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How Would You Like Locusts?
Probably few people are aware that insects, as a group, constitute a source of food supply for the races of mankind. Yet insects have been eaten from time immemorial, sometimes figuring as luxuries, at others as a staple article of diet. Perhaps the chief food insect—and an important one, too—is the locust. It furnishes the favorite food of many numerous African tribes, some nations living almost exclusively upon its teeming hordes. Locusts, says the Scientific American, have been regarded as luxuries from the earliest times of which any records remain to us. In the British museum there is a Nineveh sculpture showing men carrying different kinds of meat to some festival, and among them are some who carry long sticks to which locusts are tied. In Athens of old locusts and grasshoppers were sold in the markets and they were then preferred as dainties above the most succulent quails or the best figs. According to Mr. P. L. Simmonds, who made an exhaustive study of strange kinds of animal food, the flavor of locusts, while strong and disagreeable when raw, becomes mild and readily disguised when cooked. In fact, from his own experience and that of several of his friends, whom he induced to partake of the fare, he assures us that a broth made by boiling the unfledged caterpillar (a Rocky mountain species) for two hours in the proper quantity of water and seasoned only with pepper and salt, is quite palatable and scarcely to be distinguished from beef broth.

Boston has a recently established custom for which it is claiming much. It is the New Voters' festival held annually in Faneuil hall. It is not a partisan move but seeks in poetry and prose to inspire patriotism in those who have recently come into the crowning right of citizenship. In the meeting just held the stars and stripes were lauded without stint, the way out of civic corruption was discussed, the red insignia of anarchy was metaphorically trampled under foot and various aids to getting rid of public evils were exploited. If the scheme will, as claimed for it, make the new voters better than old ones, it is worth wide adoption.

Here comes the inventor of a gun which, as alleged, can carry a big shell from London to Paris or the reverse. There has been a great deal of long-distance fighting recently, but when it comes to such a range as that war would appear to be reduced to a mathematical calculation how to hit the object aimed at. Perhaps the time will arrive when hostilities will be carried on by telephone.

The prince de Sagan says he "may have had his affairs of the heart" previous to his courtship with Mme. Gould, but he does not see that this circumstance should interfere with his present suit. Probably he bases this theory on the fact that this courtship is not an affair of the heart.

Fifteen thousand dollars' damages for libel is the ultimate result of a "muck raking" article in one of the popular magazines. The writer, remarks the Providence Journal, evidently had hold of the wrong rake.

"The vermiform appendix is the only thing in nature, so far as is known, that is absolutely useless," says the Lancet. Absolutely useless! And it has helped many a surgeon out of financial difficulties.

There is no more money in the country than there was when those \$14,000,000 clearing-house certificates were in use, and yet there was so little demand for them they have been converted into pulp.

New York is getting 11,000,000 eggs daily. Who says that splendid bird, the American hen, is not doing her share in promoting prosperity and providing a food supply?

Apparently any American boy may some day be president, but he's got to hustle up and make a fortune if he ever wants to be an ambassador.

NEEDS OF THE NAVY

TWO BATTLESHIPS TO BE ADDED TO FLEET.

President's Recommendation That Four Be Constructed This Year Not Heeded by Congress—Avoids Rivalry with Other Nations.

The senate concurred with the house in limiting to two the number of battleships to be authorized this year. The president was insistent that there should be four. Congress, which holds the purse strings, would only grant the smaller number. That ends the matter for the time being. If the majority in congress could have been brought to believe that the two additional ships would be an effectual insurance against war it would have voted them in spite of the fact that expenses are outrunning receipts and that economy is highly expedient. The majority did not agree with the president as to the need of so much insurance. The coming years will determine whether it or the president was the wiser.

There is a belief which perhaps is not ill founded that the result of this year's contest over battleships will be an annual provision for two ships, thus doubling the program of recent years. In 1906 only one battleship was authorized; ditto in 1907. It would take too long if the program of a ship a year were adhered to, to provide substitutes for the smaller battleships still in commission, which were constructed several years ago. Those battleships do not compare favorably with the huge ones which are being constructed nowadays and should not be counted in the same class with them.

The needs of the navy are not restricted to battleships. It requires more and better armored cruisers, torpedo boats, and torpedo boat destroyers and submarines. It needs more colliers and all the other paraphernalia of a complete fleet. The appropriations for these different vessels and for the sailors to man them will add to the bulk of future appropriation bills, but they will be necessary expenses.

The special naval activity of one country almost inevitably sets the pace for others. If a foreign nation with which there appeared to be any danger of the United States coming into collision were to set about increasing its naval force at an unusual rate congress would change its present policy and proceed to build ships on a more extensive scale. On the other hand, if the United States were suddenly to expand its program of naval construction in a marked degree, other nations, uncertain as to the purpose, would hasten to insure themselves by adding more vessels to their fleets. That would be an unwholesome rivalry which should be avoided for the sake of the taxpayers.—Chicago Tribune.

Testimonial to American Navy.
Some of the criticism that has lately been directed against the navy may have come from sincere, conscientious but timid men, though most of the critics seem to be constitutionally unfitted to see good in anything.

If there are any persons who are really convinced that our battle-ships are inferior they should listen to what Sir William Henry White has to say. Sir William was for nearly 20 years responsible designer of all British warships, and the purchase of two of his designs was the foundation of the present American navy, for from those designs the Charleston and the Baltimore were built.

According to this good authority, we have naval architects as capable as any in the world, and our shipbuilding yards are quite equal to any in Great Britain. The result is that, in Sir William's opinion, the United States has a fleet that, ship for ship, is as good as anything the world contains and, next to the British navy, is the most formidable in existence.

This testimonial from a man who knows what he is talking about should more than offset the vaporings of amateurs who assert that the American navy would be unable to repeat the glorious exploits of Manila and Santiago if we were opposed by a first-class power.

Let Us Have Action.
We would once more urge upon congress the great necessity for emergency currency legislation at this session. The commission idea is a good one, but it provides no suitable substitute for immediate action. The commission project should be regarded as something supplementary. It should follow the passage of a law that will satisfy the public mind that the country has protective legislation that it did not have last fall. The mere existence of such a law would serve to establish confidence and so to prevent panics.

It is obvious also that a postponement at this stage will be discouraging to all schemes of currency reform if we should be so fortunate as to pass into a new era of confidence and indifference. The subject awakens the greatest possible interest now because the memory of the last panic is so fresh. Delay will lead to delay. Lacking the powerful pressure of the present time, politicians and financial experts will be the more inclined to emphasize their disagreements and reject compromises. They may even quarrel over a commission's report and then sink into a comatose state until the next big jolt comes.

Let us have action now, and later we can argue about reports indefinitely and in comparative safety.

TREATY WITH GREAT BRITAIN.

Arbitration Compact Probably Good for Both Countries Concerned.

The senate ratified the arbitration treaty with Great Britain, though it had received many vigorous protests which were intended to prevent ratification. The treaty resembles in its general terms one that has been negotiated with France, but contains two provisions all its own. One of these is that the special agreements that are made according to its terms shall not be binding upon Great Britain before they are binding upon the United States. This stipulation is due to the intervention of our senate as part of the treaty-making power, which may cause delays, and if the present British suggestion is a novel one it will be seen that it is a perfectly natural one and that it would merely put the two countries on even terms. The second provision to which we have referred relates to the self-governing British colonies. Before Great Britain undertakes to arbitrate a question in which any of these colonies is concerned she must by the terms of the provision first secure the concurrence of the colony affected.

Turning now to the general features of the treaty, we find that no startling advance with the principle of arbitration is proposed. The problems to be submitted at The Hague are only such as relate to differences of a legal nature that cannot be satisfactorily settled through the usual diplomatic channels. Furthermore, each power may decide for itself whether a subject under discussion is proper for submission or not, which is to say that in the United States the government may act as it sees fit. But we have no doubt that the machinery that is provided in the treaty will steadily encourage resorts to arbitration and that every such means for preventing international misunderstandings and promoting peace will have the strong and increasing support of public sentiment.

As to risks there need be no fears, for governments move very cautiously in these matters. Differences affecting the vital interests, independence or honor of the contracting powers are outside the range of the treaty.

The Panama Canal.

Secretary Taft goes to the Isthmus of Panama presently to see how work on the canal is getting along and to look after some little matters that need attention. The trip ought to be a welcome diversion from banqueting and speechmaking, and the report which he will make after his return should give the public some idea of the progress which is being made in the construction of the canal. Every month or so there appears a statement from the chief engineer telling how many cubic yards of earth have been removed, but these statements do not mean much to the average American, who finds it hard to remember how many yards still remain to be moved.

For several weeks nothing friendly or unfriendly has been said about canal affairs. The last bit of adverse criticism was Mr. John Bigelow's pamphlet, in which he condemned the present plan of construction in every particular and drew the gloomiest picture of the length of time and hundreds of millions in money that would be required to carry out that plan.

Nobody connected with the canal has made any reply to Mr. Bigelow's charges and predictions. Little notice was taken of them by anybody, partly because it was assumed that Col. Goethals knows more about the subject than a man who has a reputation as a publicist but is not an expert in canal construction and has no personal knowledge of conditions on the Isthmus. When Secretary Taft gets back he may make a comprehensive report that will let the public know what has been done, what there is to do, and whether the earlier estimates as to the length of time it will take to complete the canal or the money that will be needed should be modified in any particular.

A Change of a Word.

It requires but a little effort of the memory to recall how the gentle and benign McKinley was denounced as tyrant and imperialist by the frantic anti-imperialists who worked themselves into fury over the retention of the Philippines. The madness spread over several years, breaking out in public meetings, in numerous books and in countless petitions, and a large part fell upon Roosevelt. But it passed, as such things do.

Now the cry is executive usurpation. Some of the extremists in congress and in Democratic and Populist conventions are arraying their strongest adjectives in trying to show how Roosevelt had overridden the constitution and taken to himself all the powers of the three branches of government. It is amusing how angry they seem to get when, as a matter of fact, nobody is angry at all.

This is the gain we have made. The anti-imperialists were really sincere. The executive usurpatonists are Pick-wicks.—Baltimore American.

The Question in Illinois.

What has been done to Sullivan—or to Bryan—in the meanwhile that he who was once obnoxious should now be acceptable? The Nebraska statesman, according to all accounts, is as severely pure as ever. Sullivan, for all we know or can see or hear, is as tough as ever. We cannot be sure that he was ever an anti-Bryan man. We must assume, therefore, that he sinned in methods and details, and it is obvious that Bryan has forgiven him. But why? That is and remains the question.—New York Sun.

BANDITS STOLE \$35,000

THREE MEN ROB SAFE IN SANTA FE DEPOT AT FRENCH, N. M.

They Bound and Gagged the Station Agent and a Guard, Got the Cash and Escaped.

El Paso, Tex.—Pursued by men and bloodhounds, three bandits with \$35,000 of loot in their possession are fleeing through the rugged mountain passes north of French, a little station 80 miles from Las Vegas, N. M., on the Santa Fe railroad, in an effort to escape the clutches of the law.

At French Thursday afternoon they broke down the doors of the depot, bound and gagged the station agent and special guard, blew open the safe, took the money and rode away, leaving their victims helpless.

A tramp wandered into the station half an hour later, released the almost unconscious men and gave the alarm. The news of the daring robbery was wired to every town in the neighborhood of French and a special train bearing 30 deputies and 50 horses left East Las Vegas in half an hour hot on the trail of the fleeing bandits. A special train with four men also left Dawson and a message was sent to the territorial penitentiary at Santa Fe for bloodhounds, which were brought through as fast as a special engine and car could carry them.

The stolen money was sent from Albuquerque on Santa Fe train No. 10 to pay the miners at Dawson, N. M. A branch road leads to the mines. A special transfer of the money was necessary at French. A special guard, heavily armed, accompanied the treasure and upon leaving the train at French he went inside the station, placed the money in the safe and locked the doors to the station.

Suddenly the noise of a breaking window attracted him and the station agent and they turned to face the muzzles of two rifles. A bandit broke the door and entered. He then held the two men covered with a revolver while the other bandits entered the building. After tying the guard and agent the robbers shot the safe with dynamite, took the money and fled.

BANKER SUICIDED.

Man Convicted of Embezzlement Killed Himself When He Found He Had to Go to Jail.

Baltimore, Md.—When he finally succeeded in effecting an entrance to the barricaded residence of John W. Geiger, for whose arrest and incarceration in jail he had an order of the United States district court, United States Marshal Langhammer last night found Geiger dead.

Geiger was the central figure of one of the most sensational cases that has ever been tried in a Baltimore court. He had been cashier of the Canton National bank, but resigned the position in January, 1907. As a result of investigations of National Bank Examiner Hann, he was arrested on February 22, 1907, and his indictment by the United States grand jury on 109 counts preceded his trial, which began in June and lasted three weeks.

Of the extensive misuse of the funds of the bank he was convicted on five of 47 counts, the prosecution having abandoned the remainder of the original 109. He was sentenced by Judge Morris to serve five years in jail. Geiger's counsel appealed the case to the United States district court of appeals, which about a week ago decided against him. Appeal was taken to the United States supreme court, but Judge Morris decided that, pending that court's decision, Geiger must begin to serve his sentence. Accordingly Marshal Langhammer went to the Geiger residence Thursday, only to find himself barred out.

Deputies were placed on guard. Langhammer went to the house with the avowed intention of effecting an entrance by force if necessary. He was admitted to the lower floor and there told by inmates of the house that Geiger was dead. He was refused permission to see the body, access to the room in which it was said to be being denied to everyone pending the arrival of the family physician, who had not arrived five hours after the time the death was said to have occurred. Finally, however, another physician was summoned and after he had viewed the body and announced hemorrhage as the cause of death, Deputy United States Marshal Gilroy was permitted to see the body. Coroner Crutcher's shortly after 1 o'clock this morning made a second attempt to view the remains and this time was successful. He found a bullet wound in the roof of Geiger's mouth, the flesh surrounding which had been burned by the flash from a 32-caliber pistol which was found beside the body.

Tornado Killed 30 People.

Shreveport, La.—Thirty dead and 200 injured in a conservative estimate of the fatalities caused by the tornado which swept through northwest Louisiana Wednesday evening, destroying three small towns and leaving wrecked homes.

Hat Factories Shut Down.

Orange, N. J.—The eight hat factories located here closed their doors Thursday, throwing 2,800 operatives out of employment because of a failure to agree as to wages.

THIS CONFERENCE

MARKS AN EPOCH

GOVERNORS OF 44 STATES MEET PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

TO SAVE NATION'S RESOURCES

Lawmakers, Jurists, Cabinet Officers and Captains of Industry Were Present at the Conference, First of Its Kind.

Washington, D. C.—Two ideas destined to mark material progress in America's future resulted from the first of the three days' conference at the White House in which President Roosevelt, the governors of 44 states, cabinet officers, supreme court judges, senators, representatives and experts are participating in efforts to reach conclusions on the best methods of conserving the natural resources of the United States.

The first is that a permanent organization between the states and the nation is necessary and will likely result from the present conference, to accomplish the end sought. The second—suggested by Secretary Root—is that there is no limitation by the constitution to the agreements that may be made by the states subject to the approval of congress. The two ideas, fully developed, it is predicted, would result in the conservation of the energies and resources of the nation through uniform laws, both national and state.

President Roosevelt's speech was many times interrupted by applause and when he finally reached his point of praise for the inland waterways commission and declared that should congress neglect to perpetuate the commission "I will do it myself," he "captured" the assembly.

It was from the utterances of Mr. Carnegie and those who followed him that the gravity of the problems to be considered were given weight. Two hundred years of coal supply and half that of iron was the prediction of the iron master.

Dr. I. C. White of West Virginia added expert knowledge and predictions on the subject of coal and iron. He predicted the exhaustion of the Pittsburgh coal supply in 93 years and the West Virginia fields in practically the same time.

John Mitchell, former head of the United Mine Workers, said that fully 25 per cent of the coal in the mines already developed had been wasted in mining and a much greater percentage in use.

Washington, D. C.—Startling was the warning sounded Thursday at the conference of governors at the White House of the danger the nation confronts in soil waste and forest depletion.

James J. Hill of the Great Northern railroad, who led a long list of speakers, treated the depletion of the nation's resources in a very impressive way. He presented conditions respecting mineral, soil and forest, showing wanton waste in each instance, and drew a picture of political chaos when all were gone, where in the people would tear down the very pillars of government.

Soil waste and forest conservation received expert treatment by Prof. T. C. Chamberlain of Chicago and R. A. Lang of Kansas City, after which was evidenced the desire of the convention to engage in general discussion. Issue was squarely joined as to some of the methods pursued by the government in the regulation of forest reserves by the governors of Wyoming, Utah, Idaho and Montana. James A. Garfield, secretary of the interior, replied to these criticisms.

Washington, D. C.—The first conference of the governors of the states of the American Union ended Friday. Like many important events of history, time is needed to reveal the epoch which the president and governors believe has been made. The accomplishment of the conference cannot be set forth with precision. That its immediate results are more than ample is the expression of President Roosevelt and of the governors.

Besides the compilation of facts by the experts and the freely expressed opinion of the governors, the conference leaves as its permanent record a thousand words of "declaration," not a "declaration of independence," but a "declaration of co-operation."

Perhaps greater in importance than all else was the determination of the governors of the states to perfect a permanent organization where by an intimacy may be developed among the executives of the 44 states, made strong by a common purpose and made potent by pronouncements which may not lightly be disregarded.

Black Hands Are Sentenced.

Morgantown, W. Va.—Three forgers, alleged to be members of a Black Hand organization, recently convicted in court of conspiring to take property not their own, were on Wednesday sentenced to ten years' imprisonment.

Falling Rocks Killed Four Miners.

Wilkesbarre, Pa.—A fall of rock and coal in the Prospect colliery of the Lehigh Valley Coal Co. at Midvale Wednesday killed four miners and injured three others.

A DENTIST AIDS THE STATE

GIVES IMPORTANT TESTIMONY IN THE GUINNESS CASE.

Proves that Jaw Bone Found in Cellar of Burned House Was that of Alleged Murderer.

Laporte, Ind.—"Identification of the piece of jaw bone taken from the ruins of the Guinness farmhouse as a portion of Mrs. Belle Guinness' skull bears out most conclusively the contentions of the state regarding the identity of the bodies found in the cellar on April 28. It is the clinching bit of evidence which should set at rest the rumors that Mrs. Guinness has escaped."

This statement was made by Ralph N. Smith, prosecuting attorney, last night. It followed a report from Dr. C. P. Norton, a dentist, who found that the piece of charred bone presented characteristics which he had observed while working on her teeth. Only two natural teeth, a cuspid on each side of the lower jaw, had remained in the woman's mouth and the piece of bone found shows that all teeth except the cuspids had been extracted from the jaw.

The first of the Guinness victims to be buried with Christian rites was buried by lantern light last night in a cemetery in the outskirts of Laporte. The corpse was that of Andrew Helgelein of Mansfield, N. D., the last man to meet his death in the trap to which Mrs. Guinness lured her victims. The body was released for burial after Coroner Mack had received the reports of Bertillon experts who examined it and compared their findings with figures taken from the records of the Minnesota penitentiary at Stillwater.

QUESTION OF THAW'S SANITY

Is Debated by Medical Experts in Habeas Corpus Proceedings.

Poughkeepsie, N. Y.—Examination of expert medical witnesses in an endeavor to show that Harry K. Thaw is sane was begun here late Friday by Thaw's counsel in the habeas corpus proceedings instituted to free him from confinement at the Matteawan asylum.

Dr. George W. Jacoby, qualifying as an expert, said that he had examined Thaw twice during his stay at Matteawan. He had found Thaw, he said, logical, with good memory and capable of following an argument. He gave it as his opinion that Thaw was sane at present.

Dr. Graeme Hammond, another expert on mental diseases, the last witness of the session, declared that Thaw was not a paranoiac and in his opinion was sane now.

Experts called by Mr. Jerome earlier in the day testified that in their opinion Thaw was an incurable paranoiac and that his release would be dangerous to public safety.

THE NATIONAL LAWMAKERS

Proceedings of the Senate and House of Representatives.

Washington.—In the senate on the 13th further consideration of the Brownsville affair was postponed until December 16. The house bill restoring the motto "In God We Trust" on United States coins was passed. The house passed several bills of minor importance.

Washington.—The Vreeland currency bill was passed by the house on the 14th by a vote of 184 to 145. The senate passed the sundry civil appropriation bill.

Washington.—In the senate on the 15th the Aldrich bill was substituted for the Vreeland currency bill passed by the house. The house passed 825 private pension bills and rejected the senate's amendments to the Vreeland bill, which was then sent to a conference committee. Gen. Sherwood of Ohio delivered a bitter speech in criticism of his colleague, Gen. Kellifer.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

Considerable Improvement Is Noted During the Past Week.

New York City.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s Weekly Review of Trade says:

Trade conditions are most responsive to the weather at this time of year and more reasonable temperature brought distinct improvement during the past week. Little net change is noted in manufacturing activities, some plants resuming, while idleness was increased elsewhere by strikes. Buyers are assembling at primary markets to attend special sales, and stocks of staple goods are running low in retail stores because of conservative purchases. Mercantile collections are more prompt, but transporting conditions are at the least satisfactory point of the year thus far, 19 per cent of the freight cars being idle.

Court Upholds President's Action.

New York City.—The right of President Roosevelt summarily to dismiss a negro soldier for alleged participation in the riot at Brownsville, Tex., was sustained Friday by Judge Hough in the United States district court.

A Battle Between French and Arabs.

Algiers.—The French force under Gen. Vigy lost 13 men killed and 65 wounded during a fierce engagement Thursday with fanatical Arabs.