

HARI SINGH'S INDIAN REGIME SUCCESSFUL

Was "Mr. A." of Notorious Robison Divorce Case.

Srinagar, India.—It is now a year since his highness Maharajah of Kashmir, Sir Hari Singh—"Mr. A"—came to the throne. Ever since 1921 he was president of the executive council and had supported the cause of reform in every way.

Many were the almost unheard of old and curious customs in this border state of Kashmir, which had to be faced by the young maharajah. It may be interesting to note that on the death of his old uncle, the chief executive office of the state issued a general order of "Bhadan," or the shaving of the beard, the mustache and the head of every Hindu male over sixteen years of age on the tenth day after the maharajah's death.

Disbands Swan Battalion. There again among the various responsibilities which the maharajah inherited was the special Swan battalion of 300 swans, absolutely white, headed by a creamy-colored one, a pet scheme of his old uncle, who believed them to be sacred birds belonging to Brahma, the creator of the Hindu Trinity.

One of the main departments of the state was forests. Kashmir is well known for its valuable forests, but the old maharajah had given precious little attention to them. Under Sir Hari Singh the situation improved and by the end of October, after a year of his rule, the department returns showed a profit of \$300,000 instead of only \$50,000, recorded in the year previous.

Stops Waste by Fire. The villages used to burn large areas for making clearings to cultivate grass fodder. The new maharajah introduced resin tapping as a new industry and instead of the 100 square miles of forest burnt by villagers the year previous there was not a single square mile burnt during last year.

The young maharajah has become the most popular figure in the state at the present time. Possessor of almost untold wealth, his highness is the embodiment of simplicity in his personal life. He is wearing white homespun cloth called khaddar, so much favored by Mahatma Gandhi.

Baby Born on Liner to Have Free Ticket for Life

New York.—Because Lydia Bellach, nine days old, was born at sea, she will be permitted to make a round trip to Italy free of charge any time she chooses. The child was born on the Cosulich liner Presidente Wilson, while her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bellach, were returning from a visit to Italy.

Betting Tax Pays

London.—The betting tax which came into force in England last November yielded \$1,630,000 for the first month.

NEW FUEL STATION FOR NORTH PACIFIC

Stopover on "Great Circle" Route Provided.

Tacoma, Wash.—For the first time in the history of transpacific shipping vessels of American steamship lines will be enabled to make a stopover along the "Great Circle" route to Japan and China by the establishment of a fueling station on Kiska Island, at the end of the long Aleutian chain.

One of the paramount advantages of a fueling station about half way across the ocean is the conservation of space for cargo. During recent months the American line vessels have carried capacity loads and cargo offerings have been refused because of the necessity of reserving ample storage for the enormous quantity of fuel required in the eleven to fourteen-day trip of constant steaming.

When the fueling facilities on Kiska Island are feasible the big ships need carry only enough coal and oil to reach the reserve supply there. The United States navy has held a claim on Kiska Island for many years for its fueling and naval advantages in case of war.

Out on the end of the Aleutian Islands is Attu, the farthest west of the North American continent. When the summer's sun has set on Attu it is rising on the coast of Maine. Nearby is Kiska Island, potential naval base and mid-pacific fueling station.

As a further aid to navigation it is planned to establish on Kiska a gigantic radio station located in a strategic position to be in communication with shipping in all parts of the north Pacific.

Mary, 'Champ' Mouser, Has Post With U. S.

Washington.—There is a cat called Mary, whose white coat bears unmistakable evidence that her vague ancestry includes at least one member of the tortoise shell persuasion. She is not a large cat, but she is, certainly, a feminist and occupies a position of trust and importance in the nation's government.

Mary prefers to work at night and sleep in the daytime. Her post of duty is that section of the extensive capitol basement which lies directly beneath the celebrated dome—the hub of one of the main wheels in the governmental machinery. There the rats are plentiful and Mary does well, earning not only a good living but a reputation as a good mouser.

Other cats have similar assignments in different parts of the old basement, but Mary seems to have the most notable record. Considering the age of the basement and the number of holes and crannies that offer harbor to rats, David Lynn, architect of the capitol, sees little likelihood that the staff of mousers will have a chance for some time to become lazy through lack of work.

Counterfeiter's Error Produces a \$15 Bill

Chicago.—Alfred Jones, a skillful engraver and printer, turned out such perfect imitations of whisky and other labels that he even drank part of the contents of a bottle bearing one of his own labels and spent several painful days recovering.

Then, when he emerged from the hospital he purchased a few blank plates and some suitable chisels and went to work on another project.

Two weeks ago the Department of Justice became aware that somebody was issuing counterfeit paper currency and secret service men traced it to Jones, who had made the fatal error of passing one of his new bills on his landlady.

"Why did you make a \$15 bill?" inquired the chief of staff. "Typographical error," said Mr. Jones, as he was led away. "I intended to make a \$25 bill."

New Machine Extracts Oil From Shale and Sand

Washington.—A process which extracts usable petroleum products from oil shale rock, oil-soaked sands, and surface bitumen has been devised by two engineers of the bureau of mines, C. P. Bowie and J. M. Gavin. The process may be of great economic value in the future, the bureau declares, because it will enable the production of lubricants and fuel in the United States long after the present liquid and freely flowing deposits of oil have been exhausted.

Farmers to Tame Wild Berries of Far West

Woodlawn, Wash.—Blueberries and their cousins, the huckleberries, growing wild in the West for ages past, have succumbed to the farmer missionaries, and next will appear on the markets as cultivated fruits. Demonstrations and experiments have shown these forest vines do much better under cultivation, fertilizing and tying to trellis work. The pie lovers may expect to greet bigger and better blueberries under their favorite crust.

LUMBERMEN FINDING THAT FORESTRY PAYS

Hard-Headed Business Men Follow Lead of U. S.

Washington.—The illusion of inexhaustible virgin forests has spent itself and in the lumber business forestry has come to be the economic competitor of transportation, says W. B. Greely, chief of the United States forest service.

As long as cheap virgin stumpage was at hand within a reasonable distance of the lumber and paper markets there was no place for systematic timber growing in the economic scheme of things, the forestry expert declares in the annual report of the Smithsonian Institution for 1925 just issued. Once the cost of transporting lumber from the nearest forest exceeds the cost of growing it at home, hard-headed business men realize that forestry pays.

Forest conservation in the United States has up to the present time been largely a matter of public ownership of timberland and public policies based on foresight of coming national necessity, Mr. Greely says. Now, however, it is percolating down into the counting house and directors' board rooms.

Must Provide New Supply. As the timber shortage grows more critical the wood-using industries recognize the alternatives they face, either providing future raw material or going out of existence.

"Undoubtedly we must and will learn to use less wood," continues Mr. Greely. "Steel, cement and slag products have been substituted for construction lumber, and coal, oil and electricity are replacing it for fuel. But as these substitutions increase new uses for wood like that in the rayon textile industry are constantly being evolved out of the chemistry laboratory and the range of such wood-using products continues to widen."

Careful conservation of the timber we already have, elimination of forest waste, to the last foot and generous growing of new trees point the way to the solution of our forest problem, declares the expert.

A research institution that has for its object the detailed study of all the known insect carriers of disease is a new project in science. A proposal of such a beneficent foundation has been made by Dr. L. O. Howard, chief of the United States bureau of entomology.

Not only the insects of bad repute of long standing, like the anophelous mosquito associated with malaria, but the close relatives of all the disease-bearing species should be studied in a well-equipped service "by competent men untrammelled in their work and assisted to the limit of their necessities in a financial way," declares Doctor Howard.

Organic chemistry as an aid to the entomologist in dealing with the insect pest problem was stressed by the well-known scientist in his report. Knowledge of the chemistry of the physiological changes that insects undergo is essential, he stated. Study of the chemistry of the plants on which they feed would help to give a clearer understanding of what there is about certain plants that attracts certain insects. Such problems would have a very important bearing economically on many crop pests.

Annihilation of injurious insects by poison gas is another phase of chemistry along the lines of which Doctor Howard believes valuable progress may be made in the future. "We must look to the chemist," he declared, "for the development of the most perfect insecticide, which must be a cheap compound that will at once stimulate plant life and destroy insects."

Reports Cannibal Butterflies. Cannibal butterflies and caterpillars that give off electric shocks are among the phenomena of nature described by Dr. Austin H. Clark of the United States National museum in the report of the institution.

Certain butterflies found in the Orient and in our own New England reverse the usual vegetation habits of their kind and feed on plant lice and mealy bugs during the larval stage, says Doctor Clark. Little butterflies of the kind known as halstreaks carry this practice to the point of attacking their own species during the helpless state of transition from the larva into pupa. Before the pupa case is hardened preparatory for the dormant period during the winter the insect is practically at the mercy of its fellows, who frequently fall upon it and devour it.

The "electric" caterpillars were found in Nigeria feeding on mistletoe flowers. While handling them the collector experienced a tingling sensation distinctly resembling an electric shock, explained Doctor Clark, though the insects had no bristles or other protrusions that would cause irritation.

Save the birds if you would save the crops is the keynote of a report by W. J. McAtee of the United States biological survey. "This is based on findings accumulated from extensive surveys of the country by experts throughout the country."

Men in Cavalry

There are now 25 full-time men in the first squadron of cavalry, stationed at Fort Belknap, Mont., from which cavalry operations are being conducted against

VALUABLE FURS FROM FAR NORTH

Season in Alaska Is Reported to Be Good.

Seattle, Wash.—Smelling of the wilderness and the smoke of trappers' cabins, large bales of valuable furs are arriving here from the far Northwest to a reception by greedy fur buyers, representing a pelt-hungry market in New York and London.

There are thousands of mink, muskrat and ermine; large numbers of otter, lynx and beaver; fewer marten and wolf, with a heavy sprinkling of the various-hued foxes.

Trappers report a good season in Alaska, Yukon territory and northwest Canada. Fur bearers increased the last year at an amazing rate because of the abundance of hares, birds and other natural food sources. The trapping season is about one-third over in Alaska and the Yukon country, while in the Arctic regions it has just begun.

Prices for all kinds of fur are steady with a tendency upward as is justified by the quality of the offerings. Practically all the furs shipped here are dispatched at once to eastern manufacturing centers for immediate use. The amount of furs on hand in apparel shops in New York is the smallest in years, due to the heavy demand for garments so adorned.

The Seattle fur exchange held its monthly fur sale recently, at which time the largest collection of northwest and Siberian furs ever assembled here was sold. The value of the pelts ran close to \$1,000,000.

This winter, declare fur buyers, the quality of peltries is far above the average. There is no slowing down in the demand for furs, so dealers expect higher prices in retail centers.

South African Observer Finds Year's First Comet

Cambridge, Mass.—The first comet of 1927 was found by an amateur astronomer in South Africa on the eve of the first anniversary of his discovery of the second comet of 1926. According to advices reaching Dr. Harlow Shapley, director of the Harvard college observatory here, from the International Bureau of Astronomical Telegrams of Copenhagen, Denmark, the amateur, Blathway by name, picked up a ninth magnitude comet on Thursday, January 13. It was on January 16, 1926, that he discovered the first comet, which was named after him.

When he located the new visitor early on the morning of January 13, it was in the constellation of Scorpio, which can be seen low in the southern sky just before sunrise at this time of year. Astronomically its position at the time of discovery is expressed as 15 hours 44 minutes right ascension, and 29 degrees 46 minutes south declination. It was moving to the southeast, which makes it still lower in the sky for American observers, so probably no observers in northern countries will be able to see it at all. At Braamfontein, near Johannesburg, where the discoverer is located, however, it is now almost directly overhead at sunrise, and though it is too faint to be seen except with a telescope, it will probably be observed by other observatories in the southern hemisphere.

Bees Bring Wealth Out of Vast Swamp

Waycross, Ga.—Though never fully explored by man, Okfenokee swamp, known to the Indians as the land of trembling earth, has been encompassed by an industry of 400,000,000 tiny workers.

The last link of a 200-mile chain of hives has just been completed within the 600 square miles of spongy land, located in southern Georgia and northern Florida. Abounding in thousands of flowers, gall berries, tupelo and black gums and red bays, the swamp now supplies a large part of the honey in eastern and southern markets.

Besides the treacherous earth, the beekeepers have other obstacles. Bears have learned to protect themselves from the bees while satisfying their appetite for honey. After smearing their bodies with rosin fresh from pine trees, the bears wallow in mud, giving themselves an armor the bees cannot penetrate.

Try This Puzzler; It's Too Much for Arkansas

Little Rock, Ark.—Persons now in the employ of the state evidently are not mathematicians or technically minded persons, according to Governor Martineau, who has a problem on his hands that nobody has been able to solve.

A Craighead county farmer wrote him to find out how much corn he has in his crib. He evidently believed that the governor was the man to apply to, for he recited that he wanted an answer "under the Arkansas law."

The dimensions of the crib, which is full of corn in the husk, are: Length, 40 feet; width at bottom, 10 feet; width at top, 11 feet 6 inches; depth of corn, 6 1/2 feet.

State Forests Visited by Many Last Year.

Harrisburg.—Almost one million people visited the Pennsylvania State forests during 1926, according to a report issued today by the State Department of Forests and Waters. This is the largest number of forest users since the State began to handle forest land thirty years ago. The Moshannon forest district, comprising the State-owned lands in Clearfield and Centre counties, led in the number of forest visitors with 200,500. The Logan forest district, including a considerable part of the Seven Mountain section of Pennsylvania, came second with 159,250 State forest users.

Hunters made up the bulk of the forest users. The official report shows that last year an army of 215,700 enjoyed the sport of hunting on the State-owned lands. Among the other forest users were 34,825 fishermen, 111,800 users of public camp and 135,900 visitors to the State forest parks.

There are now 1636 permanent camp sites on the State forest lands. The Delaware forest district, comprising the State-owned land in Monroe and Pike counties, came first with a total of 378 leased camp sites. These camp sites are leased at an annual rental ranging from \$7 to \$15. The total income during 1926 from the rental of camp sites on the State forests was \$14,598.10, of which \$13,281.10 was deposited in the State school fund.

There are now 1,131,786 acres in the State forests of Pennsylvania. They are located chiefly in the mountainous parts of the State where the hunting, fishing and camping are at their best. Many permanent improvements are added to the State forests each year. Forestry officials predict that during 1927 the visitors to the State-owned forest lands will exceed the million mark.

Jack Rabbits Pest in Western States.

Colby, Kans.—Jack rabbits are the worst pest in Western Kansas, and are giving the county authorities much trouble, even engaging the attention of the Kansas Supreme Court. A law requiring counties to pay a 5 cent bounty for each pair of jack rabbits' ears is emptying the treasuries of several counties.

Thomas county has been slow to make payments, and William A. Smith, attorney-general, has petitioned the Supreme Court for a writ of mandamus to compel the county to pay for all rabbit ears presented by hunters.

A survey made by the Federal government shows that there are 250 jack rabbits on every 640 acre tract in northwest Kansas, and it is estimated that these 250 rabbits will consume as much pasturage as 25 sheep.

In December last, Grant county, near the Colorado line, paid \$1,690 for 38,800 pairs of rabbit ears, and other counties are showing an equally alarming record.

Keep Eliminative System Active

Good Health Requires Good Elimination

ONE can't feel well when there is a retention of poisonous waste in the blood. This is called a toxic condition, and is apt to make one tired, dull and languid. Other symptoms are sometimes toxic backaches and headaches. That the kidneys are not functioning properly is often shown by scanty or burning passage of secretions. Many people have learned the value of Doan's Pills, a stimulant diuretic, when the kidneys seem functionally inactive. Everywhere one finds enthusiastic Doan's users. Ask your neighbor!

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