

Community Building

Communities Do Well to Beautify Highways

This editorial, from the Grants Pass (Ore.) Courier, has a universal application:

Southern Oregon is the garden spot of the Pacific coast. Here nature has done her utmost in providing beauty for all of us to appreciate. Unfortunately there have been many in the past who have been unable to appreciate these natural advantages, just as there are people today who cannot see the beauty of their surroundings.

Native trees and shrubs which once lined the highways of southern Oregon have been removed in many places. In their place can be found old stumps and fallen trees, old cans, bottles and other rubbish left by unthinking campers are seen from the highway where there might be beautiful natural parks to delight every visitor.

Cities of southern Oregon have awakened to the need for improvement of the scenery along the main arteries of travel. A concerted plan is now being developed by which it is hoped there will be a full co-operation in making these highways roads through giant parks.

One way this can be accomplished is through the planting of trees and shrubs along the highways. Another is the removal of unsightly deposits of cans and other rubbish. Highways lined with beautiful shade trees of varieties best suited for the various localities would certainly prove a wonderful attraction in years to come.

To Stimulate Interest in Vegetable Garden

One thousand dollars in prizes for the best ornamental and kitchen gardens will be awarded in 1928 by the Woman's Home Companion in conjunction with local chambers of commerce and other civic bodies.

Last year prizes were offered by the magazine, for the first time, for both ornamental and vegetable gardens and the judges were keenly disappointed when the ornamental variety of entries outnumbered vegetable gardens 25 to 1. Prizes were there fore reoffered this year in the hope that interest in growing vegetables will be stimulated.

"This lack of interest in gardening was the more regrettable," says the magazine, "since last summer green corn on the cob was \$1.25 a dozen ears in New York. Another instance of the growing indifference to raising food-stuffs is shown in the fact that an authoritative report cites such instances as one agricultural high school with 1,150 students, only eight of whom had chosen agriculture as a vocation."

In the Flower Garden

It is quite true that mixtures of flowers growing in a garden seldom offend us. To the average observer flowers are enduring, even pleasant, whatever their colors and arrangement. The point is not that mixtures offend, but that they fail to charm.

With few exceptions where mixtures are planted in the garden the effect of a flower group as a group is destroyed. Individually the flowers are not affected, but in the mass they become relatively insignificant. One color destroys another. The exceptions are those families in which the color range is so narrow that all varieties harmonize.

Where on the other hand groups of flowers of a single color are grown the impression of each blossom is multiplied by its association with the others; and if other groups similarly planned are grown near by the appeal is still further increased and the beholder becomes conscious not of mere flowers but of beautiful flowers, which are not negatively pleasant but positively charming.

Pulmotor for Trees

Trees weakened by insufficient oxygen, due to obstructions or surplus water about the roots, are restored to vigorous growth by a special "pulmotor" treatment which is said to have been administered with good results. It consists in forcing air currents about the roots. This is done with the aid of a compressor operating at about 100 pounds pressure and a long hollow "gun" with a shut-off. The gun is forced into the ground to the depth of the roots as far from the tree as the ends of the branches. The air is then turned on and off, the action of the air being visible to the operator by the rise and fall of the earth.—Popular Mechanics Magazine.

Painting Is Protection

By keeping all surfaces of lumber used in your home smooth and free from decay there will be no necessity for expensive repairs. Money may be devoted to additions rather than to replacements. The fire insurance we guard against with insurance is not nearly so costly to us as is the yearly loss we suffer from the decay of unpainted lumber. Think well on the great truth involved in the idea that when you save the surface you protect the entire structure. Decorating problems require an individual solution, and it is often necessary to consult a reliable painter of experience.

Beaver Farming



BUILDING HIS HOME

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

NEW kind of farming, and one that can be made very profitable to those who try it, may be added to the scheme of diversified agriculture in this country if the suggestions of the biological survey of the United States Department of Agriculture are followed. That is "beaver farming." Some five years ago the department issued a bulletin, "Beaver Habits, Beaver Control and Possibilities in Beaver Farming," which went into the subject very thoroughly and, from the study of biological survey experts, presented the following conclusions:

Importance of Beavers.—Beavers are of primary importance as fur bearers and conservators of water and soil; because of their unique habits they are also animals of general interest. In certain types of forest country, on farms, in irrigation ditches and along trails, roads and railroads, they are capable of doing serious damage; in such situations it becomes necessary either to remove them or to control them intelligently. Their control, however, is not difficult and where they are doing damage on private lands they can be quickly removed either by trapping alive for shipment or in the ordinary way for their fur.

Attitude Toward Beavers.—If beavers are to be treated as public property, it is an objectionable to place them on private land where they will destroy crops and timber as it would be to turn herds of hogs and cattle into cultivated grain fields to fatten on what they like best. A thorough knowledge of their nature and habits is necessary for their control, as also for their successful culture.

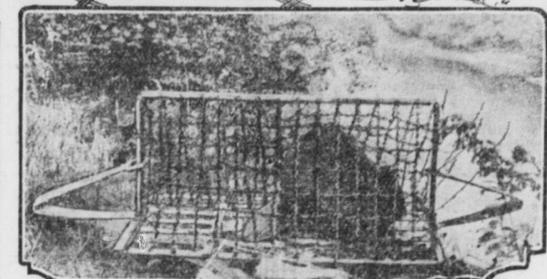
Beaver Farming.—The practicability of beaver farming has not been fully demonstrated, but from present knowledge it seems reasonable that the business of raising beavers for their fur will develop into a profitable branch of fur farming. Many problems must later be worked out, such as family and sex relations, extent of sociability and emity, effects of large numbers on the health and increase of the stock, possible diseases, protection from natural enemies and poachers, and actual values and proper prices. However, the more immediate problems of capture, feeding, breeding, fencing, control and shipping have been partially solved. To start beaver farming on a large scale at present would probably be unwise, but with a small beginning the enterprise seems to promise good returns and even great possibilities. When fully established it should greatly increase the value of a large area of north country and, by insuring a permanent supply of excellent furs, open up a new industry where greatly needed. Only such areas as are determined to be suitable should be stocked with beavers; the animals should not be introduced uncontrolled into places where their activities may menace irrigation or power ditches or important road or railroad grades. Sites selected for them should contain a suitable food supply and permanent water.

Utilizing Forest Areas.—Over a large part of our millions of acres of national forests beavers are capable of far more good than harm in conserving water and soil, weeding out timber of little value, making the silent places teem with interest, and yielding substantial returns in an annual fur harvest. With intelligent control to avoid local damage to valuable timber and other property and with wise restraint to prevent the dispersal of beavers over surrounding country, the usual complaints of damage can be eliminated. On some of the national forests beavers are already present and in places increasing in numbers, but most of the animals are the western, pale, native varieties, worth less than the choice, dark, prim fur bearers which might be introduced from other sections. Improving the system of stocking, management and control will place beavers among our valuable forest products.

Cleared Timberlands.—Another fertile field for beaver culture could be found in connection with projects for the reforestation with conifers of burned and cut-over timberlands. Many of these areas, cleared by ax or fire, and later covered with a second growth of aspen, willow and pin cherry, are considered almost worthless. Over much of the northern border of the United States and still larger areas in Canada such land is generally unsuited for agriculture and would not pay taxes until again covered with valuable forest timber, but would supply ideal food for beavers, and if stocked with these animals could be made to yield an in-

Chemistry in America Taking Lead of World

The rapid advance of chemical engineering in the United States within the last few years is being significantly demonstrated by the adoption of an American process and apparatus for electrothermal production of phosphoric acid by a French fertilizer concern. Heretofore the situation has usually been reversed. Many of the important developments in chemistry have been achieved abroad and American



CATCHING BEAVER ALIVE



FEEDING TIME

come while the process of reforestation is going on. Not only could many imitated areas of private land be thus reclaimed, instead of, as is so often the case, being relinquished as not worth their taxes, but state and federal lands of this type could also be utilized for the double industry of fur and forest production.

Arctic Waste Lands.—There is a still more extensive field for beaver culture in the more northern areas of Canada and Alaska, beyond the commercially valuable forest timber, but where aspens and willows are an abundant part of the natural forest growth and where beavers were once so numerous as to yield annually millions of dollars' worth of fur. If instead of the old policy of encouraging the extermination of animals by a wild scramble to get their skins, definite areas in these parts should be leased or sold to individuals or companies for raising beavers under control, as private property, this once valuable fur region would again become productive and develop related industries.

Recently the biological survey has announced further studies in how to increase the beaver population of this country. Only two centuries ago beavers inhabited the greater part of the North American continent and were an important source of food and warm clothing to the native people. Traffic in their skins promoted early settlement of the country. They have been exterminated over much of their area by intensive trapping, but for the last 20 years they have been given special protection in many sections of the country and under favorable conditions have thrived and increased rapidly. While it would be obviously unwise to restore the animals to cultivated fields and orchards in agricultural areas, there are still many localities where they could be introduced without harm.

Their restoration is advocated under conditions rather different from what the old-time beavers knew. The survey forecasts the time when beavers, like foxes, terrapins and other creatures from the wilds, will be raised on farms. Beaver culture, it asserts, will develop into a profitable industry; through domestication the animal will again become a source of benefit.

By fencing and trapping, beavers may be restricted to areas where the destruction they work is of no consequence; and whatever trees are there may be protected by strips of woven wire. Under control, beavers are capable of high usefulness. Their dams store water in reservoirs along moun-

tain streams and so help to prevent floods and extensive erosion, and in dry weather they increase the stream flow.

Beavers with the darkest, most beautiful and most valuable fur, are found along the southern shore of Lake Superior, in Wisconsin and Michigan. In other localities the fur is paler and less desirable. Light-furred pelts bring from \$6 to \$8 each, heavy drab-brown skins from Canada and Alaska bring from \$20 to \$25 each, and the rare "black beavers" from the south shore of Lake Superior from \$38 to \$50.

Even the possibilities of marketing beaver meat are suggested by the bureau.

Beavers, it is found, are easily tamed and remarkably adaptable to a new environment. Under control and protection, their increase has been found to be normal or even in excess of that in the wild range. The commercial practicability of beaver farming has not yet been fully demonstrated, but signs are said to point in that direction.

Beaver farming has already been tried in Canada and its success there indicates the possibility of a similar success in this country, so that the next few years may see a number of "beaver farms" established. From a recent statement of the colonization department of the Canadian Pacific railway are taken the following excerpts:

At the end of 1925 there were 2,265 fur farms in the dominion, excluding beaver and muskrat ranches, with property valued at \$13,676,048. All the evidence would lead to the conclusion that since that time this relatively new Canadian industry has been undergoing considerable expansion; not only in the number of establishments but in the variety of animals domestically raised. Every province of the dominion now shares to a large extent in this activity, while during 1927 the interest shown in western Canada and the maritimes appears to have been outstanding.

Many branches of fur farming are thriving in western Canada and they are constantly being supplemented. Beaver have increased remarkably in Alberta under the protection afforded them. The season has been declared open again, and this animal will feature more prominently in fur returns in the future, with pelts coming both from the wild and semidomestic ranches. Silver-black fox farming, to which there are numerous ranches devoted in Alberta, including one of 300 foxes near Calgary, has proved so profitable that an effort is being made to ascertain whether other species will not flourish under domestic care.

companies, to keep abreast of the industry's progress, have had to purchase the right to utilize these discoveries in the United States.

The phosphoric-acid process was worked out by engineers and scientists of the Federal Phosphorus company of Birmingham, and thus far has been employed only in its plant at Anniston, Ala. The French rights were purchased recently by the Societe des Phosphates Tunisiens of Paris which at the same time arranged to have its engineers and chemists in-

structed in the operation of the apparatus by American experts.

In addition to phosphoric acid, which will be converted chiefly into ammonium phosphate, a concentrated fertilizer, the American equipment and methods will enable the French company to market pure phosphoric acid and several pure salts, including mono-ammonium phosphate, diammonium phosphate and sodium phosphates.

Polar seas are bright green in color.

EASY LESSONS IN AUCTION BRIDGE

By PAUL H. SEYMOUR
Author of "Highlights on Auction Bridge"
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The Elimination Play in a Declared Trump

THE following deal illustrates the elimination play in a declared trump:

♠-9, 7, 6, 5	♠-Q, 4
♠-10, 2	♠-Q, 2
♠-A, K, J, 5, 4	♠-Q, J, 5, 3
♠-10, 9, 7, 6	♠-J, 7, 5, 4, 3
♠-K, 10	♠-A, K, J, 8, 3
	♠-8, 6
	♠-K, 8, 4
	♠-A, Q, 9

South deals and bids one spade; West bids two hearts, North can count three assisting tricks, but as that is not enough for a raise he passes. East passes and South says two spades which wins the declaration.

West leads the King of hearts, dummy's cards are placed on the table with the spades at his right hand, as is customary, and declarer counts his probable tricks. Having nine trumps in the two hands with Ace and King he will not finesse but will play for an even break of the four adverse spades. He expects five tricks here. He can get three in diamonds by trumping the third round in dummy. This will give him eight tricks; but to go game he will need two tricks in clubs. If he takes the finesse and it loses he cannot get two tricks in clubs nor his game. This suggests to him the possibility of the elimination play. If he eliminates diamonds and hearts from his hand and puts senior in the lead with dummy's last heart senior will have to lead either a club up to his major tenace or a red card which he will be able to trump in dummy and upon which he can discard his queen of clubs.

He therefore proceeds and the deal is played as follows:

1 - - - W	N	E	S
1 - - - HK	H3	H2	H6
2 - - - HA	H7	H0	H8
3 - - - D6	DA	DB	D4
4 - - - H4	H5	CB	CS
5 - - - S2	S3	S4	SA
6 - - - S10	S6	SQ	SK
7 - - - D7	D2	D5	DK
8 - - - D9	D7	DJ	DB
9 - - - HJ	H10	C4	C9
10 - - - H5	S9	C5	CQ
11 - - - C10	C2	C7	CA
12 - - - D10	C6	CJ	SJ
13 - - - CK	CS	DQ	SB

Declarer wins four odd tricks.

At trick 3 West knows that his partner and the declarer are both out of hearts, so he changes to a diamond. Declarer must trump one heart so that he may use dummy's last one to throw the lead to senior. The remainder of the hand works out as declarer had foreseen and at trick 10 it makes no difference what West leads, a diamond or a heart or a club.

The following deal shows a bit of clever defensive play:

♠-Q, 10, 9, 6	♠-A, 5, 4, 2
♠-9, 3	♠-K, J, 6
♠-10, 9, 6, 5	♠-Q, 8, 4, 2
♠-9, 4, 2	♠-6, 5
♠-J, 7, 3	♠-A, 5, 4, 2
♠-7, 5, 2	♠-K, J, 6
♠-K, J, 3	♠-Q, 8, 4, 2
♠-Q, 10, 8, 7	♠-6, 5
	♠-K, 5
	♠-A, Q, 10, 8, 4
	♠-A, 7
	♠-A, K, J, 3

South deals and wins the declaration by a bid of one heart.

West opens with his fourth best club—the seven spot—and dummy is spread. Declarer wants to lead the hearts from dummy and will pass the nine spot through for the double finesse. But dummy does not appear to have a single entry card unless he can draw the Ace of spades by leading the King and thus make an entry out of dummy's Queen. However, upon applying the rule of eleven declarer finds that Junior has no club as high as the seven; therefore dummy's nine will win the first trick and place the lead where he wants it. He proceeds and plays the hand as follows:

1 - - - W	N	E	S
1 - - - C7	C9	C6	C3
2 - - - H2	H9	HJ	HQ
3 - - - S3	S6	S2	SK
4 - - - S7	SQ	SA	SB
5 - - - D3	D6	D2	DA
6 - - - H5	H8	H6	HA
7 - - - H7	C2	HF	H10
8 - - - DJ	D6	D4	D7
9 - - - DK	D9	D5	D4
10 - - - C8	C4	C3	CA
11 - - - C10	D10	S4	CK
12 - - - SJ	S9	S8	HJ
13 - - - CQ	S10	DQ	CJ

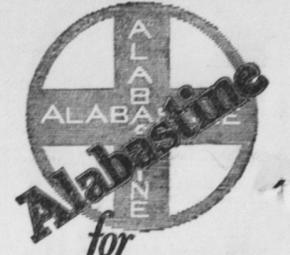
Declarer wins three odd tricks.

At trick 2 Junior foresees the finesse of the nine spot and balks declarer's plan by covering with the Jack. This throws the lead into declarer's hand and he leads the King of spades hoping to draw the Ace and make dummy's Queen another entry card. Again Junior spoils his plan by holding up the Ace. Declarer therefore cannot catch the King of hearts nor make dummy's spades; thus by his two good plays Junior saves three tricks, keeping declarer from his game and a small slam.

Legend of the Rose

That the rose is the flower of love is the theme of one of the oldest stories. All the feathered tribes appeared at the court of Solomon, and he asked the court of Solomon, to lodge a complaint about the nightingale. His night song disturbed their sleep, they said. The nightingale, in evidence, swore that his frenzy was due to his distracted love of the rose. Solomon saw the point, and acquitted him.

Polar seas are bright green in color.



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