

Farmer Well Called "Indispensable Man"

Now goes the husbandman forth in the chill dawn with renewed vigor in his gait. All winter he has labored, but not hurriedly, fixing his barns, cutting wood, pruning fruit trees and caring for his animals. On bad days he sits by the fire and turned things over in his mind—so many acres of wheat and so many acres of oats, this field for roots and that for corn. And you may be sure that he has also turned over the pages of many a catalogue longingly, wishing he could buy twice as many things as he can afford—the better to do his complicated job of feeding the urban multitudes.

When the sun passes the meridian the farmer knows that his dawdling days are done; henceforth, for eight months he will be racing with the calendar, with frost, rain, hail, flood and the everlasting weed. Old Sol sends to the husbandman a challenge along with his blessing of fruitifying heat, Gliddap!

Ye city dwellers, reflect upon the manifold activities of this unknown friend of yours as he proceeds with the preparation of your next winter's dinners. Sap bucket in hand, he makes the rounds of his maple trees. Bringing the most progressive of his hens into a warm corner, he dusts her with antilouse powder and leaves her to her devotions. Then he sees to it that she has water and food during her setting-up exercises. Next, he gets the brooder ready for the day-old chicks he has ordered. Presently, in a mad rush to finish a mean job before the ground thaws, he returns to Mother Earth, the last of the accumulated fertilizer from the barnyard. Any number of things must be done before plowing, because thereafter every day will demand its meed of seeding, planting, harvesting, and animal tending.

All this labor, all these chances of life and death, intervene between All Fool's Day and Harvest Home. The farmer, facing the chill spring wind and the challenge of the climbing sun, is the very embodiment of human persistence—the utterly "indispensable man."—Boston Independent.

Preference in Meats

In an analysis of meat consumption statistics the Department of Agriculture noted that the British eat nearly seven times as much mutton and lamb as do Americans, and declared the reason has "baffled satisfactory explanation."

Mutton and lamb consumed in the United States last year made up only 3.2 per cent of the total meat consumption, while the percentage in Great Britain was 22. There was 10 times more beef and 15 times more pork than mutton and lamb eaten in this country last year.

The department estimated that mutton and lamb consumption was at the rate of 5.2 pounds per person; pork, 88.3 pounds; beef, 62.6 pounds, and veal, 8.3 pounds.

Their Way

"I reckon I'll hafta quit taking my children to the picture shows," at the crossroads store remarked Gap Johnson of Rumpus Ridge.

"What's the matter—they ketch the lth, or something that-a-way?" asked an acquaintance.

"Not yet, as far as I know. But what's the matter is that they get so devilish interested in the picture that they furgit whur they're at. They all decide for one feller on the screen and whoop and holler for him till the roof lifts, or else part of 'em are for him and the rest ag'in him, and while one side cheers the other side snarlz till they jump up a-cussing and tear into each other like fightin' fire."—Kansas City Star.

Flying Fliover Era Tardy

Cheap, light airplanes for popular use and ownership are still a development of the future, says Prof. E. M. Low, in charge of the light airplane competition recently held in England to encourage hope for an era of flying flivvers. The public interest still is apathetic, he said, and the manufacturers of light airplanes have not succeeded to any extent in perfecting their machines. The small light planes are very noisy, dirty, dangerous and uncomfortable, according to Professor Low.

Dry Dock Popular

Twelve of the largest liners afloat used the Southampton harbor in three days, and the growth of popularity of the new floating dry dock has caused English shippers to predict that it will be the most used port in the world.

Mind on Important Things

"He—Dolly, dear, don't you think you could learn to love me."
She—Why, Johnny, I haven't time!
Really! There are my mah-jongg and motor lessons.—London Answers.

Pretty Well Filled

Teacher—Every time you fail to recite I put a cross after your name.
Student—My name must look like a Harvard.

Words Have Changed Somewhat in Meaning

If the words we use could bring up, like a cinematograph film, the pictures which lie behind them, conversation would be more entertaining than it is as a rule. For instance, when we say a thing is dilapidated, we bring up an image of an ancient temple crumbling to ruin, for the root meaning of the word is "crumbling stone." Similarly, the word stunned means thunderstruck, and ardent formerly meant burning.

What a remarkable picture the word scandal calls up. Its original application was to that part of a trap on which the bait was placed and which, when the trap was touched, sprang up and caught the victim. Another odd word is scruple, which originally meant a little stone, in weights means twenty grains, and in modern use means something which hurts or worries the conscience.

Irritate referred originally to the snarling of a dog. Perplexed brings up a picture of being tangled in miles of string, wound completely round and round; whilst the word eliminate denotes what the word did to his barometer when it continued to register "Set Fair" after it had been raining for a week, for it means "to kick out of doors."

Scotch Sailor Made

Immortal by Defoe

Alexander Selkirk was a Scottish sailor whose adventures furnished Defoe the basis for his immortal story of "Robinson Crusoe." Selkirk, having quarreled with his captain on one of his voyages, was left on the island of Juan Fernandez in 1704, with only his gun and ammunition, and a few other necessities of life. There he remained for more than four years, living on game, and clothing himself with the skins of goats. In 1709 he was rescued by Capt. Woodes Rogers, and became his mate. He afterwards attained the rank of lieutenant in the British navy. Defoe has often been charged with having surreptitiously taken the story of "Robinson Crusoe" from the papers of Alexander Selkirk, but the experiences of the real hero and those of the fictitious one have so little in common that Defoe seems indebted for little more than the suggestion.—Kansas City Times.

Midget and the Bible

My mother had a beautiful cat named Midget. Midget was not only fastidious when it came to eating, but would sleep nowhere but on the family Bible. My mother left the Bible on the kitchen table one night, and Midget, leaving her place in the parlor, where the Bible was kept, hunted around until she found it, and there she was found in the morning. Just to try out the old "tabby," my mother carried the Bible upstairs to her sleeping room, and the next morning, lo and behold! there lay Midget. A dictionary the same size was placed in the Bible's usual place and the Bible moved to a small clothespress. Next morning Midget was found on the Bible as usual and there she slept until one morning she was found dead.—O. B. Montgomery, in Our Dumb Animals.

Disastrous Flood

The Dayton (Ohio) flood of 1913 was, in the main, caused by a record-breaking rainfall, which was due to the meeting of three opposing air currents, one from the west, another a cold stream from the northeast, the third a warm current from the south. The flood was accentuated by the conditions of the rivers flowing through the city and also by the bursting of reservoirs in central and western Ohio. Four hundred and fifteen lives were lost, and the property losses amounted to \$180,000,000.

Caring for Books

Books kept in glass-fronted book-cases are subject to attacks from book-worms, moths, etc., in greater degree than if on open shelves. To preserve your books from these pests sprinkle the shelves occasionally, say once every six months, with half an ounce of camphor, half an ounce of powdered bitter apple (well mixed together). Do not keep books in a very warm room. Gas light affects them very much. Russia leather bindings in particular.

"Messers" and "Moppers"

The world is divided into the people who make the messes and the people who mop them up. Ninety per cent make the messes and 10 per cent are served out with mops. I was reading a novel called "Keddy" the other day. I've told it the best picture of modern Oxford that has ever been done. And from cover to cover there isn't a single mention of such things as lectures, reading, examinations, tutors, or anything of that sort. It's really masterful the way everything trivial like that has been eliminated.—From "Blackmarston," by Mrs. Hicks Beach.

SARGASSO IS SEA OF MANY SECRETS

Expedition Will Explore Mysterious Region.

As if an enormous giant had put his finger into the sea and stirred it round, the entire North Atlantic ocean slowly revolves in the direction of the clock's hands.

In the center is the Sargasso sea, a gigantic collection of floating islands, made of seaweed and inhabited by countless living things.

Nobody knows how Herodotus, in ancient times, came by the alarming stories he told of this mysterious region, for it is only during recent years that it has been properly charted.

When Columbus and his men were drawn into this oval-shaped vortex, his ship remained out of control for 15 days, and the crew thought they were condemned to perish in a watery prison, closely guarded by seaweed barriers for 200,000 square miles. But a strong wind luckily carried the ship to safety.

Supported in the water by small air balloons, the feathery weeds of Sargasso are mostly olive-brown in color, with blotches of white. The chief source of supply has been proved to be the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean sea.

Sailors do not like this strange tract which floats, almost like land, on the bosom of the Atlantic. It is reputed to be the home of barbarous fish and the hiding place of mysterious monsters. Animals drifting about on the surface of the sea, with only the scattered cover of moving seaweed, are exposed to many dangers, not only from the birds always hovering above, but from hungry fish lurking in the patches of uncovered sea, which is the bluest in the world.

To protect themselves, all the living creatures imitate, in a remarkable way, the color of their floating home. One grotesque little animal is conspicuous owing to the disproportionate size of its head and jaws, and resembles the frog fish, sometimes seen near British coasts.

Making its nest of seaweed bound together by long cords of its own manufacture, this singular creature combines all the characteristics of an animal, a fish, and a bird.

A short-tailed crab of the shell-less type swarms on the Sargasso weed and is blotched with white to match the light patches on its surroundings. These and many other peculiar creatures will be examined by Professor Beebe, of New York, who recently set out to explore this little-known region.

A secret ambition of the expedition is to capture a monster squid, a terrifying fish of the cuttlefish family, with black eyes at least 12 inches in diameter and a body 90 feet in length. The body of these giants, one of which the explorers hope to capture, is wrapped in a loose mantle, from an opening in which emerges the evil-looking head with its sharp, parrot-like beak.

This Sargasso monster is the tiger of the ocean, and, like its striped counterpart on land, is said to kill even when not hungry—for the sheer pleasure of killing.

Victoria Invested Wisely

Through the good advice of Disraeli, her chief adviser, Queen Victoria of England, invested in Suez canal stock and was thus enabled eventually to leave additional millions to her children. She also was one of the original owners of a share in the New River Water company which provided the water supply for London. The water shares, originally worth a pound (\$5), enhanced in value to where they were worth millions, and even the richest of others like the Rothschilds were forced to be content later with a sixteenth or a thirty-second of a share.

Status of Fox Trot

Favlova, the famous Russian dancer, says that the fox trot, now so universally popular in all parts of the world, and of modern dances the one that has remained popular the longest, is dying rapidly. In a few years, she says, few or no dancers will be using this step, but on the other hand many dance authorities say Favlova is a pessimist in this regard and that the step has taken hold of the newer generations sufficiently to be carried over for another generation at least without serious waning.

Two Howlers

Special notice has just reached me of two excellent schoolboy howlers. The first is the most idiomatic translation of "Fax in bello," which was rendered "Freedom from indignation." The second relates to the well-known historical incident of Queen Elizabeth and Sir Walter Raleigh's cloak. After describing the scene, the pupil made the queen say: "Sir Walter, I am afraid I have dirtied your cloak."
"Dieu et mon droit," replied Sir Walter, which means in English, "My G—d, you are right!"

Cat Has Gained Fame

as Weather Prophet

Ever since the total eclipse of the sun scientists, storekeepers and post-boys in Middletown, Conn., have had a wholesome respect for Weathervane, the meteorological cat of East Hampton, which has been offered to President Coolidge by its owner, Louis James, the Boston Transcript says.

The cat predicted fair weather for the eclipse when all the astronomers who came to Middletown to set up their instruments to view the eclipse were getting cold feet and taking out rain insurance to protect their expeditions from loss if the rain should come on that day. The success of Weathervane's prediction on that occasion won him name and fame as surely as did the prediction of the 1888 blizzard for the late Horace Johnson of Middle Haddam.

Weathervane was a founding and was picked up by Ellis Hughes of East Hampton and taken to a warehouse in that village. Mr. Hughes told Richard Gillon, an employee, to give the cat a bed of blankets and to allow it the run of the warehouse. Mr. Hughes now claims he showed the cat a thermometer, and declared that it was stirred the meteorological instincts of the animal.

Later Louis James took the cat home to his wife, who gave it some catnip and three meals a day. The cat thrived under this treatment and soon began to predict the weather with a success that bade fair to rival that of the United States weather bureau.

Those who have learned to decode the cat's forecasts say he is unerring in his predictions. For several years now he has been giving valuable dope on the weather. This is done by mannerisms and purring as weather changes impend. Strong, rhythmic purring forecast fair weather. Contentious purring announces sudden changes. A haughty attitude indicates a frost. If the cat insists upon rolling over there will be ice or snow.

Weathervane is not handsome and does not take to many people. A great many, however, now come to the James house to find out what the weather is to be.

Radium in Trash Heap

A needle containing \$1,000 worth of radium was lost four days from the operating room of St. Michael's hospital in Newark, N. J. It was missed after an operation, and doctors took X-ray photographs of the patient under the belief that the needle, which is no longer than a very small sewing needle, might have remained in the wound. After further search a radium company of Orange, volunteered use of a detecting device. When the instrument, which has a dial on which a hand swings when radium is near, was first tried in the operating room, the hand did not move. Then someone suggested that the incinerator, where trash is burned be inspected. As soon as the device was brought close to the incinerator, the hand swung around, Police and hospital attaches sifted the ashes and found the needle.

Luck

Ray Long, editor of the Hearst's International Cosmopolitan Magazine, tells why he doesn't believe in luck. He thinks every man gets about what he deserves. In proof he tells a story in which Sam Harris, theatrical producer, points the moral:

"Luck may be 5 per cent of life, but the other 95 per cent—which is what's in the man—always decides the outcome. I've met thousands of people everywhere, in every walk of life, and I never knew one who got much more or less than he deserved. When a chap knows medicine and Europe and five languages, and still is a waiter, something's wrong!"

Cynical Farmers

The \$65,000,000 gifts of James B. Duke and George Eastman to the American people led George Jay Gould to say on disembarking from the France:

"Gifts like these clear the mind of cynicism. I have just come from France, where even the farmers are cynical. The French farmer, if there was a Duke or an Eastman over them, wouldn't say cynically of friendship: 'Friends stick to you like your shadow, but only when the sun shines.'"

All His Teeth at 116

At the age of one hundred and sixteen years Ramon Gemes recently died in Spain and although he had been a hardworking farmhand all his mature life, and was subjected to the handicap of having few facilities for dental and medical care compared with residents in the cities, he had all of his teeth at the time he died. He was not bald. He had never left his native village, and had never seen an automobile, railway train or telephone.

Asparagus Eating

"The hardest job I have at the dinner table is eating asparagus," said a Hazelwood avenue resident. "I never know just how to approach it. My wife insists that I impale each stalk on my fork and eat from the top backward toward the base. I have heard that the proper way is to sever the tip from the base with a knife and then fork the tip in. Another method recommended is to use the fork only in separating the tip. What I like to do is to eat it with my fingers. I wish someone would lay down a set rule for this task. I'm sure the rule would make everyone happy—particularly if it allowed the use of the fingers and the complete dismissal of the cutlery."—Detroit News.

Why Felines Purr

The purring sound made by cats is made by throwing the vocal cords into vibration measured and regulated by the respiration, and this vibration is strong enough to make the whole larynx tremble so that it may be felt or seen from the outside. Purring is highly characteristic of the cat tribe, though probably not confined to it. It is usually the means by which these felines show contentment.

LIVED FOR YEARS AFTER HIS "DEATH"

Male and hearty at the age of eighty-five years, having celebrated his birthday with a party, School Tax Collector Edward H. Frary a day later observed the sixty-first anniversary of his "death," the Buffalo News says.

It was on May 6, 1864, that Mr. Frary was left on the battlefield for dead. Serving with Company A, Ninety-seventh New York Volunteer Infantry, Mr. Frary was wounded by a minnie ball penetrating his neck in the Battle of the Wilderness. The bullet passed through his body in such a way that it fractured a rib, injured the spinal cord, severed the nerve leading to the left arm and finally lodged in the upper part of his left lung. Unconscious, he was left on the field for dead, but was picked up many hours later when he regained consciousness and carried several miles to a hospital, from which he was discharged after three months. He was wounded just an hour before General Wadsworth, grandfather of United States Senator James W. Wadsworth of Genesee, was killed.

Experts at Work on

New Potato Species

The homely Irish potato may soon lose its simplicity and adopt sophisticated foreign manners if experiments now being conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture succeed, according to a bulletin issued by the department.

Agricultural explorers have brought from the high Andes of Colombia and Peru rare varieties of potatoes that have a flesh as yellow as butter and a delicious nutty flavor. The tubers are a little smaller than the North American variety. Experts of the department now are engaged in crossing the new Andean potato with the common "spud." It is hoped that new forms will be developed that will combine the flavor and color of the European potato with the size and reliability of the North American tuber and one that will be readily adaptable to the climate of the United States.

Spanish Swamp Home of Wild Camel Herd

Wild camels exist in western Europe, within two days' journey from Piccadilly circus, writes a correspondent of the London Mail. There are a considerable number of them in this mysterious "colony," but no one knows exactly how many. To survive they have actually become semi-aquatic.

Up the Guadalquivir in Andalusia is the dreariest malarial swamp in Spain, and perhaps in the world, an endless vista of waterlogged wilderness, broken only by occasional low islands covered with willow scrub. Here, among enormous flocks of gulls and greylag geese, teal, widgeon, pochard and mallard, dwell the outlaw camels. In another five years the colony will have completed a century of life in western Europe. Their ancestors were brought over from Africa in 1829 by the Marquis de Villafranca for farm work.

Villafranca's horses panicked, however, as horses will unless carefully "acclimated" to camel, and there were some nasty accidents. Rather than have the work of his estates upset by labor trouble, the marquis turned his camels loose. Some were killed. The descendants of those who took to the "marisma" survived.

Vision of Cookhouse

Reads Like Gulliver

In Paul Bunyan's camp there was a great cookhouse with a kitchen like another Mammoth cave, and a dining hall wherein, under huge and lofty beams, the tables were ranged like the ranks of an army corps drawn up for parade on a plain. Here were served breakfasts of ham and eggs and hot cakes, and huge and incomparable Sunday dinners and the simpler weekday meals of which the coffee was most highly praised, writes James Stephens in the American Mercury.

Paul Bunyan invented a machine for the mixing of the hot-cake batter, so perfectly devised that paving contractors now employ small models of it for mixing cement. The range on which a battalion of cooks fried the hot cakes was greased by a ski champion from Norway, who skied to and from with sides of bacon strapped to his feet.

And that the men in the far end of the cookhouse might be served before the hot cakes cooled, the funnies speeded on roller skates. It required a crew of 11 teamsters with teams and scrapers to keep the yard back of the cookhouse cleared of coffee grounds and egg shells.

Kerbau's Sensitive Nose

Malay bull fights are not like those we are accustomed to read about, a writer in the Youth's Companion tells us. The contestants are generally water buffaloes—animals that, says Mr. Carveth Wells in Asia, the Malays call kerbau.

A kerbau, or carabao, as it is often written in English, makes, continues Mr. Wells, a white man's life miserable because he does not like the white man's smell, though he doesn't mind the smell of a Chinese or a Malay. If you think you have no smell, just go near a kerbau! He not only sees you a long way off, but he instantly begins to sniff the air. Then he lays his ears back and rushes at you. I remember once being chased out of a rice field by a kerbau. The rice was growing in deep mud, and I was rushing along up to my knees, with the great animal foudering behind me. While I was shrieking for help a little Malay boy about four years old and quite naked ran up, caught the bull by the nose and led him away! Never in my life had I felt such a fool!

Nature's Wisdom

The decree of battle is not alone nature's means for the development of animal and vegetable strength and perfection, but she arranges for the development of armaments and fighting and defense appliances to meet every improvement in the status of any species. Works on biology teem with examples showing the manner in which the mechanism of Mendelian heredity works.

Preserving Books

The simplest way to prevent mildewing of books is to keep the leather in a well-ventilated and well-lighted place, preferably one exposed to the sunlight. Mildew cannot make much headway in sunshine. When mildew develops—it should be washed off with soap and warm water, or simply wiped off with a moist cloth, drying the leather well afterward.

Might in the Jungle

The lion, noted as being the noblest of the jungle's beasts, is, of course, a mighty hunter. His ferocity is proverbial. All animals as well as man become its victims. The African buffalo, however, is often its master, and elephants sometimes are able to overpower both lions and all members of the tiger family.



BUREAU OF HEALTH EDUCATION, N. C. STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

MEASLES

The specific virus causing measles has not yet been isolated but it has been conclusively proven that the causative organism is present and will pass through an exceedingly fine filter. It is found to be present in the secretions from the nose and pharynx twenty-four hours before the appearance of the rash and to remain present a day or two after the rash disappears.

Measles is perhaps the most easily transmissible of all the contagious diseases and is contagious from the beginning of the first catarrhal symptoms throughout the duration of the rash. The most infective period is the first twenty-four hours of the rash. One attack produces an immunity which in nearly all cases is permanent.

The disease is transmitted either directly by droplet spray in sneezing, coughing or talking or indirectly through objects freshly contaminated by such secretions. Outside the human body, the virus does not live long and contaminated objects under ordinary conditions are a menace for a period not exceeding twenty-four hours.

Persons of all ages who have never had measles are susceptible but the age of greatest incidence is about six or seven years. Deaths from measles, however, are in young children, 68 per cent under two years and 90 per cent under five years of age.

Measles at first appears very much like a common cold except the child is somewhat sicker than would be expected. If a child is sick with an apparently severe cold and has a temperature of 101 degrees, measles must be considered, especially if the eyes are red and watery and there is a severe cough. An apparent improvement in the child's condition frequently happens just preceding the appearance of the rash. The greatest danger from measles, especially in the older children, is from the complications. These are of two general types, (1) invasion of the upper respiratory tract causing pneumonia, otitis, mastoiditis and meningitis, and, (2) disturbances of the alimentary tract causing diarrhoea, enteritis and dysentery.

No method of vaccination has yet been perfected but the use of convalescent serum has proven very helpful.

In Something of a Hurry

Every trade has its stock of well-known yarns, but occasionally a new one does occur, only, alas, in time to become a classic. A certain well-known newspaper man was holding forth to a group of writers, among whom was a rather famous novelist. The journalist was saying that he had recently been engaged in revising the obituaries held in readiness by his paper. Turning to the novelist, he added jocosely: "I've just been 'writing you up.'"

But the novelist, apparently, had not been following very closely, and waking up with a start, he asked eagerly: "When is it going to be published?"

Engelmann Spruce Valuable

In its fullest development, Engelmann spruce becomes a large tree, a hundred feet or more in height and three feet or more in diameter, with a smooth, straight and only slightly tapered trunk. Great quantities of Engelmann spruce are cut for lumber. The wood is soft and straight-grained and is used for various construction purposes, as telegraph and telephone poles, as mine timbers, for the construction of log buildings, and to some extent as lumber for interior finish. In contrast with the only other spruce in Rocky Mountain National park, Engelmann spruce is of considerable importance commercially.

Lesson in Correct Speech

A minister forgot to take his sermon to church, and his wife, discovering the mistake, sent it to him in the charge of a small boy, who was to receive a quarter for the job.

In due course the boy returned for the money.
"You delivered the sermon, did you?" he was asked by the minister's wife.
"I jes give it to him; he's deliver it himself," he answered.

Uncertain

Clerk of the Court—"Do you plead guilty or not guilty?" Patrick—"Sure, I'll have to hear the evidence first."