

## URGES FARMERS TO PROTECT THE SNAKE

### Expert Calls Nonpoisonous Reptiles a Help.

Cary Jones, who is considered one of the best-posted men in the world on reptiles, says that the killing of constrictor snakes, or the nonpoisonous kinds, costs farmers in this country more than \$122,000,000 a year. Jones is at the fair on the Midway. There he sits daily and lectures on American reptiles and reptiles from other countries when he can get them, says the Aurora News-Beacon.

Several times he has appeared before scientists to tell what he has learned from experience with snakes. He has learned little, if anything, from books, because, he says, he is just a plain "Hoosier" who has had little opportunities to go to school. He is an interesting talker.

He says the number of rattles on a rattlesnake's tail do not tell his age, but do tell whether or not he is well fed. Jones says every snake is born with 22 vertebrae and with each year another is added. In other words, a snake with 24 vertebrae is in his third year of life.

"The prejudice against snakes started with the story of the Garden of Eden. Men have never come in close contact with snakes as a matter of choice. But I have studied them 35 years. They constitute the only living family that does not fight within itself. Reptiles live in harmony with man; there is a king snake or a blue gopher in the lot. Those two are the only cannibal snakes that live.

"There are 289 kinds of snakes in America. Of these only five are deadly poison. The poison ones are the rattler, the cottonmouth, the copperhead, the adder and the viper. The remaining families are not antagonistic to man or big beasts. They are the constrictors. They kill their food by constriction.

"Every time a snake kills a rat he saves the weight of himself and the rat is grain for the farmer. He should be cultivated rather than killed. He will eat it chased, but will fight if cornered. In many instances they become domesticated. They make real pets, but most people do not want them for pets."

## Value Bumblebees at Weight in Gold

Bumblebees are worth much more every day to the United States than all our gold mines. Yes, they are worth more than all gold and silver mines together even if you multiply the mines by two. You can rate the bumblebees at about \$300,000,000.

Perhaps you did not know it, but we owe our clover hay crop to the bumblebee. And our clover is worth more than \$300,000,000 every year.

When Uncle Sam tried to introduce red clover in the Philippines he made a big discovery. Red clover would not reproduce itself in those islands.

It took considerable time to find out the reason for that failure was absence of bumblebees. These buzzing toilers are the chaps who fertilize red clover—distribute the pollen and so complete the yearly cycle of maturity.

And no insect except the bumblebee with his abnormally long tongue can do that little trick in a red clover field.

When Uncle Sam took a cargo of bumblebees out to Manila the job of raising red clover hay in the Philippines was accomplished.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

## Gasoline Rifle

A patent attorney was talking about some of the freakish things that some of his clients want to patent. The latest nifty invention was conceived by a Springfield man; it's a gasoline hunting rifle. A lead ball is shot from the gun by exploding gasoline vapor. The hunter carries a gasoline tank on his back with a hose running to a carburetor mounted on the barrel. A dry-cell battery, also carried on the back, warms the carburetor and furnishes the ignition. The trigger is really a switch to set off the ignition spark.

Well, why wouldn't such a gun work? A good hunter might hit as high as 20 moose to the gallon.—Exchange.

## Credit Bobbed Hair Fad

One of the good points to the credit of the bobbed hair fad is the revival of several industries and trades which had been more or less slumbering for years. Hair dyeing has increased materially; factories making beauty parlor equipment have become rushed; the artificial hair trade has been greatly increased with a growth in the number of hairdressing shops from 5,000 in 1919 to more than 21,000 today. The amount of money spent in hair coloring in 1924 was \$7,500,000.

## Cloudburst Silver-Lined

When a recent storm washed away the land on which the house owned by L. L. Loony of Rochester, Nev., stood, there came into sight a rich mineral vein, the existence of which was not even suspected. At a depth of 20 feet Mr. Loony opened up a vein of ore assaying \$80 to the ton. Cloudbursts on the Nevada desert are usually considered plagues, but this one was the exception.

## Super Cricketer

By setting a new world's record with a score of 101 runs in one inning, Jack Hobbs, professional Surrey cricketer, has become the idol of British cricketer fans. One cartoonist reflected the general esteem in which he is held by picturing seven great men of the world: A gigantic Hobbs towering over Adam, Mahomet, Julius Caesar, Lloyd George, Charlie Chaplin and Napoleon.—The Argonaut.

## Torch Fights Forest Fires

A new apparatus for fighting forest fires consists of a kerosene blowtorch, used for setting back fires, says Popular Science Monthly. By its use all the fire, it is claimed, can be done by one experienced man, thus removing the attendant danger to a minimum.

## Juniper Tree Older Than King Solomon

There is something about an ancient tree that wins our reverence whether we know much about trees or not. And sometimes one of these veterans is found of such age that we seek in vain for a word that expresses our feelings about it.

In Logan canyon, Utah, a knotted old juniper has very recently been discovered; the men of science say that it had reached a vigorous life before King Solomon was born. A student in the Utah agricultural college discovered it. The tree is still growing, its roots imbedded in rock at an elevation of 7,300 feet above sea level; it is about forty-four feet high. The old tree has been taking its nourishment from the limestone cliff for 3,000 years. All that time this noble veteran has fought a lonely but victorious fight against wind and storm and drought. Through its long struggle the old juniper has acquired such strength that it is actually breaking apart the ledge on which it grows and gradually pushing several tons of rocky material away from the edge of the cliff. The national forest service has been asked to protect this tough old settler from the souvenir hunters, by surrounding it with a strong steel fence.—Youth's Companion.

## Whistler Not Always Regarded With Favor

Whistling is forbidden in Iceland, where it is regarded as a breach of the divine law. But whistling is regarded with disfavor in other places as well. In the dressing room of a theater, for example, it dooms a play if anyone whistles within hearing of the players who are "making up" for the first performance, according to a very old theatrical superstition.

On shipboard you must not whistle unless you want to bring a gale of wind. You may whistle just a little in a calm, if you wish for a bit of wind, but sailors generally believe you are likely to get much more than you want.

Whistling after dark is regarded as unlucky in some parts, while miners hold that at no time of day should one whistle in a mine; doing so is sure to bring on a cave-in, an explosion, or some other form of disaster.

Among the races which resent all whistling are the Arabs. They say that it is inspired by the "evil one," and that it takes 40 days to purify the mouth of a whistler. Five years ago the governor of Guam, the American Island possession in the Pacific, issued an edict against whistling on that island—presumably in deference to the prejudice of the natives against the practice.—Grit.

## Gatherings Not Only for Trade Purposes

While the natives of Ethiopia represent a rather high order of intelligence they do not seem to be able to break away from their old traditions and their old methods. The market is the medium of exchange of news and views as well as of commodities, and market day is a treat that the native does not miss if it can be avoided. The inhabitants of the highlands bring their grain and similar products down to some large plain which is recognized as the "market," and there they meet the natives of the lowlands who have brought their cotton. The latter is the basis of all exchange and barter. They have money, but the value of the cotton regulates the value of the money. Salt also is highly esteemed. The coins made use of all bear the date 1780, no matter how recent their origin may have been. The date is regarded as evidence of their validity and a coin remains in service until the date is worn off, after which no one will accept it for anything.—Exchange.

## Glaciers

You liked the music instruments that glaciers made, but no songs were ever so grand as those of the glaciers themselves, no falls so lofty as those which poured from brows and chasms of mountains of pure dark ice. Glaciers made the mountains and ground corn for all the flowers, and the forests of silver fir; made smooth paths for human feet until the sacred Sierras have become the most approachable of mountains. . . . The primary mountain waves, unival granite, were soon carved to beauty. They bared the lordly domes and fashioned the clustering spires; smoothed godlike mountain brows and shaped lake cups for crystal waters; wove myriads of mazy canyons and spread them out like lace.—John Muir.

## Weird Coffee Recipe

French coffee, Turkish coffee, Russian coffee, all have had their vogue among those who are constantly seeking the bizarre; but in "All About Coffee" we find a recipe which should be weird enough to satisfy anyone's taste. It is "Judge" Walter Rumsey's "new and superior way of making coffee" as given in 1857.

You must "take equal quantity of Butter and Sallet-oyle, melt them well together, but not boyle them. Then stirre them well, that they may incorporate together. Then melt there with three times as much Honey and stirre it well together. Add thereunto powder of Turkish Cophie, to make it Electuary."

Butter, salad oil, honey, and coffee mixed!

## "Lungs" in the Skin

The skin is spoken of as the "third lung" because of the fact that twice as much waste matter is discharged from the body by means of the skin as through the lungs.

## Yes, at Least One

There is at least one man of your acquaintance who can convince you you are wrong just by saying so.—Spartanburg (S. C.) Herald.

## Odd, but Interesting

All during the testimony he hardly moved in his chair. For the most of the time he rested his head on his chin.—Fort Worth Telegram.

## First Photograph

The first photographic portrait was made in New York in 1839 with a camera made from a cigar box fitted with a spectacle lens.

## HOW

VEGETABLE ALCOHOL MAY REPLACE "REAL THING."—Motor cars are running in many parts of the world without real petrol in their tanks. They rely for their power on vegetable alcohol, prepared by modern chemists from fruits, roots, seeds, and even flowers.

In France, alcohol is extracted from sugar-beet, and ten gallons of spirit have been extracted from a ton of this vegetable. Potatoes have been used for the same purpose in Germany.

From fifteen to sixty gallons of alcohol can be obtained from a ton of acorns, horse chestnuts or figs. In Australia, over 20,000,000 acres are infested by a certain kind of prickly pear, but recently this pest has become a source of profit, for it is said that fourteen gallons of spirit are yielded from a ton of the prickly stems.

Although alcohol is also extracted from artichokes, maize and rice are the richest sources of supply. You can get about a dessertspoonful of spirit from every ounce of rice.

Seaweed is probably the strangest source from which alcohol for power purposes is obtained. Tons are gathered every year, and after treatment by industrial chemists yield a very high proportion of useful spirit.

## How Antiseptic Rays Got Rid of Microbes

Two scientists recently dropped a bottle containing an antiseptic into a vessel of impure water. The bottle was tightly corked so that its contents could not come in contact with the water. Yet 24 hours later, when the bottle was taken out, 25 per cent of the microbes in the water had been killed.

The account of this experiment, conducted by Doctor Tcheouyeres and Doctor Bunau-Varilla, was given before the French Academy of Sciences, says a writer in Popular Science Monthly. An explanation advanced is that the antiseptic gives off rays that attack microbes. The tube that contained the antiseptic, a weak solution of chloride of lime, was made of quartz, which apparently let the rays through readily.

The consequence of this experiment may be of great importance. Our drinking water, for example, in the future may be purified at very low cost without chemicals.

## How We Get "Turncoat"

The epithet "turncoat" is said to have taken its rise from one of the first dukes of Savoy, whose dominions lying open to the incursions of the two contending houses of Spain and France, he was obliged to temporize and fall in with the power that was most likely to distress him, according to the success of their arms against each other. So being frequently obliged to change sides, he humorously got a coat made that was blue on one side and white on the other, and might be indifferently worn either side out. While in the Spanish interest, he wore the blue side out, and the white side was the badge for the French. Hence he was called the "Turncoat," by way of distinguishing him from other princes of the same name of that house.—Exchange.

## How "Records" Are Made

The person making the record sings or plays before a microphone (formerly a funnel or phonograph horn) which concentrates the sound waves upon a diaphragm to which a recording needle is attached. The needle cuts the impression in a blank wax record.

When the wax record is pronounced perfect it is dusted with graphite and electroplated. This forms a permanent or master record, from which the working negatives are made by taking wax impressions of it and obtaining copper electros in turn from them. From these negatives by means of a hydraulic press the familiar commercial records are made, the material used being a composition containing shellac, wood charcoal, barium sulphate, earthy coloring matter and cotton flock.

## How Andes Got Name

The origin of the name Andes is unknown for certain. Many theories have been advanced by different authorities. It has been variously supposed to be derived from the Peruvian words "anta," meaning tapir; "anti," meaning metal or copper; and "Antis," the name of a tribe living in the mountains; or from the Spanish "Andenes," applied to the gardens on the terraces which occur on the western slopes of the Andes in Chile. Humboldt believed the meaning of "Andes" is lost. One writer noted the interesting fact that the Hindus in north India called the Himalayas by the name of Andes.—Pathfinder Magazine.

## Company's Rule One of Absolute Power

Necessity forced the Hudson's Bay company, a trading corporation engaged in collecting furs to become a government that ruled from the Great lakes to the Arctic circle. How absolute this power might be, and in some cases was, is illustrated by the strange history of Donald Smith, afterward Lord Strathcona, whose name is honored in every part of the Dominion of Canada. The history, which contains all the elements of a romance or a melodrama, is a matter of record in the company.

Almost seventy years ago a young Scotman came from his native land to take a place in the Hudson's Bay company. He served it with scrupulous fidelity, and had begun to feel at home in the place where he was stationed.

One day an Indian runner came to him with an order to leave his post in one hour and betake himself to Labrador. The order did not permit him to wait to pack his clothing, which, he was informed, would be sent after him.

Although the order exiled him to an American Siberia, and was unaccompanied by any word of explanation, he obeyed it without a word of remonstrance. Within the hour he was on his way to the distant and inhospitable post. He was kept there 23 years. On the death of the governor of the company, who had sent him into exile, he was recalled.

As during this long, trying time he had been a wise, faithful servant of the company, he was now promoted from position to position, until finally he became its governor. The exile was a harsh measure and the reason of it a mystery, but an old settler put it in another light. The company governed by military discipline, and ordered those subordinates to perfunctory service whom it could rely on to endure privation and cope with danger in the spirit of a gallant soldier.

## Spicy Memoirs

Publisher George Doran of New York was talking about the memoirs of celebrities that are continually appearing.

"It's rather remarkable," he said with a wink, "what spicy workmanlike copy these celebrities all turn out. You'd think they'd been trained to the writing game from childhood."

Mr. Doran winked again.

"It was once talking to a celebrity in London," he went on, "who was getting dozens of offers daily for a volume of spicy memoirs. He told me that a New York publisher had visited him that morning and said:

"Whatever you're offered, I'll double it, and besides, I'll write the book myself."

## Worth More

Mrs. Langdon Kent was discussing the servant problem in New York. "It is positively naive the way the modern domestic takes her work. She seems to think that a good position is one in which she does as little as possible for as much as she can extort."

"Only the other day a friend of mine was trying to select a cook. The woman demanded a very high wage, yet admitted that she was utterly without experience."

"How then," demanded my friend, "do you expect to get top wages?"

"Sure, mum," was the ingenuous reply, "ain't the work a whole lot harder for me when I don't know how to do it?"

## Fertilizing Soils

Ammonium nitrate performs an extremely useful function in fertilizing certain crops, especially grasses, as it enables them to take the best advantage of any phosphorus compounds present in the soil. When, however, the soil is a sandy one, ammonium nitrate is not the best fertilizer to use. The plants split it up into ammonia and nitric acid, and in a sandy soil they absorb more ammonia than nitric acid. This free acid, being left in the soil, accumulates, with the result that the soil is quickly rendered acid. It is therefore advisable to make certain of the type of soil before applying ammonium nitrate as a fertilizer.

## Protect Beauty Spots

Beauty spots in the English countryside are no longer to be disguised by unsightly advertisements. For 18 years the advertisement regulation act, designed to protect landscapes from advertisements, has had a loophole which made it inoperative, but this has been stopped by an amending act which received royal assent on the last day of the recent parliamentary session.

## Illuminated Maps

Electrically illuminated maps are now being used in the Avondale public school, Cincinnati, Ohio. These maps are so mounted that the lighting comes from the back, and each one of these maps is equipped with a set of switches, so that different points may be brought out as the lesson in geography progresses.

## Sultan Evidently Had, Well, Just a Little!

Mulai Hafl, sultan of Morocco, was a born gambler. While he was still sultan the French resident-general in Morocco gave a party in his honor and, knowing the monarch's passion for gambling, organized a baccarat game. While Mulai Hafl was winning, a British newspaper man named Loris, who was losing, said: "You do wrong to take that money. It's against the teachings of the Koran." That so worried the sultan that he was on the point of giving back his winnings, when he saw nearby the French chief justice, a recognized authority on Mussulman law. "Tell me," said the sultan, "whether it is against the Koran to take this money." The justice remained silent a moment before replying: "Your majesty, if you have played a straight game, you cannot touch this money because it is mere hazard that made you win and it is forbidden by the Koran to take advantage of hazard. But if you—how shall I say?—forced your luck—I mean, cheated a little—you may put the money in your pocket because you won it by your skill and cleverness." The sultan smiled. "Thou art the greatest and most learned judge I have ever met," and he pocketed the money.

## Apple Tree Honored by Canadian Farmers

A monument in honor of an apple tree stands in Dundas county, in Canada. It is made of marble and stands on or near the spot where the original McIntosh apple tree grew.

It is nearly 130 years since John McIntosh emigrated from Scotland to Canada and settled in Matilda township. That was the day of the pioneer, and "honest John" had to clear his own land. In this process he is said to have come across a number of apple trees, which he spared. One of these produced a bright-colored apple which he called the "McIntosh Red," and it soon became famous.

His son, Allan McIntosh, propagated it, so that now it is grown in many parts of the North American continent.

The original tree was injured by fire in 1890, but it continued to bear its bright red fruit until 1908, when it failed entirely. To mark their appreciation of a tree that had been so profitable to them, the farmers of the country raised a monument to it.

## Difference in Teas

The same kind of tea leaves can be used for the manufacture of either green or black tea, the difference of the two teas lying merely in the process of curing. Yet, some varieties of tea leaves are better adapted than others for making certain kinds of tea. In producing green tea the leaves are sterilized by steam. This prevents oxidizing or fermentation of the leaf, which retains its green color, and when boiling water is poured over it the result is the green or greenish-yellow liquid. In manufacturing black tea the leaf is allowed to ferment, which changes its color from green to very dark brown. In the case of oolong, a semi-fermented tea, the fermentation is allowed to reach a certain desired point.

## Man's Lot of Trouble

If man had been created without beard he would have saved quite a bit of trouble, time and expense, says an English writer.

The ear to ear measure on the average man's face is 12 1/2 inches, and from where his beard starts on his throat to his chin and hence to the upper lip is 4 1/2 inches.

This area must be shaved every day, if a man wishes to be spruce and clean.

In shaving, two strokes are made for every inch, so that every day he goes over about 68 inches of space.

In a year this amounts to 24,820 inches and in a lifetime it totals 20 miles.

If a man takes five minutes daily to shave himself, at seventy he will have spent a total of 75 days in shaving, says the writer.

## Historical Heroine

Beatrice Cenci was the daughter of a Roman patrician. She was born in Rome February 12, 1577. Her father for many years abused his wife and family in the most cruel way and as a result the family procured his murder. They were tried and sentenced to death. Beatrice was executed September 11, 1598. The circumstances of her life have long caused her to be considered a martyr and her history has been the theme of several poems.

## Maddening

Walker had been going about for two days with a worried look on his usually smiling face. A friend stopped him and asked the reason for the sudden change from joy to gloom.

"I fear my wife is going insane. It's those people next door," Walker said.

"What have they done? What's the trouble?" the friend asked.

"She can't hear a sound of them all day long."

## Hair's Color Changed

When white hair is removed from a spot on the back of a Russian rabbit and the animal is kept in a colder temperature while the new hair is growing it comes in black instead of white.

## HOW MANY BEDS FOR TUBERCULOSIS DO WE NEED IN NORTH CAROLINA?

The matter of the importance of sanatorium treatment for every person who has tuberculosis has ceased to be a subject for discussion. Our people in North Carolina and throughout our nation and in many other nations are unanimous on this one thing: How long should a patient remain in a sanatorium and should he be re-admitted in case the disease should become reactivated seems still to be under discussion, at least by the laity in our state. Let it be said that all persons expert in tuberculosis from the National Tuberculosis Association on down, agree that every case of tuberculosis should have six months at a well regulated sanatorium as a minimum, some internists will not treat a case of tuberculosis until after that term of training in a sanatorium. Then all cases that become re-activated should be allowed to return to the sanatorium, especially where they cannot be properly cared for in the home for one of many reasons, or if perchance they have no home. Then all far advanced cases should be cared for in a tuberculosis hospital, especially if they have no home or improper home surroundings.

How many beds of tuberculosis have we in North Carolina available for our citizens? Not more than five hundred. And how many do we need. Let me quote from the National Tuberculosis Association in Technical Series No. 2, prepared by Mr. T. B. Kidner, published this year, page 8:

"It is usual to base the estimate of the number of beds that should be provided in a tuberculosis sanatorium, upon the number of deaths occurring annually from the disease in the district which the institution is to serve. (The average number of deaths for several years should be used). A conservative estimate is that one bed should be provided for each death; although it has been found in places where the field organization for anti-tuberculosis work is thorough, and the 'finding agencies' are active and regular in their work, that the proportion of beds to deaths may well be higher."

We had in North Carolina last year, according to the report of the Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2462 deaths. Therefore, according to the ratio set by the National Tuberculosis Association we are shy in round numbers two thousand beds, if we may hope to give out people what they need and what they are entitled to. We would have had seventy-five additional beds in each of two counties but for an error made by the last General Assembly, which of course will be corrected by the 1928 session.

It is time the state should take up this matter in earnest. The Duke foundation will in a few months be ready to pay one dollar per charity patient per day to all county and state sanatoriums.

The state sanatorium should be greatly enlarged. County sanatoriums should be erected. Perhaps another state sanatorium should be built in a different part of the state. Might it not be well for the state to subsidize the county sanatoriums,—that is pay a part of the cost of maintenance of patients therein. A wonderful work is being done and is accomplishing more than could reasonably be expected but we need two thousand more beds.

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