

Promising Parasites Found For Bean Beetle

Efforts of the Bureau of Entomology of the United States Department of Agriculture to find a way to control the Mexican bean beetle, which is rapidly spreading in the Southeastern and South Central States, have been rewarded by the discovery of a very promising parasite. A representative of the bureau discovered in Mexico a tachinid fly parasite that preys upon at least two species of the genus to which the bean beetle belongs and seems to restrict itself to that genus. It was responsible for a very high fatality among the larvae or young of the beetle in the Valley of Mexico and at Cuernavaca. In that neighborhood of 2,000 living puparia of this fly were sent to the Birmingham laboratory, and from this material, the entomologist in charge of the laboratory has succeeded in rearing one generation from native bean beetle larvae. A considerable number of puparia are now being held

in hibernation for the coming spring. In addition there were found in Mexico two varieties of beans which show promise of resistance to the injurious attack of the bean beetle. One of them is a native edible white bean, known as "ayocote," which is cultivated on a fairly large scale in some sections, the other a wild brown bean of the genus Phaseolus. The latter grows very abundantly along streams in southern Mexico, climbing bushes and other vegetation, and the rather leathery foliage which it produces is seldom attacked by the bean beetle, so that there is a possibility of this bean proving of value for hybridizing with cultivated varieties to breed a resistant stock.

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NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

Lithuania and Poland Fighting Over the Vilna Zone and the Railway Line.

RUSSIA MAY BE INVOLVED

Bonar Law's Policy of Hands Off in the Ruhr Sustained by Parliament—French Organize Transport There—Filibuster Against Ship Subsidy Is Effective.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

DO YOU think the senatorial filibusters are serving the best interests of the American public in preventing a vote on the ship subsidy bill, or are they only playing a selfish political game?

LITHUANIA and Poland have started another little war of their own, which might conceivably disturb the so-called peace of much of Europe. Already the condition is so serious that members of the council of the League of Nations believe the league will be compelled to intervene. The council on February 2 defined the frontier between the two countries, and in so doing it awarded to Poland a strip of territory that includes Vilna and the very important Kovno-Vilna railway. Lithuania was counting on possession of this rail line to provide a connection between Russia and East Prussia whereby she could create a lot of commercial business for herself and especially for the port of Memel, which had been given her after she seized it a few weeks ago. Moreover, the Lithuanians were determined not to relinquish their claim to Vilna. Therefore, when the Poles undertook to take possession of the strip in controversy, the Lithuanians immediately started hostilities, at first with "irregulars" and then with their regular army, the claim being made that the Poles were attempting to occupy territory that was incontestably Lithuanian. Proceeding from skirmishes to real battles, the conflicts have resulted in many casualties already, and by the middle of the week heavy ar-

Resigns to Devote Life To League Of Nations



LEON BOURGEOIS, president of the French Senate, tendered his resignation to that body in order that he might devote the remainder of his life to the promotion of the League of Nations.

tilery had been brought into action. Russia is much disturbed by the affair, and Foreign Minister Tchitcherin sent to both Poland and Lithuania a note stating it was Russia's opinion that Lithuania was right in the controversy and offering Moscow's friendly assistance in settling the dispute. France is so tied up to Poland, financially and otherwise, that her sympathies and perhaps material assistance cannot but go to the Poles.

On Monday the British and French warships left the harbor of Memel, carrying the French troops that had garrisoned the district for two years. The award of Memel and the adjacent district to Lithuania is regarded as a diplomatic victory for Russia over the allies. The Lithuanians have announced their intention of building a new railroad which will unite Russia and Germany. They also expect a great deal of trade with America to pass through the port of Memel.

THOUGH still contending that the French policy in the Ruhr is bad, the British government forces in parliament prevented the adoption of the amendment to the address on the king's speech, calling for action by the council of the League of Nations to submit the whole matter to a conference of experts in which America, it was hoped, would participate. A vote sustaining the amendment would have meant the downfall of the ministry. Instead, the house voted 265 to 190 to sustain Prime Minister Bonar Law's policy of "hands off in the Ruhr." The premier said that intervention at the present time was impossible without destroying the entente; that to refer the matter of reparations to the league would arouse the hostility of France, and probably of Belgium and Italy, against the league. Replying to Lloyd George's appeal to "get America in at all costs to help save France from the consequences of her folly," Mr. Bonar Law said there was "no word spoken or written by any representative of the American government which suggests it is willing to intervene in quarrels in Europe."

So far the French show no signs of desiring to be "sued" by intervention. It seemed last week that one of their greatest problems, the operation of the railways in the occupied region, was about solved. Though the British declined to aid directly in this, they did surrender to the French a strip of the Cologne zone including the rail line from Dusseldorf to Treves and Metz, giving a direct outlet from the Ruhr to France. General Payot, the French chief of communications, said Wednesday: "France has so organized the rail and water transport of occupied Germany that it now is prepared to insure international trains, food supply trains for troops and civilians and trains for coal and necessary military communications. After three weeks of efforts and negotiations we are prepared to handle the normal transport of coal. With French and Belgian workers and those Germans who have not left their posts we have sufficient personnel to meet all our own needs." It was reported the French would expel 3,000 German rail workers who have been active in the campaign of sabotage. Many railway officials have been sentenced to imprisonment for disobedience and inciting the employees to strike.

Premier Theunis of Belgium conferred with Premier Poincare and gave his approval to plans for additional military measures designed to force Germany to submission. These will absolutely shut off the occupied regions from the rest of Germany. Special paper currency for the Ruhr and the Rhineland will be issued, guaranteed by requisition bonds put out by the reparations commission and held against the German government.

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