

AUTHOR-MAYOR OF TOLEDO



Brand Whitlock, mayor of Toledo, O., since 1906, is well known throughout the country as an author on economic and other subjects.

DESERT CONQUERED

ACHIEVEMENT IN AGRICULTURE IN WASTES OF MOJAVE.

Three Ranchers Prove to Uncle Sam After Plucky Venture That Crops Will Grow in the Western Arid Region.

Los Angeles.—After five years of experimenting, three ranchers in the Mojave desert have proved that dry farming methods will produce fine crops in that arid region without periodical watering, and as a result hundreds of land claimants who stood in danger of losing their claims through the impossibility of irrigation may file homesteads and retain their holdings.

That is what was done the other day in the United States land office by Dr. W. M. Doble, Miss Florence Benson and Mrs. K. Nath. They made final homestead proofs after their claims under the desert act had been invalidated because they were unable to irrigate.

It was shown that they had produced crops by dry farming methods, and Gen. Frank C. Prescott, register of the land office, declared that their achievement would prove of incalculable benefit to hundreds of landholders who heretofore faced the loss of their claims because they could not produce sufficient water from wells to meet the irrigation requirement of the desert land law.

"It opens the Mojave to homesteaders as well as desert reclaimers," he said. Dr. Doble and the two women, who with him were the first ever to have located homesteads in the desert, filed on desert claims five years ago. The wells they dug did not produce sufficient water to do the irrigating prescribed by the desert law. But instead of relinquishing their lands, Dr. Doble, who is an expert agriculturist, went to work experimenting with dry farming.

Meantime, Miss Benson, who has a claim near by, and Mrs. Nath filed homesteads. In doing so they declared they would prove to the United States authorities that they could grow crops despite the dearth of water.

So they went to work. After one or two failures all three decided to follow a plan of husbanding their fields after each storm during the rainy season. This produced results which Gen. Prescott said were marvellous.

The soil of Mojave," he explained, "is conceded to be extraordinarily rich. It is a desert solely because of the lack of sufficient water. Dr. Doble's crop followed the systematic harrowing. He found that the normal rainfall of the desert was enough to provide all the moisture needed, provided the ground was kept broken.

This method is something like that pursued by the farmers in the arid regions of Syria and Armenia. Rain is scarce there and come in a certain period of the year, as they do in the Mojave. The natives plow up their fields after the first rain and keep turning it over during the brief wet season. Then they plant their crops, and after that they pray that it will rain no more that year. The action of the sun draws the moisture up to the roots of the grain and provides all the nutriment the growing crops need.

CAT THAT PLAYS PIANO.

Girl's Pet, Devoted to Music, Spends Hours Pawing Over Keys.

Boonville, Ind.—Little Gladys Schultz has a pet cat of which she is very fond and which is always at her feet or around near her. Miss Gladys is about ten years old and is very assiduous in practicing her music lessons on the piano when she is not in school.

While this is going on the pet cat, Cottie, is either at her side or purring around at her feet. It seems to like the idea of the music and will oftentimes sit with undivided attention on a chair by the girl's side watching the movement of her fingers along the keyboard.

After leaving the room a few days ago with the cat sitting on a chair Gladys came back shortly to find Cottie sitting on the piano stool trying to imitate her example and play on the instrument. The cat would strike the keys with her paws and seemed delighted at the effect of the tones produced, repeating it several times, to the delight of Mrs. Schultz and Gladys, who were looking on. Since that time it has become a frequent occurrence for Cottie to climb on the piano stool and give vent to her feelings in music.

DOGS ACT AS CADDIES.

New Breed May Revolutionize Present Golfing Methods.

Oxford, Pa.—If Oxford ever achieves any particular fame it will probably be as the birthplace of the caddy hound, a new breed of dog which promises to revolutionize present golfing methods. These dogs will perform all the duties of the caddy on the golf green.

The breeder is Frank Dubrow, a rural mail carrier, who breeds fox hounds and beagles. Knowing that caddy balls were often lost because golfers did not follow their flight, he trained for hounds to chase balls and locate them.

The only difficulty found was to keep them from picking up the ball and retrieving it. This defect was remedied and the players were delighted with the intelligence of the animals.

Dubrow found that his work was still not done, however, for a caddy was still necessary to carry the clubs about. He took two dogs, half-bred collies and fox hounds, and trained them for a month, when they would do all that his fox-hounds had done and in addition carry the caddy bag strapped to their backs.

Golfers who have played with the dogs are enthusiastic over them.

Forgives Debts in Will.

Baltimore, Md.—In his all-embracing philanthropy even the debts owing him are cancelled in the liberally charitable will of the late George L. Muth, senior partner of the wholesale drug firm of Muth Bros. & Company, filed in the orphan's court of Baltimore county at Towson.

The instrument disposes of an extremely valuable estate. Besides a large number of bequests to Catholic institutions of a charitable nature, together with a number of legacies to relatives and other friends, the will directs that all persons owing the testator money at the time of his death, whether relatives or others, are forgiven the debts and released from all obligations of payment.

Old Windmill a Tea-Room.

London.—Salvaging windmill in Sussex has at length capitulated, like so many others, in the fight against steam milling, and has been converted into a tea-room.

It is now earning more money as a tea-room than it was at its own trade toward the end of its career. The mill, the huge sails of which make a sea of blue miles round, is situated on the summit of the highest hill of the Sussex downs and is visited by many sightseers.

WARNS OF DANGERS

ROOSEVELT'S AFRICAN TRIP IS FOLLY, SAYS EXPERT.

Asserts President Has Only 15 Chances In 100 of Surviving Tropical Perils—Disease and Fever Attack Certain.

New York.—When President Roosevelt allowed it to be announced that at the end of his presidency he would go to Africa with his second son, Kermit, a boy still under 20, in quest of big game, the American people, knowing little of Africa, took it as another phase of the president's many-sided character without considering more than "big game" chances.

Baron A. B. d'Altonmonte, who for nearly four years was commandant of the police forces in the Congo Free State and later headed the six months' hunting expedition of Prince Zurnkoff in British East Africa, believes that it is folly for a man of President Roosevelt's age to tempt the fevers and miasmas of Africa. He says it is exceedingly dangerous to take a boy of Kermit Roosevelt's years into the jungle.

The baron says: "How will President Roosevelt hunt in East Africa? Will he take a train at Mombasa, put himself in an open car in front of the engine and shoot, while passing, at herds of wild elephant or antelope? No, surely. He will be forced by his own very daring nature to hunt following the precepts of Nimrod, in the only grand way, with all the trouble and all the dangers of the great barter.

This will necessitate camping at night in the damp plains, among high grass, full of insects and mosquitoes, or on the border of the muddy and pestilent river—home of the tsetse fly—or in the tenebrous and treacherous forest, full of miasmas and dampness. He will be forced to the long wait lying in ambush for the approach of the elephant; he will have to face the torrid heat of the rocky and naked altitudes to hunt for the lion and the antelope; he will have to cross the putrid bottom of the valleys to watch for the rhinoceros, and with this last one some time he will be compelled to find the running strength of his youth.

These are the general and particular dangers of a hunting party in Africa, without mentioning the miseries of the daily life—bad water, the rainy season, the fly pest, the inflammation of the skin caused by perspiration, the nights without sleep on account of the heat and a hundred other things.

To be short, I come to this conclusion that whoever suggested or did not dissuade President Roosevelt from going to Africa has erred. He is 50 years old, and at his age he would encounter many dangers in Africa merely as a traveler; but as a hunter he will face the greatest perils of his life.

Apart from the African fever and dysentery and other tropical diseases, President Roosevelt has another great enemy in his constitution, which is far from being perfect, though the average man may believe it is.

1. The African sun is death-dealing to highly excitable and full-blooded men.

2. A man who so quickly loses his temper as does the president is subject when confronted with the miserable difficulty of the African life to a special form of bilious fever, which decomposes the blood and causes death in 24 hours. It is known as "Hematurique" fever.

3. Here is the percentage table of mortality in Central Africa, as compiled by the African Traveling association of London:

Table with 2 columns: Age, Death Life. Rows: 20-30, 30-40, 40-50, 50-60, 60-70, 70-80, 80-90, 90-100.

"The mortality of Congo Free State white employees is 35 per cent. In Lower Congo and 60 per cent. In Upper Congo, as recognized by Commander Charles Lemaire, the famous Belgian explorer and authority on all African questions.

The real, the terrible, the unavoidable danger is the African fever. Very few white people can say that they have visited the center of Africa without having fallen ill with this terrible disease. Among thousands of explorers and hunters hardly any have been spared from it, and these for some special reason or for an extraordinary physical constitution.

Dr. Henry Drummond, one of the most intelligent African travelers, speaking of this, says: "I never know of a white man who lived in Central Africa three months without a dangerous attack of the fever."

"The same is repeated by Maj. Charles Lemaire, the famous Belgian explorer, and by James Edward Alexander, Henry Rowley, C. D. Lampugh and William Walter Fitzgerald—men that have crossed Africa several times and have explored East Africa. All agree to the fact that nobody, under normal conditions, can be spared from the fever."

Geta Drunk on White Lime.

Stout City.—Unavoidable distinction is accorded John Shea. Since June 1, 1902, he has been arrested 81 times, each time for intoxication. While lime is the cause of his downfall, it is said he drinks the stuff by the pint. He is a harmless character, and at one time was a prosperous farmer. It is said that family troubles drove him to drink for the 81 times that he has been arrested. He has been sentenced to 300 days in the county jail.

PULP WASTE IN THE SAWMILLS.

Invention May Relieve Drain on Country's Paper Supply.

Washington.—To insure a pulp wood supply to meet adequately the future needs of the country seems one of the most important of the many forest problems of the United States. Statistics collected by government experts, however, show that there are possibilities in the field of invention for the relief of the drain on the country's remaining pulp-wood forests by devising means of utilizing sawmill waste.

It is estimated that there are 4,500,000 cords of slabs destroyed in refuse burners of the lumber mills of the country each year. The wood used for pulp last year amounted to approximately 4,000,000 cords, about a quarter of which had to be imported. The mill waste estimate is based on a recent canvass of some of the larger mills of the country by the United States forest service, which established the interesting fact that mills having an aggregate cut of 5,410,000,000 board feet had a final waste of 1,870,000 cords of slabs after the best had been used for lath.

Assuming these mills to be representative, it is seen that there is still considerable waste in forest products at the mill, even after the earnest efforts of lumbermen during the last ten years to bring about a closer utilization of the whole tree.

The slab residue from the lumber cut of the country is estimated to amount to about 14,000,000 cords, of which about 6,000,000, with an average value of \$1.50 a cord, is sold for fuel, 3,500,000 burned by the mills for fuel, and 4,500,000 sent to the refuse burners. This last figure shows the enormous quantity of forest product that is pure waste.

FOX CROP IN MAINE IS BIG.

Total Annual Output of State Is Estimated at 75,000 Skins.

Bangor, Me.—About 75,000 fox skins are sold out of Maine every year. Very few of the sly animals are shot. Many are killed by the use of poisoned bait, while hundreds of others are killed in "drives," known as the "New Hampshire method." This is not sportsmanlike, but the fur hunters are in the game for cash, not sport.

No accurate statistics are available as to the number of foxes captured in Maine in a year, but some time ago Charles E. Oak of Caribou, then land agent, said before a committee hearing that more than 50,000 fox skins were sold out of Aroostook county alone every year. Outside of Aroostook county, where several men make a business of fox hunting, perhaps 25,000 pelts are taken in a year, making the total output of the state 75,000.

The price of good fox skins reached highest notch last winter, even red pelts commanding from \$150 to \$5 each, as against \$2.50 two years ago, and \$2.50 five years ago. For silver grays, which are rare, and blacks which are very rare, prices remain very much as in former years, though the rates have advanced somewhat and the market is much steadier since the close of the war between Japan and Russia, as nearly all these expensive skins are marketed in Russia. One fox skin in 200 is from a "cross" fox and is valued at \$400. One in 100 is a silver gray and is worth from \$200 to \$500, and perhaps one in 500,000 is a pure and radiant black, which may bring \$800 or even \$1,500, thus making the coat of the black fox the most valuable garment worn by any animal on top of the earth.

HISTORIC SPRING DRYING UP.

Pennsylvania Drought Threatens Water That Served Washington's Men.

Bethlehem, Pa.—For the first time in the history of the country, the spring which at one time served Washington's army is drying up and this borough is threatened with a water famine.

Since 1741 this historic spring has supplied the borough with water. Before that its banks were a council spot for the Indians. Never has it been known to fail as a water source. The present drought, which has parched this part of the country for weeks, is blamed for the spring's failure to supply its usual quota.

In the early days when scouts and trappers traced through the country, the spring was a landmark. Many times its clear, bubbling waters have been stained with blood, shed in heroic encounter between red men and whites.

Washington's tired troops while retreating before the victory flushed army of British paused to quaff a crystal draught, and it is said that even Gen. George Washington drank deep of its water from a dipper fashioned by birch bark.

But now the spring is gradually fading and there are only 11 inches of water in the reservoir which has been built about it.

Not a Death in Big Family.

Washington, Pa.—The reunion of the family of Mr. and Mrs. Eliza B. Johnson, held at the Johnson home- stead, in Cumberland township, Green county to-day, was attended by all the 82 descendants of the aged couple, consisting of nine children, 66 grandchildren, and 18 great-grandchildren.

A most remarkable circumstance in connection with the family history is that there has not been a single death in the family. Eliza B. Johnson is now 87 years of age, while Mrs. Johnson is 86. They have been married for 65 years.

LIKE UNTO OTHER CAUCUSES.

Fashion Set by Hannibal Hamlin Not Infrequently Followed.

The old saw says that "politics makes strange bedfellows," and it is likewise a fact that the professional politician is frequently moved by the "exigencies of the case" to acts that will not stand close scrutiny. Not alone is this so in the present day, but it was so "in the days of the fathers." When Hannibal Hamlin first began his political career he was once at a caucus in Hampden, the only attendant besides himself being a citizen of very tall stature and ponderous build. Mr. Hamlin had some resolutions to pass which began by representing that they were presented to a "large and respectable" gathering of voters, and he proceeded to read and "vote" them onto the records of the caucus.

"Hold on!" cried the other man. "We can't pass that, for it ain't true."

"What isn't true?" demanded the wily Hamlin.

"It ain't a large and respectable caucus," objected the other member of the assembly. "There's only two of us."

"That's all right, brother, that's all right," assured Hamlin. "It goes as read. Just you keep still. This is a large and respectable caucus, all right. You're large and I am respectable."

"And the resolution 'passed' without further demur."

PECULIAR STATUES OF KINGS.

Rulers of Dahome Represented in Guise of Beasts.

In Man Prof. J. G. Frazer discusses three remarkable statues of kings of Dahome now deposited in the Trocadero museum. The figures are symbolical, each king being represented in the guise of an animal. Thus, Guezo, who reigned from 1818 to 1853, and was known as "the cock," is represented by a man covered with feathers; Guelele (1858-89), "the lion," as a lion rampant; Behanzin, his successor, who was finally deposed by the French, known as "the shark," appears as a dogfish graced with the arms and supported by human legs. The "feathers" which once covered the statue of Guezo are nothing but metal plates, nails, gimlets and scraps of old iron. Prof. Frazer observes that the existence of these statues seems to prove that certain kings of Dahome habitually posed as certain fierce animals or as birds. They possibly intended by this means to serve some magical purpose. At any rate, they cannot be taken hereditary in the male line, since they differed in three successive generations traced from father to son.

Superiority to All Law.

There is something terrible in the habit of seeking after a law which we may obey. We may study laws of matter and of force for convenience but a successful life knows no law. It is an unfortunate discovery certainly, that of a law which binds us where we did not know before we were bound. Live free, child of the mist—and with respect to knowledge we are all children of the mist. The man who takes the liberty to live is superior to all the laws, by virtue of his relation to the lawmaker. "That is active duty," says the Vishnu Purana "which is not for our bondage; that is knowledge which is for our liberation, all other duty is good only unto weariness; all other knowledge is only the cleverness of an artist."—Henry D. Thoreau.

BRIGHTENED BY KINDNESS.

Dull Pupil Called "Dear" Suddenly Takes on Skill.

St. Louis.—Miss Gladys Williams, a teacher in the St. Louis county public schools, in a paper read at the county teachers' meeting, told how the word "dear" made a dull pupil become the leader of his class.

"An eight-year-old boy had been in my class nearly a year without showing any capacity for absorbing knowledge," she said.

"He just wouldn't study, and I had about given him up as hopeless. But one day he did something that pleased me, and I said to him, 'that was very nice, dear.'"

"At recess he came to me smiling and said:—

"Teacher, you are the first one that ever called me dear."

"He was so proud of it that he asked me to write a letter to his father certifying that I considered him a dear. His brother heard of it and he worked hard in the hope that I would speak kindly to him, too. After that those two boys were the best pupils I had, and there was great rivalry between them."

Gyroscope as Compass.

Charlottenburg, Germany.—At a meeting of the League of German Naval Architects, Dr. Anschuetz-Kampfle of Kiel exhibited a compass without a magnetic needle, which has just been invented. It is in the form of a gyroscope, which, when suspended in a certain way, always adjusts itself parallel to the earth's axis.

Marriages Depict Choir.

Rayoune, N. J.—Because of the number of marriages recently between singers in the choir of the Forty-sixth street Methodist Episcopal church, the music committee has found it necessary to issue a call for volunteers to fill their places. Within the last year a number of marriages between choir members have taken place, the latest being Miss Kathryn Klug Valleau, a soloist, to Lester K. Van Woert, another singer.

PLANS NOVEL SHOW

EZRA MEEKER TO HAVE PIONEER EXHIBIT AT SEATTLE.

Exact Reproduction of Home Life in the Early Days of the Northwest Will Be Offered at the Coming Fair.

Seattle, Wash.—Ezra Meeker, pioneer of the '50s, will give an exact reproduction of home life during the early history of the northwest on the grounds of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exposition next year.

Within a few days old "Dave," the ox that assisted to haul the Meeker prairie schooner from ocean to ocean over the Oregon trail, will be driven out to the exposition grounds, hitched to a plow and will assist his master in preparing the soft earth to receive a series of cabins which Meeker plans to build on the fair site.

Five cabins will be erected without the use of lumber or nails, and ash pits be built at convenient places on Meeker's acre on the exposition grounds, a vegetable garden will be planned, and by next spring there will be a flourishing pioneer colony on the ramparts of the state university.

A part of this exhibit will be an old blockhouse built in 1855, which still stands at Coupeville. There is to be a reproduction of the schoolhouse of 50 years ago, and John V. Meeker, 84 years old and known as "Uncle John" among the pioneers, will be in charge of the buildings. In early days John Meeker taught school and many of the textbooks of that period have been preserved by the Meekers.

Ezra Meeker will try to interest the new pioneers of Oregon in his pioneer ways and hopes to receive many relics of early days from old Oregon families. These relics will be exhibited in the cabins and at the close of the exposition returned to their owners. In the cabins will be shown how cloth was spun and woven and several old-time spinning wheels and looms will be in operation.

One cabin will be called the music hall, where several old melodions will be used. These instruments were among the first to be brought to this coast. In early days the Oregon country comprised the vast territory of what is now the states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and a part of Wyoming and Montana. From all these states will come relics of early pioneer life for the Meeker exhibit.

Meeker plans a number of special features during the life of the exposition and every few weeks there will be a big barbecue in which exposition visitors will be asked to take a part. There will also be clam-bakes, and Meeker expects to serve thousands of potatoes baked in the ash pits. Oxen will be roasted for the benefit of the visitors.

When this part of the country was under provincial government as far back as 1843 the seat of government was in a cabin. There is to be a reproduction of this same cabin, and the details of its construction will be gathered from old Oregon pioneers. Over all the cabins will fly the American flag containing 26 stars, the number of states in the union at the period of the country's history.

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