

A WATER, OF CONNECTICUT

A grudge against Connecticut seems to have been the ruling passion, strong in death, of Lewis Morris of Morrisania, who died in 1816. Part of the will of this Connecticut hater is printed in Case and Comment as follows: "My desire is that nothing be mentioned about me, not so much as a single line in a newspaper, to tell the world I am dead; it is my desire that my son Gouverneur Morris may have the best education that so it be had in England or America, but my express will and directions are, that he never be sent for that purpose to the Colony of Connecticut, least he should imbibe his youth that low craft and cunning, so incident to the people of that country which is so interwoven in their constitutions that all their art cannot disguise it from the world, the many of them under the sanctified garb of religion have endeavored to impose themselves on the world for honest men."

The Life of the Sun
The reason why the sun retains its heat in spite of the quantity that it gives out is explained by the fact that heat is generated by the fall of particles toward its center. The diameter of the sun diminishes annually by 150 meters, a little more than the ten millionth part of its total.

According to estimates made, thirty thousand years will pass before the solar radius diminishes enough to produce an effect appreciable by the most delicate instruments—always supposing that the astronomical instruments of the future will be similar to the instruments of the present. By like calculations it is estimated that the sun will send heat to the earth between six millions and eight millions of years hence.

Radium, which emits heat spontaneously and without cessation, is present in the sun. One gram of radium gives enough heat in one hour to raise a grain of water from the temperature of ice to the temperature of boiling water. Hence the presence of this element assists in the preservation of the sun's heat. The spectroscopic reveals great quantities of helium in the sun, quantities great in proportion to the sun's other elements. The presence of helium is due to the disintegration of radium. Two grams of radium per ton of the sun's elements would be enough for the entire regeneration of all the heat ever lost by the sun.

Removing Stamps from Paper
Care should be taken in removing paper from the backs of specimens before mounting them, pulling off hinges, etc., often damaging the stamp. Most stamps can be soaked preferably in hot water and dried on blotting paper. A few like Russians, early Bulgarian, current United States due stamp 1885 issue of China, recent British and British Colonial stamps having stems in their coloring, and stamps printed on chalk surfaced paper are affected by water and should not be immersed in it. A piece of wet blotting paper placed against the back of all the paper is damp enough to remove the best way to treat them. Of course mounting is only to be done with hinges, and care should be used not to roll the stamp or page when it is done.

How Chinese Trap Eagles
Thousands of Chinese hunters trap wild eagles in Mongolia every year by the employment of tame eagles as decoys. They carry the tame eagles on their shoulders and when a likely locality is reached they arrange nets, within which are placed large quantities of bait, usually small fish. Operating lines are stretched to a distance of about 500 yards from the nets and when the wild birds have joined the tame ones at the feast these nets are brought into action. The value of the capture depends upon the condition of the feathers, which are used for fans. Only the largest feathers are of use, and a fan of black feathers, white near the middle, brings as high as \$25.

The Inventor of the Compass
Flavio Gioja introduced or improved the mariner's compass about the conclusion of the eleventh century; previously a needle was magnetized by the lodestone run through a piece of straw or wood and floated in a saucer or shallow dish, containing water. Then as the old chronicler says: "The point infallibly turns to ward the polestar, and when the night is dark and gloomy and neither star nor moon is visible, they set a light beside the needle, and they can be assured that the star is opposite to the point, and thereby the mariner is directed on his course. This is an art which cannot deceive."

The Smallest Island
People who inhabit some of the thousand islands in the St. Lawrence river have believed that they dwelt on the smallest islands in the world. But it has recently been determined that the site of the Edystone Lighthouse, coast Britain is entitled to the distinction. The dot of rock on which the lighthouse stands is barely thirty feet in diameter at low tide.

Japanese Singing Frogs
In Japan there is a kind of frog very celebrated for his sweet voice. He is called kaika, and people pay as much as \$10 for a pair of these marvellous musicians. A poet in Japan keeps scores of singing frogs at his home, and he sometimes gives a party to his outside, when after listening to the music every guest is asked to write a poem in honor of the frogs.

SEA FRUIT

Fruits de mer (sea fruit), this is the comprehensive name by which the numerous little shellfish of the Mediterranean are known; the term, affecting as it will, which the French speaking of these contributions of the sea which are at their best in Marcellines and all along the Riviera, over the border into sunny Italy.

Marseilles is the great fish market of southern France and Leghorn of northern Italy, while Naples of course is the center for southern Italy. Along the quays of all three cities an epicurean's rambles will find much of interest and many a new sensation for his palate.

Bouillabaisse, even before it was made famous in literature by Thackeray, was considered the piece de resistance of southern France and matelote de poisson a close second. But for my part the most luscious morsels of the fruits of the blue Mediterranean are the little shellfish which are sold from the booths along the quays or in the open air kitchens where amid odors of garlic and oil, a whiff of the salt air from the sea and of great masses of wet seaweed upon which the shellfish are temptingly arranged make the nostrils dilate even as the sight of the seductive wares tickle the palate and force one to stop and investigate.

Snake Killing Birds
A number of birds throughout the world are known to be enemies of reptiles, and several varieties make a regular search for snakes and other creeping things. In South Africa it is to be found the champion snake killer of the bird family. It is known as the secretary bird. The name seems an odd one but the bird received its name from a crest or tuft of plumage rising from the back of its head, which reminds one of a secretary or bookkeeper with a bunch of quills stuck behind his ear.

The bird has saffron gray plumage, and its tail feathers are often two feet in length. The male bird stands as much as four feet in height, but a great portion of this is neck and legs. Its wings are long when outstretched, and it is strongly built and is adapted for the peculiar work of destroying large reptiles.

As a rule it attacks smaller snakes in preference to the very powerful ones, and in doing so uses every precaution against contact with the poisonous fangs or strong coils. It does not attack its prey suddenly, but after walking around the spot occupied by the reptile suddenly spreads its wings and gives the reptile a sudden but sharp blow on the head with its very hard and sharp talons. This is done so quickly that the reptile has no chance to resist.

Elephant's Toothache
It is not easy to tell when an elephant has got a toothache, but it is best to keep out of his way when you do know it. A London surgeon, who had been for many years in India, says he would sooner risk a railway accident than meet an elephant with a toothache. An elephant in Bengal, India, became affected with toothache, but the keepers managed to secure it while a dentist drew a decayed tooth—the cause of the trouble. After a time the elephant seemed to understand that the dentist was trying to do something for his pain, and he gave every evidence of appreciating the attention. When the operation was over he frisked around the dentist like a young lamb.

Better Off Working
Lives there the man who has not riches for his leisure? And lives there the man who, in his more sober moments has not been honestly glad that he must work? Human nature, which sweetens under toil, sours in leisure, and it is by no means sure that the fall from innocence which brought work into the world "and all our woe," was not bringing salvation disguised as labor. Faithfulness will dignify and heighten even drudgery; no matter what the work is, provided it is honest, if it is well done, it commands our instinctive respect. Besides if we did not all have to work so hard to keep alive the jails would have standing room only.

The Largest Flower
The largest of all the flowers of the world is said by the Scientific American to be the Rafflesia, a native of Sumatra, so called after Sir Stamford Raffles. It is composed of five round petals, each measuring a foot across. These surround a huge cup, the upper surface of which is covered with projections like a miniature cow's horns. The flower weighs about fifteen lbs. and is very thick.

The Soil and Man
The Kansas Farmer says: "Aside from the vicissitudes of the weather, practically all of the misfortunes that come to the farmer or his farm can be traced to the haste to secure the present dollar without providing for the future good of his soil. Take care of the soil and it will take care of you, and any other method is a downhill pull."



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STATE REQUIRES MORE REVENUES

Committee on Ways and Means Hard at Work.

WANT SOMETHING TO TAX

Many Suggestions Made But Nothing Definite Has Been Agreed Upon. Bread Must Weigh One Pound Per Loaf, According to Bill in Legislature—Automobile Measure.

Harrisburg, Pa., Feb. 27.—With charities demanding more appropriations than ever before and the expense of maintaining great departments of state government constantly piling up, the legislature is confronted with the big problem of raising more revenue. A committee specially named for this purpose recently organized and discussed the probable ways and means of getting additional funds by means of taxation.

Following the conference, a statement was issued setting forth the various plans presented to the commission, with the announcement that no final agreement had been reached upon any particular measure. It was the sense of the gathering, however, that not less than \$5,000,000 a year increase must be had.

Among the suggestions made was one for a horizontal increase of one mill upon all of the present subjects of taxation, but objection was raised to this upon the score that it might work injustice in many ways, and the idea will probably be modified. A tax of one mill to be levied by the state upon all real estate and corporate property was proposed, but in view of the fact that Pennsylvania has had no direct taxation upon real estate for many years, there was opposition to this feature. Some advocated a one mill capital stock tax upon manufacturing companies. This, it was stated, would yield over \$2,000,000 annually.

A plan to increase the minimum automobile license fee from \$5 to \$10, making no changes in the other classes, it was declared, would net \$500,000 additional revenue for state highway maintenance. Other suggestions included an increase in the bonus on charters taken out in Pennsylvania from one-third of one per cent to one-half of one per cent on the authorized capital stock. This was estimated as yielding about \$300,000 a year. Additions to the tax on corporate loans and gross receipts were also proposed and will probably be favorably considered.

Bread Must Weigh Pound.

No loaf of bread weighing less than one pound can be sold in this state under an amendment to the state pure food act of July 24, 1913. Introduced by Senator Endsley of Somerset county. The amendment would establish one pound and two ounces as standard weights for a loaf of bread, but would permit a loaf weighing more than two pounds to be sold. "No case, however," it reads, "shall any bread be sold unwrapped, unless the weight thereof is plainly and conspicuously tagged or branded thereon, nor shall any bread be sold in wrapped packages unless the contents thereof shall be plainly and conspicuously marked on the outside in terms of weight."

Another section of the act would be amended by the bill offered by Senator Endsley so that no dry commodity, for which a standard weight is provided by law, shall be sold except by weight, and poultry must be sold by weight. All meats sold in wrapped packages, the bill says, shall be considered commodities and no such wrapped packages of meats shall be sold unless the contents are plainly and conspicuously marked on the outside in terms of weight.

Affects Motorists.

Senator Buckman, of Bucks county, will introduce into the legislature a bill providing for the appointment by the state highway commissioner of inspectors at bridges over the Delaware river to impose the same restrictions upon automobiles bearing New Jersey licenses entering this state as are now imposed upon Pennsylvania cars going into that state.

The automobile act of 1913, sponsored by Senator Buckman, contained a reciprocity clause by which the same privileges are accorded automobiles coming from other states as are accorded in those commonwealths to cars licensed in Pennsylvania. In the case of New Jersey automobiles from there are permitted to enter Pennsylvania at any time and remain for any period up to fifteen days.

At present, however, according to Senator Buckman, Commissioner of Motor Vehicles Dell of New Jersey, who evidently construes the law in that state to mean that no car from Pennsylvania can be in New Jersey more than fifteen days in any one year, has inspectors stationed at the bridges taking the numbers of Pennsylvania automobiles entering that state and notifying owners they must take out a New Jersey license after it has been shown their cars have been in that state fifteen days in one year.

At present any car from New Jersey may enter Pennsylvania, remain here for fourteen days, return to New Jersey for a day, and again come back to Pennsylvania for fourteen days.

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Sept. 1st, 1910	321,625.73
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