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PRICE TWO CENTS.

Little Creatures About Our Homes

By LE ROY WELD

X.—Honey Makers and Their Kindred.

THE order hymenoptera, or membrane winged insects, includes the most intelligent of all the class insects. Although there are more than 20,000 species included in this order, we shall speak of but very few of the best known.

When laden with material for the hive, they fly with great rapidity in a straight line toward home; hence the saying "straight as a bee line."

The common bumblebee is also social in its habits, but the number in a single colony is very small, usually from ten to thirty. Their mission seems to be to carry pollen from male to female flowers.

There are two groups of wasps, the solitary and the social. Of the social group the common hornet is a good example. The social wasps live in colonies of from 100 to 500 members and consist of males, females and workers, as do the bees.

Upon entering a new hive the bees carefully examine its interior, and if any cracks are found they secure material for cementing them so that cold winds and marauding insects may be kept out.

Drug Their Babies. The habit of drugging their babies so that they can be left alone is very common in India among mothers who work in factories.

and hang in the same way, and so on until a cluster of bees is formed sometimes weighing three or four pounds. Here they remain for about twenty-four hours, when the wax begins to ooze out from under the scales between the segments of the abdomen.

When the bees have finished a large brood comb, the queen begins to lay eggs at the rate of about 200 a day, placing one egg in each cell. All these eggs will produce workers.

There are several species of solitary bees. These bees are of but two classes, males and females, the latter doing all the work.

That this remarkable animal has still some youth in her is evident from the fact that she gave birth to a kitten two years ago.

Fish Destroy Lotus Beds. The beautiful Egyptian lotus beds which for the past quarter of a century have lined the extreme westerly shores of Lake Erie from Monroe, Mich., to Point Pelee are threatened with complete annihilation by fish.

Magnus Charta. The great charter of Englishmen's liberties is preserved in the British museum. It is somewhat stained by time, but King John's seal and name are still quite legible at the bottom of it.

Queer Church Ornament. A queer church ornament is a little and low weathercock which swings to the wind on Great Gonerley church, near Grantham, England.

CHOICE MISCELLANY

Cost of England's Wars.

If we consider total expenditure, the South African war is the most expensive war that England has ever waged, with the single exception of the twenty-three years' war with France (1793-1815), the great cost of which was nearly four times that of the South African war.

The Paper of Today.

Only paper of the very best quality is now made from rags, the bulk of that employed for newspaper and book work being manufactured from wood pulp.

In the meantime protests are being raised against the quality of the paper made from these substitutes for rags. It answers the purpose of ephemeral literature, but there is good reason to believe that it rapidly deteriorates and that books made of it will have but a short life.

Useful Light.

Stationed off the island of Islay, on the west coast of Scotland, at the Otter rock, there is an interesting and novel lightship, which is described in Cassell's Magazine.

It is unmannable, yet it can be relied on to display the warning light to guide the mariner on this dangerous coast. It is a very ingeniously constructed vessel and the only one of its kind in existence.

Experiments have shown that the light may be depended upon to burn continuously for months at a time. The approximate duration of the light can always be predetermined, and there is no danger whatever of the light being extinguished either by wind or spray.

The light is visible at a distance of eight to twelve miles. The lightship also has a bell which is made to ring automatically by means of an ingenious device which utilizes the gas as it passes from the tanks to the lantern to work the bell clapper.

Cat Feeds Two Years Old.

Herr Pohl, president of the German Society for the Protection of Cats, has just published the results of his investigation in regard to the age which it is possible for these animals to attain.

Cats, he says, are like human beings in one respect. The more peaceful and better regulated their life is the longer they are likely to live.

Feared of the Century.

Cowless butter, motherless chickens, horseless carriages and bloodless surgery.

What Court Dress Is.

"Full court dress" consists in England of either a black velvet suit, white breeches or a plum colored tuxedo suit with trousers.

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THE BELLS OF NINETEEN-TWO.

Written for The Free Press.

The wheels of Time are rolling round, Ring out the old, ring in the new; We almost feel the mighty bond That takes from us our Nineteen-two.

ALL WAITS ON CASTRO.

The Cabinet Disposes the Question of the Best Way of Terminating the Blockade.

Washington, Dec. 30.—President Castro's answer to the allies' proposal to arbitrate the Venezuelan trouble has not been received.

Caracas, Dec. 30.—President Castro arrived here this morning.

The victory gained by the government at Barquisimeto argues for President Castro's continuance in power.

Tobacco Growers' Org. also Against the Trust.

Lexington, Ky., Dec. 30.—The State Executive Commission of the Kentucky Tobacco Growers' Association met here tonight and appointed a committee to draft articles of incorporation for approval at the next meeting at Louisville, January 29.

Moody Claims a Fair Count Gives Him 500 Majority.

Asheville, N. C., Dec. 30.—Congressman Moody is here in conference with his attorneys and others relative to his contest with Mr. Gidger.

Against the Texas Fever.

Washington, Dec. 30.—The secretary of agriculture has issued the annual order quarantining against a number of southern and western states on account of the southern or Texas fever.

Sheriff Ousted From Office.

Sullivan, Ind., Dec. 29.—Gov. Durbin has notified Sheriff John S. Dudley that he is no longer to consider himself a public officer because he permitted a mob to take a prisoner from him and lynch him.

A Good Thing.

German Syrup is the special prescription of Dr. A. Boschee, a celebrated German physician, and is acknowledged to be one of the most fortunate discoveries in medicine.

Germany's Group Syrup Is Pleasant to Give Baby.

Germany's Group Syrup is pleasant to give baby, cure coughs, colds and croup, guaranteed.

IN DARK MYSTERY.

The Corpse of Policeman Rogers Found After Eight Weeks' Disappearance.

Durham, N. C., Dec. 30.—News reached here tonight that the remains of John Rogers, a policeman, who disappeared from his home at Virginia, on the Norfolk and Western road, some eight weeks ago, were found near that station on Saturday by a party of hunters.

The story told me tonight is that about eight weeks ago a negro was killed in Virginia. His body was found next morning and with the finding of the body officer John Rogers disappeared.

A Thirteen Cent Stamp.

The thirteen cent stamp is not only new in design, but it is also new as to denomination.

Death to Typhoid Germs.

Chicago, Dec. 29.—That lemon juice will destroy the typhoid germs in water is authoritatively announced by the Chicago health department, after careful experiments extending over the last three days.

The Yelder Ayrre Matter.

Raleigh, Dec. 29.—Commissioner Willis, of Charlotte, S. C., Mr. Baylis Cade, of Waynesville, and Mr. Isler, of Goldsboro, are here examining the records regarding Yelder Ayrre lands in this State.

Goiboro Argus, 29: Jones Wilson, a white man living in the Bank Swamp section of this county, came to the city this morning with his left arm in a sling to stand trial in two cases for assault with a deadly weapon.

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OLD NORTH STATE NEWS AND GOSSIP

ODD AND INTERESTING HAPPENINGS.

Clipped and Rehashed From Our North Carolina Exchanges.

Judge Robert B. Peebles' first court will be held in New Hanover county the first Monday of the new year.

Raleigh News-Observer: The State treasurer is busy these days cashing pension warrants, at the rate of ten to fifteen thousand dollars a day.

Tarboro Southern: At Pinetop two shooting affrays occurred, one Saturday and the other Monday.

A special from Newton, 30th, says: Last night, the young child of W. E. Houser, colored, a brick manufacturer, was accidentally killed.

Asherlie special to Raleigh Post: News reached here Tuesday from Balsam Mountain that Rufus Jones is in a dying condition as a result of stab wounds received at the hands of "Mont" Duncan.

Elizabeth City Tar Heel: Mr. C. H. Brock, of Powell's Point, Currituck county, was a caller this week.

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