

NORTHERN U. S. ONCE UNDER SHALLOW SEA

Geography of Devonian Age Is Reconstructed.

Washington.—A great shallow sea lay over a large part of the northeastern United States 300,000,000 years ago.

Tentative reconstruction of the geography of the so-called Devonian age is made possible by the discovery of similar and approximately coeval fossil deposits in northeastern Michigan, according to a report to the Smithsonian Institution by A. S. Warthin of Vassar college and G. A. Cooper of the staff of the United States National museum.

This ancient sea, they have determined, covered most of New York, Ontario, Michigan and the surrounding country, but with a great island, or possibly an area of very shallow water, elevated in the territory now covered by most of Lake Erie, Ohio, Indiana and southern Michigan.

The approximate outlines of this low island can now be determined by the remains of the coral plantations which fringed its shores. In Michigan certain colonial corals formed huge heads as much as 50 feet in height.

These were not connected to form a single reef, but made innumerable low mounds on the sea bottom. These reefs or "islands" are reflected especially in the topography about the present Alpena, Mich., and along the Thunder Bay river in the form of small, conical hills.

On the margins of the coral masses a variety of other creatures lived. Crinoids, or sea lilies, were especially abundant. Some of them were of large size and great beauty. There is probably no known Devonian locality so productive of fossil sea lilies, and many of the specimens collected for the national museum represent species new to science.

Austria Gives Asylum to Man Denied Country

Vienna.—Julius Purschen, "man without a country," hounded over frontiers, driven back again, forced to live for three days on a bridge between two states, is free again.

His story starts with his arrest in Vienna for begging. He was expelled from Austria and taken to the Jugo-Slav border as a citizen of that country.

But the Jugo-Slav guards took him to the Italian frontier near Susak.

Here Purschen was driven over the frontier bridge into Italian territory. But the Italians leveled their guns and back ran Purschen. The Jugo-Slavs showed their bayonets.

So the unfortunate man had to spend three days alone on the bridge until the Italians arrested him and sent him back to Austria.

Once on Austrian soil he was arrested and held before the Viennese courts. He told his story. The judges were merciful and now he is free to live in Austria.

Famous Wartime Cable Station to End Service

Fort Myers, Fla.—The cable station through which the first word of the sinking of the battleship Malpe reached and electrified the nation soon is to be abandoned.

Founded at Fort Dulaney in 1897, Punta Rassa has been a navigator's landmark for many years. When cable service was established there in 1898, its importance increased.

Punta Rassa was the only cable connection terminal between North America and Cuba at the time of the Spanish-American war. Through the tiny community came most of the day-by-day history of the conflict in Cuba.

The little town, however, is to lose its cable service to Fort Myers, which will handle communications with South and Central America and island points.

Woman Angler Gets Two Tuna Fish on One Line

Beach Haven, N. J.—Catching two tuna on one line was the angling feat performed here by Mrs. Frances Sherman of Frazer, Pa. One heavy strike told Mrs. Sherman she had a good-size fish on her hook. In the subsequent struggle to get away, the beserk tuna snarled the line around the tail of another victim. Both were hauled into the boat. One weighed 40 and the other 45 pounds.

China Studies English

Shanghai.—Teaching English conversation to Chinese students by radio is the latest educational development in Shanghai. In tea houses, exchange shops and homes, serious-minded merchants and students crowd around the loudspeakers.

N. Y. Firemen Steal Wives' Old Dresses

New York.—Wives of New York city firemen have altered it to "Fireman, spare my clothes!" according to Fire Commissioner McMillen. Appearing before the city budget director for an increase in the department's 1936 appropriation, the commissioner complained things were in such a sad financial state in his department that his men had been driven to washing their wives' old clothes to polish fire apparatus because there was not enough city money to supply polishing cloths.

Railway Sells for \$35 Farm Which Cost \$5,000

Worcester, Mass.—Twenty years ago the Grand Trunk railway bought a farm for \$5,000 for a right of way. Recently the road sold the farm, over which no train ever passed, for \$35.

Town Farm Auctioned

Douglas, Mass.—The old town farm was auctioned because there were only two destitute persons living there. The old Colonial-type farmhouse housed 16 persons.

Woman Heads Bank

Larned, Kan.—This town boasts the only Kansas woman bank president. Mrs. A. H. Moffet has been chosen president of the First National bank, succeeding her late husband.

Old Autos Are Sold to Museum of Lumberman

Duluth, Minn.—George A. Sloan of Duluth has sold two ancient automobiles to a Los Angeles museum being developed by a California lumberman. One car was a five-passenger International, the other a sporty coupe made by an Olds firm. They had been in storage for 15 or 20 years, Sloan said.

RED SEA AGAIN IN FOCUS OF INTEREST

Center of World Events for Many Centuries.

Washington, D. C.—The ancient canal-like Red sea, center of world events from Tutankhamen down to Lawrence of Arabia, is again the stage for history-making as Italian troopships parade to Eritrea and navies of Italy and Britain patrol its waters from Aden to Suex.

"The tides of history, religion, and culture have ebbed and flowed through the Red sea and the countries along its hot, desert coasts since the earliest times," says the National Geographic society.

"Mecca, on its eastern border, was the birthplace of Mohammed, founder of the Moslem religion which now counts more than two hundred million adherents. To this holy city hundreds of thousands of Mohammedans journey yearly. To the north is the Sinai peninsula, where the Children of Israel wandered on the way to the Promised Land, and Moses received the Ten Commandments.

"To the west is Egypt, seat of one of the oldest cultures in the world, with a history extending back more than 5,000 years; while across the Red sea in southern Arabia is the huge Rub al Khali desert whose past and present alike are practically unknown to the outside world.

Great Trade Highway.

"With the building of the Suez canal, the 1,200-mile length of the Red sea became one of the earth's great commercial highways. British steamers in Egypt on the north and in Aden and British Somaliland on the south, guard it as an essential link of the trade route to India and the Orient.

"Egypt, most important of the Red sea's hinterlands, is essentially a vast desert through which runs a narrow, fertile strip along the course of the Nile river. Of its 347,846 square miles, only 12,226 are cultivable, but most of this watered area is rich, and irrigation works are enlarging the acreage that can be farmed.

"Egypt borders the Red sea for more than 550 miles, but has no ports of any importance on this coast.

"The Sinai peninsula, through which the Suez canal runs, is part of Egypt. It is flat and sandy except in the southern part where mountains rise as high as 8,000 feet.

"Egypt's independence was recognized in 1922 by Great Britain, with the proviso that defense of the country should remain under British control.

"South of Egypt lies the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, where the British and Egyptian flags fly side by side and a British governor general has ruled since 1899. Through these million square miles of territory, ranging from desolate desert in the north to rich tropical farm lands in the south, flows the upper Nile.

"Pushed into a corner between the Sudan and Ethiopia, and cutting the latter off from the Red sea, is the Italian colony of Eritrea, scene of Italian troop concentrations.

"Massaua, the colony's principal port, is one of the hottest spots on earth. There are places where the maximum temperature is greater, but Massaua averages about 80 degrees all the year round. Back from the coastal lowlands, however, where the mountains rise toward Ethiopia, the climate is cool and temperate.

"Eritrea is about the same size as Pennsylvania, with a population of 620,000. The railroad from Massaua to Asmara, the capital, passes through pasture lands where nomad herdsmen tend sheep and cattle. In the hills gold is found and many crops are grown. In the lowlands hundreds of natives are employed in salt works, and divers along the coast gather pearls and mother-of-pearl.

"Commanding the narrow strait of Bab el Mandeb, where the Red sea meets the Indian ocean, is French Somaliland, tiny colony chiefly known as the ocean terminus of the railroad from Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa, to Djibouti.

"Midway of the strait is England's little island of Perim, and on the other side the British Protectorate of Aden. The chief city, Aden, is a free port, fortified, and one of the chief commercial towns of Arabia. Back from the sea stretches a wide, sandy plain with high mountains in the distance and little greenery to be seen.

"North of Aden on the Red Sea's Arabian coast is Yemen, called an Imamate because it is ruled by an Imam. The outside world knows little of Yemen. Triangular in shape, with its base on the Red sea, it is twice the size of Indiana, and thrusts its apex back into the mysterious desert of inner Arabia.

U. S. TREES HEALING SCARS OF LAST WAR

Douglas Fir and the Sitka Spruce Thrive in Europe.

Washington.—Again the roll of the war drums is being heard on the other side of the world. In 1915 those drums had been stilled forever, so a great many people said. War-torn areas needed healing badly as did the peoples of the earth.

Americans had thrown their weight into the ending of the war. The healing of wounds was to be a longer process. So, on a January day in 1920, millions of American tree seeds, packed and ready for shipment, were started from historic Boston common on their way to do their part toward healing the scars of earth. They were presented to the consuls of Great Britain, France, Italy and Belgium by Charles Lathrop Pack, president of the American Tree association.

These messengers of international good will, after the routine of germination under the watchful eye of foresters, were to find their way as seedlings not only to the battle areas but to the areas where forests had been cut down to meet the demands of war for timber supplies.

Today those Douglas fir and Sitka spruce, millions upon millions of them, which made up the bulk of the first shipment and others that followed in the next four years, are standing in the mothering soil of other countries than their own. Reports received by the American Tree association tell of some of them 15 and 20 feet high and growing better than many native trees. They are thus doing their part admirably in healing the ground scars of the last war.

"Their growth does not bring them into a war market," said Mr. Pack in going over the reports he had received, "but they are doing the job for which they were intended; healing the scars of the last war. Soon they will have grown large enough for commercial use.

"These trees are now standing in France where forests were blasted by shell fire. They are standing in Belgium, too. They are growing in Great Britain where virtually every tree which could be transported was cut down for war needs.

"The British forestry commission reports the growth of the trees and where they are located. They dot the famous lake country in Scotland and areas along the Caledonian canal. They are growing in the forest of Dean in England on the border of North Wales. Other trees are thriving in the King George Jubilee forest in Wales. The forest of Dean is the famous "crown property" and it was this forest which supplied timbers for English ships of war in the old days. The commander of the Spanish Armada was ordered to burn it if he landed in England.

Do Well in Scotland. "Locations of the plantings in Scotland read like an index of a Sir Walter Scott novel. Some of the trees are at Aboyne, Glengarry, South Laggan and Loch Katrine and dozens of other places. John Munro, the forester at Loch Katrine, reports Sitka spruce of 20 feet in height and Douglas fir nearly as high.

"At Inverness James Fraser of the commission reports the American trees follow the line of the famous valley to Orich. They are also thriving in many plantings in northern Ireland where the climatic conditions are similar to those where these species grow best in this country.

"The British forestry commission is now checking the plantings as it does every two years. The reports indicate the Sitka spruce has exceeded any European species in growth and the Douglas fir has done almost as well. The seed was gathered in the Pacific Northwest mostly on the coast side of the Cascade range."

Arizona Uses Dogs to Bag 300 Mountain Lions

Prescott, Ariz.—Successful lion hunting, if you believe Giles Goswick, depends on having good "hounds."

Goswick's opinion on anything connected with mountain lions is regarded as gospel in Arizona.

For ten years Goswick has made his living by killing mountain lions, first as a United States biological survey hunter and now as a state-employed predatory game hunter charged with ridding this section of the state of the fierce killers which destroy tens of thousands of dollars worth of live stock each year.

Goswick's pack of "lion dogs" are descended from a hound brought to Arizona 35 years ago by his father. Through successive generations of training, they have lion hunting bred into them.

According to the hunter, he and his pack have killed or captured 300 mountain lions, including a nine-foot male which was believed to be the largest ever killed in the Southwest. This particular lion, he said, was trailed for three days by the dogs before they frightened it into a tree.

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HALT MEASLES WITH OLD HEATHEN CURE

Placental Extract Is Being Used With Success.

Milwaukee, Wis.—An old heathen custom, revived with scientific improvements at Boston, was credited by speakers before the American Public Health association with preventing measles in a surprisingly large number of cases.

Physicians from that city explained for the first time to the medical profession a modern technique involving use of placental extract.

Some aborigines, after a child was born, saved and dried the placenta. In after years whenever the child ailed, it was fed him as "good medicine."

At Boston a purified placental extract is given by the spoonful for measles.

Dr. Elliot S. Robinson, M. D., of the Massachusetts department of public health, and Charles F. McKhann, of Harvard medical school, reported in a paper on use of this extract both by intramuscular injection and by mouth.

The hypodermic method is the newest thing in measles treatment, stopping, according to their paper, about 60 per cent of cases during incipency, and removing danger of death frequently even in later stages.

"We have also tried," said Doctor Robinson, "giving this extract by mouth. The results show that an old heathen custom was not so ridiculous as might be supposed.

"Under this custom the placental extract was dried. If a child became ill he might be given some of his own placenta. Sometimes the custom was modified to pool the placenta and use them for all children.

Thirty-Three Children Tested.

"We gave the extract by mouth to 33 children in the incubation measles stage. In two-thirds of them the measles was either prevented or modified.

"This result is based on too few cases, but it indicates that the failures from the method might be about 25 per cent. This is not nearly as good as the intramuscular injection, which shows failures in only 4.5 per cent.

"Furthermore, larger quantities are needed than by injection. It might not be easy to obtain sufficient extract for extensive use."

Health officers who heard this report suggested that Doctor Robinson continue the spoon experiments because of occasional disadvantages of giving hypodermics to small children.

CCC Man Charms Snakes With Mouth-Organ Tunes

Leadsburg, Pa.—Robert Reed, assistant leader of CCC Camp 5-08, near Mount Union, charms copperheads and rattlesnakes with lullaby tunes from a mouth organ, Dr. Irving Cohen, camp surgeon, reported recently.

The snakes first sway to the rhythm, Doctor Cohen said, then become stupefied, remaining in that state for five minutes to an hour.

Reed can pick them up without danger. As the "spell" ends the reptiles wriggle away in apparent sudden restoration to normal. Reed refuses to kill the snakes.

Australia "Movie Mad"

Melbourne, Victoria.—Australia, in proportion to its population, has more cinemas than any other country. There are 1,286 for 6,000,000 people, or one for 5,287 persons. The United States has one for every 10,400, and the United Kingdom one for every 9,883.

Cat, Rooster Pals

Wilson, N. C.—A cat and a large red rooster have become inseparable buddies on the farm of Lucian Barnes. During the day they roam the farm, side by side. At night the rooster stays on the ground to be beside his pal.

Cleveland County corn yields have been increased 100 percent in field demonstrations where 100 pounds of th nitrate per acre was added 45 days from planting, reports the farm agent.

A group of Craven County farmers in the Cove City community have each advanced \$2 for the purpose of buying a pure bred Jersey bull.

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