain peculiar resemblances, and is associated with the discovery that at least one tribe in the neighborhood of Los Angeles, is intimately related to the famous Aztecs of old Mexico. The theory is of the greatest importance in the study of ethnology, new facts and theories in this branch of science being eagerly awaited by savants in this country and in Europe.

The question of migration and distribution of the great races is intimately bound up with the problem. As yet there is not sufficient data to advance it in anything more than a tentative form, but the members of the department of anthropology in the university are working hard to bring out all the facts.

Written records of 92 different Indian languages and dialects have been secured by members of the department, many of them being supplemented by phonographic records. The total number of distinct aboriginal idioms in California is now estimated to have been 135. Few Indians are still found who speak a language that has not been previously noted. Such a new dialect was only this month recorded by Prof. A. L. Kroeber from the Sacramento valley.

The numerous languages fall in about twenty groups, known as families or stocks. All the dialects within one group show a certain similarity, but there is no resemblance whatever between one group and another. Owing to the absence of historical records for more than a very short period, the similarities and differences between the various languages furnish the best means of classifying the Indian tribes and of determining their relationships and origin. In this way it has been ascertained that certain tribes of Humboldt and Mendocino counties have sprung from the same source as the Indians of Alaska and the Apache. The Indians that formerly inhabited Los Angeles county are relatives of the famous Aztecs of Mexico. The majority of the California Indians have no relatives outside of the state, so that they are thought to have either originated in the state or to have sprung from ancestors that lived there many thousands of years ago.

MAN WAS POOR BUT HONEST

Stranger in Kansas City, Out of Work, Returns \$70 He Shook Out of Mattress.

Kansas City, Mo.—Mrs. G. M. Myers, 632 Armour boulevard, always has a dread of sneak thieves. For this reason she rarely hires strange men to work about the house. When Mrs. Myers planned her fall house cleaning she was compelled to go to one of the local charitable institutions to get help. The next morning a laborer, giving the name of Harry Clark, was sent to do the work. Before the man arrived Mrs. Myers locked up her silverware and other valuables. She had \$70 in bills. These were hidden in a mattress in her bedroom. Clark took apart the beds and dragged out the mattress in her bedroom. Clark took was surprised to see a roll of greenbacks fall to the ground.

"Excuse me, madam, but I found this money in one of the mattresses," the man said, extending the roll of bills in one hand.

Mrs. Myers counted the bills and found there was not a dollar missing. "This experience," she said afterward, "convinced me that poor men out of work are as honest as any others."

RAILROAD IS GOOD FARMER

Converts Its Waste Land into Scientific Agricultural Stations and Wins Prizes.

New York.—Officials of western railroads are interested in the success of the Long Island railroad as a farmer. That corporation's experiment may be repeated extensively on waste lands along great systems throughout the country.

After five years of work on 87 acres of waste land purchased by the Long Island road the two experimental farms have received 24 first, 33 second and six third prizes at the Riverhead fair.

By placing graduates of western agricultural colleges in charge of the work the railroad demonstrated that scientific methods can convert waste lands into profitable farms.

Army Pageant in 1910.

London.—Scenes from celebrated British battles and episodes in the history of British regiments will be shown at an army pageant to be organized by F. R. Benson about the end of June, 1910.