

KNOWS NO PERIOD OF JOY

Camel Famed as Possessor of Perpetual "Grouch," From Its Birth to Its Death.

In selecting the camel as their emblem, anti-prohibitionists display a sense of fitness. According to some authorities, though the camel generally fills his tanks with water, when he has the chance he substitutes date juice, which, fermenting in due course, gives him a portable store of alcohol to draw on as opportunity allows. Even with "soft" drinks the camel's powers of absorption are phenomenal. Watering a camel train on the march is a prolonged business, seeing that some camels require as much as 20 gallons to satisfy their thirst. On esthetic grounds, however, objections might be raised to selecting for an emblem an animal whose face has been described as "a sculptured sneer." The camel itself is said to be so little in love with its appearance that it never drinks from a pool without first fouling the water, so as to be spared the sight of its own reflection. Nor does its character bear inspection. "The camel," says an oriental proverb, "curses its parents when it has to go uphill and its Maker when it goes down." Camels are born sad (even young camels are never known to play), and their life is one long protest against being made to work.—Manchester Guardian.

SAVAGES WORE BODY ARMOR

Gilbert Islanders Used That Form of Protection, but It Was Limited to Leaders.

Only one tribe in the South Pacific islands ever rose to the height of inventing armor to be used in their warfare. But even this tribe, the Gilbert Islanders, turned out only a few suits, owing to the work entailed in the manufacture. Francis Dickle says, in the Scientific American, that the suits were limited in number, and that every village was the proud possessor of one. At the outbreak of a conflict between villages, not all the inhabitants went to war, but the most doughty warrior was dressed in the village armor and sent against the champion of the rival place.

The brown-colored fabric covering the body and legs, which formed the Gilberts' armor, was made out of coir string taken from the husk of the coconut, so closely woven as to make a protection stronger than board, and having greater lightness to recommend it. A further breastplate, invulnerable to any native weapon, was made from the dried skin of the stingaree, or ray fish, which dried as hard as metal.

In the last few years peace has settled over the Gilberts and the armor has ceased to be manufactured. The few suits in existence have all been seized by collectors of rare articles.

"Flower of the Devil."

"Flower of the Devil" is a strange growth upon trees found on the sides of Fuego volcano in Guatemala, one of the few places in the world where it is known to occur. It has beautiful foliage, veining and stem, and appears full blown when just unfolding from the bud. This effect is formed by a parasite which enters the wood and dies after eating portions of it away, a process which in time produces the results described. Tradition, however, ascribes a different origin. Years ago, when the Spaniard ruled the country, a fair Indian maiden was supposed to have betrayed certain tribal secrets to her white lover. Her people threw her into the fiery water of Fuego in expiation of her sin, and once every year, on Midsummer's day, she appears to throw armfuls of the devil's flowers over the mountain's slopes—a solemn warning to all of the sanctity of tribal secrets.

Woodpecker a "Home Bird."

Among the natural guardians of the trees are the woodpeckers, which gather their food as they creep round the trunks and branches. As the food of the woodpecker is nearly as abundant in winter as in summer, they are seldom migratory. They never forage in flocks, like some of the granivorous birds whose food is more plentiful, but scatter out over wide areas, and thus better their fare. They bear the same relation to other birds that take their food from trees as snipes and woodcocks bear to thrushes and quails—that is, they bore into the wood as the snipe bores into the earth, while thrushes and quails seek their sustenance on the surface of the ground.

"Devil's Darning Needle."

The darning needle, or devil's darning needle, is one of the names given to the dragon fly, which belongs to the order Odonata. Other popular names for this insect are "snake feeders," "snake doctors," "horse stingers," "flying adders," etc., though dragon flies are harmless, as well as useful in killing mosquitoes and little flies. Young dragon flies and the young of other insects, such as many flies, while in the intermediate stage between the eggs and the mature insect, live in water and are called "nymphs." Many of them live for a year in this stage in ponds before transforming into adult dragon flies.

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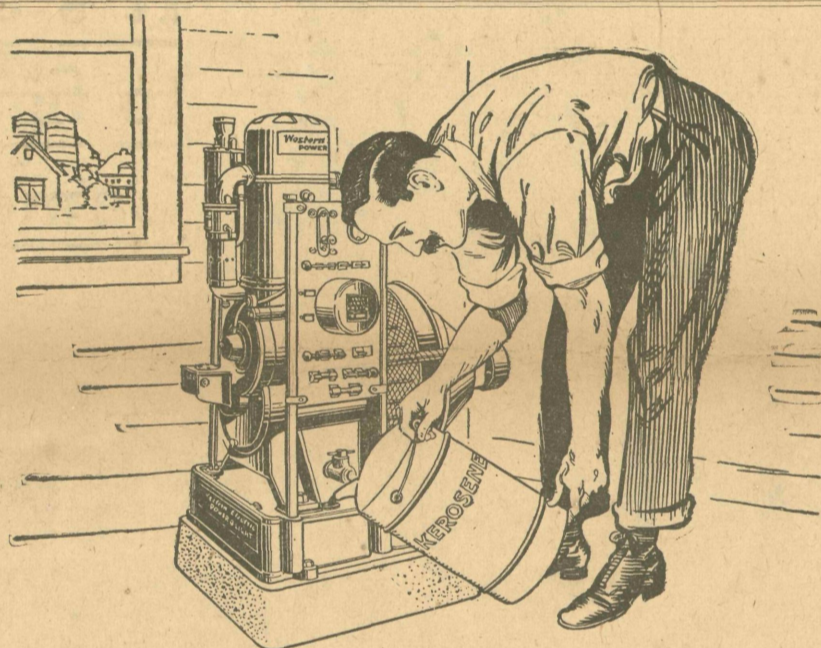
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