

PESTIFEROUS BUFFALO GNATS.

A North Carolina Man Tells of Interesting Experiences with Them. John W. Rusk, of Belmont, N. C., writes to the New York Sun regarding the buffalo gnat:

"I think that, as a native of North Carolina would say, the entomologists have not 'met up' with the gnat in question; possibly it is not distributed over a large area of the country. I met the gnats several years ago in Arkansas, on the bottom lands of the St. Francis river, and think they were the greatest day pest I ever saw. In shape they resemble the buffalo somewhat; hence the name. They do not bite or sting their victims. They have a disagreeable habit of flying from the ground and striking one in the face. But the chief trouble is that they crawl into the mouth, nostrils and the ears and deposit their eggs, which hatch in a very short time. The larvae eat away the membranes, causing death to large numbers of stock of all kinds, and of many game animals.

"The planters on the St. Francis set old dogs afire in the woods for smoke to protect stock, which will eagerly rush to the smudge and stand in it to get rid of the pest.

"On one occasion I was kindling a fire to keep off gnats, when a large buck deer came rushing to the smoke and stood in it, not heeding my presence. In a few minutes a flock of wild turkeys and also four or five wild hogs came for protection. It is not an uncommon sight to see a mule before the plow, trudging along with a bucket containing a smudge, hanging from its nose over the smoke as much as possible. The gnat cannot stand smoke."

IMPROVED METHODS.

What Will the Coming Man Do if This Thing Keeps Up.

"Mazie," said the young lover, with delicate intonation, as he was escorting his best girl homeward by moonlight, after the theater supper, "suppose we follow out the old adage instead of taking a car. Shall we?"

"The 'old adage?'" said the fair one. "You mystify me."

"Why you know the ancient saw of the wise men, don't you, where they say: 'After dinner sit awhile; After supper walk a mile.' For a moment the dear creature meditated, and then she lifted her voice in the solemn stillness. "George," said she, half sternly, "I am no angel myself, but I must say that I hate shams. You might have put off my grandmother with that sort of a song-and-dance years ago, but not the modern up-to-date belle. Stick to the truth. If, after the luxurious supper that we have enjoyed, you are broke for car fare, don't quote poetry, nor beat round the bush. Just say: 'Mazie, dear, lend me a dime till to-morrow, and I'll repay it with two kisses a minute interest at pawnbrokers' rates!'"

With a sigh, says the New York Journal, the youth closed his hand about the precious silver piece and hailed a missing car. "I wonder what the coming man will look like," he mused, silently, "if the coming woman gets any cleverer?"

A DUCK-SHOOTER'S PARADISE.

The Marshes of St. Clair, Raleigh and Dover Plains.

As we neared Jeanette's creek the flood deepened until the ditch was lost and we could paddle at will in any direction, says Outing. The great plain looked like a lake of muddy water, and for 15 miles in one direction only tops of tall dead rushes and an occasional stunted shrub hinted that the expanse was dusty by during summer.

The sportsman that drowned level presented a picture which will never be duplicated on this continent. Only the famous English fens, in their best days, ever rivaled the marshes of St. Clair and Raleigh and Dover Plains. In every direction were floating, or flying, huge rafts of wild fowl—hundreds of thousands of them being in sight at once. Mallard, black duck, pintail, red-head, bluebill, widgeon, wood duck, blue and green-winged teal, buffhead, ruddy duck, merganser, golden eye, coot and grebe comprised the bulk of that feathered host, but several comparatively rarer varieties were noticed during a day's shooting.

WHERE LAND IS CHEAP.

Two Hundred Acres Were Forced Upon a Man.

A large weather map hangs in the senate chamber in Washington, and senators gather before it in the morning studying the conditions for the day. Many a good story is there told regarding the climate of different localities. To Senator Kyle, of South Dakota, the New York Sun accredits such a story. Dakota weather is so bad, Senator Kyle is reported as saying, that farmers are often very glad to get rid of their land. One of my neighbors saw a stranger leading a cow along one day. The two men began to talk, and soon a trade was made, the farmer offering the stranger 200 acres of land for the cow.

When the stranger, who could not read, took the deed to Aberdeen to be recorded, he found it to call for 400 acres instead of 200. He went back to the farmer, expostulated, and tried to get the deed changed. But the farmer held out. Nothing the stranger could say or do would move the farmer, and the stranger was forced to take the 400 acres.

Vienna Organ Grinders.

Organ grinders in Vienna are not allowed to play in the morning or evening—only between midday and sunset.

FELT BY RABBIT NERVE.

Lifeless Arm Restored by Graft from Freshly Killed Animal.

To have the sense of touch and power of action restored in the lower half of a lifeless arm is the experience recently bestowed on an English gardener. The case is noted in the British Medical Journal and has attracted widespread attention in Europe. The upper and inner half of the right arm was severed with a scythe. The artery was ligated and the two ends of the divided nerve sutured.

In the absence of more suitable tissue the spinal cord of a rabbit just killed was used as a graft to connect the ends of the median nerve, the inserted cord lying loose and quite free from tension when finally placed in position. Fine catgut sutures were used throughout. Eleven days after the operation the patient could feel the scratch of a pin on the flexor aspect of the first phalanx of the thumb, as well as at the root of the index finger. He could tell when the hairs on the back of the first phalanges of the ring and little fingers were touched, but could not feel the scratch of a pin in that situation. Seven days later sensation had returned over the whole of the palmar surface of the thumb and the proximate phalanx of the index finger.

After an interval of 16 days sensation seemed to be creeping slowly along the first finger and to be present over the whole of the palmar area supplied by the median nerve and extending down as far as the web of the fingers and a short distance along the middle finger. The muscles presented evidences of gradual development and the general nutrition of the hand improved, and soon the hand was "as good as new."

DIFFERENT TYPES OF JEWS.

The Israelitish Race is Divided into Two Parts.

We continually hear of the Israelitish race. It is spoken of as the most homogeneous of races, and the most refractory, says the Monist. But it is strongly diverse. Anthropologists are accustomed to divide it into two parts well distinguished—the dolichocephalic and the brachycephalic. To the first type belong the Sephardim Jews, the Spaniards and the Portuguese Jews, even the larger part of the Jews of Italy and southern France. To the second belong the Ashkenazim Jews—that is to say, the Polish Russian and German Jews. In Africa we find agricultural and nomadic Jews allied to the Kabyles and the Berbers near Setif, from Guelma and Biskra to the frontiers of Morocco. They travel in caravans to Timbuctoo, and some of their tribes upon the confines of the Sahara are black, as for instance the Daggotamis, as are also the Falachas Jews of Abyssinia. In India white Jews are found in Bombay, and black Jews in Cochin. As to the Jews in China, they are not only allied to the Chinese who surround them, but they have even adopted their customs and the religion of Confucius. It is well known that in Italy they speak Italian, as in France they speak French, and in Germany German. A language is learned and spoken by two peoples which have no other point of contact.

POSTAL FACILITIES IN 1800.

A Business Letter's Slow Stages a Century Ago.

In 1800 not only was the field of business enterprise restricted, but the transaction of business within that field was slow and difficult, says the Atlantic. The merchant kept his own books, or as we would have said, his own accounts; wrote all his letters with a quill and when they were written let the ink dry by sprinkling it with sand. There were then no envelopes, no postage stamps, no letter boxes in the streets, no collection of the mail. The letter written, the paper was carefully folded, sealed with wax or wafer, addressed and carried to the post office, where postage was prepaid at rates which would now seem extortionate. To send a letter which was a single sheet of paper, large or small, from Boston to New York or Philadelphia cost 13 1/2 cents and to Washington 25 cents; and this when the purchasing power of a cent was five times what it is at present. To carry a letter from Philadelphia, then the capital of the United States, to Boston and bring back an answer by return mail would have consumed from 12 to 18 days, according to the season of the year and weather.

Melting by Electricity.

Prof. Elihu Thompson, an eminent authority on electric metal-working, believes that there is no doubt whatever of the possibility of melting through masses of iron and steel of even considerable thickness, provided there is time enough to do it and sufficient current is available; but he thinks that the paraphernalia which the burglar would have to carry along and have at his disposal for the attempted work would be a sufficient discouragement in itself, while the time required and the risk of discovery would be so great as to remove the operation from among the possibilities.

Accuracy of the Musical Ear.

An interesting instance of the accuracy with which music that has not been written can be transmitted through the ear and the voice is noted by Miss Alice C. Fletcher in her studies of the songs of the Omaha Indians. One of these songs was recorded by means of a phonograph, and it agreed in every particular with the same song as it had been heard and noted down 12 years before.

Strange Revenge.

J. A. Morris, the dead lottery king, was once blackballed by the New Orleans Jockey club. Smarting under the affront, he boasted he would one day make the Jockey club grounds a graveyard. When he got richer he secretly bought the property and carried out his threat. It is now one of the leading cemeteries of New Orleans.

AMERICAN STEEL TRADE.

Offering Formidable Competition to British Manufacturers.

England's Supremacy as the Iron Master is Threatened as Shown by an Export—Our Steel "Too Good."

The formidable nature of the competition which our steelmakers are now offering towards the British steel trade is most strikingly set out in an article prepared by an expert for publication in London and transmitted to the department of state by United States Consul Parker at Birmingham. The expert shows that England is threatened in her supremacy as the ironmaster by two conditions.

First. The exhaustion of her own ores and of the cheap foreign ores she has been so largely using. Second. The rapid growth of American competition. It is this second factor that is naturally of absorbing interest to Americans, in the estimation of Consul Parker. He directs special attention to the means that have enabled our steel men to bring their ores 600 to 800 miles to the blast furnaces, carry the finished product 500 miles from the interior to tidewater at New York and thence transport it a distance of 3,200 miles by sea and compete easily with British homemade steel. The expert believes that the most remarkable of these means is the gigantic scale upon which American ironmaking plants are built and operated. One American furnace produces more than eight times as much steel as a British furnace, and about 40 of the former would have produced all of the iron that was made last year in England by 362 furnaces. One American rail mill produces 50,000 tons per month, which is more than the total output in Great Britain.

Commenting upon the British expert's article, Consul Parker says he is continually being asked by British manufacturers whether the American competition will last, and, if so, where they can buy the steel. The shipments of steel so far made, he says, have given general satisfaction as to quality. Indeed, there has been a strange complaint that it is "too good," which means that it is better than the manufacturer has been accustomed to employ for a given product. There is a genuine fear of this competition among those engaged in the British trade, says the consul, who concludes as follows:

"When we can pay to one man the wages which two can command in England in the same time and for doing the like amount of work, and then can send the product of that man's labor abroad into competition with the two, backed, as they are, by unlimited capital, the result is certainly encouraging to try what we may do in other markets, where the pressure is not so direct."

TO ENCOURAGE TRADE.

Delegation from the United States Visiting Mexico.

The United States consul-general at Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, reports to the department of state a visit to that place from the delegation of "the Gulf & Interior Transportation company," appointed by the governors of Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas. They were particularly impressed with the opportunities which exist for the corn trade. Corn is a favored food of the people in Mexico, where it is worth a Mexican dollar per bushel. The committee were introduced to the Mexican officials, who gave assurance of earnest cooperation in any movement for bettering the mutual interchange of agricultural products.

KING OSCAR'S JUBILEE.

International Regatta at Stockholm in Honor of King of Sweden.

The latest notice received from the press department of the Stockholm exposition states that the international regatta arranged for July by the Swedish Yacht club, in honor of King Oscar's jubilee, is assuming great proportions. The German emperor will send his 150,000-ton yacht Meteor, the German navy the yacht Komet, of the same tonnage, and many other German and English yachts will leave for Stockholm with the Kiel regatta; these, together with the Norwegian, Danish, Finnish and Russian yacht clubs that are expected and the fine fleet of Sweden itself, give promise of some very interesting races.

HORSE MEAT CANARD.

Circulated in Europe to Injure American Trade.

The canard concerning alleged shipments from Chicago to Europe of horse meat disguised as salted beef is still circulating harmfully in Europe. United States Consul Boyesen, at Gothenburg, has just furnished the state department with a copy of a circular issued by the Swedish government officially calling attention to the report, and requiring a medical inspection of imported meats. He adds that he is informed the custom house officials that meat imported from the United States under the stamp of the department of agriculture was sound and free from disease.

Still Just for the Tulleries.

It has just been discovered in France that, although the palace of the Tulleries was destroyed 20 years ago, four officials charged with the preservation and care of the palace still hold office and draw their salaries.

Disturbed Public Worship.

Four young men were arrested and fined \$15 each in Bangor, Me., for chewing gum and whispering in church.

Rose Leaf Jam.

Rose-leaf jam is a favorite sweet in Roumania, where roses grow by the million.

Bowing in France.

In France gentlemen bow first to women.

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