

Democratic Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., September 23, 1927.

Executive Mansion Safe Through Repairs.

Practically an entire new floor containing eighteen rooms, will be found by the President and Mrs. Coolidge when they return to the White House from their vacation in the West. Extensive repairs that were begun in March have now been practically completed at a cost of \$400,000, not only making the Executive Mansion safe for the future but providing room in the attic which, before the roof was repaired, it was not wise to use. Yet the original design of the White House remains unchanged. On the first and second floors there have been no change, except for some redecorating.

The roof work was undertaken because the rotting wood beams had become dangerous. They have been replaced by heavy steel beams. In the original design of this three story structure the ceiling of the second floor was arranged suspended from the trusses of the roof. A new ceiling for the second floor rests on the walls. The elevator service has been extended to the third floor.

In the old garret there have been constructed eighteen rooms of large size. Some on the end will be used for servants' quarters while some, in the center, arranged in suites, will be available for guests. A passageway leads out to the roof of the south portico which has been arranged for a roof garden. The space over the north portico will be used for storage. New pipes for the plumbing system have been installed through the mansion.

The furniture will be put in place before the return of the President and Mrs. Coolidge and the executive offices, freshly cleaned and painted, are now in readiness for the Chief Executive.

Infantile Paralysis Still on Increase.

An increase in the number of cases of infantile paralysis has been noted in Pennsylvania during the past week according to reports received by the state department of health.

The greatest number of cases reported are in Lancaster and Pittsburgh, although Philadelphia and Altoona as well as other large places and small towns are mildly affected.

Secretary of Health Appel said that while the number of cases reported are above normal, nothing like an alarming epidemic exists. The situation is viewed with sufficient concern by the department to warrant the adoption of measures for the obtaining of immediate reports of all cases from rural and urban health officers. This will enable the department to apply promptly available measures of control.

The disease is reportable by attending physicians and hospitals. A quarantine of 21 days is required by law. It is wise so far as possible to prevent the promiscuous contact of children with other children or with adults. Children should be kept from parks, picnics, and swimming pools and other places of public gathering in those communities where the disease has appeared.

The posting of the opening of the schools or their closing for a time is a matter for individual boards of health to decide, depending upon the local situation.

Penn'a Rotary Clubs to Visit Penn State.

An all-Pennsylvania Rotary club pilgrimage to the Pennsylvania State College, expected to be the largest convention of its kind ever held in the State, will take place on Friday and Saturday, October 7 and 8, according to announcement this week by Dr. Ralph D. Hetzel, president of the college, and officials of the State College Rotary club.

Preparations are being made at the college to accommodate more than 1000 Rotarians representing each of the 150 clubs in the State. The purpose of the pilgrimage is to get leading business men of the State acquainted with the State's great public college and to give the visitors a "close-up" of college and student activities and life.

Features of the program will include attendance at a student football mass meeting and a Rotarian smoker Friday night, a tour of the campus and college buildings Saturday morning, and the first State-wide distinctly Rotary luncheon preceding a football game between Penn State and Bucknell University.

Matter for Wonder

We often wonder why the man who is always boasting of the splendid positions offered him continues to hold down a small job.

Silence Seldom Hurts

It takes days to get over the worry that results from having talked too much. Only rarely does one regret keeping still.

Great Camera Lens

One of the largest camera lens used to photograph stars is manufactured in the United States and is six feet long.

Pre-Civil War Mints

Previous to the Civil War United States mints were in operation in Charlotte, N. C., and Dahlonega, Ga.

Political Bunk

Politics makes strange bedfellows, but they soon get accustomed to the same bunk.—St. Paul Dispatch.

Think It Over

Know that the slender shrub which is seen to bend conquers when it yields to the storm.

REFUSING TO VOTE, WOMEN QUOTE BIBLE

They Nearly Stump Judge, but Are Fined.

Brussels.—From the little town of Zeist in Holland, not far from Doorn, comes a story of forty women who would not vote. Not only did they neglect to vote, but they refused to do so on conscientious grounds, and the courtroom scene which followed taxed the Scriptural knowledge of the judge.

All forty were summoned to appear before the local magistrate of Zeist to explain their delinquency. But thirty-eight of these wise women decided not to lower their dignity, so they sent a man delegate to present a written pleading to the effect that their consciences would not permit them to go to the polls.

Excuse Astonishes Judge.

"True Puritan women cannot do unwomanly things just because the pope and the Socialist leaders would be pleased at this," wrote the nonvoting thirty-eight. That in itself sufficiently astonished the good judge. Then, on behalf of the women the delegate quoted a verse from Proverbs: "Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land." The women added that nothing was said in the Bible about a woman sitting in the gates. "It is not a fit place for her and she has nothing to debate with the elders of the land."

The judge was searching his memory for a suitable quotation from the Scriptures which would show why women should sit with the elders when a woman appeared before the bench carrying a huge family Bible.

"This man has been pleading on behalf of thirty-eight of us," she declared to the judge. "I will plead myself for the two remaining women who didn't vote."

She opened her Bible and began to quote, first one verse from one book, then another from a different book. The judge tried to intervene, but the woman who would not vote had no trouble at all with her speaking facilities. She repeatedly silenced the judge and proceeded with the next quotation. Unquestionably she had her case well prepared.

"Let your women keep silence before the community," she read from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. "For it is not permitted unto them to speak . . . and if they learn anything let them ask their husbands at home, for it is a shame for women to speak before the community."

Court Quotes Bible.

But the judge had now recovered to parry quotation for quotation.

"You have quoted Proverbs 31:23," he stated with dignity. "Will you allow me to quote Proverbs 31:26?"

The Dutch woman was still in the middle of Corinthians and tried hurriedly to get relocated. But the judge had already started.

"She openeth her mouth with wisdom," he read solemnly, "and her tongue is the law of kindness."

Quite uninfluenced by the judge's come-back, the defendant picked a verbal missile from Genesis. "And thy desire shall be to thy husband and he shall rule over thee," she declared emphatically, only to follow that up with half a dozen quotations so rapidly that the judge found it impossible to speak a word.

But courts have ways of their own. Seeing he couldn't hope to outquote his antagonist, especially since she betrayed no great aptitude for standing by her plea that women should keep silence before the community, the judge finally found an opportunity to announce he would deliver his verdict by writing.

His decree stated that each of the forty women who would not vote should pay a fine to the state—fifteen or twenty florins each. But the judge included no Biblical quotations.

Blackbirds Enrage

New York Village

Olean, N. Y.—Four and plenty blackbirds are making a most unpalatable dish for the villagers of Gowanda. No one can sleep since thousands of the birds descended on the hamlet in northwestern Cattaraugus county. And now their chattering is being punctuated by the firing of shotgun shells, especially devised to make the most noise possible.

The exasperated villagers appealed to the local officials who in turn appealed to the bureau of biological survey in Washington. The prescription it furnished was to this effect:

Take shotguns, load with shells making loud reports, and open fire when the birds first appear in the evening. They are then most easily frightened. Repeat dose every night until the birds move on.

The onslaught is now on, with no one, it seems, objecting to the lack of faith in the aim of the Gowanda gunners, which the prescription shows

Killed Wrong Woman

Tokyo.—Intending to kill his wife a 60-year-old resident of Otomachi, a village near Tokyo, sharpened up his knife and waited at his gateway for the woman to return home. A neighbor's wife, who happened to drop in, got the knife instead. The would-be wife slayer explained to the police that he had simply made a mistake, taking the other woman for his wife, but, according to the vernacular press, "the police deemed this excuse insufficient" and put the man under arrest.

EXPLOSION OF SUN SEEN AS POSSIBLE

Many Other Big Stars Have Blown Up.

Chicago.—Should the sun explode, which astronomers say may not happen in a million years, or might happen tomorrow, inhabitants of the earth would know of it in eight minutes and would have but 138 hours to live before they were destroyed by poison gases.

Astronomers at Yerkes observatory admit such an explosion is possible any minute, basing their assertion on the fact that every star has gone, or will go through the explosive stage. In the Spiral Andromeda alone more than forty stars have exploded in the last twenty-five years.

The last great star to explode was Nova Pictoris, which expanded many thousand diameters in 1925.

Prof. C. T. Elvey of Northwestern university is preparing a thesis on this subject. He says:

"It is quite true that stars do explode and there is no reason why the sun should be an exception. As yet we do not know exactly what the cause of this phenomenon can be, but the generally accepted theory is that the explosions are caused by internal eruptions, caused by the liberation of atomic energy.

"The liberated energy travels from the center of the star at explosive speed. When it finally reaches the outside the star is many times its original size and its intensity increases many times.

"Nova Pictoris, the last big star to explode, has increased in intensity more than 40,000 times.

"Should this happen to the sun, and it is entirely possible, we would know of the explosion in eight minutes and we would have an outside limit of 138 hours to live. At that time the burning gases would reach the earth and we would be annihilated."

Gen. Percy May End the Row in Albania

Tutari, Albania.—The "Albanian question" is now largely in the hands of Gen. Sir Jocelyn Percy, a veteran of the South African war, of several Indian expeditions and of the great war.

Gen. Percy came here to reorganize the gendarmery and was appointed by Ahmed Bey Zogu to command the military and civil administrations of all Albania north of the Matir river.

He expects to pacify the turbulent region of the Mallisore tribes and thus put a stop to the continual agitation along the frontier between Albania and Jugoslavia.

Gen. Percy's policy is that of the "square deal."

"The tribesmen of the region under my command," he says, "can come to me and pour out their grievances with confidence that they will be heard and dealt with fairly."

Gen. Percy, after leaving the British army as major general in 1919, went to South Russia with a British mission attached to Gen. Denikine's army. He was later with Gen. Wrangell in the Crimea. He enjoyed three years of rest and quiet on a ranch in British Columbia.

Planes Rout Locusts

Moscow.—A signal victory on the "locusts front" is reported by the aerial expedition in charge of ridding soviet farms of the pest. A total area of 324,000 acres is said to have been cleared of locusts by spraying from airplanes.

Batik Hats for Men

Paris.—Men's batik hats with batik ribbon streamers are being introduced to Paris by male mannequins. The first of them appeared at the noon hour at a cafe near the Theatre Francaise. Frenchmen take the batik headgear calmly.

Outlaw Fishermen

Surrender to Law

St. Paul.—Outlaw fishermen of the wild north shore of Lake Superior, who have plied their trade since the region was captured from the Indians a century ago, have surrendered. Hereafter they will fish as the law dictates.

The poachers once believed that Lake Superior contained an inexhaustible supply of fish. But the hauls have been lean in late years and finally the fishers have determined to join the state in seeking to preserve that which has been their livelihood for years.

Now they themselves are warring on illicit fishermen. State officials were quick to accept the co-operation, for enforcement of laws against poaching always had been difficult in the wild country.

Until recently the fishers laid their nets during the spawning season, ignoring game laws, and used smaller mesh nets than the law allowed.

Operating over a 200-mile stretch of isolated territory, they easily eluded the small staff of wardens and for years did a lucrative business, supplying catches of choice whitefish, trout and herring to the itinerant schooners that shipped their cargoes to eastern markets.

SCATTER SEED BY AIR ROUTE.

Portland, Ore.—How far does the wind carry the seed of trees? This is a question that often has been asked of and by foresters, but the answer only recently has been given through tests made under the auspices of the Pacific Northwest forest experiment station, on the snow-clad wheat fields of Wasco county, Oregon.

The tests were in charge of T. T. Munger, director of the station, with A. E. Pickford of the British Columbia forest service co-operating. Thus the experiments were of an international character, and it is felt that the results will be of value to lumberman and forest agencies wherever trees grow.

The aim of the tests was to determine the distance tree seeds are carried by winds of different velocities when released at the height of the average forest tree. In order to ascertain this fact, 500,000 Douglas fir, western red cedar, western hemlock, noble fir, western white pine and western yellow pine seeds were used.

In carrying on the work, a five-foot wing box kite was used, and from it was suspended a container for the seeds. Wind measuring instruments on the ground were attached to the kite by heavy cords. The kite, which was of powerful lifting capacity, was sent aloft at the end of 1,500 feet of piano wire wound round a reel held by a man.

The seed container was attached to the kite by means of a fish line, and from its cover was also a 225-foot tripping line. When the kite was sent into the air and had reached the desired tree height, the container was allowed to swing aloft with it, the tripping string was pulled, and the seeds released to make their flying journey to the ground.

It was surprising how far some of the seeds were carried. Although the average width of the lane in which the seeds fell was about 35 feet, the greatest distance any seed was carried was 4,000 feet. Released at an altitude of 200 feet, in a 23-mile wind, the maximum seed-fall, that is, the largest number of seed, fell within an area approximately 1,600 feet out from the point of release, with the extreme distance for any seed about 3,500 feet. In a six-mile gale, the maximum seed-fall was 1,000 feet from the release point, with the

farthest distance carried being 1,800 feet.

The wing device on the seeds, rather than the weight seemed to be the determining factor in the distance the seeds were carried. The heavy western white pine seed made almost an equal fight with the lighter western hemlock. It was noted that there was a great variation in the individual seeds. The seeds are not deposited in one spot, but distributed over a sizable area. The cedar seeds showed the smallest variation, while the hemlock, the lightest in weight, showed the greatest. In fact, it was the hemlock seed which made the record of 4,000 feet when released at an altitude of 200 feet in a 12-mile gale.

Move 10,000 Fish from Drained Lake in Motor Trucks.

Ten thousand fish, little ones and big ones, were moved from Beck's lake, near South bend, Ind., to chain O'Lakes, a pond five miles away.

Beck's Lake was to be drained for a sewage disposal plant. And because the fish were not of the tree-climbing variety or land-walking species, some provision must be made for them.

Seth Gordon, extension director of the Isaac Walton League of America, solved the difficulty—almost. He declared that the fish must be transported.

Citizens of neighboring cities were asked to furnish bath-tubs, crocks, wash-pans and other containers as limousines for the fishes' five-mile journey.

"We must place ice in the containers," Gordon explained. "Ordinary lake water would be too warm for the fish to live in by the time the transfer has taken place."

"It would be an easy matter in winter. We could freeze the fish, which wouldn't hurt them at all, and carry them on slabs of ice, but in the summer its different. We'll have to hire many trucks to carry the pans and bath-tubs."

The lake was drained by degrees and the fish scooped up by nets. Farmers and citizens of a village near Beck's Lake agreed to help the project.

Special runways into the lake for motor trucks were constructed to facilitate the transfer. Ice dealers provided free ice for the fish on the journey.

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