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DEAD SEA HELP TO AGRICULTURE?

Waters Can Supply Enormous Quantities of Potash for Fertilizer.

Washington.—Enormous supplies of potash can be easily extracted from the waters of the Dead sea, according to recent assertions.

"The Dead sea is the sink-hole of the world," says a bulletin from the Washington headquarters of the National Geographic society. "In no other continent is there such a deep depression in the earth's crust; nor will one find greater desolation or more uncomfortable conditions for man and most other living things even in the hearts of the greatest deserts.

"The Hebrew scriptures have thrown an atmosphere of tragedy about this country. There, the chronicles state, were situated the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, destroyed by the wrath of Jehovah; and there the modern reader sees the blasted region, seared by unbearable heat, with its bitter death-dealing waters, to prove the story to his satisfaction.

"According to the Biblical narrative the Jordan valley, and the plain near its mouth on the shores of the Dead sea where the destroyed cities lay, shared the early good fortune of the Promised Land itself and 'flowed with milk and honey.' But an end was put to this pleasant condition by the rain of brimstone and fire.

Geology Indicates Vast Age. "The story of the region deciphered from its rocks by geologists begins much earlier than the days of the patriarchs whose actions are recorded in the Bible. This record seems to indicate that Palestine and the whole western end of Arabia rose from the sea a million or more years ago in what geologists term the Tertiary era. Shortly after the rise, it seems, a great slice of the land parallel to the coast of the Mediterranean sank to great depth, forming the huge rift valley, 'the Ghor,' now occupied by the Jordan river and the Dead sea.

"It is not clear whether there was a connecting channel between the Mediterranean and the great valley; but a well-defined ancient beach indicates that in those remote times the great depression held a sea or lake at about the same level as that of the Mediterranean. The Jordan did not then exist; its entire valley as well as the Sea of Galilee was swallowed up in the parent of the Dead sea, which was some 200 miles long and 10 to 15 miles wide.

"It is believed that the climate of Palestine in remote times was moist and that the great inland lake was for a while kept at its highest point. When drier conditions set in the lake began to shrink, eventually retreating into the present position of the Dead sea and exposing the valley now occupied by the Jordan. This is practically the only large river in the world which flows in a valley ready-made for it almost from source to mouth.

"The Dead sea depression having no outlet, all the salts contained in the large original inland sea were retained when evaporation reduced the volume of the body of water to its present dimensions. In addition, for hundreds of thousands of years the Jordan and the other streams and torrents that flow from the desert hills into the basin have been carrying in additional salts until now the waters of the Dead sea constitute one of the most highly concentrated natural brines in existence. It is estimated that on the average some six million tons of water flow into the Dead sea daily, and since the level of the sea changes but little, an equal amount is pumped out daily by evaporation.

"Whereas ocean water contains about one-twentieth of its weight in dissolved solids, the solids in solution in Dead sea water make up one-fourth its weight. Potassium chloride makes up about one-fifteenth of the total solids but common salt (sodium chloride) is fully five times as plentiful. The isolation of the potassium salts, therefore, might be somewhat difficult on a commercial scale.

Cause of Destruction. "The present Dead sea is 47 miles long and about ten miles wide. Its surface lies approximately 1,300 feet lower than sea level and at its deepest point its bottom lies another 1,300 feet down. This great rift in the earth's crust, therefore, lies 2,600 feet below sea level and is the deepest hole in the land anywhere in the world. Because of the intense heat and dryness and the presence everywhere of salt, the lands immediately about the Dead sea is a region of desolation. On some of the flats a few struggling, thorny desert plants grow and in some sheltered, wadis where the springs are fresh, small groups of palms struggle for existence. Most of the area,

however, is a dry, rocky waste encrusted with salt, or nearer the sea, with slimy salt mud flats.

"It is quite possible that even 6,000 or 7,000 years ago, in the era to which the Biblical chronicles reach, the then relatively moist climate of Palestine made the plain near the mouth of the Jordan a rich land such as that which Lot found. It is also quite possible that the 'Cities of the Plain'—Sodom, Gomorrah and their fellows—perished in a cataclysm brought about by a modern secondary adjustment in this region of tremendous earlier geologic disturbance."

Basilica Greek Name for Hall of Justice

The word basilica is of Greek origin, being derived from the Greek word, (written with Latin letters), "basilikos," meaning kingly. From that word has been formed the English adjective, basilic, meaning royal, also said of certain parts or substances on account of their supposed importance or efficiency. The word basilica, as a term of architecture, meant originally at Athens a portico on the agora in which the archon-basilens dispensed justice, that is, at Athens the basilica was the porch of the courthouse. Later, when Rome had become the mistress of the world, the word basilica meant a rectangular hall, divided into nave and aisles by ranges of columns, and with a raised platform, called the tribune, at one end. It was used as a hall of justice, a hall for the use of the high courts. It was in such a hall that the pretors held their courts and later under the emperors the prefect's courts met in a basilica. The prefect or judge sat on the tribune or platform, with the assessors or law advisers on either hand. Sometimes an emperor presided, when the case was an appeal, in a criminal matter, from the decision of a governor of a province. It was before such a court, held in such a hall, that the appeal of St. Paul was heard. In later years when Christianity had spread throughout western Europe, the Christians often adopted the basilica as the pattern of their larger places of worship. Hence basilica now means a church built on the plan of the basilica of ancient Rome.

Sleep-Walking Tread to Disordered Brain

The researches of a group of scientists recently have thrown some light on the dark subject of sleep-walking. They have found that sleep is a more or less willful turning away of the senses from the demands of life—because at the moment these demands cannot be satisfied.

When we are weary all our senses—all our nerves—are so played out that they "turn away from life" at the same moment. The brain, so to speak, goes to sleep in a lump.

It happens occasionally that a part of the brain is poisoned by disease, whereas the rest of the organ remains healthy. When the healthy parts fall asleep the excited, or poisoned, parts, remain wakeful.

In the case of the sleep-walker, that part of the brain which controls the movements of the legs is awake, while the eyes and ears are sound asleep.

In other words, the sleep-walker is suffering from partial brain poisoning. The idea that sleep-walkers should not be wakened is a mistaken one. Experience shows that if they are roused to an immediate sense of their situation they are more likely, on future occasions, to waken themselves.

"Book Plates"

"Ex libris" means, literally, "from the books of." It is synonymous with "book plate." Both names are applied in the case of a label printed with the name of the owner, and usually his arms also, and intended to indicate ownership in individual volumes, which is a device that is nearly as old as the printed book itself. The earliest known examples are German. The oldest are certain wood-cuts representing a shield of arms supported by an angel, which were pasted in books presented to the Carthusian monastery of Buxheim about the year 1480. In France the most ancient yet discovered is that of Jean Berland de la Tour-Nicholas 1529. In England, that of Sir Nicholas Bacon, 1574. The earliest known American example is the plain printed label of one of John Williams, 1679.

Reassuring "Miss Jones"

As they boarded the train they had every look of being a bridal couple. The young man carefully escorted the young woman to a seat, while the interested passengers smiled indulgently. Then, extending his hand to the supposed bride, he said, in a very loud voice, "Well, Miss Jones, the train is about to pull out. I wish you a very pleasant journey," and doffing his hat, he hurried off the train.

HOW BREATH IS MADE TO OPERATE SMALL FLASHLIGHT

A pocket flashlight that is operated by the breath has been perfected by a French inventor. It contains a turbine which is operated by blowing through it. The little lamp weighs only four or five ounces.

The little turbine contained within the case has 60 blades. Once the turbine is started at full speed by blowing into the tube, it will run for nearly 20 seconds, according to Practical Electrician.

A carefully designed turbine leads the air in most advantageous form into the turbine. This gives high velocity without any gearing being connected directly to the magnet.

Still further to reduce the friction, there are no brushes to collect current for the lamp. The equivalent connections are made to the right and left-hand bearings of the turbine. These bearings are slightly elastic, so as to secure contact, and the shaft of the motor, represented by the pivots, may be taken as in two parts, insulated one from the other.

The tungsten filament, practically invisible to the naked eye, is said to be less than a thousandth of an inch in diameter. It contains thorium, which improves its illuminating power at a given amperage and the lamp uses a current of 5.56 amperes at a potential of 2.5 volts.

How Scientists Explain Appearance of Mirage

The Outline of Science says that a mirage is due to conditions of the atmosphere. As a result of the deviation of the rays of light caused by refraction and reflection, objects can be seen by the eye appearing in unusual positions and often multiple or inverted. The diminution of the density of the air near the surface of the earth is often produced by the radiation of heat from the earth and the denser stratum of air is thus placed above instead of, as is usually the case, below the rarer stratum. Consequently rays of light meet the rarer medium at a very obtuse angle and instead of passing into it they are reflected back to the denser medium. The common surface of the two media acting as a mirror, the image produced by the reflected rays will appear inverted and below the real object.

How Almonds Are Classified

Almonds are of two kinds—bitter and sweet. The bitter almond is cultivated to a limited extent in Mediterranean countries, and the nuts are used in the manufacture of flavoring extracts and of prussic acid. The sweet, or edible, almond is grown on a commercial scale in the south of Europe, in California and in some other countries of similar climate. The nuts contain a large quantity of a bland, fixed oil, they have an agreeable flavor and are used for desserts, in confectionery, and medicinally in an emulsion which forms a pleasant, cooling, diluent drink. There are three classes of sweet almonds—the hard-shell, the soft-shell and the paper-shell almond. The latter two are important commercially.

How to Hang Pictures

The size and shape of the wall space must be considered in arranging pictures. Never hang a high, narrow picture in a low, wide space. A table, desk or chair should be placed against the wall under a large picture.

The heavy, ornate, glittery gilt frame is taboo nowadays. If a gilt frame is used at all it should be simple in design and toned down in shade. A frame of natural wood, slightly tinted to repeat the colors of the picture and to relate it to the wall, is in the best taste. Such a frame should be as dark as the middle tone of the picture. Most pictures are now framed without mats and many without glass. If a mat is desired it should seldom be dark or white, but should match the tones of the picture.

How Fear Test Is Made

With the aid of a collapsible chair, Dr. W. E. Blatz of the University of Chicago is able to arouse experimentally the emotion of fear. The seat is electrically operated and made to break down with the weight of the occupant when a control is released. Unaware of the impending collapse, the patient clutches wildly for support and delicate electrodes, strapped to his arms and connected with a recording device in another room, register the effects of the fright on heartbeats and breathing organs. The inventor believes that the chair may be employed to study and treat various forms of insanity which make themselves evident in abnormal emotional states.—Popular Mechanics Magazine.

ZULU GIRLS GO TO THE "ALTAR" YOUNG

Marriageable Maidens Paid for in Cattle.

When a Zulu girl goes courting, she wears her mother's kilt—for the excellent reason that hitherto she has worn no clothes at all, writes Grace L. Morrow, a few anklets and armlets, a "sporran" of beads, constituting her whole attire.

In Zululand, just north of Natal, girls must marry early to replenish the cattle kraals. The maturity of a girl is celebrated by a "coming-out" party, her friends visit her, and a goat is killed and eaten. Henceforth she is an "intombi," a marriageable young woman.

In the days of the terrible "Chaka," the Zulu Napoleon, they were a well-trained, disciplined people, and could easily exterminate the other tribes. Men were conscripted for military service, and could not marry until the chief permitted it.

When the cattle are scarce, all the marriageable "intombi" are gathered into the chief's kraal, and set to re-tatch the huts, and make new sleeping mats. They probably have their little flirtations like girls of a whiter complexion, which all the Zulu matrons watch complacently. Meanwhile the bargaining for the brides proceeds. So many cattle down, so many to be paid hereafter.

After the marriages are arranged, all bargaining completed, the bride-elect begins the courtship. Donning her mother's kilt and accompanied by a younger girl, she goes to the hut where her "intended" is staying and asks for him by name, but cannot be induced to enter on this first visit.

Again she visits the beehive hut, and this time, if sufficiently well bribed by presents and promises, she will enter. In this kind of advances and retreats three weeks are passed before the marriage is consummated.

In the meantime, assisted by the women of the kraal, she is growing the marriage headdress, which once on is worn for life. Into her tight curls are woven, day by day, coconut fiber and yellow clay, until a huge hoarhound-shaped erection begins to form on her head.

For three weeks after marriage the bride is excused from all work, but after that she becomes more or less the drudge of the kraal, doing chores for every one.

When a child is born, it is named after some current event. If born on a journey it will be christened after the river, the sea, or a moorland path. But if born during a smallpox epidemic, the unfortunate child may be labeled for life with such a name as "Nompoya"—vaccination.

For Safety at Sea

E. F. Spanner, British ship construction specialist, would reduce the damage from ramming in collisions by building ships with "soft ends." Mr. Spanner advocates using vertical instead of horizontal plates for the bow structure, with the lines of weakness formed by the joints of the shell and deck plating arranged in such a way that these joints would fall in a more or less predetermined way in case of collision. The resistance to shearing offered by the fastenings in the laps and other joints would be such that the gradual overcoming of this resistance and the crushing back of the bow structure would absorb the energy of the motion of the ramming ship so that she would be brought to a stop without piercing the side of the vessel.

Saping Lumber

Metal nail collars are now used to save the lumber lost by splitting when temporary structures are being torn down, and the time lost in pulling recalcitrant nails. Before the nail is driven, one of the collars is slipped over it, preventing it from entering the wood quite all the way. Thus a hammer claw can be slipped under the nail head, removing the nail easily. It is claimed that from 30 to 50 per cent of the time heretofore required for dismantling scaffolding can be saved by use of this invention.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

New Building Material

A company has recently been organized to make a new building material similar to concrete but which is really a combination of portland cement and mineralized sawdust. It is claimed to be cheaper, stronger, and in nearly every way better than real concrete. This represents one of the many answers to the problem of saving forest waste and thereby lessening forest destruction.—Nature Magazine.

Proof Enough

Mrs. Carr (after a motor trip in the country)—"I'm afraid our child is not normal, James.

Carr—What's the sign? Mrs. Carr—We must have passed at least a hundred hot-dog stands and he never dropped a hint.—Life.

Odd Monkey Specimen

One of the most interesting specimens in the world zoos was the monkey that didn't have a tail, in Australia. He was the most human-like of all Old-world monkeys on exhibition. He did not have even the vestige of a rudimentary tail and his cry was a single wail, singularly like the cry of a child. He was all black except for a white frontal band over his eyes.

Magic Power Adds Hours

In the artistic and utility scheme of things nothing is so dominant as lighting and its media, luminaires. By the press of a button or the turning of a switch we brighten and beautify the home. This magic invisible power simplifies our daily tasks, lightening the burden of housekeeping and adding more hours to our day, more luxury, greater convenience.

Made Name Immortal

In 1897 S. A. Andree stirred the imagination of the world by starting from Spitzbergen for the North pole in a balloon, and, though he perished in the attempt, made the record of 47 hours' sustained flight, as proved by the message brought back by a carrier pigeon, and became the pioneer of polar exploration through the air.

Plant for Your Fish

The best plant for aquarium purposes is sagittaria. The variety known as natans is of moderate size, says Nature Magazine. An aquarium of a size 9 by 15 by 10 inches high should be started with about a dozen such plants, well-rooted in coarse sand or grit, one and one-half to two inches deep.

Greeting Cancels Stamp

One of the most original stamp cancellations ever put on a piece of United States mail was that used by the postmaster at Cassville, Wis., June 25, 1852, when he wrote "Good Morning, Edward" across the stamp when he recognized the name of the addressee as that of one of his personal friends.

To Clean Woodwork

Stains in woodwork caused by weathering or by an alkali usually can be removed with oxalic acid dissolved in water to the consistency of cream, says Popular Science Monthly. This is applied warm and washed off with clean water. Then the surface is sponged off with vinegar.

Free Speech Imperative

Free speech is to a great people what wind is to oceans and malarial regions, which wait away the elements of disease, and bring new elements of health; and where free speech is stopped, miasma is bred and death comes fast.—Henry Ward Beecher.

Ban "Fat Lady"

"Fat ladies" will be banned from future Oxford fairs, municipal authorities have decided. Corpulent women seated on a stage before scores of gazing eyes constitute "the most vulgar sort of shows," a civic committee decided after visiting a recent fair.

Cheating Inventive Talent

It is a special trick of low cunning to squeeze out knowledge from a modest man who is eminent in any science and then to use it as legally acquired and pass the source in total silence.—Horace Walpole.

Food Value of Oatmeal

Oatmeal is richer in fats and proteins than any other cereal. It is considered valuable in the diet of growing children and is of special value to those who pass most of their time in the open.

Youth in Flower

The fairest flower in the garden of creation is a young mind, offering and unfolding itself to the influence of divine wisdom, as the heliotrope turns its sweet blossoms to the sun.—J. E. Smith.

Uncle Eben

"Friendship ceases in a poker game," said Uncle Eben, "but it comes right back to life when de losers feels de necessity of borrowin' fum de winners."—Washington Star.

Getting the True Light

Frequent consideration of a thing wears off the strangeness of it, and shows it in its several lights and various ways of appearance, to the view of the mind.

Leave Judgment to Others

Weigh not thyself in the scales of thy own opinion, but let the judgment of the judicious be the standard of thy merit.—Sir Thomas Browne.

SNAPPY SHOTS

Hush money whispers.
Burning kisses result from sparks.
One way to acquire trouble—marry it.

Sometimes a society bud develops into a wall flower.

It's easy for a man to do right when he can't do anything else.

No intelligent man ever was completely satisfied with himself.

If one is going to give advice, one should be prepared to help.

Beauty of the winter girl may be only leopard skin deep.

If a man is healthy he can afford to take chances on health food.

Those Indian football players probably travel on scalper's tickets.

Believe only half of the evil you hear—and don't tell that.

A free horse needs a backbone like a steel cable.

Sometimes the man with one joke which he always tells is an awfully good fellow.

It's easier for some men to make love than it is for them to make a living.

A man's second love usually has less beauty and more money than his first.

Put your best foot forward when you go into a store to try on a new pair of shoes.

A man always tries to follow the straight and narrow path when it comes to shoveling snow.

If women were as fond of appearing in print as they are in silk there would be more woman writers.

Chauffeurs evidently have a poor opinion of pedestrians, as they are continually running them down.

One can have a bunch of friends, large or small, but never but one dearest.

Stream Makes Trouble

An underground river exists in the city of London, and architects and engineers of new buildings under construction near the Bank of England are caused much trouble by this hidden stream, which, though covered up and forgotten in the sixteenth century, still flows. The deep basements of new buildings near it have to be water-tight tanks. The course of the Walbrook is right under the Bank of England and may give trouble when the new building is erected. The Walbrook was a tidal river—being apparently 30 to 40 feet wide at high tide—and it is still tidal. The river is about 30 feet beneath the level of the ground at the bank. When the new bank is constructed it may be advisable to run the stream through pipes.

Two Extremes

President Angell of Yale said at a New Haven party: "We have almost too many colleges in America: Tusculum college, Woodford, Chieora, Tarkio, Pomona, Kenka, Coker—queer places, some of them must be England, on the other hand, where a purely two-story dwelling is converted into a semi-bungalow type with low-hanging eaves, now in great favor, is another alteration that may do much to make the house of more modern appearance, with a consequent increase in selling value.

Realty Investments

The constantly growing demand for property justifies consistent increases in the prices paid for holdings, for, after all, the value of real estate is determined by the service it renders to an individual, industry or community, just like anything else. Therefore, the trend of property values is ever upward and always will be, was the assertion made by a prominent Detroit real estate man recently.

There isn't a single individual who cannot look back for a period of years of greater or lesser extent, and recall property which went begging at any price, and yet today that same piece of land is worth a fortune. This is true of the neighborhood, the city, state, nation and of the world.

Strengthens Family Ties

No family can ever feel for a rented house that deep-seated affection which is naturally developed for a home they own. There is little incentive to adorn and beautify the house and the yard which belong to another. But when the place that shelters the family group is their own, every added beauty, every tree and shrub and flower planted adds new charm and binds the happy hearts.



Move to Encourage

Ownership of Homes

"To encourage and facilitate home building, reduce needless burdens in household operations, raise standards not only of the home, but of the community and the nation, is a task of profound importance for the welfare of America," declares Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover, president of Better Homes in America, in an opening statement concerning Better Homes week demonstrations for 1925, which will be held May 10 to 17.

Mr. Hoover's statement is made in a foreword to the "Better Homes Guide Book," issued by the organization of which he is the head, which tells how communities may be organized for better homes demonstrations. In the last three and a half years the Better Homes of America organization has reached a steadily increasing number of communities and urged importance of encouraging home building and home owning.

"It is in the home," says Mr. Hoover, "that character and high ideals are best developed. The right kind of home life makes for true success in life and means progress for the nation as a whole.

"To own a home and to make it convenient and attractive, a home where health and happiness, affection and loyalty prevail, brings out the best that lies in every member of the family.

"Saving for home ownership, for instance, develops thrift and self-denial. A thing of lasting value is kept in the foreground and all energies are bent toward attaining it. Hours devoted to keeping a home in good repair, in making improvements that beautify it or lighten the burden of housekeeping, develop persistence and thoroughness and bring more direct returns as well. Neatness, order and cleanliness are invaluable habits, and the careful observation and forethought needed to insure lasting satisfaction from money spent for decoration, furnishing and equipment can be applied in many other ways."

Skilful Remodeling Adds Life to Structure

Remodeling of old houses has become more general today than in years. Many dwellings in the United States offer opportunity for improvements to make them more attractive, larger and more in line with present architectural design. These changes generally can be made at a comparatively small cost, considering the value added to the house itself.

Among the changes which can be made is the addition of dormer windows, which not only break up the monotony of the roof expanse, but make available additional room space under the roof. A treatment suggested for houses having a rather drab exterior is the use of a porch or porches. The many different styles available, as shown in dwellings erected in recent years, offer opportunity for improving the appearance of the home, and usually at a moderate cost.

Greater balance in the general scheme of a house frequently can be obtained through the construction of a small addition on one end or additions to both ends. Change in the roof plan, whereby a purely two-story dwelling is converted into a semi-bungalow type with low-hanging eaves, now in great favor, is another alteration that may do much to make the house of more modern appearance, with a consequent increase in selling value.

Traveling Presidents

Presidents who have left the confines of the United States while in office were: Roosevelt, visited the Panama Canal zone and went to the city of Panama; Taft, crossed the border into Mexico and dined with President Diaz at Juarez; Cleveland, on a fishing trip, exceeded the boundary of the United States; Wilson, peace conference in Europe; Harding, British Columbia, Canada.

Very Mild

"Did yore boy, Bearcat, and Gabe Giggery's kid have much of a fight tuther day?" asked an acquaintance.

"Nope!" returned Gap Johnson of Rumpus Ridge. "They just blacked each other's eyes and bunged each other's noses, 'stead of gitting my gun and Gabe's bowie knife, and going at it right."—Kansas City Star.

Will Come Back for More

Landing in Quebec with only \$9 in his pocket 21 years ago, a Scotchman returned home worth \$300,000 and soon announced that he would return and double his fortune in America.