

SOMETHING FOR NOTHING.

By L. A. Miller.

To get something for nothing is an innate disposition in man. It probably belongs to, or is an outgrowth of, the animal side of his nature.

From the earliest times the means most resorted to for this purpose have been games of chance. Probably there is no period in the known history of man when such games were not in vogue.

When an individual concludes that he is sufficiently skillful in handling cards or other gaming devices, he pounces upon some other individual whom he supposes is less skillful and proceeds to dispoil him of his wealth, regardless as to whether he came by it honestly or otherwise.

The element of chance enters as largely into games of pressure as into games of gain. If this element, as such, is wicked, then games for amusement are wrong.

The sacredness of the lot however, existed only in the minds of those resorting to it. The laws of Moses nowhere enjoin it not even as a rule.

So great are the differences of opinion in the matter of so-called harmless games, that what might be said here can have no effect, or little at most, in either direction.

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philosopher are not necessary to reveal the general demoralization that awaits all such. A reasonable recompense for the time spent and risk taken by those who handle goods for the accommodation of the public is as legitimate and honest as the hire for those who till the soil or dig in the mines.

THE DAVEY INSTITUTE OF TREE SURGERY.

Kent, O.—Tree owners need have little fear, save in special instances, of the threatened incursion of the army of seventeen-year locusts, according to a bulletin on that subject issued by the Davey Institute of Tree Surgery, of Kent, Ohio.

The relation of the locust to trees is discussed in the bulletin by W. O. Hollister, entomologist of the Institute, in part as follows:

"Seventeen-year locusts, or cicadas, have received national advertising and, because of this publicity, they are often greatly feared. There is, however, very little basis for this. It is possible that locusts will appear in considerable numbers in certain sections of the country this year, but the injury they will do will probably be small.

"A few years ago, one of the largest cities in the East purchased several tons of arsenate of lead with the hope of combating a threatened onslaught of locusts. This was money thrown away, for locusts are sucking, not biting, insects and could not possibly be harmed by poison even if they wished to eat it.

"Injury from locusts is caused by the female which makes incisions in the bark in which she deposits her eggs. They usually select small twigs about the size of one's little finger, sometimes making from twenty to fifty gouge-like incisions, and usually these twigs are killed.

"One method of extermination is to remove and burn the infested parts before the young hatch and go to the ground. There is no spray which will kill the insects, unless it happens to be applied directly to them—a 'contact spray' just as they emerge from their pupal cases and before their wings have become inflated and dried.

"Swarms of seventeen-year locusts are growing smaller every year because of the change caused by the removal of forests and development of towns and cities.

Thirty Miles an Hour.

Ever since we have had automobiles it has been the law of Pennsylvania that the speed limit was fixed not over thirty miles an hour, or one mile in two minutes.

Now the law is to be enforced. It is given out by the Highway Department that the speed shall not exceed a mile in two minutes. It had to come to this. A hundred extra policemen are being put on the highways with instructions to make arrests for this and all other violations of the road and automobile laws.

TO CENTRALIZE GREAT ELECTRIC POWER PLANTS AT NATION'S PITHEADS.

A digest of the voluminous informational data recently disseminated in connection with the National Electric Light Association convention in New York reveals several interesting facts.

In the not remote future great steam operated electrical power plants will be located at the pitheads in the coal regions of the country, and power will be distributed by wire in the most economical manner.

Thus will be eliminated the slow and wasteful railway transportation of coal from the mines to the distant power plants. In fact, Pennsylvania and other States whence the nation obtains its coal supply, are already taking official cognizance of this need.

Electricity is the ambidextrous general craftsman of the world. It has been returned to the mines where its power is harnessed for innumerable tasks. Of approximately 17,000 anthracite and bituminous coal mines now in operation in the United States, 46 per cent. are utilizing electric current for haulage, while 51 per cent. are using electric cutting machines and illumination.

A recent survey of modern methods of coal mining made by the National Electric Light Association reveals the fact that animal haulage and hand mining, while still in use, are rapidly giving place to electric machinery. At present the coal mining industry demands 3,054,000 horsepower of electric current to be used in its operations. More than 1,000 motors are kept whirring continually in shafts and subterranean galleries.

According to a survey by the Conjoint British and Scientific Societies of Great Britain, the United States leads all countries in developed and potential hydro-electric power. It places potential energy at 28,100,000 horsepower.

American engineers, however, place undeveloped power capable of commercial utilization at 50,000,000 horsepower, Norway third with 6,500,000, Austria and the former components of the dual monarchy fourth with 6,460,000 and France fifth with 5,587,000 horsepower.

MUST DEFEND AMENDMENT.

Governor Pinchot last week issued a statement relative to appointees in his administration which is another evidence of the governor's sincerity of purpose to further, by every legislative means, the interests of the prohibitory amendment and the enforcement of legislation incident thereto.

"I do not propose to tolerate any baring from within against the policy which I was elected by the people to carry out," the governor said. Governor Pinchot, in his inaugural address, said that in accordance with the pledge made in his inaugural address, he quoted from that section of the address in which he said:

"The law is the law. It is the foundation of order, safety and prosperity and of the Commonwealth itself. Every State official takes the oath, and is in honor bound to obey it. I shall expect and demand from every public servant appointed by me, from the highest to the lowest, entire and ungrudging obedience to the eighteenth amendment and the Volstead law. They are part of the law of the land."

The governor's demand is in the form of a pledge which all employees of the State will be required to sign. These will include every man who works for the State Highway Department, employees at the Rockview penitentiary and other like institutions.

Must Use Movable Frame Bee Hives.

Harrisburg, Pa.—Secretary Frank P. Willis, in a statement issued, notifies all Pennsylvania beekeepers that that section of the 1921 Bee Law, requiring the use of movable frames in beehives, becomes effective on July 1 and will be rigidly enforced by the Department of Agriculture.

The department is ready to proceed with the examination of apiaries at once. Additional assistance has been procured so that the state-wide inspection, under the direction of chief apiarist Charles N. Greene, may be conducted thoroughly and completed as speedily as possible.

In the two years that have passed since the bee law was enacted, practically every beekeeper who observes up-to-date practices in his business, has made the movable frame improvement which is now required by law. The importance of equipment that permits easy examination of the hive so that the presence of the insidious footbroods and other bee diseases may be promptly detected and controlled, has long been recognized among commercial beekeepers.

There are between twelve and thirteen thousand bee owners in Pennsylvania. Approximately ten per cent. of this number are operating on a commercial scale.

It was principally through the efforts of this commercial group that the law putting the ban on dangerous, makeshift receptacles for housing colonies was placed upon the statute books of the State, after careful study of the most serious bee diseases disclosed the part played by the old-style equipment in harboring and transmitting disease.

FARM NOTES.

The Bureau of Plant Industry of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has been deluged with letters from owners of cherry trees, seeking information concerning an unusual disease from which the trees are suffering.

Practically every cherry tree in the central and southern portions of the State is affected. The leaves of the cherry trees have turned yellow and in many cases the leaves have fallen from the trees. These leaves are affected by the common leaf spot or shot-hole fungus which is so poisonous to the leaf tissue that even a few spots on a leaf early in the season will cause it to turn yellow and fall off.

Honey is the one greatest substitute for sugar. For the last few years it has attained an importance as a foodstuff, not enjoyed since the discovery of sugar, with the result that thousands of persons all over the country have started bee operations, many of them on a commercial scale, whose crops now run into thousands of dollars annually.

Not only is the bee a valuable food producer in itself, but it is one of the most beneficial agents in cross-pollinating the blossoms of plants, thereby assisting very substantially in the bountiful production of our more staple crops. Many plants would fail to set fruit were it not for the pollen carried by bees. Bees are among the most accommodating creatures in the world. They are extremely fascinating as a study and their culture can be undertaken without a large investment, but it is a mistake for the inexperienced person to imagine that success is assured without painstaking work.

In choosing a location in which to raise bees on a commercial scale it is imperative to first study the resources of the country, because, while bees can be kept virtually anywhere, they will not prove profitable to localities where the plant life does not yield nectar in large quantities and for a considerable period each year.

The beekeeper who contemplates a few colonies in the back yard need not be bothered about such particulars, since almost any fertile section will provide ample nectar for bees in limited numbers.

In selecting a site for the hives bear in mind that the bees require a certain amount of protection against high winds and severe storms, extreme cold and heat. An orchard or site near shade trees, with some sort of a natural windbreak to the north, makes a desirable spot for the apiary.

Bees like open spaces in front of their hives; therefore, sod ground which is kept mowed is best. They will not disturb passersby or other livestock unless intruded upon, consequently the unfrequented location is to be desired. The hives should be far enough apart to permit manipulation on the part of the caretaker, and so that the bees are not likely to return to the wrong hive.

The foregoing points are suggested by way of making ideal conditions, it being well understood, however, that many colonies are kept on housepots and in congested areas where conditions are the reverse of a natural habitat. The aim should be to make the location as advantageous as possible.

While bees can be housed in boxes, hollow logs and all sorts of makeshift shelters, it pays to provide a standard type of hive with movable frames which can be made or bought at small expense. Not only are the bees thus more productive, but the quality of their product is greatly improved by proper housing.

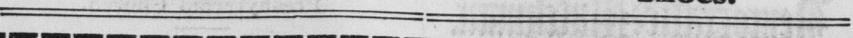
Honey is graded largely—in fact, almost exclusively—on appearance, which is the strongest argument in favor of adequate equipment. The hive should be raised a few inches above the ground so that the bottom will not rot, and so that other insects and creatures will not prove a nuisance. Suitable stands or foundations can be made from bricks, concrete blocks, drain tiles or other available material.

Italian bees are probably the most widely used, though the question of race is not so important as purchasing a strain of vigorous stock, free from disease. Selected breeding queens, which really constitute the mainstay of apiculture, may be obtained and introduced in place of the original queens, and in a short time the workers will all be of the same race as the introduced queens.

Whenever possible it is a good plan for the beginner to purchase bees that are already domiciled in a particular hive, and to make this the nucleus of his operations.

Italian bees are said to have better tempers than most other races. In any event, they are proved vigorous workers and good honey-gatherers, defend their hives well and are bred to a higher state of perfection than most races.

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