

Human Interest Stories

Considering the Ant.

Did you know that ants keep slaves? Did you know that they keep "milk-cows"? Did you know that considering the ant led to the discovery of the greatest invention of this or any other age—wireless? Very interesting, intelligent and human-like are these little creatures.

Three Summers ago, near the boy Scout Camp, a few miles from Richmond, there was a war between two colonies of ants which lasted for three days. Scout Executive C. L. Weaver, wife, and a number of others were interested spectators. On either side the generals were easily distinguishable. There were majors, colonels, captains, lieutenants, corporals and buck-privates. Stationed here and there were sentinels and no soldier passed one without stopping and perhaps saying the pass word. First there was a light skirmish and then the whole armies were engaged in a death struggle. Opposing ants would lock horns or arms and with their powerful little jaws bite until one died or yelled "kamrad" or "calf-ropes" or something in the ant language. After fighting three days, one side was defeated and the victory took possession of the provisions of the defeated ants. Perhaps they had settled the land dispute. Perhaps the ant map of Virginia was changed.

Late in the summer you have perhaps seen myriads of insects flying out of a hole in the ground. They were ants, a young colony of them going out to make a home for themselves. When the queen found a place that suited her the colony settled down and tore off their wings. The soldiers were placed around the workers to protect them; some began to dig and others carried one grain of seed away at a time.

Tearing off their wings does not sound human-like but it really is! We who have no wings, dream of having them "in the sweet, by and bye," but we have an inherent knowledge of right and wrong and often deliberately do that which is wrong. We hate, knowing that it is wrong to hate. Adam and Eve would not

be content in the Garden of Eden, but their lower natures took possession of them, and tore off their wings. Millions of their descendants have done likewise.

A naturalist said that he built a fire near a captive colony of ants and the warmth was so grateful to them "that they embraced each other and skipped and danced"—like cake-eaters and flappers. They are quite playful. Big ants often take little ones around on their backs. In the presence of the queen or upon the return of a lost comrade they "register" emotion as it is done in the movies. Ants also make their heads save their heels. A group of them will drop food or building material to a group below, thus saving time and labor. They have been seen to link themselves into a living rope bridge.

Light colored ants, march forth and kill the adult black ants, capturing the young ones. Then they tear off the wings of the young black ants and train them as servants. These slave ants have been known to gather food and actually put it in the soldiers' mouths. "Milk-cows" of ants are tiny bugs which produce a substance like honeydew. These "cows" are moved from tender leaf to tender leaf by their owners. In bad weather the "cows" and their eggs are taken into dry caverns and carefully attended to. An ant may be seen to rub a "cow" to make her give down her milk. They have no buckets; she deposits the milk on a leaf and the ant greedily drinks it or perhaps takes it to the little one, not his or her children, as the queen is the mother.

Instead of being equipped with cardiums as we are, ants are equipped by Nature with little feelers to catch sound-waves that are attuned to them. It is very likely that an ant could not hear a locomotive whistle or an explosion of dynamite but could easily catch the sound-wave too fine for human ears to hear. These little feelers are called "antennae." When Marconi discovered wireless he imitated the natural equipment of the lowly ant by arranging up some wire feelers which are called "antennae."

In the Sand Hills of North Carolina, in Texas and in other Southern States, you may find well cultivated little fields of tender grass. In these little fields no other vegetation is allowed to grow. These ants are good farmers and perhaps there is much that we could learn from them about the science of agriculture if we would "consider the ant."

The fiercest, deadliest things in Africa are not lions and tigers, but the terrible driver ants. These white and red ants are nearly a half-inch long; they are blind and travel in vast armies at night. They kill every living thing in their pathway. When "Teddy, the Terrible" and Kermit Roosevelt were in Africa

Traveler On Foot On The Road to Health



PAT T. H. TRESSLAR, JR., whose lungs went bad from the gas he got overseas, with his pet coon, on the long hike of 18,000 miles across South America, the United States and Canada from his home in Texas to sound lungs and a hundred per cent fitness.

looking for lions, tigers, elephants, and horned rhinos, they were chased out of camp in the middle of the night by these little insects. They knew that far out into the darkness legions of them were coming; knew that these things would eat a man entirely up, leaving nothing but his bones; knew that the only weapons with which to fight them were fire or hot water, and so they got out and left camp!

American ants are not a menace to human life or to the crops of the farmer. They kill many insects which would destroy crops and may therefore be called the farmers' friend. Doubtless they consider that the land on which they live belongs to them, so there may be a flaw in your title.

For a few nights after Caesar was killed there was a comet shining brightly in sight of this little earth. That same comet, traveling much faster than a cannon ball, appears in sight of this earth only once every 575 years. So vain, so full of pomp and pride is man that the Romans just knew the death of Caesar caused the comet to appear. There is not much difference in the size of an ant and a man, only about 150 pounds. Do these little creatures, like man, imagine that they are the most important part of the universe? Maybe so.

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Advise Farmers On Treatment of Trees

Letter is Broadcast for Benefit of Fruit Growers by Experiment Station Officials.

The North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station and Extension Service for the benefit of fruit growers, has mailed a circular letter broadcast with the purpose of informing those interested of the recent development in eradicating apple diseases. The communication in part follows:

"In all fruit sections where the apple is grown, 'scab' is the most common disease. Not only does it infect the fruit, impairing the quality and market value, but also injures the foliage interfering with the normal functions of the leaves and often causing them to drop prematurely, again in a serious infection it damages the pedicels of the individual fruit buds, resulting in a dropping and consequent reduction in the set of fruit.

"Attention has been frequently called to the injury of apple scab on last year's apple production, and what can be done to prevent similar damage this year. This disease is more prevalent and spreads with extreme rapidity during the early spring season. Since scab infected the leaves as well as the fruit last year, the fruit grower should make preparations to fight the disease this spring. The scabbed leaves of last year have fallen to the ground and are a source of infection, when

Birch

We are having some very fine weather now.

Mr. Joe Greene and family, from Murphy, visited his mother, Mrs. Nancy Green, Saturday night and Sunday.

Mr. Oscar McClure entertained a crowd of young folks Sunday afternoon with an egg hunt.

Mr. Otis Greene spent Sunday night with his father, A. C. Greene.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. A. O. Math-burn, a fine girl.

Mr. O. C. Payne stepped on a rock about a month ago and sprained his foot. Mr. and Mrs. Mark Jones are the boy.

Mr. O. C. Payne went fox hunting Monday night.

Hello, Letitia, Come again.

spring opens up, small like seeds called 'spores' begin to develop in these scab spots and are carried by the wind to the unfolding leaves and fruit clusters at about the time the latter are separating and appearing pink. Damp cool weathers, happening along about this time, hastens the development of these 'spores' which continues for many weeks afterward if any rainy season prevails.

"It is possible to control apple scab successfully by proper and timely application of either lime sulphur or Bordeaux sprays. Bordeaux mixture was originally used in the control of this disease but in recent years it has been largely replaced by lime sulphur, since the former often causes russeting of the fruit when used in damp cool weather. The liquid lime sulphur is to be preferred to the powdered form, at the rate of 5 quarts to 50 gallons of water.

"The first important application is when the blossoms are showing pink, so-called the 'cluster-bud spray', and the second at the 'leafy spray,' or just as the petals have fallen, and the third about the days later. Often the blooming season is delayed and there is a long period between the first and second sprays, then it may be necessary to put on an extra application. The spray solution on the foliage and fruit prevents the scab spores from growing as they fall. The slogan is then, 'Keep the Leaves and Fruit Covered with Spray Material.'"

A Catawba club boy made over \$500 with a small flock of sheep in three years. The money and the sheep are his own.

manufacturer." the Plant Pathology Department Spray calendars giving all these North Carolina Experiment Station instructions may be obtained from Raleigh.

Children Cry for Fletcher's

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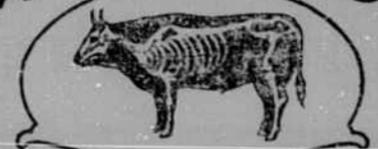
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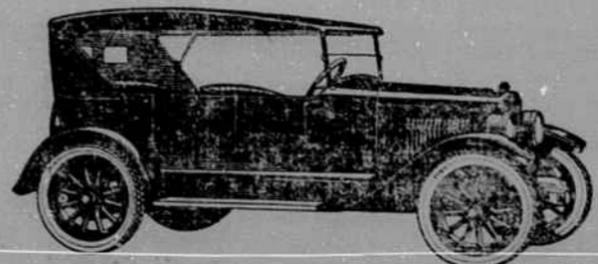
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