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CHINCH BUGS ROUTED

Fire as Pest Destroyer Advocated in Agricultural Fable.

Firebug in the Person of a Scientific Farmer Wrought Havoc With Pestiferous Family Who Had Moved Into Winter Home.

Atchison, Kan.—Gen. Pestiferous Chinch Bug, Jr., and family of Kansas have gone to their winter home in the bunch grass and blue stem. The Kansas Industrialist a few weeks ago said the news of their departure was brought to the agricultural college by J. W. McCulloch, a special field agent for the entomology department of the Kansas Agricultural college. So it's official and authoritative.

McColloch also gave out the information here that there is considerable uneasiness in the C. B. household on account of the many incendiary fires that destroyed blue stem and bunch grass winter homes. In fact, it was only after several days of arguing and promising that Mrs. C. Bug and the girls consented to leave the family's summer place on the old cornstalk. And they wouldn't have gone at all had not the general agreed, finally, to crawl to the top of the winter home twice a day and look for firebugs. It also was told here by a neighbor of the Chinch Bugs that Mrs. C. B. ordered fire extinguishers for the winter home before she left.

Trouble for the Chinch Bug family began when a firebug, thought to be Scientific Farmer, came to the blue stem and bunch grass home and burned it nearly to the ground. Young Pestiferous, his bride and his brother were the only ones of a family of sixty-five that escaped. And that was the mortality among most of the other families, Mrs. Pestiferous said.

And then that cold winter in only a makeshift for a home. It was too much for brother. He died. But the general and Mrs. Pestiferous survived somehow and reared a large family on the cornstalk.

"I think we made a good move when we came to this side of the road," General Pestiferous told his wife. "I understand that there have been no firebugs in this community for years. This is the place we should have lighted in instead of that farm across the divide. Over there it seemed as if all the yeggs on that section combined forces against us. Every grove of blue stem and bunch grass in sight went up in smoke. And you know as well as I that if our grove had been burned a little closer to the ground we'd have perished with the rest of them."

"Yes, I know that only too well. Pest, but I'm worried about this smell of smoke in the air this morning. I wish you'd forget the past long enough to go on the roof and squint around a little. You haven't been up this morning. And you know what you promised."

The special field agent believes the fears of the Chinch Bugs are well grounded. The success with which the family of Gen. Pestiferous, Sr., was routed has convinced Scientific Farmer that the winter house warming plan is the best yet for fighting his old enemy. His torch is ready and he's only waiting now till the last of the Chinch Bugs are in their winter homes.

FATHER OWNS SON'S PANTS

English Judge Makes Ruling on Possession in Suit Brought for a New Pair.

London.—Asked to decide whether a boy's trousers belonged to the boy or the father, Judge Bray of the Shoreditch county court, admitted that he wasn't sure. Playing football in the street, a boy tore his trousers on a tin box standing outside a store, and the father sued the storekeeper, on his son's behalf. He was allowed $1.25 damages, but the storekeeper asked for a new trial on the ground that the boy ought not to have appeared in the case, as the trousers really belonged to the father, as, although the boy bought them, he was an infant and could not sue in law. The judge finally refused to grant a new trial, declaring that the father had control over the son's trousers.

COURT DEFIED BY A CONVICT

California Prisoner, In Contempt, Dares Judge to Punish Him—Sent Back to Jail.

Sacramento, Cal. — "You are in contempt of court," Superior Judge Hughes exclaimed to a witness named Jordan. "Suppose I am, what are you going to do about it?" coolly replied the witness, who was a convict brought from Folsom prison to testify regarding a stabbing affair within the prison.

"If you can add any to my twenty years, go to it," he added.

Although Jordan refused to testify against the prisoner on trial, even withholding his own given name and sneering at his examiners, the court was helpless, and in the end Jordan was allowed to go back to prison.

Widow Has 63 Dogs.

San Francsico.—Included in the baggage of Mrs. N. Bramber, a wealthy widow who arrived from Atlantic City, were 63 dogs, one horse, 16 trunks, five bundles of golf sticks, five gross canine food and photograph and tennis equipment.

BACK SEAT IS GIVEN CUPID

Chicago Girls Place Fiances' Incomes Ahead of Love—They Want $5,000 a Year.

Chicago.—Cupid must take a back seat in the "Five Thousand Dollars a Year" club organized recently by ten South side girls in Chicago. It is declared to be the most extraordinary club ever formed, and is for the double purpose of conserving happiness among young women who have been bred in comfort and even luxury by Chicago fathers and mothers and to dispelling the idea that Cupid is a one time visitor.

One clause of the constitution of the organization stipulates that no member may marry unless the executive board is satisfied that the income of the family is $5,000 a year, and that there will be no undue restriction upon the wife in the dispensation of family resources.

Commenting on the club, Miss Ralke, the president, says:

"Five thousand dollars a year is only a starter for an American business man.

"Five thousand dollars a year is only ammunition for a really up-to-date American girl.

"But no woman should marry just because she is unmarried.

"No woman should be driven into matrimonial fetters because it was respectable for women to be married at eighteen when her grandmother was a girl."

GOLD AND PROOF ARE GONE

Thieves Stole $50,000 From Bank of England—Evidence Is Now Missing.

London.—The international gang of thieves, which planned and executed the recent theft of $50,000 from a consignment of $1,000,000 from the Bank on London to the Credit Lyonnais in Alexandria, Egypt, is proving more than a match for the English and continental police. When the consignment reached Alexandria it was found all the boxes were sealed, but that two contained lead instead of sovereigns.

According to the messengers of the Bank of London great precaution was taken in preparing the consignment of gold. It was first packed in bags containing $5,000 each. Five of these were placed in each case. The 40 cases, each clamped with iron bands and bearing eight seals, were loaded on a steamer and carried to Bremen. On the ship they were kept in a strong room to which there were three keys, kept by the captain and the chief officer.

Representatives of the Credit Lyonnais received the cash at Bremen and transported it by rail to Trieste, where it was transferred to an Austrian steamer, which delivered it to Alexandria.

Although the theft was not discovered until the cases of gold arrived in Alexandria, it is believed the theft occurred on the railroad portion of the journey.

DOG IS HIS ALARM CLOCK

Bell Tied to Mongrel's Leg Rings Every Morning at Rising Time.

North Fairmont, O.—Samuel Forsythe believes he has the best dog on earth, as he does not need an alarm clock to waken him in the morning in time for work. His dog, which is only a mongrel, does it for him. Forsythe says the plan has failed only once in two months.

By careful watching he found that the dog invariably awakened at about the same time as its master, so on retiring each night he tied a bell to one of the dog's legs. The dog on awakening rang the bell until released.

BURNS WOODWORK IN GALES

German Steamer Pennoll Is Forced to Extremities To Provide Fuel.

New York.—Buffeted at sea by what her captain declared was the worst weather he had encountered, the German steamer Pennoll, bound from Rotterdam to Philadelphia, is coaling here. She had only a few pounds of coal in her bunkers when she anchored off quarantine. The succession of gales which she encountered held her back and depleted her coal supply to such an extent that she was forced practically to strip herself of woodwork to keep the fires going.

SINGS 36 HOURS; IS IN JAIL

Woman Sent to Minneapolis Workhouse as Boarders Protest Against Howling.

Minneapolis, Minn.—Because she frequently sang a song for 36 consecutive hours Mrs. Florence Queen, whose home is said to be in North Dakota, was sentenced to 90 days in the workhouse here. Mrs. Queen was arrested on a disorderly conduct charge, complaint having been made by her fellow boarders at a local hotel. When arrested the woman had $8,000 in bills of large denomination in her possession. She registered at the hotel November 8.

Girl's Uppercut Knocks Masher Out

Baltimore, Md.—Miss Lillian Edwards, a handsome athletic girl, landed a swift uppercut on the jaw of John Seeger, when he saluted her with "Hello, kid; let's take a walk." Seeger was taken by surprise when the plucky little woman let drive at him and fell from the force of the blow. He was fined $20 and costs.

LIKE PATRICK CASE

Mrs. Hetty Green Was Actor in Howland Will Affair.

Charge of Forgery Was Made—Fact That Signatures Were Identically Alike Alleged to Have Proved They Were Not Genuine.

New York.—Did you ever hear the story of Sylvia Ann Howland's will?

Mrs. Hetty Green, today's queen of finance, was one of the actors in this first great will case in America. The story is fifty years old, but it has dramatic interest because in certain features it is analogous to the case of Albert Patrick, recently pardoned from Sing Sing by Governor Dix. It was in the contest of the Howland case that handwriting experts were first used to effect before an American court. The next similar case was that of Millionaire Rice's will, in which Patrick appeared as claimant. It is worth noting that the methods of the handwriting experts seem not to have advanced measurably in half a century. They have been refined, perhaps, but otherwise they have been altered very little. Even in their differences the experts of today resemble those of 1863. Each is still able to demonstrate that the thinking apparatus of all the other side's experts have been clogged by blue mud.

Patrick owed his four times repeated death sentence to the handwriting experts. The state's case on his indictment for murder was technically weak. It rested on the confession of Valet Jones that he had chloroformed Rice at Patrick's orders. But the indictment was dramatically strong, because the experts proved conclusively that Rice's will had been forged. Each of the four pages of this document bore a signature which was presumably that of Rice.

The experts showed that these four signatures were identical—so admirably identical that when superimposed each fitted the other to the thickness of an eyelash. The experts contended that no two genuine signatures are ever just alike. They even found the true signature from which the four false ones had been traced, and found that on the day Rice was supposed to have signed the will he had signed five other documents. The five genuine signatures differed widely from each other and from the four forged ones.

Sylvia Ann Howland, an aged spinster, died in New Bedford, Mass., in 1863, leaving an estate of more than $2,000,000. Two wills were produced. In the will of 1863 her niece and companion, Hetty Robinson, afterward known as Hetty Green, was generously remembered. By the will of 1860 Hetty Robinson inherited practically all. It consisted of a single page, marked "second page," inserted after the first page of an admittedly genuine earlier will. Miss Robinson testified that Miss Howland had dictated this "second page" to her in duplicate. Both pages were in Miss Robinson's writing, but each bore the signature of Miss Howland. The beneficiaries under the will of 1863 charged that the signatures on this duplicated "second page" had been forged by Miss Robinson. Every handwriting expert of note in the United States was engaged.

Through experts Miss Robinson met the contentions of the defense, point for point, statement for statement. She is supposed to have spent $150,000 for counsel and experts, that being by far the greatest sum ever expended for such employment in an American law suit up to that time. In the end a compromise was reached. This compromise, according to the Law Reporter, "is understood to be the withdrawal of the complainant's appeal on payment of her expenses, costs and counsel fees, etc. The will of 1863 remains the will of Sylvia Ann Howland."

UNDERWORLD AS EXAMPLE

Archbishop Says Young People of Today Are Traveling the Wrong Road.

New Orleans.—The underworld has become the exemplar of too many young people who should have for their patron Mary Immaculate, declared Archbishop Bleak in a sermon at the Jesuits' church recently, in which he scored modern dancing and social customs.

This spirit, he said, had resulted in such dances as the "grizzly bear," the "turkey trot," the "Gaby glide" and the "bunny hug."

"Has it come to this," asked the archbishop, "that our beautiful society—our boasted civilization, nay, even our Christianity, should be banished to make room for the vile corruption freighted with the miasma of the underworld? I appeal to mothers and fathers, for the love of God, to set their faces against this outrage."

Liquor Gets Him at Last.

Dublin.—"Mickey" Smith, a basketmaker and cattle drover, is dead at the age of 116. He drank heavily and smoked constantly. He married three times. He slept often in the open air and was able to work until three years ago.

"Unwritten Law" Frees Woman.

Dallas, Tex.—Mrs. Minnie LaDuque was acquitted of the charge of murdering her husband, whom she shot last summer, because of his alleged attentions to other women. Mrs. LaDuque's defense was the "unwritten law."

INFANT TOILERS IN GOTHAM

Investigator Discovers a Baby 18 Months Old at Work on Artificial Flowers.

New York.—The revelations about baby factory workers in tenements in the metropolis, brought out at the hearings of the state factory investigating commission, have shocked New York and cast a damper over much of the joyousness of this holiday season. One investigator, a woman physician, actually found an infant eighteen months old working at the manufacture of artificial flowers. A child of three was found working on corset covers. Four-year-old workers apparently are not uncommon.

The work is done in the tenement homes and frequently the children are compelled to get up at five o'clock in the morning and toil until far into the night. One family of such toilers, consisting of a mother and four children, secured a combined income of between five and six dollars a week.

Many of the child workers are diseased. Tuberculosis was found by one investigator in about a third of the families. It is believed that as a result of the hearings stringent laws will be passed regulating home factory work in tenements, and there is a possibility that such work may be abolished.

PUBLIC PARK IS WANTED

Land Worth $15,000,000, However, Is Hardly Big Enough for an "Old Cat" Game.

New York.—The latest project for a New York park is the rather staggering proposition that the city take over the site of the Equitable building, which burned last winter, and make it into an open square. The land is valued at $15,000,000 and is hardly big enough for boys to play five-old-cat in without breaking somebody's windows.

But it is in the heart of downtown New York, one block from Wall street and the hole where the old Equitable building stood has proved a welcome source of light to many offices where the sunlight had not fallen since long before the Spanish war.

That the park plan will go through at any such cost, when a single million of the money would give playgrounds to four or five hundred thousand children, who now play in the streets, is doubtful. But it brings up the curious fact that a little more than a century ago there was actually a garden on the same ground. About 1688 Philip Stoutenberg owned the whole site, and there he established a garden, where he raised tulip bulbs to sell to his Dutch neighbors.

$250 FOR 3 LOST TOENAILS

New York Jury Adds Another Valuation to Long List Recently Compiled in Court.

New York.—A toenail—that is, a New York lady's toenail—is worth $83.33 1-3, or three for $250, according to the New York courts.

Mrs. Anna Elliott was tipped over in a taxicab, lost a shoe, damaged a stocking and was parted from three toenails for the term of her life on this earth. So she sued for $2,500 damages. The jury expressed sympathy for the loss of the shoe and stocking, but ruled them out of the count and cut down the bill by 90 per cent.

As a result a list of "What's Worth What" has been compiled from recent court decisions. It runs: Toes, womans' $4,480; man's, three for $2,000; arms, woman's, disfigured (pair), $500; squeezed, $1,000; legs, man's (pair), $38,000; scalp, woman's lost, $4,200; ankles, woman's, $3,000 to $20,000 each; fingers, man's, $18,000 for four; hands, man's right, $9,666; shoulders, woman's right, injured, $1,000; eyes, man's right, $1,284; operas $750 apiece (manuscripts, not matinees); fiances (male), $28,828 each; sermons, 98 cents, or 312 for $300.

STEER COLLECTED CURIOS

Butcher Finds Veritable Museum in Stomach of Slain Animal—Pills Melted in Bottle.

Moorehead, Tenn.—An "old curiosity shop" was brought to light by William A. Allen while he was dressing a steer. When he opened the stomach of the animal he was surprised to see a small vial containing a substance that had once been pills but had been dissolved by the heat.

In rapid order the amazed butcher brought to light two keys, a penny, a collar button, an iron washer, an empty cartridge, 16 nails, a broken piece from a set of false teeth, a pen knife, two small stones, three marbles a piece of bomb, a small iron image of a bird, an iron nipple, a spoon, two screws and several pieces of scrap iron.

Town Picks Up and Moves.

Topeka, Kan.—The town of Cold Springs, in Klowa county, Oklahoma was moved four miles in compliance with an order of the state corporation commission. The frame buildings were transported on flat cars. Two rival town sites have fought over the location of the town for several years.

Child Killed by Rats.

Muskogee, Okla.—Mrs. Virginia Davis left her three-year-old child alone at home while she spent the night elsewhere. Returning in the morning she found the child had been attacked and killed by rats. The mother has been arrested.

LAND OF LOST MEN

Scores Mysteriously Disappear From Far Southwest.

In Country of Swift Changes Customs Are Opposed to Asking Strangers Personal Questions—No Trace Is Left Behind.

El Paso, Tex.—Is there a "port of missing men?" That is a question to be answered as your fancy dictates, says a writer. But that there is a country from which men are constantly "missing" allows of no contradiction. A section of this great United States of America there is which literally swallows up human beings and leaves no inkling of their fates or their whereabouts. Such a section and such places are found throughout the great southwest, from western Texas to the Pacific coast.

Not one man or one woman, but scores of men and women, come, are seen and vanish in this section of the states each year. To disappear from off the face of the earth as completely as if one had never existed is not a feat easy of accomplishment even in the great centers of population in the eastern states. And in this country of missing men it happens so frequently that only a case of extraordinary interest commands the attention of the natives. A grunt or a shrug of the shoulders dismisses the matter as soon as it is mentioned. One must be rich or one must be influential if one would have the arm of the law stretched forth in succor. The penalty of obscurity here, as elsewhere, is indifference. "Who cares?"—who, indeed?

But indifference alone is not responsible for the lack of interest in so small a matter as the mere disappearance of a man. No, there is that in the attitude of the average native of the southwest which makes him hesitate to show any interest or concern in the affairs of another man. In the east such questions as "Where are you from?" or "Are you in business here?" are common enough. And such questions are asked with no purpose or intent of prying into another's affairs. It is a part of the social customs of the "polite" east to show some interest in another's well-being. But such personal, intimate questions never fall from the lips of the man born or reared in the great southwest.

Only a few days ago the proprietress of one of the largest and finest boarding houses in El Paso furnished mute but convincing evidence of the fact that men disappear all too often in these parts. Taking the correspondent up to a spacious garret, she pointed to a pile of trunks and other effects and said:

"You see all these trunks here? Well, they belong to men and women who have come to my place, taken rooms and suddenly departed. Do I never hear from them? Not in a single instance have I received one line from one of them, or from any one knowing them. All I know about them, as a rule, is their last names. I don't ask them anything about themselves. I know what you are thinking," she added. "You are thinking these are the effects of 'board jumpers.' But you are wrong. I make them all pay from the day they get their rooms—a week in advance. I'm too used to keeping a boarding house to be 'taken in' by men with empty trunks or trunks loaded with bricks and the like. If you will look you will see that some of these trunks are not even locked. They are full of clothes—more or less good. Sometimes one finds the relatives of a person who has disappeared by letters and sometimes by cards and other things left in the trunks.

"This trunk here," she said, pointing out a rather new trunk, "belongs to a young man who left here only about three weeks ago. The Lord only knows where he is. I've not had a line from anybody about him. I'm holding the trunk, but, of course, some one is in the room he had. I used to bother about such things, but it happens so often that I have about got used to it."

Some time later a group of men were chatting together on this topic. It seemed to be a common enough occurrence all throughout the southwest. Many reasons were given for the mysterious disappearances, but none seemed quite good enough to answer satisfactorily the big query, "What becomes of the scores of human beings who disappear each year in the great southwest?"

ANGRY BOY STARTS FIRE

Lad Ignites Straw Under Mules and Barn Is Burned—Animals Are Cremated.

Jamestown, N. D.—G. W. Wilson's "hired man" would not let the five-year-old son of his employer, who lives west of Montpelier, N. D., lead the mules to water, so the lad piled straw under the animals and set fire to the straw. The flames not only cremated the mules but the barn. The mules belonged to the "hired man," who had left for Iowa.

Threw $50 Into the Fire.

Wilkes-Barre, Pa.—Engaged in conversation, Miss Hattie Carpenter unthinkingly crumbled an envelope her father had handed her and threw it into the stove. Her father, who had neglected telling her the envelope contained $50, made a quick grab and recovered sufficient to make the bills redeemable.

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