

LIGHTNING'S DANGERS.

Loss of Life Greater Than Commonly Supposed.

From the London Chronicle.

In this country we have no means of ascertaining precisely what is the amount of mischief done by lightning. In France and Germany statistics on the subject are systematically tabulated by government every year. If complete statistics were accessible there can be little doubt they would show that the annual loss of life and property is far greater than is commonly supposed. In one respect the damage is often greater than it need be, even apart from any consideration of lightning conductors.

During five or six days in the summer of 1881 it was estimated by a competent authority that besides other mischief not less than 600 animals of one sort or another in England were killed by lightning, most of them being sheep and cattle in the field. In all such casualties it is usual to regard the carcasses as unfit for human food, and they are ordinarily buried.

This summer has been especially disastrous. In various parts of the country thunderstorms have been frequent, and scarcely a week has passed of late in which the newspapers have not recorded the destruction of sheep and cattle.

But besides the killing of sheep and cattle, there have been several disasters fatal to human life, to say nothing of mischief to property of various kinds. Here, again, the mischief is often quite easily avoidable. It is, of course, very well known that a good lightning conductor properly fixed is an absolutely reliable safeguard against all injury; but a fact which is not so well known is that an efficient lightning conductor might often be set up at the cost of a few shillings by taking advantage of the conducting power of trees.

Everybody should be aware by this time that trees are a source of peril in times of thunderstorm, though from accidents which every now and again occur it would seem that there is still a great amount of ignorance on the subject. Only a few days ago a lightning flash struck a poplar tree near Winchester and killed a man who had taken shelter at the foot of it, no doubt in ignorance of his danger. Such fatalities are exceedingly common, and it has not infrequently occurred that cottages and other buildings have been struck by lightning in consequence of the vicinity of some tall tree.

The casualties to animals are often due to the fact that with the commencement of a thunder shower they are apt to gather for shelter beneath the branches of some isolated tree. The explanation of the mischief is very well known. A tree is a conductor of lightning, but not a very good one. In the absence of a better channel the lightning will flash through it, but there is always a chance of its glancing aside to any medium that affords a readier passage. Now, the body of a man or animal constitutes a much better conductor than a tree does and consequently the electricity, whenever it has an opportunity of doing so, will leave the tree

and flash through the animal body. The same thing will often occur when the lightning, passing downward through the tree, reaches a point at which a readier passage is presented by some adjacent building. The full volley is deflected from the tree into the building.

It has been suggested that in all such cases if a metal rod were carried from the earth for a short distance up the tree there would be no such deflection. The metal conductor would afford a readier passage than the body of a human or the materials of a house, and the tree, which otherwise is a source of danger, would become an absolute protection, even to persons or animals sheltering beneath it. Of course nobody would suggest that all trees should be thus dealt with, but it often happens that from its special position a tree during a thunder storm is not only a source of some peril, but is the occasion of much uneasiness and anxiety.

According to the lightning rod conference appointed a few years ago by the Meteorological Society, of London, to inquire into the subject and report on the best form of the thing there is nothing much better than a solid iron rod.

News of Your Ancestors.

From the San Francisco Chronicle.

Ancestor hunting has come to be about as much of a fad in this free-and-easy republic of ours as it ever was among the inhabitants of the "effete despotisms of Europe," and to cater to this fancy, Congress has authorized the Director of the Census to publish the names of the heads of families, with accompanying information shown on such schedules of the census of 1790 as are in existence. The schedules of some of the Southern States were destroyed when our British cousins burned the Capitol at Washington in 1814, but those of most or all the States north of the Potomac were saved, and those of New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maryland are now in press, and will be shortly issued, separately. The schedule of each State will constitute a separate document of about 150 pages, and will be attractively printed and bound "in especially handsome and durable semi-pamphlet binding." There will also be a map of the State as it was in 1796. With unusual regard for economy, Congress did not authorize the free distribution of these documents, but directed their sale at a price which the Director of the Census has fixed at \$1 for each State, which is cheap enough for a good pair of ancestors. Those who desire copies should address the Director of the Census at Washington, inclosing the necessary dollar. The Congressional appropriation is not sufficient to print the schedules of all the States this year, but it is expected that the amount necessary to publish those of the States not named above will be appropriated at the next session.

Cured of Lung Trouble.

"It is now eleven years since I had a narrow escape from consumption," writes O. O. Floyd, a leading business man of Kershaw, S. C. "I had run down in weight to 135 pounds, and coughing was constant, both by day and by night. Finally I began taking Dr. King's New Discovery, and continued this for about six months, when my cough and lung trouble were entirely gone and I was restored to my normal weight, 170 pounds." Thousands of persons are healed every year. Guaranteed at all drug stores. 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottle free.

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TWO STATUTES.

Probating Deeds and Taking Affidavits Before Notaries—Fees of Jurors.

Editor The Robesonian.

I send you extracts from two different statutes passed by the last Legislature. The first concerns the probating of deeds and the taking of affidavits before notaries public, who are also practicing attorneys. This act seems to have been in force since the 11th of March.

The second is in regard to the fees of jurors. The reader will notice that while the per diem of regular jurors has been increased to two dollars per day, they only get mileage one way, whereas they formerly received mileage for both ways, and also that the fees of special veniremen, when not drawn from the box, are not changed. They will simply get one dollar per day, as before, without mileage. They will also note that the fees of tales jurors have not been changed.

I have no doubt but that our people will be disappointed in the changes, as they are not altogether what was expected. I have promised jurors who have served since the Act went into effect that as soon as I could ascertain just what the law does really provide, that I would forward them tickets for any balance that might be due them for services as such jurors. This I will proceed to do as promptly as I can.

Yours very respectfully,
W. H. Humphrey,
Clerk Superior Court.
Lumberton, N. C., July 24, 1907.

AN ACT TO VALIDATE CERTAIN PROBATES OF DEEDS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

Chapter 1003, Sec. 3. That no Notary Public shall have power or authority to take the proof and acknowledgment of deeds or other papers required by law to be registered in the office of the Register of Deeds of a county, or to take the private examination of a feme covert to any such paper in which he is interested as attorney, counsel or otherwise, nor to administer an oath to any person to any affidavit or other paper in matters in which he is interested as attorney, counsel or otherwise.

Sec. 4. That this act shall not affect pending actions.

Sec. 5. That this act shall be in force from and after its ratification.

In the General Assembly read three times, and ratified this the 11th day of March A. D. 1907.

AN ACT TO REGULATE THE PAY OF JURORS IN ROBESON COUNTY.

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

Chapter 521, Section 1. That jurors in Robeson county shall be paid as follows: Regular jurors in the Superior Court shall receive, while serving, two dollars per day and mileage one way, and jurors on coroner's inquest shall be paid two dollars per day, without mileage.

Sec. 2. Special veniremen, when drawn from the box, shall be paid one dollar per day and mileage one way.

Sec. 3. All laws and clauses of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Sec. 4. That this act shall be in force from and after its ratification.

In the General Assembly read three times, and ratified this the 4th day of March A. D. 1907.

The Right Name.

Mr. August Sherpe, the popular overseer of the poor, at Fort Madison, Ia., says: "Dr. King's New Life Pills are rightly named; they act more agreeably, do more good and make one feel better than any other laxative." Guaranteed to cure biliousness and constipation. 25c at all drug stores.

Cat Adopts Squirrel.

Asheville Citizen.

If President Roosevelt should ever hear about a true animal story which has its origin right here in Asheville, he might accuse somebody of "nature faking," but the Citizen has the authority of several responsible people that the following story is strictly true, and that the animal characters can be produced to prove true.

About three months ago Will Purbyll, the ten-year-old son of N. H. Purbyll, living near Bingham Heights, found a baby squirrel. The little animal did not yet have its eyes open, and when the lad took it home, his mother told him it would not live over night. The boy suggested that he might put it with a litter of small kittens which the family cat was at that time guarding as jealously as only a mother cat can guard her young. The kittens were only two or three days old, and the idea of putting the little squirrel among them so it could keep warm appealed to the boy. His mother thought the old cat would devour the stranger, but as there was nothing else to do, she gave her permission to try the experiment.

The next morning the family was astonished to find that the cat had adopted the baby squirrel, and was treating it just as she would her own offspring. She continued to provide for it just as she did for the kittens, and seemed to have a great love for the tiny orphan.

After the kittens grew up and were separated, after the manner of the cat life, the mother cat and the squirrel became inseparable companions. Wherever one goes, the other is near-by. When the squirrel is given a peanut, it follows its natural instinct to bury it, and the cat goes along to see what it is doing. When the squirrel runs up a tree the cat waits at the foot of the tree until her adopted child returns to the ground. When the squirrel is out of sight the old cat shows her distress by crying until it returns.

The unusual situation has interested the entire neighborhood, and the strange pair are always watched with wonder by those who know the circumstances.

Electricity Turns Man Three Colors.

Asbury Dispatch to the New York American.

After going through the experience of having his body turn to a deep red and then blue, and finally coal black, from the force of an electric current, William Hicks, an employe of the New York and New Jersey Telephone Company, is slowly recovering from the shock.

Hicks was at work splicing cables at the top of a thirty-five foot pole at Bradley Beach this morning. He accidentally took hold of a high-tension wire, and instantly he was hurled from the pole and held dangling from the wire. He tried in vain to free himself, but so strong was the current that his hands were held tightly to the wire. Finally his body became rigid.

Workmen ran to the pole, but were several minutes in reaching Hicks. Meantime bystanders were horrified to see him gradually turn a deep red, then bluish, and finally black. His hands were at last pried from the wire and he was lowered to the ground with a block and tackle.

Everybody expected that Hicks was dead, but Dr. Hathaway found there was still a spark of life. The doctor worked on the man for an hour before consciousness returned. He will probably recover.

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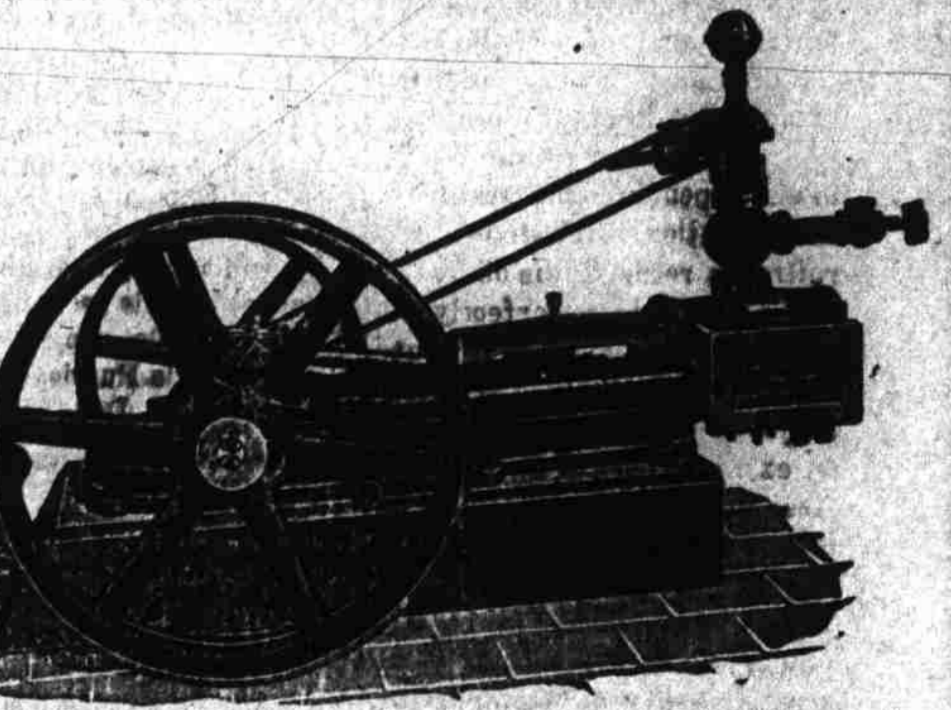
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