

SEAL IN ANTARCTIC REGION

Fish Commission Steamer May Be Sent to Investigate the South Atlantic Regions.

Washington.—An expedition to the south Atlantic and the Antarctic oceans in the interest of economic and scientific work, by the fish commission steamer Albatross is under consideration by Secretary Nagel of the department of commerce and labor.

Mr. Osborn said he recently had received confidential information from one who had just returned from the Antarctic that there still remain on certain remote islands herds of southern fur seal in such numbers as to promise commercial importance.

Men of science, the letter adds, desire definite information in regard to the question of the sea bottom, the life of the ocean abysses and the distribution of land masses in the southern Atlantic.

THREE STICK TO SIDEWALK

Tar Traps Pedestrians and Policeman Who Responds to Their Frantic Calls for Assistance.

New York.—The heat from a watchman's street fire melted a barrel of tar early the other day, and the black stuff flowed over a sidewalk in East New York avenue, near Watkins street, East New York.

Two men came hurrying along. They kept their heads up and saw no trap. But they found it when they stepped into the tar. They stayed there. The tar got a firm hold on their feet and they could not budge.

But one of the men accidentally pulled the detective upon the black bed, and there was Burton, giving an imitation of a fixed star.

LABELS COLD STORAGE EGG

California Board of Health Orders Importers to Place Description on Cases.

Sacramento, Cal.—Although members of the state board of health may not be able to tell when an egg is an egg or when it is a pickle, they dealt the egg importers a body blow the other day by ordering that cold storage eggs be labeled.

"This product has been kept under refrigeration for purposes of preservation," is the label storage egg cases must hereafter carry.

The action of the board is taken as meaning the defeat of the egg importers, as it will show up the hen product as pickled and give it poor standing in comparison with the "fresh from the farm" product.

The health board has not completed its investigation on the egg question and a final ruling is expected.

The board ordered that a Modoc county farmhouse should be burned because it has proved a breeder of diphtheria germs.

HE HAS HIS HEART SHIFTED

Doctors Thought Pennsylvania Lad Dead After Operation, but He Revives—Now Well Again.

Mahanoy City, Pa.—Thomas Hoben, a 19-year-old boy of this city, has returned from the Jefferson hospital at Philadelphia, where he has been a patient for the past three months. During his stay there he went through the operation of having his heart moved from the right side of his body two inches toward the left.

Lightning Opens an Oil Gusher. Dalhart, Tex.—Mrs. Josie Pettis declared that a bolt of lightning struck the ground on the mountain side near her farmhouse recently and uncovered a spring of crude oil, which is now producing 200 barrels daily.

HUNTER "WORN OUT"

Slayer of Many Grouse and Woodcock for New York Markets Is Dying.

One of Last of Adirondack Gunners Who Had Followed Pot-Hunting for Sixty Years and Had It Reduced to Science.

Corinth, N. Y.—David Ellis is one of the best known hunters in the valley of the upper Hudson and one of its most successful fishermen, but he is on his back now, sick unto death.

Ellis belongs to the old market hunter class and is one of the last of a famous line of men—the men who made a business of supplying the New York and Saratoga markets with ruffed grouse (partridge) and woodcock.

Ellis was 10 when he began hunting. That was 60 years ago. His father was an old canal, who made money and finally became the owner of a number of canal boats and property estimated at \$100,000.

"He was a regular old horse down to two or three years ago," it is said of him. "What he had to do he did like a steam engine. It was up before day and to bed at midnight and up again in the morning with him when a flight of woodcock was on or the partridge hunting was good on the hills."

Let him waste any time he fished for trout, too. He would never hunt in a storm, but if the birds were to be had he would hunt right up to the beginning of the storm and then if it was a trout day he would turn from hunting to fishing.

Once he started hunting and about six o'clock a shower came along. That made good fishing, and for nearly two hours he fished. Then it cleared up and he could hear the partridges flying down from the shelter of the hemlocks.

"That's what I call good sport," he said, in telling the story. "Sometimes I feel like I want to fish with one hand and shoot with the other. I want to see a bird fly up with one eye and snap a trout as he rises to a fly under the other eye. That's the way to enjoy life—shooting something all day long."

In his prime Dave Ellis stood six feet tall, weighed 200 pounds and was as soft footed as a fox. No ordinary man could follow him through the woods all day long.

He would wade through alderbeds until near sundown and then, when his instinct told him the birds were in the uplands he would rush to a mountaintop and, with one muddy leg twisted around a sapling, shoot birds leaping from the ground spruce and watch where they lodged 100 feet down the rocky cliff.

It was his habit to kill with him; but there was method in his killing. He would not kill old birds, because they were better breeders than young and inexperienced birds.

So the old partridges were spared. They might fly up before his dog and he would watch them fly, calculating that next year such birds were worth six young ones. He knew the fallacy in the adage "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush."

London.—Through the munificence of a city merchant, who desires for the time being to remain anonymous, the nation is about to become the possessor of a collection of rare and valuable prehistoric antiquities from Peru.

The pottery is extremely beautiful and is in an excellent state of preservation, notwithstanding its age, which is variously estimated at from 2,000 to 7,000 years.

Most of the vessels are embellished with designs which prove that the people who produced them possessed the sense of beauty in a high degree and had attained to an advanced civilization.

HUNT FOR MOUNTAIN LIONS

Good Sport Found in Montana When Dogs Take the Trail of Feroocious Cat.

Helena, Mont.—Hunters who wish really exhilarating sport can procure it by going up to Lincoln, to the west of Helena in the Big Blackfoot country.

According to reports received here, mountain lions abound in that region this winter and they are doing damage to live stock. Hunters have gone after them with traps and rifles, but the big cats are too cunning to be killed in such fashion and are continuing their depredations.

The most successful method is to hunt them down with horses and a pack of dogs. No more exhilarating sport was ever devised than lion hunting in this manner. Only a hard and fearless rider, willing to risk breaking his neck in wild dashes up and down snow covered slopes, hidden beneath which may be logs and prospect holes, stands a chance of being in at the death.

The pack takes the trail of a big cat, the hunters following on horseback. When the animal is jumped it runs swiftly a few hundred yards and then usually takes to a tree. Sometimes it maims and kills a dozen dogs. If the hunter has the right kind of stuff in him he rushes into the midst of the yelping pack knife in hand and with a quick stroke kills the cat.

If the animal takes to a tree the hunter can shoot it with little danger to himself, or he can drive it down and then slay it with a knife. Such sport is to be had in abundance at the present time in the Big Blackfoot country.

Wolves and coyotes are doing some damage on the Helena forest reserve this winter, according to reports received by Dwight Bushness, supervisor, from the Big Belt and Crow creek districts of the reserve. One hunter is at work on the Big Belt division and he has already killed many wolves and coyotes.

PROUD OF HIS TITLE NOW

"Farmer Boy" Not One of Derision Now, According to James J. Hill in Chicago.

Chicago.—"Farmer boy," is now a title to be proud of and not one of derision, according to James J. Hill, who was in Chicago the other day.

"Country" born, college bred, city broke, that used to be formula, and Chicago has profited by it," said Mr. Hill. "A great change has come over the spirit of the American farmer boy. He has come into his own and the whole country is the better for it."

"It was not until the seed sown by the experiment stations, the once despised agricultural colleges, began to quicken and bring forth good fruit that the farmer boy learned that wonderful lesson that the man is master of the soil. No longer was he the hated and despised creature of circumstances."

"The agricultural college gave to the farmer boy a confidence in his vocation which has been at the foundation of his success. Not all the farmer boys went to college, but those that did became in a wide sense missionaries of the new gospel."

"Today farming has dignity and is regarded as an alluring choice for life work."

TWO MILLIONS IN POTATOES

Three Maine Counties Found Crop to Be Extremely Profitable During Past Year.

Augusta, Me.—"There is not a county in Maine that has not excellent land for the growing of potatoes," says Dr. Charles D. Wood, the director of the Maine state experiment station at the University of Maine. "A large concern interested in the manufacture of phosphate made a careful investigation of phosphate as to soil conditions in the state, as they were about to locate a farm for experimental work. In Richmond, Sagadahoc county, was found the best soil for the cultivation of the potato."

In 1908 Sagadahoc county raised nearly 2,000,000 bushels of potatoes. In Oxford county about the same amount was raised, and York county near the seashore, raised nearly 1,000,000 bushels. Farmers in all sections of Maine are turning their efforts to the potato crop. The total cash returns from the potato crop for the counties of Oxford, Sagadahoc and York for 1909 were nearly \$2,000,000.

Seattle, Wash.—According to Prof. J. E. Fould, head of the department of astronomy at the University of Washington, comet A 1910, which is visible in the western sky just after sunset, shows signs of splitting in two.

"I noticed a peculiar feature of the comet's tail," said the professor. "It was not as continuous as such tails usually are. This is to be attributed to certain electrical disturbances which have been noted in comets just before they split in two."

Men in "Early Rising" Club. Middletown, N. Y.—A dozen of the most prominent business men of this city have just organized a club which has for its object early rising. The members pledge themselves to rise every day at 6 a. m. and to leave their clubs for home not later than 10 p. m. and there are severe penalties for violations of the club rules.

IS NEARLY OSSIFIED

Man Whose Muscles Are Gradually Turning to Bone Moves Little.

Leans Bolt Upright When Not Lying in His Couch—Looks Like Stick of Timber Most of Time—Smoking One of His Pleasures.

London.—Reference was made recently to the strange case of Alban Rushbrook of Norwich, the man whose muscles are slowly turning into bone, and who has to move carefully because if he fell he might break.

In the workhouse infirmary at Swainsthorpe, a village four miles from Norwich, a correspondent interviewed this sufferer from myositis ossificans. He saw in a bedroom a strange figure propped up against a high stool. The face was pale and drawn, with skin like parchment. It was almost entirely expressionless.

The inexorable turning into bone of Rushbrook's muscles has now left him scarcely a movement. The action of the left arm below the elbow, a slight parting of the jaws, a twitching of the fingers of the right hand, a restricted movement from side to side of the head and a halting shift forward and backward of one leg comprise his whole range of movement.

The dread disease seems to make infinitely slow progress. "I can feel the muscles round my temples hardening, and even now and then there seems to come a stiffening of the muscles of my throat," said the sufferer. The movement of his eyes is almost the only sign when he is speaking.

When he is not lying flat on his bed he leans bolt upright against the stool. He has learned the trick of tilting his body back against the edge of the stool and of swinging his feet in the air, balancing himself in this position as if he were a plank of wood. This effect when he does so is extraordinary. His jaws are practically locked together. Through an aperture made by removing some of his teeth his food is passed into his mouth.

Smoking a pipe is one of his pleasures—that and reading. He wears spectacles, which he puts on in a remarkable way. He can raise his left hand just high enough to take the spectacles from his waistcoat pocket, but he cannot reach up to his face. So he lays the spectacles down on a little table near him. Then with the hand which he can move he picks up an ordinary pair of curling tongs. With these he manages to clip the spectacles and so lift them cautiously upon his nose. He plays draughts with the other inmates, moving the men about on the board with these curling tongs. He can write letters, too. He lies on his back in a bed and scribbles with a lead pencil held in his left hand, the paper being fixed so that it will not move on a table placed close beside his bed.

"Sometimes I am in pain," he said. "That is when my muscles are inflamed. The doctors have all told me that they can do nothing for me. If we went from the north pole to the south, one famous man told me, 'we should not find another case like yours.' When I was eight years of age the ossification of my muscles began. I first had a stiffening in one of my shoulders. They thought at first it was paralysis."

Rushbrook is now 42 years old. To the touch his body and limbs are hard as iron, but he has not lost sensation in them. He can, indeed, feel the tickling of a feather, even over the most ossified part of his body. The one arm he can now use he works to and fro energetically, hoping thereby to check the progress of the disease. His digestion is good and his mind is unaffected.

WOMAN GIVES UP MAIL ROUTE

Female Mail Carrier in Massachusetts, Traveled Twenty-Five Miles Daily—Resigns.

Boston.—New England's only woman mail carrier has resigned her position. She is Mrs. Emma Batchelder, 60 years old. Mrs. Batchelder for almost three years has been the regular rural free delivery carrier in Ashland, N. H., with a route 25 miles long.

Three years of work, with a woman's knowledge of how to save, has accumulated a competency for her. Her salary has been \$900 a year. Out of this she has saved enough to buy a home, and in a few weeks will be a taxpayer in Everett.

In winter Mrs. Batchelder was compelled to go out on her route with the temperature 20 and even 30 degrees below zero.

San Antonio, Tex.—James B. Alken of Fort Worth, who is in this city, said that he has just completed the sale of 100,000 acres of land in Brewster and Perfidio counties for 100,000 gallons of whisky. The land, which has been purchased by distillers of Dayton, O., is valued at \$1.10 an acre.

MUSCLES TURNING INTO BONE

Horseman in London Victim of Rare and Strange Disease Due to Gripping Animal.

London.—If you are an equestrian be careful not to grip your horse too tightly with the muscles of the thigh or you may contract a disease known as "myositis ossificans."

In a case which is interesting several of the London hospitals a patient's muscles are gradually turning into bone. He is considered so rare a specimen that he has been examined by the board of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons and it is said that, though he can still walk and rest in bed, he is unable to sit on a chair. Not only are the thigh muscles turning to bone, but the entire muscles of the back and the chest are similarly affected.

One of the leading doctors at the Middlesex hospital explained to a correspondent that "myositis ossificans" is a disease that is due to irritation. "In the case of horsemen," he said, "there have been many cases where the muscles of the thigh, when used to grip too tightly, have turned completely into bone and have had to be cut out. Such bones are still served, of course, by the blood vessels which formerly served the muscles. There is a specimen at the Royal College of Surgeons museum which shows a complete back muscle which has undergone the remarkable change I have referred to. Rest is the only thing one can recommend in such cases. There is no pain and the only danger is that a man so affected is very brittle and the bone muscles are liable to break."

HER HUSBAND HAD WHISKERS

Mrs. Marzow, Recently from Russia, Did Not Recognize Americanized Husband.

New York.—A husband is nothing to Sonia Marzow without his whiskers. Mrs. Marzow arrived here a few days ago from Russia, after a separation of four years from her husband, who exhibited money orders sent to Sonia Marzow as proof that he is the woman's husband, rushed to her arms, shouting: "Oh, Sonia, my wife."

Sonia stared suspiciously. "You are not my husband," she said. "My husband had a broad tawny beard, parted in the middle, and splendid, yellow top boots. My husband never wore such clothes as yours. I have heard that this is a bad country. Go away."

Abraham, who had arrayed himself in the latest American styles, backed away. He says that he will produce a sister-in-law who can vouch for his identity.

The immigration authorities are inclined to believe the man is really the woman's husband, but they are a little hesitant because, in a similar case some years ago, they decided wrong. There will be a further hearing of the board of inquiry.

TAFT GETS PICTURE IN SILK

Chinese Children Skillfully Work Photographic Reproduction of the President.

Washington.—President Taft got a message from China the other day. It was not a state document signed by an ambassador or an envoy extraordinary, but just a picture of himself and Vice-president James Schoolcraft Sherman worked out in silk threads by the skillful hands of school children of the celestial empire. Ah King, a Chinaman of influence in Seattle, went to his native town about a year ago and took with him a campaign banner, on which were photographic reproductions of Mr. Taft and Mr. Sherman. From these the school children of Ah King's village worked for four months and finally wore a picture which those who saw it at the White House consider quite remarkable. The picture was brought back to the United States and for a time was hung in the Chinese building at the Seattle exposition. Ah King requested Representative Humphrey of Washington to present the picture to Mr. Taft and so that member of congress gave it to the president.

SEVERAL WEDDINGS AT ONCE

Among Twenty-Eight Couples Married in Brittany at Same Time There Were Few Different Names.

Paris.—A picturesque marriage ceremony, in which 28 couples went to the altar, recently took place at Plougastel, in Brittany. It is the custom in the district for all couples who become engaged during the year to be married on the same day. All wore their national costume, the men being attired in blue, red or violet jackets with silver buttons, black velvet waistcoats and large felt hats with velvet ribbons and silver buckles. The brides wore bright-colored skirts, embroidered aprons of silk and pretty Breton head-dresses of white cambric. Twenty sheep and six cows were served whole at the wedding breakfast. Fifteen of the brides were named Marie and three were named Marie Legall. Among the 28 couples were only four different names. Every body married was either a Legall, a Jeseuquol, a Thomas or a Kerzoneuff.

VACCINE AS A CANCER CURE

Apparently Successful Experiments Made in Manila—Results Encouraging.

Manila.—A conditional and preliminary report of what is hoped will prove to be a successful specific treatment for cancer was presented before the Manila Medical society. The treatment consists in making the patient immune from the further progress of the disease by the use of vaccine prepared from his own cancer.

Experiments have been made during the last eight months, both in cases where a surgical operation was possible and where it was not. The results have been uniformly encouraging. A number of the patients who apparently had been cured were exhibited before the society by the originators of the new method.

The medical authorities here express a wish to watch these cases over an extended period for a possible recurrence of the malady before they accept the treatment as successful.

MUSKRATS ARE RARE

Increased Demand for Fur of Little Animal Causes Slaughter.

Good Skins Have Advanced in Short Time from 10 to 75 Cents Each—Dainty Dish Seldom Tempts Gourmets Now.

Detroit, Mich.—Muskrats are scarce down the river these days and the heretofore welcome legend, "Muskrat supper here tonight," is now seldom seen. In years gone by the salt marshes of Ecorse have yielded many thousands of the amphibian, while the number speared and caught in traps now is numbered by the dozen only. This state of affairs prevails all over Michigan and it is prophesied that next year the furriers will send the price of "near seal" coats many per cent. higher.

Various reasons are given by different people for the scarcity of "rats." The local dwellers will tell you that the high water this year is to blame and that the muskrats are being drowned by hundreds because they cannot reach the surface of the water for air. Others say that the burning over of the marshes is another prime cause. The fur men say, however, that the wonderful rise in price of muskrat skin causes a greater slaughter than ever before.

"We have considerable difficulty getting the carcasses," said William Anspach, of the River Rouge club-house, the other day. "Just a few years ago it was easy to secure a barrel of muskrat carcasses around here; where the trappers formerly captured hundreds each winter they are satisfied with a score now. Last winter the retail price of the carcasses was but 10 cents, or two for a quarter when the muskrats were large. Now you cannot get one for less than 20 cents and from that up. We used to get large numbers from Monroe, but that source of supply also is cut off now."

"Muskrat skins are coming in slowly," said E. C. Blake, dealer in raw furs. "The supply is running low, in my opinion, because there is a great demand for the skins. Michigan muskrats are greatly in demand and bring splendid prices. Good skins now fetch 75 cents each, while but a few years ago 10 cents was considered a good price. Muskrat skins are converted into the 'near seal' coats and are used for a great many other purposes. The government uses a large number in the making of caps for the soldiers."

"It is a mistake to suppose that the marshes are yielding fewer animals now because of the approach of the dwellings of men or the running of railroad tracks through the marshes. The animals are scarce because they are more closely hunted for their skins."

It was not many years ago that muskrat was a daily dish among the French residents down the river. No one can cook a carcass like an old French matron. The muskrat is one of the cleanest animals known. Not only is it careful of what it eats, but before eating a root or anything else the little animal patiently scrubs it free from dirt. Not until every particle is removed will it eat it.

The name has had more influence in keeping people from eating the flesh than anything else. It is considered great fun to initiate a novice in eating muskrat. He is told that it is squirrel or any one of a dozen other animals to induce him to eat it. In 99 cases in 100 the novice is converted at once after the first mouthful and forever afterward never tires of singing the praises of the meat.

Chicago's Great Future. Chicago.—That Chicago will have a population of from 6,000,000 to 10,000,000 in 20 years" was the prediction made in an address by Bernard W. Snow, chairman of the city council finance committee, before the Cook County Real Estate board. There is only one thing to prevent this growth, according to the speaker, and that is the lack of a comprehensive traction system.

Transportation was his topic and he maintained that among essentials to a proper solution of the question is to have the surface lines take care of the short hauls, where high speed is not necessary, and that all should connect with a subway or elevated road system where long rides at high speed can be secured.