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# **U. S. FOREST FIRES** CAUSE HEAVY LOSS

#### 92,000 Blazes Burn 29,000,-000 Acres in Year.

Washington.-Nearly 92,000 forest fires swept 29,000,000 acres of public and private lands during the calendar year 1924, according to a report just compiled by the forest service, United States Department of Agriculture. The actual money damage was \$38, 000,000, exclusive of damage to young growth, watershed protection, wild life and recreational facilities.

The figures, say forestry officiais, clearly reflect the bad forest fire conditions which prevailed last year, especially in many southern states and in California. Compared. with the calendar year 1923, the 1924 figures represent an increase of 24,000 fires, and compared with the nine-year average an increase of 45,000 fires, or nearly 100 per cent. In acreage swept by flames, the 1924 figures are only slightly larger than those for 1923 but are almost double the acreage figures representing the nine-year average.

Money damage in 1924, estimated at \$38,000,000, is \$10,000,000 above the 1923 estimate, and \$18,000.000 higher than the nine-year average of \$20, 000,000. Damage to young growth, watershed protection, wild-life, and recreational facilities, and losses to the lumber industry, including wages and other economic values, are no Included.

Was a Bad Year. William B. Greeley, chief of the for est service, states that the material increase in the number of forest fires reported during 1924 is partly the result of more complete reports, al-though 1924 was a very bad year in

many sections of the country. "Excessively dry weather was experienced in California and in the Gulf states," said Chief Forester Greeley, "and in these states the 1924 fire figures show great increase over the nine-year average. Smaller in-creases are also shown in most other states."

An analysis of the 1924 statistics shows that incendiary fires top the list with 21,000, or about 23 per cent of the total. Brush burning comes next with 16,000 fires, or 18 per cent and fires caused by smokers is third with 13,000, or about 14 per cent. Other chief 'causes of forest fires in 1924 were railroads, camp fires, lumbering and lightning, Lightning is considered the only natural cause of forest fires. Only six per cent of the 1924 fires were started by lightning. Public Opinion a Needed Weapon.

"The greatest single agency with which to combat forest fires," said Colonel Greeley, "is public opinion. No thoughtful citizen can read the 1924 without coming to the conclusion that the fight against forest fires is his personal fight. The federal and state governments are doing their utmest with the funds and equipment allotted to them. It is high time that a more effective weapon is placed at their disposal, and that weapon is an outraged public opinion." The figures given in the forest service report apply to all public and private lands in the United States and not merely to the national forest areas under the jurisdiction of the United States Department of Agriculture. On these latter areas, which embrace 157, 000,000 acres, the number of forest

# Seed Motion Inspired Screw Propeller Idea

When a young engineer named Hick of Bolton, England, noticed one day the rotary descent of a sycamore seed, he examined it and applied his observations to the making of a screw propeller.

Some years later, in 1823, a Kentish farmer, Francis Smith, who was interested in marine engineering, constructed a model boat propelled by a screw driven with a spring. The success of this led to further experiments on a nond in one of his fields.

Experts became interested in his investigations, and in 1836 he built a ten-ton vessel to the design of his model. This had .satisfactory trials on the Paddington canal and the Thames, but the inventor was not satisfied. He put to sea in her, and de spite rough weather his craft behaved excellently.

A year later the admiralty agreed to foster the invention if he could make a larger vessel that would travel five miles an hour on the Thames; and in 1838 he built the Archimedes, a 237ton boat of 90 horse power, which he launched at Milwall. To the aston ishment of the critics this boat reache a speed of nearly ten miles an hour and in the two years that followed nearly one hundred similar boats wer built.

# Bread a Staple Food

Throughout the Age Bread is the name given to the staple food product prepared by the baking of flour. In old English the word was written, as we write it bread, and it is common in various forms to many Teutonic languages as "brat" in Germany, "brod" Dutch, and "brot" in Swedish and Danish. It is probably connected with the root of "to break," for its early uses are confined to "broken pieces or bits" of bread, which in the Twelfth century began to be called loaf, while bread became the genuine name of this kind of food.

Bread-making, or at any rate the preparation of cakes from flour or parched grain by means of heat, is one of the most ancient of human arts. The charred remains of cake made from coarsely ground grain have been found in the Swiss lake-dwelling that date back to the Stone age. The cakes were made of different kinds of grain, barley and one-grained wheat being among the ingredients. This bread was made from grain crushed between some hard surfaces, and in these lake-dwellings many round shaped stones have been found, which were evidently used for pounding or crushing grain against the surface more or less concave, of another stone

#### Antique Furniture

Amateur collectors often wonde how there can be so much antique furniture in existence. But when they stop to consider that there are thousands of homes in Europe still filled with the furniture of olden times, they understand. In the days when furni ture making was on the crest, there were only two classes of people. One was the "haves"; the other the "have nots." There was no middle class, so those "haves" had much. Fine furni ture, which was to be found every where, was handed down intact, for 1

Example of Chivalry Among Lower Animals? An unusual "big brother" act among animals is described by a park naturalist who saw a large marmot or woodchuck attack and drive off a mink

after the latter had captured and fatally wounded a ground squirrel. The scene of the little drama was near the bridge over Lava creek, a small stream in the northern part of Yellowstone park. After describing the capture of the luckless squirrel, the naturalist goes on to say:

While the squirrel was struggling in the clutches of the mink a large woodchuck, apparently attracted by the squealing of the squirrel, came and stood on his hind legs a mement to review the scene, then ran straight for the point of battle. The mink raised his head just in time to see the marmot and escape him by rushing to the bank of the nearby creek; the marmot followed, but too slowly.

"The railing of the creek bridge is upported by lew uprights with leaning braces of timber. On one of thes races the marmot climbed, facing the squirrel left dying in the road some yards away; then he calmly proceeded to wash his face with his front paws. Apparently the 'big brother' act is an old story in the wild animal world, like so many other things which we have thought human, only to discover, upon investigation, that we have merely adopted them with human procrastination

"In a former year I once saw a mink deliberately attack a marmot of medium size. In this case the contestants, after a fierce battle, finally called it a draw."

# Word "Hell" Has Been

Given Many Meanings The word hell has today several meanings. 1. The abode of evil spirits; the infernal region, especially a place of eternal punishment for lost spirits. 2." Figuratively it is used to indicate a place of extrement, evil or misery. 3. A place of departed spirits, called by the Greeks hades, and by the

Hebrews sheel. 4. A place of evil or rejected things. Smith's Dictionary of the Bible states that "This is the word (hell) generally and unfortunately used by our translators to render the Hebrew word Sheol. It would perhaps have been better to retain the Hebrew word Sheel, or else render it always by 'the grave" or 'the pit' . . . It is clean that in many passages of the Old Testament sheel can only mean 'the grave' and it is so rendered in the Authorized Version in Genesis 87:35. 40:39; I Samuel 2:6; Job 14:13. In other passages, however, it seems to involve a notion of punishment, and is, therefore, rendered in the Author-ized Version by the word hell. The

word most frequently used in the New Testament for the place of future punishment is Gehenna or Gehen Fire."

Our word hell is a Teutonic word from a root meaning to cover. In old English the word was writeen hel.

#### **Explorer Discovers New Race** in Western Siberia

Irkutsk, Siberia.-Prof. B. N. Gorodkoff, Russian explorer, who has tra versed western Siberia, reports the discovery of a hitherto unknown face on the River Poora.

Altogether Professor Gorodkoff has discovered five class containing 600 people. The local Samoyeds call the tribe "Pyan Ha Sovo," which mean

HOW HOUSEWIVES OF LONG AGO HOUSLWITES OF LONG AGO PREPARED THEIR, FOOD,-How did those lake-dwellers of the Stone age bake their cakes of bruised grain? Probably the dough was laid on a flat of convex-shaped stone, which was heated, while the cake was covered with hot ashes. Stones have been found among prehistoric remains which were apparently used for this purpose. In ancient Egyptian tombs cakes have been found, of concave shape, suggesting the use of baking slabs. The material of the cakes was

coarsely cracked grain. In primitive times milling and baking were twin arts. The housewife, and the daughters or handmaids, crushed or ground the grain and prepared the bread or cakes. When the pa-triarch Abraham entertained the angels unavares, as related in Genesis 18, he bade his wife Sarah "make ready quickly three measures of fine meal, knead it, and make cakes upon the hearth." Among the remains of ancient houses in Chaldaea, an oven for baking bread has been found in every courtyard, and close by were kept the grinding stones. That, bread prepared by means of Meaven was known in the days of the patriarchs may be fairly inferred from the passage in Genesis 3, where it is said of Lot that he."made a feast, and bake unleavened bread." The difference is here implied, showing that leavened bread was known as well as unleavened.

How Liquid May Be Cooled Without Ice

When unable to get ice, water and any other beverages can be kept cold

by the following simple method: Add liberal, quantity of coarse saltabout a handful to a pint of water-to some cold water. Pour some of it into a deep dish or soup plate. Moisten an old napkin or soft cloth with some of the salted water which is left, and wrap it closely round the jug containing the liquid, leaving only the top uncovered. Now place the jug in the dish containing the salted water and stand in a cool place, in a current of air. Replenish the water in the dish from, time to time, as the secret of success is in keeping the cloth very molst

How Gold May Be "Made" That the dream of medieval alchemists of forcing nature to give up her secret of how to make gold is nearing practical realization is the prediction freely made in German scientific clr-In the seclusion of their laboracles. tories German scientists are working on this problem with great energy and secrecy.

Prof. A. Miethe, famous scientist of the Charlottenburg Technical High school, whose announcement of successfully making gold out of mercury created a sensation in the scientific world, now is reported to have closed a contract with the Slemens-Schucker company of Berlin for further development and realization on a practical ercial basis of his di

Weight Great Factor in Horses for Draft

There can be no doubt that weight an important factor in the production of a horse that can pull a heavy load. This has long been recognized in America, where for many years draft horses, pure bred and commernial of George Stephenson's "Locomo tion No. 7." cial, have been sold by weight; and it has recently been definitely proved by Unless the railway track was laid over the graves of ancestors in an inthe dynamometer, a machine for mean uring the pulling power of a horse. for meas land province, the spectacle of the puffing monster, once-regarded as first wasin to the earth-dragon, would ex-

It has been abundantly shown that a pair of horses cannot exert a tractive pull greater than their own weight. A tractive pull is not merely the pull-ing of a heavy load over a required distance, but the maintenance of the pull required to start that load over a distance which is now fixed at 271/2 feet.

Thus the weight of a horse is undoubtedly a limiting factor to what it can accomplish. Moreover, the fact that a horse can make"a tractive pull of nine-tenths of its own weight is significant; and these two points, taken together, show that breeding for weight in horses is no mere fad or "fancy point."

## **Bill Collector Used**

Old English Dog Law Method That Worked A manufacturer of Union City, Ind. nown to his friends as Bob, tells how he has made a reputation around Union City for collecting bad bills. He among the people of England when Edward I was reigning, in which time was established a most extraordinary

"I had a bill against a man in this law affecting dogs, according to a writer in the Ohio State Journal. vicinity, and it had been standing for so long that it had grown whiskers. I decided to send the man a statement every morning for an entire month, so every day my office girl addressed a and keep dogs, particularly large dogs, 'dun' to him. At the end of the month the lawmakers, with great wisdom I sat down at my desk and wrote my reasoning that a large dog near the friend a little note and sent it to him forest, where there was much wild by registered mall. The note read: "'For heaven's sake, man, go down

to the post office-you've got mail." "And on the following day the felow appeared and made full settle-

A great pack of wild dogs would be developed, game would be destroyed and grave danger developed for human life. So the law provided a dog-gauge, an opening of prescribed size, ment of a bill I thought would never be paid."-Indianapolis News. and only such dogs as could squeez their way through the legal measur

#### Sugar Crops of Hawaii

Year after year the sugar crop per cre is being increased on the sugar plantations in Hawaii, and the record thus far is held by the Ewa plantation with the crop harvested last . year, which ran slightly in excess of 18 tons per acre for the 126 acres in the plantation. The yield was four times the average yield for that country, the planters being satisfied with four tons per acre and delighted when they raise it to five tons.

The Cuban planters are growing wealthy with a crop of two or three ons per acre, and the average yield is not above two tons. In Hawaii the plan in use is to make the plantations smaller, develop intensive cultivation, use all scientific information and aids and get much sugar from a few acres, a" plan that is bringing enormous wealth to the growers and much pros-perity to the islands,

#### Real Grief

soup, which advertised, was notated as a company in 1804. In the words of one of his numerous obituaries: "The years that followed marked the growth of a business ideal that was almost epic Jerry had been worshiping Ethel for nonths, but had never told her. He had come often and stayed late--very late-and she could only sigh and hope was going away the next day a holiday, and he thought the last night was the time to spring the momentous question. He kept it to himself, how-ever, until the last thing. It was 11 :50

Rural England in 1825 SIX BIG RESERVOIRS Had Little Over China **UNEARTHED IN WEST** The Chinese minister of communica tions sent from Peking a long cable-gram of poetic prose felicitating the 50,000-Year-Old Tanks Are nanagers of the Darlington railway Found in Spring Valley. xhibition in England on their centen

the far less confusion in the celestial republic today than it did among the

seeking consolation in the bottle, while

into trees and at a safe distance from the monster's claws watched it pass."

Reading that account one is inclined

Had Sound Reasoning

There was a great fear of dogs

Only those people living a consid-erable distance from the large forests

in that country were permitted to own

game, would join with other large dogs

ing gauge were permitted to be kep

at a home within 10 miles of the

forests. And the law never has been

repealed, but it has not been used

Fear Was a Friend

A few weeks before his death Lord

Leverhulme, in his presidential ad-

dress to the Institute of Certified Grocers at Scarborough, said that he felt sure that the greatest help to any of them was fear, and that fear had

been his best friend. His first recol-

lection was fear. He had fear of con-

tinuing a clerk at his father's busi-ness, and that fear persuaded his fa-

ther to put him on the road as a com-

mercial 'traveler at the age of nine

two, and then fear came as to whethe

Later fear drove him into soap. His

soap, widely advertised, was ficated as

in United States Daily

Washington. - Fire attacks 618

Fire Attacks 618 Homes

enty

teen. He married at the age of tw

the profits would keep a wife.

for generations.

and follow the call of the wild.

onest English yokels of Stephe

Then, according to conten

Ledger.

ablic today than it did among the

Gold Hill, Utah .-- A series of six immense reservoirs believed to have been constructed about 50,000 years ago have been discovered in Spring valley, Nevada, by members of the

valley, Nevada, by members of the Cosmographic society. The reservoirs are triangular and range from a few inches to 60 feet in depth. The retaining walls are about 800 yards long and are feathered back into the hillside. The walls are from six to twenty-five feet thick and are believed to be composed of granite, covered with debris.

Then, according to contemporary re-port, "in many bosoms the arrival caused the greatest consternation. They fied in abject terror, many hid-ing themselves in the church, others ,The huge tanks overlook a once fertile valley, where coal deposits have since been found. It is thought by members of the society that the ne of the more courageous climbed ervoirs were used for irrigation to believe that Enrope in 1825 was not many leagues in dvance of the cycle of Cathay, remarks the Philadelphia

Claims that the reservoirs resulted from glacial action have been de by the Cosmographic society, which points out that no trick of a glacier which

points out that no trick of a glacier could construct six perfectly sym-metrical massary formations. In a limestone cave in the moun-tainside above the reservoirs members of the Smithsonian institution found several crude implements and weapons, among which were several "arrow springs," a little wooden rod with one end bent into a hook. The arrow was placed into the crook and the rod sprung after the fashion of the catapult. The "arrow spring" is concatapult. The "arrow'spring" is con-sidered to have preceded the bow by several hundred years.

Thousand-Year-Old Relics Unearthed by Ohio Farmer

Columbus, Ohio.-The Ohio State Archeological and Historical society received one of the most important finds of prehistoric people ever made in the Buckeye state

George N. Miller, farmer of near Jackson, gave the institution the skel-etons of five adult and two adolescent Indians.

Miller found the skeletons and a considerable quantity of domestic utensils in a "rock shelter" in the vicinity of his farm.

The bones, to' which some of the flesh still was clinging, were estimat-ed to be more than 1,000 years old by Dr. W. C. Mills, director of the so-clety. Bits of pottery, fiber moccasins, bone

implements, fiber grave clothing and other material was found in the ter, all in a remarkable state of preservation, equaled heretofore, according to Doctor Mills, only by discov-eries in the arid regions of the south-western part of the United States and in South American areas.

A rock shelter, Doctor Mills ex-plained, is formed by the washing away of the soft strata, of rock, leavaway of the soft strata of rock, leav-ing a hard strata to form a roof. Un-der this natural protection Indians in prehistoric days made their home. One of the most interesting features brought to light was the fact that ap-

parently there had been some attempt made to embalm the bodies. This was shown by the tissue clinging to the

#### How Animals Sleep

The statement is often made that animals do not sleep as soundly as human beings. A reader writes to us saying that they do. But, he says, in normal condition their hearin their is so acute that the least noise will fully arouse them at once. Animals which are born deaf-white Spitz dogs, for instance-sleep so soundly that it takes as much shaking to arouse them as it does a lazy boy. "I have a puppy -part Spitz-that sleeps so soundly that I can take it up and carry it around without waking it," a corre-spondent of the Pathfinder Magazine says. "Many of the white and prac-tically all of the albino Spitz dogs are

# says:

area swept by flames was 602,000 in the old homes. acres and the money damage was es-timated at \$1,500,000.

#### Aged Woman Says Girls Swimming Is Age Wonder Boston. — That girls actually go swimming at Nantasket and other pub lic beaches is the greatest change in manners that Mrs. Ezra Brown, one of Cohasset's oldest residents, has no-

ticed in her long life. The dearly loved elderly lady whose house is a favorite visiting place of the young and old people in the town, declared on the eve of her ninety-see ond hirthday that she doesn't begin to be as much impressed with the radio, automobiles, telephones and other signs of progress that have cropped up during her lifetime as she is with the way young girls have changed their

heir manners. She only wishes her mother could see the girls of today thinking nothing of disporting themselves on the beach and in the water. The Nantasket of her girlhood was visited only by men bathers, and the girls of her day would rather have died than taken

No train being available until late at the last of the year, are the night, the 238-mile trip was ninde by called halcyon days, days of trans sutemobile in nine hours. quillity.

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of it still remains as it was long ago

#### Mice Without Hair

A tribe of hairless mice were re-recently discovered in London and they were regarded as such great curiosities that they were exhibited before the members of the Zoological society. The little animals were caught in a trap in the northern part of the city of London and several of them have uttle country. been observed by scientists who are endeavoring to explain their origin. Several mice have been born in cap-tivity and when the pink little ones are first seen they are much like other mice at the same period of their lives. The hair appears in the usual way but when they are about three weeks old

the hair has commenced to disappear That of the top of the head is lost first and then gradually the baldness extends all over the body.

#### Halcyon Days

According to Greek mythology Al-cyone, or Halcyone, the daughter of Aeolus, married Ceyz. Ceyz was drowned, and Alcyone, on learning his win Race With Death Cincinnati, — A successful race against death terminated here recent-ly when surgeons removed a bean from the left lung of four-year-old Curnel Petry, Jr., of Hanley, W. Va. No train being available until lafe at the seven days from December 22 to December 29, the sea should re-main caim while the senbirds built their nests upon it. Those seven days the seven days from december 29, the sea should re-main caim while the senbirds built the last of the vear are therefore

"forest people," while in their own language the tribe call themselves

"Neshen," which means "men." Their language is entirely different from that of any of the other nationalities populating western Siberia. The Neshen people differ also from their samoyed neighbors by their dark hall and complexion. They have no intercourse with their neighbors and yery few of them engage in fishing and bunting beyond the borders of their own

#### Tuberculosis

"All animals have a certain degree of resistance to the attack of the germ of T. B.; in some this power is low and others very high. The guinea pig. for example, has almost no resistance to this disease, while the goat has so high a resistance that it is very hard to infect it at all. Among human be-ings the Indian and negro usually show a very low resisting power and when infected are apt to have the rapid and dangerous form of tha trou-ble. The average white man. on the contrary, has considerable resisting

# The English of It

This is probably why the English language is so hard for foreigners to learn : "I've lost the links," said the solled

shirt. "Tve lost the links," said the golfer as he wandered Aimlessly through the

"Tve lost the lynz," said the hunter, so he saw tracks around his trap.

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"Miss Ethel," he said tremulously, "I Stripping Cork Tree

If it is done properly, the commer-cial value of the cork is improved by thought stripping a tree of its bark. A cork

tree is stripped for the first time when it is about twenty years old. This vir-gin cork is rough and coarse. Successive layers of bark are taken at intervals of eight or ten years. This cork is finer. The work of stripping must be done carefully, as any injury

to the delicate inner skin of the tree results in the permanent stoppege of growth of cork at that spot.

#### How Twilight Is Explained Light is reflected from the higher

parts of the atmopshere until the sun s about 18 degrees below the horizon. Near the equator there is little twilight because of the swiftness with which the sun traverses this distance rolls, and because of the transparency of sprinkled on the top with seeds like the modern Vienna bread. the atmosphere. In the high latitudes twilight sometimes lasts from suns

to sunrise. The state of the stmos phere as to clouds, etc., has a direct bearing on the length of twilight.

How Earth Is Slowing Down

The earth is slowing down, says a recent publication of the Smithsonian

Institution. But there is little danger

of cessation of its rotary motion, for

the rate of slowing down is only one-

thousandth of a second per century.

siz million years. Scientists estimate

that ages and ages ago the earth re-

volved so fast that a day was three or

four hours.

This means a, loss of a minute in

im going away tomorrow." "Are you?". she said with the essness of girlhood.

"Yes." he replied. "Are you sorry?" "Yes, very sorry," she murmured as she glanced at the clock. "I thought you might go away this evening."

#### Ancient Egyptian Bread

The ancient Egyptians carried the art of baking to high perfection, although the Greek historian remarks of them, "dough they kneaded with their feet, but clay with their hands." The bread of the majority of the peo

ple was made of barley, but white bread made from wheat was used by the rich. The form of the bread is revealed by ancient monuments. A common shape was a small, round loaf, something like the muffin of to day. Other loaves were elongated and curiously enough

Started Vacation Idea

The Olympic games are given credit for having been the origin of the va-cation period now so universal throughout the world. Excursions to these games in Greece started the outing habit, it is said. The period was set by the lunar calendar, coming usually following the first full moon after June 21, every four years It was usually necessary for the Greeks to travel some little distance to witness the games. From this habit the summer vacation custom is said to have started and spread steadily over the world.

omes every day of the year, a ing to a report made public by the National Board of Fire Underwriters. This means a residential fire every three minutes

The total fire loss for the, period 1919-1923 was \$322,810,604. The causes of the destruction were

as follows: Defective chimneys and flues, \$36,991,288; sparks on roofs, \$31,379,884; stoves, furnaces, boilers and their pipes, \$24,348,005; matches, smoking, \$19,129,382; petroleum and its products, \$16,423,245, and elec-tricity, \$15,445,984.

Four of these originating cause were pronounced preventable long since by fire prevention engineers and

the other two are acknowledged to be partly avoidable.

#### 324 Bathing Beauties

Long Beach, Cal.-A throng of pleasure seekers estimated in excess of 100,000 jammed the street and strand of Long Beach to see for selves a parade of 324 bathing beauties whose appearance various church and reform organizations, had bught for six weeks to prevent.

# A Big One

Little Mary's father is a teacher and keeps pretty close tabs on her school work. Her arithmetic gives him more concern than anything else. At lunch time on the day when she had her final examination in arithmetic he asked her what mark she got.

asked her what mark she got. To which she mannfully repl "The biggest nought I ever sew,"

Study Weather at

born deaf."

**U. S. Flying Schools** San Francisco.—Army service schools at the Presidio of San Francisco and elsewhere have begun to turn weather prophets. The military importance of the subject has led army men to a deep study of atmospheric conditions. Graduates of the meteorological section of the signal school are placed on duty along the numerous War depart-ment airways, where weather forecasts must be supplied to aviaters before they start on flights. Not only temperatures and storms must be predicted, but upper air currents and the direction and duration of winds. In planning the erection of irdromes and flying fields new ( the experts are given careful hearings. 4.

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