

OYSTERS DO GROW ON TROPIC'S TREES

Attached to Roots of Mangroves in Swamps.

Washington.—An aid to the lumberman, to the horticulturist, to the casual visitor whose curiosity is aroused by the strange plants of tropical America and to the botanist has just been published by the Smithsonian Institution in the shape of a descriptive account of the flowering plants of the Panama Canal Zone.

Its value to the layman makes this publication a rare type of scientific paper. Since many of the plants of the Canal Zone are common to all Central America and the West Indies, the usefulness of Mr. Standley's work as a handbook is correspondingly increased.

Bark Used for Canoes. The uses are varied and interesting. Of the bark of the coubaril (senna family) the author says that "removed in a single large piece it is sometimes utilized by the Indians for making canoes, and it is reported that canoes with a capacity of twenty-five men are sometimes fashioned thus."

The early Spanish explorers mistook the fruit of the manchineel for crab apples, according to Mr. Standley, and ate it. In some cases with fatal results. "They immediately gave it a fearful reputation, affirming that a person who rested beneath the tree would become blind or even die. There is no doubt that the milky sap is highly irritant, causing severe inflammation."

Oysters Do Grow on Trees. Mr. Standley mentions an interesting fact about the mangroves, which grow in the coastal swamps with their roots under water. "Oysters are often attached to the roots, hence a common and literally true statement that in the tropics oysters grow upon trees."

In his introduction Mr. Standley gives a short history of the isthmus of Panama, mentioning that it was the site of the first European settlement on the American continent. The Spaniards settled there some years before the first colonization of Mexico, which took place in 1519.

Photo-Electric Cell Holds Record for Size

Urbana, Ill.—What probably is the largest practical photo-electric cell—an instrument that is perhaps the most sensitive to light of any man's creations—ever to have been constructed has been built in one of the physics laboratories at the University of Illinois by L. T. Garner, graduate research assistant, and will be one of a battery of four similar cells as the essential part of a television machine to be displayed at the coming university electrical engineering show, it was announced here recently.

Garner, an expert in glass blowing and a student of the building of such delicate mechanisms, describes the cell as "the largest cell of its type built for practical work." The inside diameter of the globe is 11 inches as compared to 7, the size used in the experimental work carried on by the General Electric company. The more common globes of this size are about 3 inches in diameter.

Several new departures from common construction are incorporated in this giant tube. The most important is the fusion of two small glass tubes in one side of the globe that may be opened and an air pump attached in order to increase the vacuum within the globe should it go down for any reason. Heretofore it has been necessary to puncture the side of the globe at the risk of losing all of the vacuum if anything happened.

Taxless Paradise

Stockholm, Sweden.—A taxless paradise is Orsa parish. Revenues from forests more than pay parish expenses. This year the townfolk are getting free seed from the profts.

Eat Pet Lamb

Angora, Turkey.—Wolves, descending from the mountains upon the capital of Turkey, devoured the pet lamb of the minister of finance.

HISTORIC LANDMARKS SAVED BY ANNAPOLIS

Maryland Capital Sets Example to Other Cities.

Washington.—American architects, fostering a movement to save landmarks of American communities, point to Annapolis, Md., as a city which has preserved many mementos of its past. In a communication to the National Geographic society, Dr. Gilbert Grosvenor, its president, describes some aspects of the colonial capital which, in part, follows:

"Annapolis has been preserved as our country's most truly colonial city. You may wonder about this fine old community and feel that you are living in those dramatic days when the little city on the Severn had a major part in shaping the course of the nation's history."

"Going down to the water front, you can pick out a sailing craft and vision the square-stemmed, 60-ton brigantine, Peggy Stewart, which, on October 15, 1774, arrived at Annapolis from England with an assorted cargo, including 17 packages of tea. Anthony Stewart, the owner of the brig, was a Marylander who had signed the nonimportation agreement. In order to unload the bulk of the cargo, he rashly paid the duty on the tea."

"When he was called to account he begged to be allowed to burn the tea publicly. But he was not to escape so lightly. Finally Stewart purged himself by undertaking to burn his brig, with the tea aboard."

"According to John Galloway, an eye-witness, the majority would have been satisfied to burn the tea; but, however that may be, it was an act that fired the colonies and cast Maryland's lot irrevocably with the forces of freedom. A picture of the firing of the Peggy Stewart hangs on the walls of the statehouse."

Why Carroll Identified Himself.

"Charles Carroll headed the delegation chosen at Annapolis to represent the province in the Continental congress. "When it came his turn to sign the Declaration of Independence, there was some bantering remark as to whether the signers would hang singly or hang together, if the Revolution should fail."

"Some one added that Carroll would have a chance to escape, because there were so many Charles Carrolls that the British would not know which to seize."

"Thereupon Carroll reached for his pen and added the words, 'of Carrollton,' with a remark that now they would have no trouble to identify him if he were ever called upon to forfeit his life for the part he played in the cause of independence. Carroll outlived all the other signers, dying November 14, 1832, at the age of ninety-five years."

"Began in 1772, the Maryland capitol is filled with memories of these eventful years. Scores of pictures that grace its walls are of that famous body of soldiers, the Maryland line—companies, regiments, and brigades of which fought on every major Revolutionary battlefield from Massachusetts to Georgia."

"The voice of General Washington, himself comes down the years, as he told Ramsay at Monmouth that 'if you can stop the British for ten minutes, until I can form, you will save my army.' He held them thirty minutes! And we hear General Greene saying of a charge by the Marylanders at Eutaw Springs that 'it exceeded anything I ever saw.'"

"Maryland withheld neither men nor money that the colonies might be free, and no state, in proportion to population and wealth, contributed more of either."

Contribution to Union.

"While her soldiers were fighting, so valiantly, her statesmen, meeting in the halls of the old statehouse at Annapolis, originated a pioneer thought that prevented the colonies from falling apart after their victory. With great foresight, the Maryland leaders realized that the harmonious relations existing between the thirteen colonies must inevitably be destroyed, after the triumph of American arms, by bitter disputes arising as to the ownership of the vast region north-west of the Ohio, east of the Mississippi, and south of the Great Lakes."

"Knowing from boundary experiences with her neighbors the enmity that disputes about land engender, Maryland, though giving unsparringly of men and substance to the Continental armies, refused to sign the articles of confederation unless assured that vacant Western lands would be used to form new states and not to enrich enormously any individual state."

"For a long time Maryland raised her voice alone; but gradually the other states were convinced of the fairness and wisdom of her stand and the necessity of the program she urged, if any lasting nation were to be the fruit of the Revolution. New York, Virginia, Massachusetts and Connecticut generously ceded their territorial claims to the nation."

"But Maryland's clear-sighted and effective course had achieved something far greater than merely removing the cause of future strife between jealous colonies; by her insistence on the creation of a national domain she welded the most effective bond that could have been devised for a lasting union. When peace came the thirteen states found themselves joint owners of this great territory, and their common interest in developing their joint property and parceling it out into new states held them together."

No Way of Recovering Time One Has Wasted

Punctuality in daily life is of prime importance to the individual who would succeed, points out an editorial in Liberty Magazine.

"Punctuality," warns the editorial, "is a business asset. If you have an appointment with a man and are ten minutes late, you lose. You have made a big mistake. If the appointment is with your wife or sweetheart, to meet her in the lobby of the Whoosis theater at 2:30, and you get there at 2:35—well, it makes the matinee considerably less pleasant. If the lady in the case is your best girl you probably won't be late anyhow. But she may keep you waiting; that is just discipline."

"But, on the whole," concludes the editorial, "if you and everybody would go through life five minutes ahead of time, the course of things would be much more pleasant. Desires would be fulfilled more swiftly and success would be more willing to perch on the proper banners. We have a definite capital of time—just so much in a day or a week or a year. It is just as bad to waste money or health. The rewards of conserving it are not just as sure, and the penalties of its not doing so just as inevitable."

Penetrated Secret of Statue's Golden Head

Hannibal Tosci, a wealthy Italian who died recently, is said to have acquired his wealth in a most romantic way.

Years and years ago there was erected on a highway near Naples a stone which bore this inscription in French: "On the first of May in every year at six o'clock in the morning I have a golden head." For many years persons flocked to the scene at the appointed hour for the purpose of witnessing some miracle, until finally, as nothing ever happened, they concluded it was a fraud and no attention was paid to it.

One morning in 1841, Tosci, then a lad, happened along and an idea occurred to him. So, on the succeeding May day he was on the spot at six o'clock in the morning and dug a hole at the point where the shadow of the head of the monument fell. Soon he discovered an old leather knapsack which was filled with gold amounting in value to \$0,000 francs.

Old Belief a Myth

There is a popular belief that a dog is not permitted to cross large bridges, such as the Brooklyn bridge, because of the vibration and consequent danger to the bridge that its regular and even tread would cause. Of course it is a myth. It is based on the same theory that one soldier walking over such a bridge in regular step would produce more vibration than a regiment of soldiers marching "rout step." For the reason when troops march over a bridge the officer gives the order "rout step." If all the men kept step on a long bridge the vibration would be considerable and might cause danger. But a cat or dog would have no appreciable effect on a large modern bridge.

He Had Tried It

Mother is fond of pointing a moral when she tells stories, but young Clifford is not always properly impressed. One morning when she was uncertain whether or not he would relish the nourishing cereal she had prepared for him, she began telling him a story as she dressed him, a story about a big, healthy boy who was big enough to go to school.

"And," she said in an impressive, one of voice, "what do you suppose this fine, big boy had for breakfast?" In the uncanny wisdom of his three years, Clifford replied: "Oh, I know. Something he didn't like, but it was very, very good for him."

Junior's Discovery

Walter, Junior, persisted in sucking his thumb. His mother had made small progress in breaking the habit, when his grandmother decided to take a hand.

One night, as she prepared him for bed, she surreptitiously anointed his thumb with a harmless, ill-tasting drug. She tucked him into bed and returned to the living room.

Soon she heard a startled and insistent wail. "Grandmother, come here. My thumb thimeth green and tathth thomthing awful."

Which Paper Is That?

Toots was the sort of twenty-year-old maiden who believed anything and that the moon was made of green cheese. She was famous for that. One evening at a social gathering Toots was harkening to the speech of a new bride who said she was going to join the Eastern Star, as it was an excellent organization.

Toots blinked her eyes comprehendingly and asked, "Is that a newspaper?"

Early English Coinage

A penny of gold, struck during the reign of Henry II, was England's first gold coin. Edward I followed with silver half-pennies and farthings, for the first time made round instead of square. Then, in succeeding reigns followed the gold florin and noble, the silver groat and half-groat. Edward IV added the gold angel and half-angel and in Henry VII's reign came the sovereign, double and half-sovereign and the testoon, or shilling, of silver.

SUPERWHEAT GROWN NOW WITHOUT SOIL

Produced in Water by Means of Artificial Light.

San Francisco.—Growth of a super-wheat that reached maturity in 13 weeks with neither soil nor sunlight was announced here by the University of California. Wheat, under field conditions, often requires five months to mature.

The announcement follows completion of lengthy research in a laboratory on the university campus by Prof. A. R. Davis of the division of agriculture chemistry and Prof. D. R. Roagland of the division of plant nutrition.

The experiment is recognized by these scientists as of the widest possible import.

The wheat was grown, it was revealed, in a greenhouse laboratory, where artificial light was furnished by means of 12 argon-filled lamps of 300 candlepower each and where jars of water containing the chemical elements necessary for plant growth replaced the soil which ordinarily contains them.

The quality of the wheat at maturity, the professors declare, was much higher than that raised under field conditions and could be classified as being of a "supernature."

The fact that the wheat was grown to maturity in 13 weeks, a previously unheard-of achievement, demonstrates, according to the investigators, that the length of the light period is important to growing plants.

The lights applied to the wheat plants were turned on for 16 hours a day, and this kept them growing rapidly. With the doubling of the light exposure the plant development was multiplied by four, the professors revealed, and when the light was applied for a full 24-hour day the growth was "astounding."

Previous experimenters in this pioneer field were troubled by the infrared, or heat, rays from the lamps and used a water screen to solve the problem. But this was an unsuccessful solution, and Professor Davis found the correct one. He circulated air through the glass chamber by means of an electric fan.

It was established that the sun rays, which contribute to plant growth were present in the electric light rays, even to the longer ultra-violet rays.

Lightning Rods Aid in Protecting Neighbors

Pittsfield, Mass.—Tall buildings and lightning rods mounted on high towers protect neighboring structures from lightning, provided they are not so high as to extend out of the cone of protection. This protected area extends around the base of the high building for a distance of between two and four times its height. Imaginary lines drawn from the top of the building to the edge of the protected area define the protected cone, says F. W. Peek, Jr., in charge of the General Electric company's high voltage investigations at its laboratory here.

Mr. Peek's investigations have been made with artificial lightning at pressures of as high as 3,500,000 volts. These man-made flashes have been used on small models of buildings. However, confirmation of his discoveries was obtained by studying a natural electrical storm that occurred in New York last summer, and during which the New York World building was struck. Though this building is close to the Woolworth tower, and is in the 1,100-foot circle around its base that is protected, the dome of the World building extends for about 100 feet outside the cone, and that is the reason that it was struck, explains Mr. Peek. If it had been 200 feet closer to the Woolworth building, it would have been protected.

Practical application of these experiments, says Mr. Peek, has already been made in California, in safeguarding oil storage tanks from lightning. Several tall rods, placed outside the big reservoirs, provide overlapping cones of protection and reduce the danger to a minimum.

Some Vision

Philadelphia, Pa.—Eddie Rickenbacker foresees three-day trips to Europe within three years, six super-highways 400 feet wide from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast and airplane fields on decks above railway yards.

New Rustless Wheat

on Market in 1929 St. Paul, Minn.—With only 125 bushels of the seed available, the Minnesota agricultural experiment station will not market its new rust-resistant wheat until 1929.

Andrew Boss, director of the station, says the present supply will be planted in 1928 under conditions that will insure still greater development and that seed likely will be made available to Minnesota farmers in 1929.

The new wheat is a cross between Marquis, the standard bread wheat of the Northwest, and the durum durum. It is highly resistant to rust and at the same time of good milling quality. When offered for seed it likely will cost 26 per cent more than ordinary wheat.

Real Estate Transfers.

William B. Buck, et ux, to M. F. Calderwood, tract in Boggs and Snow Shoe Twp.; \$1. F. O. Hosterman, et ux, to L. E. Stover, et al, tract in Millheim; \$1. Ellen J. Corman to Herbert S. Small, et ux, tract in Miles Twp.; \$2,235.

G. Edward Haupt, et al, to Joseph W. Rine, tract on Halfmoon Hill; \$80. Albert E. Parker to Joseph Parker, et ux, tract in Rush Twp.; \$1. Christina Wolfe, et bar, to Edward J. Loesch, tract in Ferguson Twp.; \$900.

S. M. Nissley, et ux, to William B. Rankin, tract in Bellefonte; \$1. William B. Rankin to Solomon M. Nissley, et ux, tract in Bellefonte; \$1.

James M. Nevell to Victor S. Weston, tract in Worth Twp.; \$850. David Chambers, et ux, to John Mangino, et ux, tract in Snow Shoe; \$2,300.

H. E. Dunlap, sheriff, to Ida Shirk, tract in State College; \$8,500. James W. Swabb, Exec., to Theodore D. Boal, tract in Harris Twp.; \$24,500.

Alfreda Moore to Miles Moore, tract in Huston Twp.; \$1. Elsie E. Heilhecker to G. Edward Haupt, tract in Spring Twp.; \$69.

Phillip H. Johnston, trustee, to Reuben Tressler, tract in Centre Hall; \$600. N. W. Boyer, et al, to Paul W. Krape, tract in Haines Twp.; \$1,900.

David R. Stuart, et al, to Theodore D. Boal, tract in Harris Twp.; \$1. O. W. Houtz, et ux, to Arthur K. Anderson, et ux, tract in State College; \$1.

Theodore Davis Boal, et ux, to John D. Patterson, tract in Boalsburg; \$1. Grant E. Charles, et ux, to John D. Patterson, tract in Harris Twp.; \$5,000.

H. E. Dunlap, sheriff, to Mrs. Susie Hornak, tract in Rush Twp.; \$125. H. E. Dunlap, sheriff, to Arthur G. McCullough, tract in Burnside Twp.; \$200.

First National Bank, Exec., to Angelo Genua, et ux, tract in Bellefonte; \$6,800. Emma Jane Aikens to Charles Schlow, tract in Bellefonte; \$1.

Mary Yorchie to Mary Komochic, tract in Snow Shoe Twp.; \$100. Ann Elmira Humes to John S. Lambert, tract in Spring Twp.; \$1,200.

Dr. Andrew L. Benson, et ux, to Geraldine E. Craft, tract in Rush Twp.; \$1. Geraldine E. Craft to Dr. Andrew L. Benson, et ux, tract in Rush Twp.; \$1.

D. L. Remynyder, et ux, to Mary Yorchie, et al, tract in Snow Shoe Twp.; \$1. Margaret J. Eye to Orvis M. Fetzer, tract in Curtin Twp.; \$1,200.

Orvis M. Fetzer, et ux, to Alfred

T. Lucas, tract in Curtin Twp.; \$550. Martha J. Markle, et bar, to Robert F. Hunter, tract in Spring Twp.; \$1. Samuel J. Wagner, et ux, to W. R. Ham, tract in Harris Twp.; \$625. W. R. Ham, et ux, to Oscar F. Smith, tract in Harris Twp.; \$1. Samuel Wagner to O. F. Smith, tract in Spring Twp.; \$250.

Oil Power Engineers to Meet at State College.

Leaders in the field of oil engine power, manufacturing, operation, and research, will convene at State College June 14, 15 and 16 for the first national meeting of the oil and gas power division of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the second annual oil power conference arranged by the Pennsylvania State College. Developments in the Diesel engine in all parts of the world will feature the discussions.

Among the speakers who will discuss technical phases of the industry are Charles M. Schwab, former president of the society, and George Heath of the Carols corporation, of London, England. The Atlantic Division of the American Relay League will hold its third annual convention on the same dates. Mr. Schwab will address a combined meeting of the two sections. About 700 men are expected at State College for the two conventions.

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