

Lightning Hard on Chestnut Trees.

Lightning shows a marked preference for chestnut trees, according to a report based on reports submitted to the Department of Forestry by its foresters. Of a total of about 2,000 trees struck by lightning on the State Forests in the past four years, 655 were chestnut. Pitch pine comes next with 327 trees struck, and then follow border rock oak, white pine, hemlock, red oak, white oak, black oak, chestnut, and sugar maple. Black birch at the foot of the list with only one tree struck in four years. Poplar and white pine come next, only two of each being struck.

Because lightning is one of the few causes of forest fires which cannot be removed, the Department of Forestry undertook to discover what proportion of the trees struck are ignited. The men of the State Forest Service have been keeping a close record of all trees struck since 1912. Of the 2,000 trees struck, fifty-five were ignited, and in many cases would have started forest fires if they had not been struck. White pine heads this list, with thirty-three trees ignited. Hemlock, chestnut, and pitch pine follow in order.

Several queer freaks of lightning mentioned in the foresters' reports. In one case a bolt cut a groove in a fifty-foot red oak from tip to base, and then dug a ditch two feet wide and a foot deep, to the nearest end about fifty feet away. Another tree struck a tree in Clearfield county, so which a wire fence was attached. It ran along the wire for a distance of fully three hundred feet, shattered a heavy post at the other end of the fence.

Fortunately for the forests, the majority of the trees are not struck during the months of greatest fire danger. Most of the thunderstorms come in the latter part of June, July, and August. During the four years covered, 695 trees were struck in July, 412 in August, and 412 in June. The heaviest strikes were in March and November, one tree having been struck in each month.

Queer Garb of Rumanians.

The Wallachian peasant who has adopted the homely clothes that come from the ready-to-wear factories of Western Europe is a picture of a man. His costume is white. The trousers are something like twice the length of the leg, and made to fit with numerous wrinkles; his shirt is made to hang tunic-like over his trousers and is gathered at the waist with a red belt; his coat is a sort of military cape, usually of brown woollens or of tanned sheepskin.

The peasant woman usually grows some silk. She buys the silk-worm eggs and uses the spare bed, if there is one in the house, as a hatchery. She feeds the worms on mulberry leaves, and if the ants do not invade the place and destroy the worms, she has enough fiber for a veil or a vest. She spins and weaves it herself. She has a keen appreciation of color values and combinations. She embroiders her dresses with thread that has grown from the seed—so to speak—for she plants the flax, gathers the fiber and carries it through all the processes, from breaking and carding to spinning.

Fattening Fowls in Pens.

Comparing the range and pen methods of fattening poultry, J. S. Wenschmidt, of the poultry division of the Pennsylvania State College, reports pen feeding as the most practical and best suited to average farm conditions.

In range fattening, fowls are given a quantity of fattening food for a few weeks to increase their weight to some extent before killing. By this method birds are usually allowed to shift for themselves and pick up what they can find over the farm. Gains secured in this way are smaller and more expensive than those secured by any other method and results are least satisfactory. The flesh is hard, stringy and lacking both in quality and quantity.

Birds intended for pen fattening should be confined and fed from one to three weeks on a fattening ration. A box stall, an old shed, or a small pen with temporary coop may be utilized for the purpose. Colony houses may be used to advantage.

The birds may be kept in flocks of ten to fifty according to convenience. They may be fed in small V-shaped troughs or on boards. This method is recommended especially for fattening a small flock or in the case of some small restless breeds. Leghorns, for instance, seem to do better in pens.

Oil for 100 Years and Then Some?

"Government conservationists have begun to cry 'wolf! wolf!' now regarding the oil supply of the country," observed J. H. Fooster, an oil man of Oklahoma. "One government expert has predicted that the oil supply will be exhausted in 30 years. It was not so long ago that the experts were declaring that the coal supply would soon run out, but geologists who know something more perhaps than the Government experts assure us that our coal will last for several hundred years. So it is with the oil fields.

"There is enough oil in the West alone to last for 100 to 200 years, based on the present rate of consumption. In the Salt Creek fields of Wyoming there are more than a dozen fields that have not yet been touched. The whole State of Wyoming is apparently one vast reservoir of oil, and the surface there has not been scratched. Kansas promises to become the leading oil State in another year. Even in Eastern Colorado there are prospects with the oil fields.

"The Pennsylvania fields alone will last 50 years more at the lowest estimate. In Oklahoma, which is the leading oil State, in the Cushing fields, which produced 300 barrels a day less than two years ago, there are still great numbers of undeveloped wells, and the Cushing field is not in it with the Augusta field of Kansas.

Montana, California and Mexico are great oil districts. There are thousands of acres of oil lands in California that have not been surveyed. In Mexico are the richest oil fields in the world, with the possible exception of the Baku in Russia.

"Opinions like that expressed by your Government officials does no good. They don't help the conservationists one bit, and they do injury to private enterprise."

"Patriots" All.

Brother Rockefeller, Brother Carnegie and the rest of that stripe of "patriots" will announce themselves for Brother Hughes in due time.

Poor Teeth of Rural Child.

A recent investigation made by the United States Public Health Service in connection with studies of rural school children showed that 49.3 per cent. had defective teeth, 21.1 per cent. had two or more missing teeth, and only 16.9 per cent. had had dental attention. Over 14 per cent. never used a tooth brush, 58.2 per cent. used one occasionally and only 27.4 per cent. used one daily. Defective teeth reduce physical efficiency. Dirty, suppurating, snaggle-toothed mouths are responsible for many cases of heart disease, rheumatism

and other chronic affections. The children are not responsible for the neglected state of their teeth. The ignorant and careless parent is to blame for this condition—a condition which hampers mental and physical growth and puts a permanent handicap on our future citizens. School teachers can and are doing much in inculcating habits of personal cleanliness on the rural school child, but this will fail of the highest accomplishment unless parents co-operate heartily and continuously. This is a duty which we owe our children.—Pittsburgh "Dispatch."

The Brisk Smoke—"Bull" Durham

When you see an alert-looking young man in a lively argument roll a "Bull" Durham cigarette—it's the natural thing. He likes to punctuate a crisp sentence with a puff of "Bull" Durham. His mind responds to the freshness that's in the taste of it, and his senses are quickened by its unique aroma. A cigarette of "Bull" Durham just fits in with keen thinking and forceful action.

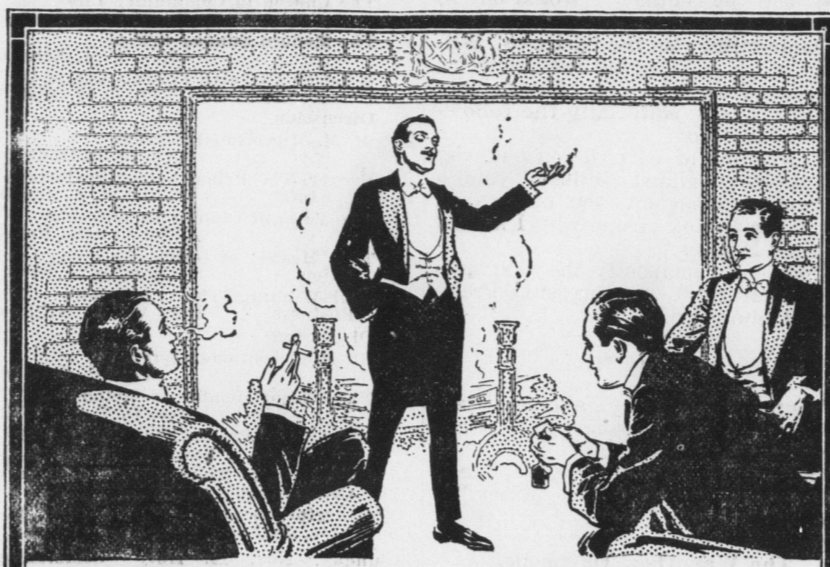
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