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Salton Sea Now Rapidly Receding

Waters Are Retreating at Rate of About a Mile Yearly.

SETTLERS GRAB THE LAND

Opens Up Largest Area of Date Producing Land in the Country—Big Fish Cannery Planned by Arizona Capitalists.

Los Angeles, Cal.—The Salton sea, in the Imperial valley, one of the natural wonders of the West, is constantly shrinking. At present it is about 18 miles long and nine miles wide at the greatest point. During the last five years the water is said to have retreated about a mile a year, leaving a salt-encrusted adobe land, which is eagerly seized by homesteaders. Often their location stakes are planted far out in the water.

The sea, which lies 169 feet below the level of the ocean, abounds in mullet and carp, which local and Arizona capitalists are planning to utilize by the creation of a great cannery.

The United States department of agriculture reports state that about the Salton sea lies the largest area of date-producing land in the country.

Geologists say the Salton "sink," as it once was known, in prehistoric times has changed from desert to sea and from sea to desert 50 times or more.

Becomes Inland Sea.

For centuries the Colorado river would flow quietly to the Gulf of California and gradually build up a sandbar across its mouth. Then some spring flood would cause a washout in the river's bank farther north, and the whole torrent would sweep toward the Salton "sink." The desert would become an inland sea, remaining so for centuries perhaps, until some great flood would carve out a shorter way to the ocean. The sea would be drained and the region relapse into a desert.

Mud volcanoes abound near the sea, a short distance inland. They are of all sizes up to great mounds 16 feet in height. They all emit steam, some in a steady stream, others steam and mud alternately. Many of them give out a sulphurous gas. At times their roaring can be heard for miles.

More and more the sea is being visited by tourists, and during the heated season, when the temperature is from 10 to 20 degrees cooler than in the valley towns, dances are frequently held on an old wharf which once served as a landing place for fishing boats, but which has been left high and dry by the receding waters.

Of Interest to Tourists.

Of especial interest to the tourists are the bubbling "paintpots." As the water retreats it is in a state of constant ebullition. Gases from some unknown subterranean source are continually finding escape through unseen vents in the bottom. Layer after layer of colored pigment is deposited. The retreating waters have left uncovered acres of this deposit, said by experts to be fully equal to the dry sienna and umber colors of which so much is imported.

It is thought that the shrinkage of the Salton sea will continue until it finally becomes a salt "sink" with a pool of brackish water in the center, unless a fresh outburst of the great Colorado should replenish its waters.

HOUSEMAID FOR PARLIAMENT

Hatless English Lass Plans to Seek Election to Commons on Labor Ticket.

London, England.—Jessie Stephens, a housemaid with a mass of dark hair, and who generally goes about hatless, has signified her intention of entering the race for parliament on the labor ticket. She is endeavoring to gain a seat in the local borough council of Bermondsey and will then stand as a parliamentary candidate.

She has been employed as a cook, housemaid, cook-general, boss of a large common lodging house in Glasgow, porter in a chemical warehouse and driver of a three ton lorry.

Traditions 1,000 Years Old Upset

Bratislava, Slovakia.—It is only on Czechoslovakian maps that this ancient Hungarian city of Pressburg can be located by its new name. Ruled by Hungary for a thousand years, it passed under the control of the new Czechoslovakian republic by the decision of the peace conference, and a large part of its inhabitants do not take kindly to the new order of things. Its people are dominantly Germanic or Hungarian.

The street signs are in German and Hungarian characters, and now to them is being added Czech. The old postal and telephone employees have been replaced by Czechs and Czech high officers installed in the government. Slovak regiments on duty here have been replaced by purely Czech soldiers. In a city as old and conservative and routine as this, drifting through the centuries undisturbed in its social customs, these things have made feeling run rather high in certain social strata.

Many Are Expelled.

Persons, regardless of sex, who have not acquired legal residence are being expelled. One man who told the Associated Press he had lived and done business here for forty years was expelled a few days ago. The list of those cited for expulsion is said to contain names of dead persons.

Some Hungarians do not hesitate to express their resentment over the employment of Czechs in government positions here formerly occupied by the Hungarians. Czechs and many Slovaks of the educated classes who hold office under the government say this feeling is due to Hungarian and German propaganda, and has no real strength or extent. Also they admit the necessity of Czech officialdom, as Slovakia has little or no educated class from which to draw executives of ability.

Hard to Upset Tradition.

It is hard to upset rudely the traditions of ten centuries, and talks with many persons, both in official and unofficial circles, would indicate that the antagonism displayed toward the Czechs is a natural condition of this period of transition and is not deeply rooted. Probably it is stronger here in Pressburg than in the other parts of Slovakia, where the change is not so apparent.

The school question plays a very prominent part in the situation here. The government has abolished the German and Hungarian languages in the schools, and this means a general ousting of teachers and a reaction in households.

Wolves Indicate Hard Winter.

The Pas, Can.—A long winter, as bitter as that of 1915, when the mercury fell to 54 degrees below zero, was predicted by trappers reaching here recently, who reported outlying settlements surrounded by great packs of wolves. This, they asserted, was a sure indication of cold weather.

NO SIGNS OF "DRYNESS" IN HUNGARY

Photo by Western Newspaper Union

Such a thing as prohibition is quite unknown in Hungary, and one of the chief industries in that country is the cultivation of the grape for wine. The photograph shows a grower selling grapes by the tubful to a merchant for wine making.

SCOPE OF FOOD LAW

Misunderstanding as to Application of Act.

Does Not Affect Foods or Drugs Consumed in State Where Manufactured.

Washington.—The federal food and drugs act does not apply, as many people suppose, to foods and drugs which are manufactured and produced in one state and not thereafter shipped out of that state, that is, that are consumed within the state where produced. Such foods and drugs are subject to state laws.

The provisions of the federal food and drugs act do apply to the foods and drugs which (1) are shipped or delivered for shipment from any state or territory or the District of Columbia into any other state or territory or the District of Columbia; (2) are shipped or delivered for shipment from any state or territory or the District of Columbia to any foreign country; (3) are being imported into the United States; or (4) are manufactured, sold, or offered for sale in the District of Columbia or any territory of the United States.

The words "food" and "drug" as defined in the federal food and drugs act have a somewhat different meaning from the popular understanding of those terms. For instance, water under the food and drugs act is classed as food. The term "food" includes all articles used for food, drink, confectionery, or condiment by man or other animals, whether simple, mixed or compound. The term "drug" includes all medicines and preparations recognized in the United States pharmacopoeia or national formulary for internal or external use, and any substance or mixture of substances intended to be used for the cure, mitigation or prevention of disease of either man or the animals.

$4,000 in Shelf Paper.

Seattle, Wash.—How $4,000 of Seattle improvement bonds, bought by a son for an income for his mother, were used by her to paper pantry shelves, was disclosed when some of the mutilated bonds were brought to the office of City Treasurer E. L. Terry to see if they had any value. According to the story told Accountant A. B. Lund, the bonds are the property of an elderly woman who has been living alone in Seattle several years. During a long illness five or six years ago she is said to have suffered a temporary lapse of memory, and when she recovered apparently had forgotten everything about the bonds and their value.

Privation Despite Prosperity.

London.—There were 26 deaths from starvation or accelerated by privation in England and Wales the past year, though wages were never higher and unemployment never less, according to an official statement.

Peer Is a Bartender; Has Title But No Cash.

London.—A member of the peerage who is a bartender, has been found in Buckinghamshire. He is Sir Henry Echlinhart, now well up in years, who presides over the drinks in "The Bird In Hand" pub at Prince's Risborough. The family formerly possessed estates in Scotland and Ireland, but all had been dissipated before the title descended to Sir Henry.

Family Too Big.

Hutchinson, Kan.—When the family of J. B. Clothier, a farmer of western Reno county, has a Sunday dinner it has to be held out in the yard. There are 14 grown sons and daughters in the Clothier family, most of them married and with families of their own. Eleven of the Clothier boys own farms in western Reno.

EAGLE RACES AIRMAN

Big Bird Is Defeated in Encounter With Airplane Above the Pyrenees.

London.—Eagle and airman have met in a contest for the supremacy of the upper air and the eagle has been defeated. The encounter occurred high above the Pyrenees recently when a British officer was piloting a single seater scout machine from Paris to Madrid. The airman was flying at a rate of 100 miles an hour when a big eagle soared up to meet him.

"It was as if the eagle had thrown me a challenge," said the airman, "but my smile died when I thought that perchance a dive by the bird or maybe a collision would send me crashing to the rocks beneath. The eagle hundered around me at about ninety miles per hour and I throttled down to the same pace while we took stock of each other, for all the world like two antagonists above the western front.

"The eagle started to climb and opened the throttle and looped right over him. He made one great effort to catch up and with it his strength failed. His wings gave a feeble beat, and with every appearance of a shot plane he dived to earth completely exhausted."

Dehydrated Beefsteaks.

Wichita, Kan.—A. E. Smoll, a chemist with a packing company here, is experimenting with a view to reducing the high cost of living. His latest experiment is with beefsteak. By a process of dehydration—drawing all the water out of the meat—the steak is in a good state of preservation and is capable of being kept almost indefinitely. When it is desired to bring the steak back to a condition of freshness all that is necessary, Mr. Smoll says, is to soak it in water. The meat is said never to lose its odor of fresh meat and it is as tough as sole leather when dehydrated.

ASK PA ASKITT; HE KNOWS

Just for Instance, He Tells Little Tommy All About the Death of Julius Caesar.

"Ma, who was Julius Caesar?" asked Tommy Askitt.

"Oh, Julius. As far as I know, Thomas—of course, I'm not nearly as learned as your father—but I am very sure Julius Caesar was a brother or uncle to Nero—maybe his son. Anyway, as they both ruled over Rome, they must have been some relation. Julius was a great fighter. He.—"

"Dead wrong, Mrs. Askitt," interrupted pa, who had been quietly reading before, but couldn't let a chance pass without lording his superior knowledge over his wife and son, since home was the only place he could get away with it.

"Yes, you're dead wrong. Why didn't you ask me, Thomas? You come to me hereafter, when you want to know anything difficult and particular. Your mother says that Julius was a relation of Nero's. Why, Julius never saw Nero and—"

"But couldn't he be a relation without seeing him? I never saw grandfather, but I'm a—"

"No, he couldn't!" snapped pa. "Furthermore, Julius was not a great fighter. He was woman-crazy, that's what he was.

"Julius was a—er—a great—er—Roman senator until he met, like all good men do" (there he glanced meaningly at ma) "a woman on whom he showers jewels, gold, silver, eau de cologne, rocks, blows—everything! And then she treats him like a dog in the end. They're all alike, and poor Julie, although a senator, was no different from the rest.

"One day his good friend Brutus whispered, 'Jule, beware of Ida March!' (That was the woman's name.) But Julie didn't pay any attention to Brutus' warning and that night they both went to Ida's house. They had some dumplings; he fell over in a fit. Brutus jumped over to him and just heard his last words: 'Et two, Brute!' and then he expired.

"I'm glad I didn't eat any," said Brutus.

"But pa, what did Julius call him a 'brute' for?" asked Tommy.

"I don't know, Thomas. He died before he could explain."—Detroit Free Press.

Japanese Shrewdness.

An interesting illustration of Japanese shrewdness, which a Connecticut Yankee might envy, was given in a deal in copper. The war caused an extraordinary demand for this metal, and sent the price soaring. The coin still in common circulation in China is the copper "cash," about the size of an English penny, and so small in value that a gold dollar will buy anywhere from 1,500 to 2,000 of them, according to the rate of exchange. In my travels in the interior of China I had to have an extra donkey to carry the cash needed for my party. The copper cash in the province of Shantung alone would weigh nearly 50,000 tons. To buy these cash of the Chinese and sell them to the Europeans, who needed the copper for shells, would yield a handsome profit. The Japanese proceeded to do it. The Manchuria Daily News reported that in a single year the purchases amounted to 25,600 tons and that the transaction was completed at a profit of 2,167,000 yen ($1,083,500).—Asia Magazine.

Says "Shimmy" Is Old Dance.

The shimmy is 400 years old, this "modern" dance having been done back in the sixteenth century, says Prof. Louis Kretlow of Chicago, who has taught dancing for 63 years. He says many other of the modern dances haven't really changed since the monk, Thoinot Arbeau, wrote a book about them in 1588. They were the same and the positions of the dancers identical with those of the present day. Arbeau knew the shimmy, but called it "The Death Dance."

Professor Kretlow, who was born in 1845, was teaching the latest steps when Milwaukee was a trading post. It was mostly the reel and the jig at that time, and in the most exciting sets the gentleman touched only his partner's finger tips. It was the day of the pantalette and hoopskirt.

Strange Pledges.

A little while back an airman, who evidently found himself in temporary difficulties, paid a visit to the Mont de Piete, as the state-owned pawnbroking establishment is called in France, and offered a new monoplane in pledge. He was told, however, that the "article" did not appear in the schedule of goods that could be accepted, according to London Answers.

A menagerie proprietor conceived the idea of raising money by trotting his elephant round to the "Lombard"—the Brussels name for a pawnbroker. After a good deal of persuasion "uncle" agreed to advance £20 on the big beast, which was deposited in a yard at the rear of the establishment.

There he remained four days and at the end of that time he was led back to the menagerie.

Big Bruin Falls in the Catskills.

Eugene Kerr, the aged guide who was with the Olney Redmond party on their bear-hunting expedition in the interior of the Catskills, told Mr. Redmond that the bear he took in the Peekamoose region, town of Deming, was the largest one of the "Racer" species that he had ever seen, and Mr. Kerr has been living in that section of the Catskills nearly all of the sixty-eight years of his life and is said to have taken more than forty bears in that time. The animal is said to be an unusually fine specimen. It measures 7 feet 3 inches from tip of its hind feet to the point of its nose. Its weight is estimated at between 250 and 300 pounds.—Catskill Mountain News.

Would Be a Joke.

John had been the only child in the family for five years, when one day a little baby sister came. Several weeks later the parents were talking about the little baby, saying how sweet she was and how glad they were to have a little girl. John, listening, said: "Oh, mother, wouldn't it be a good joke on you if sister turned out to be a boy?"

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