

WOODPECKERS' WORK

BIRDS MAKE BIRDSEYE MAPLE FOR MAINE MAN.

More Than One Thousand of the Strong-Billed Creatures Aid Him in His Odd Enterprise.

"When a man has spent 30 years and more than \$5,000 in studying the ways of wild things..."

"What have I accomplished? That depends very much upon how you look at it..."

"The first is that every woodpecker that digs a hole in a tree for a nest chooses the east side..."

"I know that these birds insist on having the holes that enter their nests face the east..."

"My second discovery is of some commercial use. For hundreds of years lumbermen and cabinet makers have been studying to learn what causes maple wood to assume the mottled and spotted form known as 'birdseye'..."

"Fact is, the woodpeckers make all the birdseye maple there is in the world. In flyin about the woods they come to a rock maple tree that yields very sweet sap in the season when sap is running..."

"After the sap has ceased to flow and the trees have leaved out new wood and bark form in those small holes. The pecking and sap gathering goes on for years until the tree, having given up so much sap to the birds, begins to furnish fluid containing less sugar..."

"More than 50 years ago I started in to induce the woodpeckers to help me make birdseye maples. This spring I had more than 1,000 birds in my employ for two months..."

Monkey and Caterpillar.

From a tale told recently in a suburban town where organs and monkeys form a combination not yet wholly barred it appears that the keeping of a monkey in the suburbs might be a wise custom...

Meningitis in Animals.

Veterinary surgeons know, but the general public probably does not, that some animals are as liable to meningitis as are human beings...

RING FAMOUS BELLS.

WHITTINGTON CHIMES HAVE AGAIN BEEN REVIVED.

London Minister Harmonizes Setting and Twelve Bells Will Peal Out Famous Chimes—Clergyman an Expert in Their Use.

London.—Bow bells are once more to ring out in chimes above the noise of London's traffic. This is chiefly due to the keen interest taken in a historic church by the rector, Rev. A. W. Hutton, who holds a curious record...

No peal of bells in England is more familiar than that of Bow church. The famous story of Dick Whittington centers around them and it is the old chime of "Turn Again, Whittington, Lord Mayor of London..."

They have now been seen to once more by the very firm who cast the first of them, as far back as 1669. That was after the great fire, when Wren had rebuilt the church as it is now known...

It was recast by them in 1738 and in 1762 nine more were added. Two more, making a dozen, were hung in 1831. The tenor weighs 58 hundredweight...

BIGGEST OF KISSING BUGS

Its Real Name Is Meccus Pallidipennis and Its Home Is in Mexico—Has Dangerous Bite.

Washington.—The discovery of a "kissing bug" larger and more ferocious than the mysterious insect that was so often reported in various parts of the United States a few years ago is reported by Prof. A. L. Herrera, chief agricultural entomologist of the Republic of Mexico...

The real name of the insect is Meccus pallidipennis, belonging to the Reduviid family, being larger than the native American so-called "kissing bug" and is closely related to Conorhinus, the genus which includes the cone-noses...

"The insect is so large and of such formidable appearance," says the bureau's report, "that we would naturally expect it to be capable of a dangerous bite."

JAIL IS CLOSED TO DRUNKS

Indiana County Tires of Boarding Every Chronic Offender, Free of Charge.

Kokomo, Ind.—Tired of boarding chronic drunks who spend the greater portion of the year in the county jail, the board of county commissioners has notified Sheriff Lindley that if he receives and boards chronic offenders it must be at his own peril and expense...

Cats with Cotton Tails.

Two half-grown cats, clearly marked as hybrid cat and rabbit, are freaks of nature owned by Henry Johnson (colored), a Chesterport (Pa.) merchant. One of the cats is black, the other mottled gray. Both have short "cotton tails" and the conformation of rear feet and legs is exactly similar to that of a rabbit...

Not There.

The skeletons of two giants have been found in a Wisconsin gravel pit. There was a time when certain western poets were in the habit of holding annual meetings in a gravel pit but it was located in Indiana, hence the discovery in Wisconsin is surrounded by mystery.

MINK AND RABBIT ENEMIES

Why the Cottontail Has a Panicky Fear of His Less Swift Pursuer.

The ways of life of the weasel, or bloodsucker, are not fully understood, and the killing of these rabbits, in particular, presented most interesting problems, writes John Burroughs, in Outing. How did the minks manage to catch them? In every case the rabbit was apparently run down in fair, open running...

Another fine fish, which measured half a foot more in length, was taken a few miles up the river. It weighed 35 pounds. This one was taken in the orthodox manner, that is, upon a large spoon bait, with a triangular bit of pork on the hooks...

A 37-pound fish dashed at the bait, and got two of the hooks well set in his bony mouth. The fisherman was hauling him in, when the other, probably the female fish, seized the spoon itself, or at any rate so darted at it that it was caught in the eye socket, and securely held.

The man was alone on the lake and was at his wits' end. As he told the tale, he dragged the boat up by hauling upon his line to where the two creatures thrashed about on the surface, and cocking his single-barreled gun, held the line in his left hand while with his right he fired in the direction of his captives...

If this is so, then there is a law in nature that we do not fully understand. A law akin to that which makes a rabbit a coward and a woodchuck brave to his dying gasp. A ferret put into a gray squirrel's hole was at once driven out by the indignant squirrel. A rabbit has as sharp teeth as a squirrel, and surely might defend itself as well as a young woodchuck...

THE SALT SUPERSTITION.

Spilling It in This Case Seemed to Presage Trouble in the House.

She was a little excited as she threw the clock at him. His equanimity was not marked, as he responded with a vase. They fell into each other's arms and rolled gracefully over the carpet, clinking and hitting in the breakaway, relates the New York Sun. The end of the round found him sitting on the floor, dazed by the gentle pattering of a potato masher on his head...

"Heavens!" he exclaimed. "Now, see what you've done!" "How careless of me!" She was very regretful.

And apprehensively they looked at the salt that she had spilled. They believed in the sign. They feared there would be trouble in the house.

Banks as Public Benefits.

Many people who deal with banks every day do not really understand the proper object and purpose of banking. Banks cannot create money, but they can gather small sums which are distributed among the people and thus create an aggregate which can be made available for important business operations that previously would have been impossible...

"Yermeth."

Some authorities maintain that "yermeth," a drink concocted by a German firm from yerba, mate, or Paraguay tea, is the only non-alcoholic, non-intoxicating and yet stimulating beverage yet discovered or invented. In many respects it closely resembles beer.

GREEDY MASKINONGE

FRESH WATER SHARKS OF CANADA HEAVY EATERS.

Some Huge Specimens of the Fish Are Caught by the Hardy Old Anglers of the Ottawa River.

A fine maskinonge was killed in the Ottawa river not far from Hull, Canada, lately. Its captor was trolling for pickerel with a bare spoon and was greatly surprised when he received a tug which nearly wrenched his arm out, followed by the peculiar shake and rush which told that a genuine old stager had taken hold...

Another fine fish, which measured half a foot more in length, was taken a few miles up the river. It weighed 35 pounds. This one was taken in the orthodox manner, that is, upon a large spoon bait, with a triangular bit of pork on the hooks.

In both of these cases no attempt was made to get the mate, which was probably close by. It is seldom that the fish are to be found cruising alone. They tell a tale hereabouts of a splendid pair of these giants being caught upon one set of hooks in Lake Deschenes. The spoon was armed with a triple set of large hooks hung by a swivel from the line in such a manner that they trailed in the water about half way down the spoon...

The man was alone on the lake and was at his wits' end. As he told the tale, he dragged the boat up by hauling upon his line to where the two creatures thrashed about on the surface, and cocking his single-barreled gun, held the line in his left hand while with his right he fired in the direction of his captives. His chance shot took effect, and both fish were so stunned that they could be towed into shallow water. The combined weight of the two fish was 73 pounds.

But the largest fish known to have been taken in this district was caught in a much simpler manner. Old Peter Brule accompanied it with a boathook, near the mouth of the Gatineau. It was basking and apparently fast asleep on the surface of the river when the old man first saw it, and he was about to row up to it and lift it in for a floating log when he desisted signs of life, and instead hurled his boathook straight at it.

A good deal of splashing ensued, but somehow or another the old river waif contrived to loop a coil around its tail and to tow the great thing ashore. It was a very gaunt, ugly specimen, and weighed on the paper mill scales 62 pounds. This was not, however, all maskinonge. Within the gullet of the monster was half of a partly decayed 20-pound sturgeon. With the assistance of his wife the writer once captured an immense pike, with an ordinary landing net, which had another pike pretty nearly as big as himself half in and half out of his jaws.

They make a vigorous struggle for life, these powerful, torpedo-shaped giants, but as they are generally caught with hand lines and by trolling they do not give as much sport as might be expected. As a rule they do not break water very much, but after a few fierce rushes are dragged in swaying from side to side.

Sportsmen rejoice over the death of every one of these creatures; with how great reason was well shown in the case of one of those taken recently. This one had in his huge maw two young ducks, a large whitefish and a two-pound trout. If this was simply an ordinary meal the annual upkeep of a big maskinonge must be a serious charge upon the water it inhabits.

In High Altitudes.

"On peaks where even bird life is missing," says a traveler, "and the eternal snow seems to have frightened all life away, I have always found insects. No matter how high I might climb in those awful solitudes, beetles and other insects could be seen. The beetles dwell under the rocks and in holes in the earth. Their wings are small, or missing entirely, for the snow circumscribes their wanderings, and they generally stay in one place all their lives. Even on the ice fields, where everything is white and frozen, there is a great six-legged insect, coal black in color. It seems to be as comfortable in the snow as other insects are in a flower garden."

Growing Canary Seed.

Queensland, the northeastern colony of Australia, is growing much canary seed. It is marketed chiefly for feeding birds, but in some manufacturing countries it is employed in making a fine flour for wessing cotton in weaving, and in finishing silk stuffs. In the Canary islands it is used for making flour for bread.

Ginseng Among Chinese.

Despite the slighting comments of foreigners upon ginseng as a drug or healing agency, the Chinese continue to value it highly and to rate as most potent the roots which have the most fantastic shapes, especially if they bear some resemblance to the human body.

MISLED BY MULE'S NAME.

Versatile Veterinarian Makes Hurred Visit Under Mistaken Apprehension.

He was a veterinarian in a remote country district, and not only looked at the tongue and felt of the pulse of the noble horse and useful cow, but also prescribed for the human kind when occasion demanded, relates the Philadelphia Telegraph.

Consequently he was not surprised late one night to receive a message telling him to come to the farm of an acquaintance as soon as possible for Jenny was seriously ill.

Jenny was the name of the farmer's wife, and, thinking that it might passibly be a desperate case, the doctor harnessed his horse, and throwing his medicine chest into the buggy, started for the home of his patient, five miles distant.

When he reached the farm it was nearly two o'clock in the morning and the place was as dark as the interior of a sad tomb. A mob of howling, yelping dogs greeted him, and not daring to get out of the carriage unless he wanted to contract a few spells of hydrophobia, he patiently waited. Finally a light shone in the doorway and the farmer appeared with a gun in hand.

"Who's there an' what's wanted?" he demanded in an authoritative voice. "It is the doctor," returned the veterinary in a cheery tone.

"Gee, Doc," said the farmer, kicking a few of the dogs under the woodshed, "yer needn't hev come all tair way out here to-night. I didn't kalkerlate that she would die afore mornin' anyway."

"How is Jenny?" asked the doctor. "and what seems to be the trouble?" "She cut loose an' eat too durned much," replied the farmer.

"Acute dyspepsia, I suppose," suggested the doctor.

"I don't know what hifalutin' name yer would call it," rejoined the agriculturalist. "She has been all kirked up with cramps an' colic, but she's better now."

"What did you do for her?" asked the physician with professional anxiety.

"Took her out an' galloped her up an' down the pike fer awhile," answered the farmer.

"Yes," returned the farmer, calmly, "but yer needn't worry, doc, she hain't much good anyhow, an' I kin easily git another one."

"Well," said the doctor a little coldly, "as long as I am out here I had better see your wife, and make sure—"

"My wife!" interposed the farmer. "Well, say, doc, I ain't talkin' about Jenny, my wife; I'm talkin' about Jenny, my mule."

With this the farmer broke into a laugh that aroused the rest of the family and the neighboring dogs, and could hardly stop long enough to lead the doctor to the wagon house, where he kept the elder sucker.

BOY'S TRIP TO THE MOON

Fertile Fancy of Twelve-Year-Old Gives Birth to Excellent Description.

In the recent county examinations in the Morris county schools one of the eighth-grade questions in grammar was, "Write an imaginary story on 'A trip to the moon.'"

John Duffy, 12 years old, according to the Newark (N. J.) News, handed in the following:

"Many people would think it absurd to take a trip to the moon. My trip was an accident. I was on the Mary Jane, going to India. We had just passed under the equator when a storm struck us. I jumped on a hatch and went flying up in the air like a witch on a broomstick."

"I looked down to see the Mary Jane sink beneath the sea. All at once something hooked me up by the seat of the trousers and hoisted me into the air."

"I looked up and saw my old friend, Santos Dumont, going by in his airship. The thing that hooked me up was an anchor that he had forgotten to pull in. I called to him and he pulled me up. He was very much surprised and also glad to see me. He asked me to go to the moon with him, and as there was nothing else to do, I agreed. He then turned on full power and we reached the moon in two seconds. It was very cold and the man in the moon loaned me a pair of his mittens. They were nearly as large as our schoolhouse. That night I slept in one of them. In the morning I hired some of the man in the moon's servants to carry them around for me. At dinner-time he set before me a barrel of lamb chops, a large tankard of tea and a clothes-basket full of bread. He was very much surprised to find that I did not eat it all at one meal."

"After dinner we went out to see his mountains. He told me not to go too near the edge, and then went into the house. I wanted to see how the earth looked from the moon and peeped over the edge. All at once I lost my balance, tumbled over the edge and began my downward trip to the earth at the rate of 5,000 miles per second. "Suddenly I hit what I supposed to be the earth, but discovered that it was the roof of Lincoln schoolhouse. I was just in time for my examinations."

Sign of a Domestic Boss.

It is a pretty good sign that a man is the boss if he sits around home in the evening with his shoes and stockings off. A woman likes everything around her house to be neat, and a man's bare feet are built on such a plan that if they were scrubbed with soap, rinsed in rose water, powdered with rice flour, and a baby ribbon tied around each toe they wouldn't look neat in the parlor.—Atchison (Kan.) Globe.

KAISER IS JOLLY AT SEA.

Casts Aside Etiquette and Goes In for Good Time on Royal Yacht.

Hamburg.—The kaiser at sea on board his own yacht is a very different man from the emperor who lives in state in Berlin or at Potsdam. At sea the kaiser is a bluff, jovial mariner. From the moment he embarks until the time of his return ashore at the end of the voyage the kaiser never wears anything but nautical costume. If he is paying ceremonial visits he wears the uniform of a German admiral, but he prefers to wear the uniform of the Imperial yacht club, consisting of a blue peaked cap and a simple blue serge suit.

His majesty rises every morning at five o'clock when at sea, and frequently amuses himself by going around to the cabins of his guests and rapping vigorously at their doors. Sometimes he opens the cabin door, puts his head inside the cabin and admonishes the sluggard to jump up and dress.

The royal yacht carries a drill master, Col. von Dreesky, who was formerly director of the central gymnasium for military cadets in Berlin. Col. von Dreesky was also the kaiser's instructor in gymnastics. Immediately after breakfast, which consists of tea, toast, eggs, fish and meat, the kaiser's guests are mustered in rows, like young recruits, and Col. von Dreesky drills them in military style. Some of the imperial guests are portly courtiers, who cut a queer figure at drill. The kaiser does not take part in the drill himself, but watches the fun with great pleasure.

Participation in gymnastic exercises is one of the emperor's chief amusements on board. He is an expert in spite of the fact that he is deprived of the use of his left arm. One of the features of the gymnasium on board the Hohenzollern is an electric horse, which jumps, rears, kicks and plunges wildly about, so that the rider must have a good seat if he wishes to avoid a nasty fall. The kaiser delights in riding the electric horse, and after he has amused himself by watching the guests at drill they in turn enjoy the fun of watching his majesty on the back of the electric plunger.

The emperor spends two or three hours daily in promenading the deck at a quick pace, and those of his guests who are invited to walk with him on these occasions frequently find it difficult to keep their breath. He never abandons these promenades in rough weather, having excellent sea legs, which enable him to keep his balance in spite of the rolling and pitching.

SCIENCE TO KILL WHALES.

Station Costing \$80,000 Is Established for the Purpose on Vancouver Island.

Sechart, B. C.—Modern whaling is exemplified in a scheme in operation at Sechart, on the west coast of Vancouver Island, where a whaling station costing \$80,000 has just been established.

One hundred men will be employed there in transforming the carcasses of whales into various profitable products, every part of the leviathans being utilized.

The whales will be caught by the modern steam whaler Orion, recently arrived from Europe, which will cruise off Sechart, where whales will be harpooned by modern devices from the deck of the Orion and patent reels and special Winchesters will help take care of the monster after he is conquered. A similar station may be established next season near Nanaimo.

SOUTHERN GIRL AT HEAD.

Young Woman Who Leads Successful Firm in the Lumber Business.

Atlanta, Ga.—Many people of the north, having never visited the southern states, have a vague idea of the young women of that region, mostly based on literature of antebellum days. Yet girls south of the Mason and Dixon line are peers of New York, Minnesota, Oregon, or, in fact, any young woman. One of the most successful young business women in the country is Miss W. S. Pratt, of Atlanta, Ga., who is said to be the only woman south of Chicago in the lumber trade. When the firm for which she was stenographer went out of business, without losing a day hunting a position, she opened an office and began operations. Having acquired a knowledge of lumber and its mutations in the market, Miss Pratt was not long in proving her ability, and to-day she is at the head of a firm handling 100 cars every month.

To Adopt Hypnotism.

Judge Ben B. Lindsey, of Denver, who has acquired a national reputation through his services in the juvenile court in that city, is about to adopt hypnotism. He does not mean to resign from the bench, but to use the occult method in dealing with boys regarded as incorrigible. He is under the impression that he will be able to do more good that will be lasting good by this means of treatment than he has ever done before. While the children are in a hypnotic state the cessation of objectionable behavior will be suggested to them, and then they will be released. A boy addicted to cigarettes is to be his first subject.

Woman's Body Is Petrified.

Charles C. Rawson and Undertaker E. A. Wheelock, of Oxford, Mass., went to remove to the cemetery lot of Miss Clara Barton the remains of Capt. David Barton and his wife, Julia, relatives of Clara Barton. They found that the body of Mrs. Barton had become petrified. The casket had rotted, but the body was firm and rigid and weighed 275 pounds.