

RODENTS A MENACE TO PUBLIC HEALTH; PLAGUE "CARRIERS"

Rats Must Be Destroyed in Order to Prevent Further Infection

WASHINGTON, July 9.—Methods of destroying and proofing against rats are outlined in literature prepared by the United States Public Health Service for use by state and municipal health officers over the country in the campaign which they have been asked by Surgeon General Canning to inaugurate in order to protect the nation against bubonic plague. The activity of the health service results from the appearance of the plague in Mexican and American gulf ports and at points in the Mediterranean.

"Rat destruction," says the health service bulletin, "can be accomplished by individual effort to a limited degree, but to be successful in a large city there must be rat-proofing of buildings. No spasmodic or individual efforts will result in the desired ends."

"Rats can be destroyed by trapping, by poisoning, and by using natural enemies, such as certain breeds of cats and dogs. To insure the success of these measures it is necessary to curtail the rat food supply by properly disposing of garbage and table refuse, and by preventing rats from gaining access to such foods as is contained in pantries, groceries, markets, stables and the like.

Attention to Trapping
"Success in trapping is proportional to the attention and industry the trapper devotes to his traps and protection of other food supplies. Two kinds of traps are generally used—the wire cage trap and the snap trap or dead-fall. The trap should be placed wherever rats have been accustomed to come for feeding purposes and should be more or less concealed, the snap trap by scattering dust, cornmeal or flour on or about them and the cage trap by pieces of sack, straw or rubbish, leaving only the opening free.

"Highly favored articles, such as cheese, and roasted bacon, will more quickly attract rats than will food without odor, but the idea that a rat can be enticed into a trap by the employment of bait more appetizing to him than the surrounding food supply is fallacious. To the rat, food supply is a question of availability and preference is a secondary consideration.

"The destruction of rats by poison has always been more or less in favor. A preparation of arsenic acid or phosphorus, ten per cent and suitable bases, as cheese, meat or glucose, are the most popular poisons. Poisons undoubtedly have a certain efficiency in ridding a place of rats, but whether by causing their migration or their actual destruction is somewhat difficult to determine. Rat poisons, especially those that destroy the food supply and deprive them of harborage. Without this procedure it is almost impossible to reduce the rodent population.

Items to Be Considered
"In rat-proofing any building, the following parts have to be considered: grounds, areas, walls, ceilings, garret, roof, bed spaces in general, ventilators, abandoned sewers, doors, windows, outside piping, water and sewerage pipes, down spouts, wiring and air or light shafts. By the omission of some small detail an otherwise rat-proof structure may become badly rat-infested.

"The rat-proofing of floors of buildings is secured either by elevation of the structure with the under-pinning opening free or by marginal walls of concrete, stone or brick, laid in cement mortar sunk two feet in the ground, sitting flush with the floor above. The wall must fit tightly to the floor.

"Food depots are the greater importance in rat-proofing because they furnish both sustenance and shelter for rats. In this class of buildings are stables, meat markets, retail and wholesale groceries, bakeries, warehouses, docks and wharves. Those places are best rat-proofed as to the ground areas by the construction of concrete floors and foundation walls. Unattended as they are at night time rats might well enter doorways or windows carelessly left open or be introduced concealed in the merchandise and gnawing through plank flooring obtain well protected hiding and breeding places.

"Double walls with dead space between should be avoided, or if used should be rat-proofed as to the bottom with heavy wooden timbers, bolted by four joist or by a concrete fill. Attics should be well opened and kept free of damage or other refuse for rats.

Avoid Double Ceilings
"Double ceiling should be avoided, especially so in basements. Boxed in structures, such as uprights and roughly finished dwellings, plumbing, kitchen sinks and the like should be removed. Miscellaneous openings, as light shafts, ventilators and windows should be screened, preferably by twelve-gauge wire screen with mesh not exceeding one-half inch. The grounds about the buildings are to be devoid of rat harborage and premises are to be kept clean and free of rubbish."

In seaport cities, where the rare species of the brown rat and "Alexandrian" rat prevail, health officials are asked to make surveys to determine the presence or absence of rodent plague.

How to eliminate the more common species, including the "Norway" rat, barn rat, sewer rat, "gray" or wharf rat, is described as follows: By starving him, through the use of rat-proof receptacles for food, and covered metal garbage cans.

By depriving him of breeding places, through the abolition of plankled yards and passageways. By refusing him admission to the comfort of your buildings, through rat-proof construction, and screened basement openings. By killing him at every opportunity. By demanding city anti-rat ordinances and state anti-rat laws.

"BRINGING UP FATHER"



By McManus

More Trees a Fundamental Need Of Our Wood-Working Industries

H. A. Carroll, of Rural Hall, has recently been assisting the geological and economic survey in securing information as to the changes in the supply of timber required by the different wood-using industries of the state. The object of the survey in conducting this study is to revise the report on these industries, which was published some ten years ago. Although no figures have yet been compiled, Mr. Carroll here gives some interesting conclusions of his own.

Supply Diminishing
According to statements from the great majority of owners of these industries their greatest need at present and in the future is a supply of suitable timber to be used in their plants. For example, practically all stated that the quality of their supply was not nearly so good as it was ten years ago, and that they were having to go further for what supply they did get.

One leading furniture manufacturer or in the central part of the said: "The quality of grades has been lowered and will continue to be lowered. My production is off fifty percent by scarcity of timber supply and labor."

One-third of the 155 industries giving reports state that the available supply of timber will be exhausted in ten to fifteen years. Most of the others made no statement concerning future supply, but are evidently trusting the state to adopt a policy of reforestation and conservation which will meet their needs.

Concerning price, several manufacturers from the east, central, and western parts of the state say that the cost of the lumber supply has more than doubled during the past ten years.

The following is a statement from a large furniture manufacturer in the piedmont section: "Supply is getting scarcer and price is going up, what it was five years ago. The quality of lumber which we get then at thirty dollars per M. was much better than what we now get at \$150 per M."

Another furniture man from a mountain city writing, said: "Lumber we paid forty dollars for in May 1919, we paid \$248 for in May 1920."

And so the story goes—clearly showing that as the years pass even common grade lumber is becoming so scarce in most places that the price is advancing by leaps and bounds.

Matter of Supply
The matter of supply is coming to be a grave problem in many sections of the state. The following statement from one of the largest lumbermen of eastern Carolina is representative of the opinion of many manufacturers:

"Our business is being cut short because of short supply. We once used seven million feet or more per year, but now our consumption is less than four million feet. We need reforestation and stock law."

Another manufacturer in the same county makes a statement almost identical to that above.

So after long experience in the planing mill business these men realize the problem that confronts them in the diminution of supply, and all of them are anxious to see the state take some action that will insure the future of her wood-using industries.

A dozen or more of the owners of these plants have pledged their support to any forward-looking legislation for reforestation and conservation. However, most of these men contend, and perhaps justly so, that the state should take the lead in this matter. Because after all the whole population of the state is dependent to a greater or less degree upon our forests and forest products. It is estimated that at least 55,000 people in North Carolina are employed in the wood-using industries, and that their annual product is valued at \$40,000,000. It is clearly evident, therefore, that this industry, which is the second largest in the state, should not be sacrificed when it can so easily be saved to serve the state and people. The remedy as already suggested is to be found in the adoption of a policy of conservation and reforestation by our state legislature. This policy should carry with it ample appropriation for its enforcement and expansion.

School of Forestry
As has previously been suggested, there should be a school of forestry organized and well supported at our state University. This school and other state supported agencies should have as one of their primary objects the enlightenment and education of our rural population in matters of conservation and reforestation. Much of the waste in our forest resources has been due simply to the ignorance of our people on this all important subject, and the greatest opportunity offered is to be found just here—in teaching the strong and sterling people of our rural communities the importance of economy in the use of their forests and other natural resources.

Along with the conservative use of their present forests teach them also the great truth that "It pays to grow trees." Only through the education and cooperation of all our people can the forest resources serve their intended purpose, and the gulley-river sides of our barren hills be healed and made again to clothe themselves in the choicest robe of nature—the robe of green trees, the companion and servant of mankind.

At Times Sense of Smell and Taste Fails—Scientists Devise Tests for Frozen Eggs

RALEIGH, July 9.—Technical methods for the examination of frozen whole eggs, frozen yolk mixtures, frozen egg yolk, and frozen white of egg, in order to determine with certainty those that are suitable for food, have been standardized and published by the specialists of the bureau of chemistry, United States department of agriculture, who have made an extended investigation of the best methods for handling of eggs and egg products through the channels of production through to the point of consumption.

Many Shells Arrive Cracked
Large quantities of shell eggs arrive at buying centers in a cracked or broken condition, or otherwise unsuitable for sale as whole shell eggs. It is the commercial practice to break it and freeze the yolks and whites either together or separately in large or small cans for use by commercial bakers and large hotels. So extensive has this business become that 19,236,396 pounds of frozen egg products were held in storage on January 1, 1920. Eggs which are unsuitable for food should be separated out for technical purposes, such as tanning. Unless care is taken in separating the good eggs from the partly spoiled eggs, some of the latter are likely to get into the cans with the good eggs. If the proportion of spoiled eggs present in a mixture is appreciable, they may be detected by the sense of smell and taste, but if the proportion is comparatively small, chemical, bacteriological and microscopic methods must be employed. Contamination may also result from insanitary practices in handling the utensils and eggs.

The specialists have developed reliable methods for the chemical, bacteriological and microscopic examination of egg products, which have been frozen in order that spoilage, or the organisms which produce it, or the use of spoiled eggs in a product, may be detected with certainty. The methods can be used only by trained chemists and bacteriologists, since they are highly

technical. The bulletin will be of interest to federal, state and municipal food control officials and to commercial bacteriologists and chemists who are called upon to examine frozen egg products.

Result of Investigation
The results of the investigation are published in United States department of agriculture bulletin No. 846, entitled "examination of frozen egg products and interpretation of results," which may be had upon application to the department, Washington, D. C.

Other bulletins of interest to those engaged in the egg industry, giving the results of investigations by the bureau of chemistry, follows: Department bulletin 51, "a bacteriological and chemical study of commercial eggs in the producing districts of the central west," department bulletin 224, "a study of the preparation of frozen and dried eggs in the producing section," department bulletin 321, "accuracy in commercial grading of opened eggs," department bulletin 663, "the installation and equipment of an egg breaking plant." Any of these publications may be obtained upon application to the department at Washington.

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