

### AMBER DISCOVERY CALLED BIG BOON

Dr. George A. Hoadley Tells of Possible Uses to Be Made of Deposits Found

#### FIRST IN NORTH AMERICA

The recent discovery of amber in large quantities in the culm pile of a British Columbia coal mine is believed by scientists to be the first appearance of the substance in North America in its natural state.

Amber is a yellow translucent fossil gum, or resin, originally the exudations from a prehistoric species of coniferous tree, but rendered hard and glasslike by centuries of underground pressure. It always has been highly prized, since the earliest times, as a decorative substance, on account of its beautiful color and its ability to be readily worked and polished.

"So far as I know, this is the first time that amber has been found in North America," said Dr. George A. Hoadley, of the Franklin Institute. "To my mind it is a good example of the benefits which are being secured daily from a more careful utilization of material which has, heretofore, been regarded as waste matter. Had no effort been made to examine more closely the possibilities of this particular pile of culm, the precious amber concealed in it would have remained undiscovered."

"Amber has been known and used ever since the dawn of history for personal ornaments, vases, and so forth, and in later days it has found a wide use in making mouthpieces for pipes. Its rarity and beauty have made it rather costly, and it is always in demand. The sources from which amber has been obtained in the past have been limited. The Baltic Sea and its surrounding district has yielded the greatest quantity of the substance, although it has been found also in Australia. In certain of the Baltic provinces systematic search is made for it by dredging and by mining operations in the so-called 'blue earth,' in which it is often found embedded. After storms on the Baltic it is usually found that quantities of it have been washed up on the shore from some submarine deposit."

"The name itself is Arabic, but has come down to us through the Spanish. It is curious to note that the Greek word for amber is 'electron.' Early experiments by Thales, one of the seven Greek sages, proved its power of attraction when charged with negative electricity generated by friction upon it. From that is descended our word 'electricity.'"

"The Greek legend has it that amber is the solidified tears of the sisters of Phæton, who on account of grief at his death were changed into poplars. The golden hue of the substance varies greatly in intensity. Sometimes it is clear and sometimes cloudy, and when there are pyrites present there is a bluish tinge. The cloudy appearance is due to imprisoned bubbles. In fact it is sometimes found that plant structures and insects are imbedded in the mass."

"The chemical formula is C 10 H 16 O. Succinic acid may be obtained from it by dry distillation, and that is the

cause of its fragrant aromatic odor when burned.

When immersed in hot oil amber becomes soft and may be easily worked and shaped or even fused together. I believe that is the way in which they make the pipe bits today. Artificial amber is made from a combination of camphor, turpentine and copal, but it may be detected by the fact that it will melt in cold ether, while the genuine amber remains unchanged."

#### PROBLEM UP TO BISHOP

To Decide Matter of Four M. E. District Superintendents in March. It rests with Bishop Joseph F. Berry, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, to decide whether the four district superintendents whose terms expire in March next, shall be continued in office, or step down to make way for four ambitious pastors.

#### \$20,000 IN AUTOS STOLEN

Fourteen Cars Taken by Thieves in One Day. Fourteen automobiles valued at more than \$20,000 were reported stolen yesterday. One of the cars belonged to Mrs. J. Kenrley Mitchell, 34, a daughter of E. T. Stotterbury. The machine was stolen from in front of the owner's home, 227 South Eighteenth street. Its value, including a large fur lap robe, was given by the police as \$3800.

Dr. E. M. Hewish, 2121 Columbia avenue, lost his car when he left it parked at Twenty-second and Market streets while visiting a patient. Dr. R. Z. Cramer, 1800 West Erie avenue, reported that his car valued at \$1600 was stolen from his garage in the rear of his home.

G. G. Williams, of Lansdowne, said his car, worth \$500, was taken by two men from Sixteenth and Chestnut streets.

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### DREAMLAND ADVENTURES

The Slumber Sprites By DADDY

Jack and Janet go with Sleepy Woodchuck to see where he goes when he goes to sleep. They are turned into Slumber Sprites and follow Sleepy Woodchuck aboard a ship bound for Egypt. The ship is overrun with rats, which steal food, including the dinner of two hungry orphans whom the captain is taking to the land where summer never ends.

#### CHAPTER V Telling Scary Stories

RATS, rats, rats swarmed the ship bound for Egypt. Jack and Janet, standing on the captain's bridge with Sleepy Woodchuck, Chip and Chipper, Black Snake and Colonel Croaker, the frog, would have been nervous over having so many creepy, sneaky rats near them, only now that they had been turned into Slumber Sprites they knew the rats couldn't harm them.

But the rats could harm the Kindly Captain and the two orphans he was taking to the land of the Nile, where summer never ends.

"We never can stand all these rats," cried the captain.

"We might be worse off," spoke up an old sailor. "We may be sure with so many rats on board we will not sink on our voyage. Rats will leave a ship that is doomed to be lost."

"Yes, I don't mind having a few rats on board," answered the Kindly Captain, looking much worried. "But this army of rats will starve us to death by eating all our food supplies. We will have to stop at the mouth of the river before we put out to sea, to get more stores."

Black Snake gave a funny giggle when he heard the captain's words. "Hiss-ss-s!" "If I had my real body here I would get rid of a lot of these rats," he hissed.

"I would swallow them. But I can't do that with my Slumber Sprite body."

"I am glad my real body is safe in its nest," barked Sleepy Woodchuck. "Cro-ak! Cro-ak!" At any rate this is a safe ship," croaked Colonel Croaker. "Did you hear what the old sailor said

about rats leaving a ship that is doomed to sink."

"Hiss-ss-s!" Too many rats are as bad as no rats," hissed Black Snake. "I'm going to scare some of these rats overboard."

With that Black Snake went hissing down the ladder to the deck. The sailors couldn't see him, for they were hunched over, and they were afraid of him. They scattered to right and left and made for their holes. In a few minutes the deck

was clear of them, but none had been scared overboard. There were just as many on the ship as before Black Snake began to chase them.

Jack's wits were working. "If rats will leave a ship doomed to sink, why couldn't we scare these rats into thinking this steam is going to be lost at sea?"

"Huh!" snorted Sleepy Woodchuck. "Do you think rats don't know when a ship is safe?"

"But haven't you seen children get

scared at nothing when some one told them scary stories?" argued Janet.

"Let us try it, anyway," said Jack. "If you are sure the rats cannot harm much attention to the stories at first, but after a while they become nervous. They began to tell other scary shipwreck stories among themselves. Soon they had themselves badly scared."

"I have a queer feeling about this ship," said a gray-whiskered rat, whom the others considered a wise old chap. "So have I!" "So have I!" cried a

and Sleepy Woodchuck began to tell tales about ships being lost at sea. They began to wonder if this steamer would ever reach Egypt. The rats didn't pay

much attention to the stories at first, but after a while they became nervous. They began to tell other scary shipwreck stories among themselves. Soon they had themselves badly scared."

"I have a queer feeling about this ship," said a gray-whiskered rat, whom the others considered a wise old chap. "So have I!" "So have I!" cried a

"Let's get off this ship," squeaked the rats in a sudden panic. "Let's get off this ship before it sinks!"

"You will have a chance when the ship gets to the mouth of the river," quickly spoke up Jack. "I heard the captain say he was going to land there. At that moment the steamer's big whistle let out a great roar. It was the signal that the steamer was nearing the landing place.

(What happens to the rats will be told tomorrow.)

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