

Pocket gophers would be most for-idable animals were they enlarged the size of the prehistoric dinosaur. are active, all the animals should be destroyed by the first application of the prehistoric dinosaur. ieir teeth are huge in proportion to eir heads and their bifurcated front aws are strong, sharp as eagle talons id extraordinarify long. The gopher wever is a little animal; yet because

his abundance and exceeding inistry, he becomes more than a nuisice—a menace in fact—to many farm-

g communities. Pocket gophers infest all the States id Territories west of the Mississippi, id parts of Illinois, Wisconsin, Flor-Georgia, and the greater part of exico. All the species live under-ound in ramifying tunnels, and all ing to the surface quantities of earth, hich is heaped up in the shape of ounds. The habits of these animals

e everywhere much the same. Throughout their range pocket goph-'s are very destructive to crops, much ore so than moles. They eat the roots fruit trees and in this way somemes ruin whole orchards. They eat oth root and tops of clover, alfalfa, rasses, grains, and vegetables, and are specially harmful to potatoes and ther tuberous crops. In addition to Il this, they throw up innumerable jounds of earth in meadows, pastures,

Trapping Pocket Gophers. Trapping is a successful method when followed intelligently and persistently. It is especially adapted to small fields, orchards, and gardens, where only a few of the animals are present; but in the case of large areas that are badly infested, the method involves

too much labor. For trapping, an ordinary No. O steel number of special gopher traps on the market that are better adapted for

In using the ordinary steel trap, the first step is to make an opening into the main tunnel. The trap should then be sunken so that the jaws are level with the bottom of the runway and lightly covered with green clover or alfalfa or grass, or even loose soil, care being taken that these do not clog under the pan, or trigger. No bait is required. The holes should be just large enough to receive the trap and should be covered so as almost to exclude the light.

Carbon Bisulphid.

Carbon bisulphid has been employed nd grain fields, which cover and de for killing pocket gophers, and under troy far more of the crop than is favorable conditions its use is recom-ither eaten by the animals or killed mended. If the burrows are extensive

TYPHOID FEVER ON THE FARM. C. J. Blanchard, U. S. Geological

Survey.

"More than 40 per cent. of the farm wells so far examined in this State are immediately replaced and the packhave been found to be polluted." This laboratory, in which several thousand firm, edible condition for a long period. well waters have been examined. It trap may be employed but there are a helps to explain why the death rate from typhoid fever is greater in the

country than in the city. It is a popular notion of city folk one; the popular cry "back to nature" and the product is more vigorous. has a large measure of justification, yet there are thousands of people who return from such an outing consumed with typhoid fever. Why should this

Typhoid an Index to Water Purity. A century of experience has shown that the typhoid rate in any place is a good index of the purity of the water supply at that place. Therefore, when we find that the typhoid rate in the country is higher in the aggregate than n the city, it can be fairly assumed that country water supplies are not as safe as city supplies, and this in spite When thus grown in darkness the of the fact that many of our city leaf blade is greatly reduced, the

In connection with its investigations of the character of water supplies, the United States Geological Survey has noted repeatedly that typhoid fever is

Farmer's Swear by Their Wells. It is commonly observed that nearly remain green and dense all summer every farmer believes in the purity of his well water, especially if the well has been in use for generations.

The fact that his grandfather believed

Telephones in the Forcests the water to be pure is sufficient coldence for him to defend the well, even Unless, however, the entire typhoid fever. It is sometimes the territory of operation is extended into only will effect a radical cure. When were drawn up by a pump, but if a



THE POCKET GOPHER

by having the roots cut off. These or the soil dry, the gases are dissipated mounds also prevent close mowing, so rapidly that a large quantity of the that much of the hay crop is lost, liquid is required to kill the animals while the pebbles they contain often break or injure farm machinery. The loss due to gopher mounds in the clover and the soil moist, bisulphid may be and alfalfa fields in some of the West-ern states has been conservatively esti-an ounce of the liquid for each burrow hated at one-tenth of the entire crop. is sufficient. The carbon bisulphid is in many of the fertile valleys where poured over a bunch of cotton, rags, or gophers abound they are by far the other waste material and this quickly

Pocket gophers may be destroyed by on bisulphid.

Polsoning Pocket Gophers.

Poisoning with strychnine is the most effective means known for killing these little animals, and, as it involves the least expenditure of money and the Biological Survey recommends it for general use. As a rodent boison to be used by farmers, strychdine has several advantages. Its action is sure, its deadly character is known to most persons, and its bitter taste is an additional safeguard against mistaking it for a harmless drug. Strychnia sulphate is the most convenlent form of the poison, since it is treely soluble in hot water and in the natural juice of vegetables used as bait. To disguise its bitterness so that rodents may not be deterred from eating the baits, sugar is often employed, or the strychnine may be mixed with its own bulk of commercial saccharine. A sugar syrup poisoned with strychhine may be used with excellent retults. It is prepared as follows:

Dissolve an ounce of strychnia sul-phate in a pint of boiling water. Add a pint of thick sugar syrup, and stir thoroughly. The syrup is usually secated by adding a few drops of oil of anise, but this is not essential. If preserved in a closed vessel, the syrug will keep indefinitely.

The above quantity is sufficient to poison a half bushel of shelled corn or other grain (corn recommended), the cereal being steeped in hot water and allowed to soak over night. It is then drained and soaked for several hours in the poisoned syrup. Before using, corn meal may be added to take up the excess of moisture.

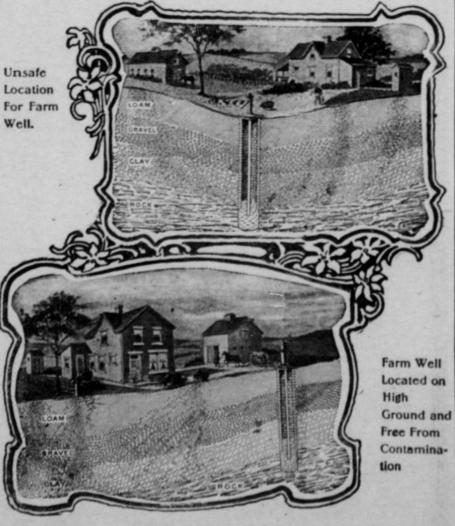
Dry crystals of strychnine also may be used. They are introduced by means of a knife, into small pieces of potato, carrot, or sweet potato, or into entire raisins or dried prunes. A single large crystal (or several small ones) is enough for each bait. Raisins are especially recommended because they are easily handled and contain enough sugar to disguise the bitter

ness of the poison, The prepared baits are placed in the underground runways of the gophers and are conveniently handled with a conveniently ha spoon. A stout dibble is used to make are attempted, careful attention must able features were noted. It was found holes into the runways. Having located the runways by use of the dibble, streams, public highways, and rail-which had been in use for generations it is moved from side to side to make the soil firm about the hole, and then withdrawn. A piece of the poisoned potato or raisin or a teaspoonful of the poisoned corn is dropped into the hole which is left open. Some farmers prefer to cover the holes, but the experlence of the Agriculture Department

is against such practice. By this method little labor is necesshould be placed in the main runways and not in the short laterals near the mounds. If placed in the laterals, the animals are likely to cover the selection of food. animals are likely to cover it with soil or throw it out without finding

most formidable of the farmer's anim- pushed into the burrow, which should

be closed at once. Co-Operation Necessary. son, by traps, and by the use of car- Any farmer may readily rid his premises of gophers by the use of poison or though his family be devastated by comes more and more apparent as its community unites in active and intelli- case that a well is used even after its remote corners of the globe, Nowadays, gent co-operation on the destruction of taste and odor ought to be sufficient to the traveler in the heavily wooded sec the animals, the cleared area will be demonstrate that it is polluted. sooner or later invaded from neighbor- notable instance occurred not long ing premises, and the work of destruction, in which a certain farmer could tion must be repeated. Co-operation not use the water from his well if it



co-operative efforts for the extermina- well sweep were used and the water roads. Such places are favorite haunts passed close to the well and a large succulent roots for food. It is from

There are 21,000 colored school teachers in the United States-7,700 men and 13,300 women.

soil or throw it out without finding it. A skilliful operator can go over 20 to 40 acres of badly infested land in a day, and, if the work is carefully done at a time when the pocket gophers.

The caaba, or sacred stone of Mecca, is re-covered every year with damash sent by the Sultan or Khedive. A single covering has, on occasion, cost to the sacred stone of Mecca, is re-covered every year with damash sent by the Sultan or Khedive. A single covering has, on occasion, cost to the sacred stone of Mecca, is re-covered every year with damash sent by the Sultan or Khedive. A single covering has, on occasion, cost is re-covered every year with damash sent by the Sultan or Khedive. A single covering has, on occasion, cost is re-covered every year with damash sent by the Sultan or Khedive. A single covering has, on occasion, cost is re-covered every year with damash sent by the Sultan or Khedive. A single covering has, on occasion, cost is re-covered every year with damash sent by the Sultan or Khedive. A single covering has, on occasion, cost is re-covered every year with damash sent by the Sultan or Khedive. A single covering has, on occasion, cost is re-covered every year with damash sent by the Sultan or Khedive. A single covering has, on occasion, cost is re-covered every year with damash sent by the Sultan or Khedive. A single covering has, on occasion, cost is re-covered every year with damash sent by the Sultan or Khedive.

of the animals, because in them are part of the drainage emptied into it. found loose, sandy soll, moisture, and This organic matter settled to the bottom of the well and became putrid. such resorts that adjoining farms are often restocked with pocket gophers. Whenever the pump was used the vater containing this foul matter was drawn from the lower part of the well. while that obtained from the top by means of the well sweep was above the contamination and did not give evi dence of disagreeable odor or taste, although it contained in solution a large amount of filthy matter. The de-plorable feature of this situation is that it requires in the majority of cases only the exercise of common sense in the selection of a point at

That showing the improper location is spirally and dipped in wax or stearine

thoroughly typical of conditions which may be found repeatedly in rural dis-tricts. It is probable that typhoid fever will prevail in the country as long as the habit is common of sinking a well in a convenient, rather than in a safe place.

Curing Persimmons.

From a report recently prepared by David G. Fairchild, an explorer of the Department of Agriculture, it appears that persimmons as they are eaten in Japan are as firm in texture as a I Will Send You a Trial Treatment Free Northern Spy apple, free from as-tringency, and of a delicious flavor. They are not allowed to ripen to the squashy consistency of the fruit as it is eaten in America. Investigations as to Japanese methods of curing persimmons show that the Japanese put the persimmons in sake (Japanese beer) casks as soon as the casks are emptied. The heads of these casks age made air-tight. In from 5 to 15 days, according to weather conditions, is a significant statement made by the the persimmons are cured and can be director of a State Board of Health removed and marketed, keeping in a

Forcing Rhubarb.

Experiments have shown that the most satisfactory results in cultivating rhubarb, are attained by growing the that a vacation in the country is a roots from seed and forcing when the safeguard against all the diseases to plants are one year old. Drying the which the fiesh is heir; physicians roots has been found to have the same every foot of his height. recognize this when they send their effect as freezing. Either drying or patients away from the city. The freezing serves the same purpose as a country life is unquestionably the ideal long rest, which is otherwise required,



FORCED AND UNFORCED RHUBARB

waters are notoriously bad. The state green color is wholly absent, the texfrom which the above mentioned testi- ture is more crisp and delicate, due mony comes is a typical one so far as to a lessened development of woody its proportion of rural pollution is con- fiber, the skin is much thinner than cerned and that there is no reason to when grown in light, the water conbelieve that if the matter were investi- tent is increased 6 to 10 per cent. gated in other states, the conditions and the flavor is generally improved. of farm wells would be in any degree Rhubarb thus grown commands a fancy price.

Strong Light Injurious to Plants. Strong light has been found in some continuously prevalent in many rural instances to hinder the growth of polsections. In some cases this condition len tubes of plants. This is thought has been maintained for so many years to be the reason why tomatoes and that it is accepted by the communities cucumbers do not bear fruit in midas one of the ordinary incidents of life summer in Arizona. Strong direct sunand becomes a matter of general com- light in summer also prevents the ment only during periods of especial plant leaves from assuming the usual virulence. The facts are, that there green color. Thus, strawberry plants are comparatively few farm wells lo- in Arizona are yellow for about three cated at points not subject to local months in summer even when grown

under shade of cheese cloth. When grown on the north side of a dense shade of sorghum or cotton the plants

Telephones in the Forests.

The usefulness of the telephone be A tions of the north country is amazed when he sees how the march of pro gress has extended in the shape of telephones in the forest.

Useful as the telephone is in the city, where the steps it saves could some times be compensated for by the use of the automobile, the electric car, or the fast express, it is far more useful in the forest, where are none of these conveniences, and where the canoe of bateau is the common vehicle of travel. in logging operations the telephone now plays a most important part. The dams along the river are built not only to hold water against a time of drought but also to control the flood, so that the river flow may be properly regulated. To this end a considerable crew of men is kept at the dams all the time, to open or close the gates on short notice. Before the telephones came into use, instructions to the dam crew were conveyed up or down the river by relays of men, stationed at frequent intervals along the banks, and the mes-

sage was shouted from one to another. The telephone lines are being extended every year, and it will not be long before telephones are almost as common in the woods as they are in the city. Recently the telephone has been called into use to aid the wood wardens in fire fighting in the northern and western forests.

Fooled by Cleveland's Double.

A large man with an impassive face and bearing a striking resemblance to an ex-president of the United States walked into the Great Northern Hotel, Chicago, Tuesday evening and regis tered as follows on the hotel book: "Grover Cleveland, Princeton, N. J."

Two or three bell boys fell ever one another in an endeavor to pick up the guest's baggage and the clerk smiled hospitably and searched for his best room. This was a luxurious apart ment with a double bath. The guest accepted it, took his key, and then, turning to the register scratched off his signature and wrote:

"F. L. MacElroy, Lafayette, Ind." "Just a bet," he explained to the astonished clerk. "I manage to double my salary this way. I have tried it successfully on every hotel from New York to San Francisco. I'm a travel-

ling man." Mr. MacElroy secured a more modest apartment, after which he went out to collect his bet,

James Lick, founder of the great Lick Observatory on Mount Hamilton, not far from San Jose, California, was in early life a poor Pennsylvania Dutch piano-maker.

which a safe well may be sunk.

The accompanying illustrations good match timber, matches are being show safe and unsafe well locations.

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Items of Interest.

A man, to be perfectly proportioned, should weigh, stripped, 30 lbs. for

Making rag dolls is an industry in which many women are employed. The doll is popular with children and sells well in department stores.

Great herds of elephants range th Abyssinian country drained by th Upper Nile. Menelik, the King o. Abyssinia, recently sent President Roosevelt one of the longest elephant tusks in existence.



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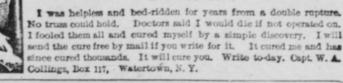
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