

DEFEATS ICE TRUST

Boy Lets Pails Filled With Water Freeze and Stores Cakes.

Got Idea by Thawing Out Pail in Herd and Now is Capitalist Himself—Sells Product to His Neighbors.

Ware, Mass.—How would you like to be independent of the ice trust next summer when the hot rays of the sun are beating down and your refrigerator is empty, though you have had a card in your window for several days and have telephoned the ice trust and been choked off with the reply, "You will get your ice when it arrives and not before?"

The 11-year-old son of a Ware sign painter has solved the problem. Having already made two tons of ice and sold it to his father for 30 cents a hundred pounds, he is busy making a further supply which he proposes to sell to neighbors next summer. Jerome is the son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Henry Eldredge of 57 East street and is one of nine children.

It is a case of hustle to keep the family supplied with the necessities of life, and to each of the children old enough to be of assistance is assigned a task which makes the burdens lighter for all. Jerome feeds the hens, which are supposed to keep the family table supplied with fresh eggs, but usually fall in coming up to expectations. He also feeds the lone family pig and keeps Mrs. Eldredge supplied with coal and kindlings from the shed. Jerome has a longing to get a college education and become a lawyer, but has been told repeatedly that a college education costs money, and the only way he can get it is by strict economy and thrift.

It was while watering the hens one cold morning that Jerome hit upon the scheme of the ice plant. The pan containing the water was filled with a cake of ice each morning, and it was necessary for Jerome to turn the pan bottom side up and pour hot water on it, the cake of ice then dropping out. In a short time there was a pile of ice that worried Jerome, because it came from water that had been rendered muddy and impure by the hens and was unfit for use, but it occurred to him that he could draw water from the kitchen faucet that was pure, place it in receptacles, allow it to freeze, then get the cakes of ice out in the same manner as he did from the hens pan. He asked his father if he would pay him the same price for ice that he had paid the ice man last year. Mr. Eldredge said he would be glad to do so if the ice were of good quality and he would contract for two tons. The ice has been delivered and paid for.

Jerome has about two dozen receptacles of various styles and sizes. He first began with what stewpans and kettles he could abduct from his mother's pantry, but now he has pressed the family wash tub, coal hod, wash pan, wash basin and about everything else into use, and has made square wooden boxes, which he fills with water and makes large cakes of ice in. These boxes he has already sold to his mother for use next summer for flower beds. The price was more than cost of the lumber to make them.

The cakes of ice vary in size from two to twenty-five pounds, and during zero weather Jerome has made as many as fifty cakes of ice in a day. Jerome attends the seventh grade in the South street school. His four-year-old brother, John Harold, suggested a few weeks ago that he be taken into partnership on a percentage basis, and he would keep the business moving while Jerome was in school. The suggestion was favorably received, and Johnny is as interested in the business as any one could be. When the neighbors' boys come around Johnny keeps his eyes open and allows none of them near the ice plant, explaining that the ice must be clean and pure or it cannot be marketed.

The boys have met some discouragement in the ice making business. At first Jerome used ordinary wooden pails and tin pails, but with the first freezing the pails were hopelessly ruined, as the ice burst the pails in many places. The boys have learned that common enameled ware is best. Tin pails that are small at the bottom and large at the top are also useful, as the ice swells at the top much like a loaf of bread, and does not burst the receptacle.

Warm weather is also discouraging, as the ice that has already frozen in the dishes thaws. Jerome says they can literally see their money melt away. Each morning the ice made during the previous 24 hours is packed into large dry goods boxes and sawdust is packed around the cakes. Jerome says that he will build an ice-house in the spring.

Seattle Will Build High.
Seattle, Wash.—The last obstacle to the erection of a 41-story building in this city by the estate of L. C. Smith of Syracuse, N. Y., was removed the other night when the council committee that has been going over the plans voted to grant the permit. The skyscraper will be the highest office building outside of New York.

German Army Orders Balloon.
Berlin.—The German war office the other day placed an order for another dirigible balloon of the Personnel type for the use of the army. A wireless outfit is to be a part of the equipment.

HOUSE KEEPS ITSELF

One Woman's Experience in Automatic Housekeeping.

Not a Bit of Bother for the Modern House Wife as Mechanical Labor Saving Appliances Are Now Applied.

London.—The modern woman demands, above all else, that her time or the greater part of it—shall be her own. She insists on freedom to earn her own living, to acquire culture, or to educate her children and be a companion of her husband, and therefore the modern house must needs "keep" itself.

This it will not do if the vexed domestic servant question is continually to the fore, and some women are at last grasping the great comfort of letting mechanical labor saving appliances do their work for them. I happen to know one of these present day women, says a writer in the Daily Mail. She is married and has two children, but she is busy every day with many interests outside her home. Yet her house is better managed than any I know.

Some days ago she showed me over her dwelling, and let me into some of her work-and-worry saving secrets. "My wonder box is packed with insulating material and lined with steel. The children's nurse or I merely cook our dishes on a gas stove for a few minutes, then pop them in here, and go out and forget about them. When I come back in the evening they are cooked and hot—ready to serve, in fact. The children's meal is put in earlier in the morning and is ready by midday. Delightfully simple, isn't it?"

On the sideboard were several devices for producing breakfast with the least possible effort. This meal was always cooked on the table, I learned. An egg steamer, a chafing dish, a coffee percolator and an electric radiator for making toast were the most prominent items.

In a corner of the room stood a small electrically worked vacuum cleaner which made light of the tollsome business of sweeping and dusting. The floors, which were all linoleum covered, were washed with the aid of a self-wringing mop.

A porcelain anthracite stove occupied the hearth, and over this my friend waxed regretful. "I hated to give up my beloved open fire," she confessed. "But it went dead against my principles, and it made more work than all the rest of my household put together. This stove is the next best thing, for at least I can open the front and toast my toes at it. It only requires stoking every twenty-four hours, and it makes no dust."

"When I demanded to see the kitchen," she told me there was none. "A kitchen only exists for the comfort of servants," she reminded me. "I have no servants, so why should I have a kitchen? Come and see my workshop, though." And she led me into a small square box of a room, containing only a sink, a gas stove, a table, and two cupboards built into the wall. Of that coal devouring, work producing monster, the kitchen range, there was no sign.

"But hot water?" I protested. "How can one live without constant supply of hot water?"
"I was told to put my head inside one of the cupboards, and I did, but I withdrew it again hastily. The temperature was at least 80 degrees. The cupboard, it appeared, contained an automatic gas hot water heater, from the tank of which small pipes extended and circled round the walls. They met again in large pipes, one of which carried off the water to the kitchen sink, the other to the bathroom.

The gas burners under the tank were lighted each morning and burned at full power for ten minutes or so, till the water became heated. Then the burners lowered themselves automatically to mere pin points of flame. When the tank was emptied, or partly so, it refilled itself with cold water, and the burners popped up again and heated the tankful once more.

"And the cost of keeping house by your methods?" I asked.
"The initial cost of furnishing—is, perhaps rather high. But I think our weekly bills would make most housekeepers open their eyes," was the answer.

War on Rats.
New York.—An association in restraint of rats—in other words, the New York Vermine Exterminators' association was organized here the other day, with Charles M. Frey as president. Frey is a scholar and a professional rat catcher who escaped jury duty some time ago by writing to Mayor Gaynor that the public would suffer if his duties were interrupted.
Announcement was made, that the association has the support of the United States department of agriculture, which will assign a lecturer to address the members at a conference and dinner to be held here.

Double Children's Savings.
New York.—J. W. Ellsworth, philanthropist of this city, is doubling the savings of all children under 16 years of age in his boyhood home, Hudson, Ohio, to encourage their thrift. The only condition is that children must go to school and earn the money after hours. Each is expected to write him how the money was earned.

FOOD ANIMAL IS NEW

Texans Hope to Produce One at Reduced Cost.

With Muntjac Deer of India Foundation Will Be Laid for Animal That Will Thrive in Lone Star State.

Galveston, Tex.—"I have believed for a long time that Texas could produce a food animal that would come into more general use than any at present to be found on the farms and ranches of the state," said Mr. Lee Mountfort. Mr. Mountfort has a ranch in the vicinity of Robstown, Nueces county, and has for some time past, he says, been conducting experiments in animal breeding. "I have been watching the work of Luther Burbank for a long time," Mr. Mountfort continued, "and it gave me the idea that I am at present working out. Of course, I cannot hope to do in the animal kingdom what Burbank has done with fruits, but the main principle underlying both our efforts is to determine what product is necessary, how the present product is to be improved upon, and then work out the line of improvement."

"Now take the case of meat in Texas. For years Texas has been considered a cow country, so far as meat was concerned. Recently the demand for hogs to the extent that hog raising has predominated. Sheep are also raised. But there is a need in Texas for a food animal that is smaller than the cow, hog or sheep, and bigger than the domestic hen or the rabbit, which is so easily killed on our ranches. The meat supply of the average ranch is at present drawn from the smokehouse, and while there are a few Texans who will decry bacon and ham as a diet, there are also few but will admit that fresh meat is better, when it can be obtained.

"There are not many farms where a sheep, for example, can be killed frequently and easily used before some of its spoils. This is even more true of beef. The hogs are killed at one time of the year and the meat necessarily preserved. How, then, is the problem to be met? Obviously not by developing any of the existing species of animals now indigenous to Texas. We must have a new breed. If we can't create it it must be imported. There's my chain of reasoning in a nutshell."

"I'm looking about for some animal that is good for food and that will thrive in the climate of southwest Texas. I have read a great deal of various breeds. I can find few animals that are more suitable to my soil, than the little-known 'Muntjac' deer of India. This animal is a beautiful little creature, and is only about 31 or 22 inches in height. It has small horns, but is not combative, or large enough to be dangerous. It is similar to the sheep in its diet, feeding upon practically any kind of herbage. The meat from the muntjac, I understand, is of delicious flavor, and possesses that slight gamey taste that makes the epicure prefer venison to almost any other meat.

"As I view the situation, the bringing to the country of a small mammal of this size is of enough importance to justify some little expense. After thinking it over, I have arranged with one of my friends, Capt. Richard Watson of the tramp steamship Punjab, to bring me the muntjac. The Punjab on her present trip is to go from Cape Horn to Calcutta, and can obtain the muntjac there. I have asked him to get several pairs, eight or ten if possible to accommodate them, as several will doubtless die on the trip. But with those that survive I hope to lay the foundation for a brand new breed of farm food animals in Texas.

"I have heard that a breeder in central Texas has been raising Virginia deer for the past four or five years, and has made something of a success of the breeding. The venison finds a ready sale, and the skins have little difficulty in finding a market. Although this animal is somewhat larger than the one I have in mind, it ought also to be developed in the state. This Virginia deer is also known as the 'white tail,' and is able to live in practically any part of the country, if in the colder climates it is given a certain amount of attention in winter. The breed is unusually prolific, and the doe, I understand, nearly always produces twins. This breed will eat cotton seed, and will subsist upon practically anything with the exception of wild hay.

"But I am planning my hopes upon the muntjac, and as the Punjab is due in either New Orleans or Galveston within the next two or three months, I hope that the time will not be long before I will be in a position to make an announcement of the success of my experiment. If the muntjac comes into general use on the southwest Texas farms it will mean that the farmer and his family will be provided with fresh meat every two or three days. And this venison will prove a welcome variation to the hog meat and chicken that now form the staple meat diet of the average farm and ranch."

"Rocket Bullet" Not New.
New York.—Rifle bullets which throw off a brilliant light as they travel through the air and which are being tested in Germany as a revolutionary military invention, are no novelties to American army men. They were first experimented with many years ago by the United States government, according to statements by officers stationed here.

BEEES VALUABLE IN KANSAS

Sunflower State Establishes High Valuation Because Insects Carry Pollen of Alfalfa.

Topeka, Kan.—Some calculations made by the Kansas Agricultural college makes every little bumble bee and every little honey bee that a farmer can find and put into his field worth just one dollar.

Therefore those farmers who are raising alfalfa in Kansas and have heard about this valuation are giving strict orders that the bumble bee and the honey bee must not be killed by the hired man or the small boy, and that the destruction of a bumble bee nest by the hired man is punished by dismissal and by the small boy about the farm with a long session with dad in the washboard.

The honey bee, of course, is a valuable adjunct to any farm, because it produces much honey, and honey has a high market value. But no one ever thought that the bumble bee was worth much except as a pest. But the agricultural college authorities, after a long series of experiments with the bumble bees and the honey bees and other bees and insects, has found that the value of these to the alfalfa grower is really inestimable, but a value has been fixed just to make the farmers take more notice.

It has been found that the honey bee and the bumble bee are the only insects that will pollinate alfalfa. Experiments covering a long time have been made with other insects to see if these could or did do any of the work. The alfalfa is grown under cover and the bees and other insects put into different sections of the covered area. No other insect can reach that section occupied by the honey bee or the different forms of butterflies or other insects. In this way it can be told with certainty just what each insect does to pollinate alfalfa.

Alfalfa is a peculiar flower in many respects. It is a legume, but it is different from the other varieties usually found in this country, in that the pollen from the male flowers must be carried to the females and deposited in the flower, or there will be no seed in that head. The bumble and honey bees, in gathering the honey, carry this pollen, and as they are active little chaps they visit practically every flower in a field in search of the honey, and every flower they visit is made fertile and produces alfalfa seed.

Now, alfalfa seed is worth about eight dollars a bushel on almost any central Kansas farm, so it can readily be seen how valuable the bees are. Whole fields are sometimes left practically infertile because of a lack of bees in the neighborhood. The other insects do not carry the pollen in any quantities. It has been calculated that a bee will fertilize enough plants during the average season to produce fully one-eighth of a bushel of alfalfa seed. The rate is probably higher, as it is impossible to make an exact estimate.

RADIUM KILLED MANY CATS

One Cancer Patient Got Well, But Seven Died After Treatment—Objection Is Excessive Cost.

London.—Sir William Ramsay, the discoverer of the atmospheric gases argon, neon, krypton and xenon and the leading authority on the transmutation of radium, gave his experiences of the effects of radium on life, following the experiment at Alfort, near Paris, of Prof. Gabriel Petit, who says he found that an old horse in whom radium had been injected received a new lease on life.

"The experiment," said Sir William, "has been frequently tried both on animals and on human beings, but with no very positive results. I have tried radium injections on cats and the effect was that they became emaciated after a short time and eventually died. It produces profound alterations of the tissues.

"Of eight persons suffering from cancer who received injections of radium, one recovered, but the others did not, so that it is difficult to say what were the effects of the radium, if any.

"The external application of radium for certain kinds of cancer undoubtedly effects a cure, but in other kinds sometimes results are attained and sometimes not. The skin undoubtedly shows radio-activity for some time, and the effect on many persons may be of a stimulating nature.

"One of the greatest objections to the use of radium for injections would be its excessive cost."

Forced to Shave.
Headville, Pa.—Senior male students at Allegheny college who last Christmas made solemn vows to henceforth wear whiskers and mustaches, appeared the other day for the first time since with clean-shaven faces. The cords seriously objected to such facial adornment and boycotted the boys. Few students admit they broke their vow to please the girls.

Men Lay Big Eggs.
Hardwick, Mass.—A hen owned by Mrs. Benjamin Masley laid an egg eight inches in circumference. The longitudinal measurement exceeded nine inches. Thomas Irwin has a hen which laid two eggs every day for a week.

Seeds Given to Children.
Cleveland, Ohio.—The school board is distributing 50,000 packages of flower and vegetable seeds among the pupils, and Miss Louise Miller, curator of garden work, is lecturing daily to the children, telling the children how to plant and care for gardens.

CHICAGO IS LOVABLE

Bishop of Salisbury Says City is Unchristian.

Still Smacks of Frontier and Has Not Acquired Enough Civilization to Make People Calculating in Kindness.

Chicago.—Chicago is not Christian—it is Athenian, although dollar-worship is less evident here than in New York or Washington.

It has not yet gathered sufficient veneer of civilization to make it calculating in its kindness. It still smacks of the frontier, although its opera is crowded, its art gallery has more interested observers than ever were seen in London, and it has one of the most wonderful of universities.

And one comes to Chicago to learn the mightiness of man. So concluded the bishop of Salisbury, from observations taken in this city covering a period of several weeks. At least Chicagoans who have been reading the keen and, on the whole, sympathetic criticisms of Chicago and American life that are appearing in the London Church Times, and are the frankest discussion of America from a distinguished foreigner's viewpoint since Charles Dickens wrote his American Notes, believe the anonymous critic to be the English bishop. If it is not the bishop, it is some one who came at the same time, and did many of the same things the bishop did, clergy at the Episcopal cathedral said.

The writer of these criticisms lived at a Michigan avenue hotel, visited the University of Chicago and described the services at an unnamed fashionable church which many are certain they recognize as Grace church, where the bishop delivered his lectures in December. The fact is known, it was added, that the bishop wrote extensive comments on his visit here.

"I found the greatest surprise of my American visit in Chicago and Pittsburg," says the writer. "The Chicago of Mr. Stead's dreams is not the true Chicago. I had expected a hideous city; I found a city of promise. I had expected sordidness of aim; I found readiness to appreciate literature and art, generous-mindedness in criticism and a desire for the sweeter things of life. Chicago gives one the impression of frontierism. Not yet is it settled down. Some day they will tear down the hideous 'loop' elevated and make a center for commerce worthy of the vast enterprise. Then Chicago will begin to show the world what a city can be.

"Her university is most wonderful of all. Boys and girls crowd the lecture-rooms; experiments in psychophysics are treated as intimately important affairs, and are not relegated to back rooms for isolated research students. Economics draws them in hundreds, and at close quarters the respect which an Englishman has for Chicago's work in sociology is vastly increased.

"And as Chicago is open-minded, so is it open-hearted. Such charities! Such boundless giving in the very streets! Such a passionate desire to give the poor children a Santa Claus on Christmas morning. There are verses and pictures in the papers, all pleading the same good cause. It is cold by Lake Michigan today. There are pillars of ice within a few yards of my hotel. There is a heavy fall of snow. But Chicago hearts are winsomely warm. Not yet have they gathered sufficient of the veneer of civilization to make them deliberate in their love of their fellows, or to keep them calculating in their kindness.

"I could wish it were a Christian Chicago also. It is so Athenian, so welcoming Athenian, so anxious not to overlook any deity whatever. But that is not sufficient. Chicago needs, more even than New York, the rigor of discipline. Here is a fashionable church. It is well attended. It is ablaze with organization. It has accomplished so much that the temptation to defy humanity must come very near to it. There is no God in its theology."

DUKE GREAT COTTON RAISER

South African Experiments in Culture Give Good Returns—Satisfactory in Yield and Quality.

London.—The duke of Westminster, who recently returned to this country after a visit to his estate in northwest Rhodesia, has taken an important step in the development of the resources of South Africa—he has become a grower of cotton.

Last year the low lying country on his estate was utilized for the experimental growing of cotton. The results were such that the area of land under cultivation has been increased from 50 acres to 300 acres, which is expected to yield 60 tons of cotton.

In yield and quality the first crop—ten tons—was more than satisfactory, and when placed on the market at Liverpool the first consignment to this country was sold at 20 to 25 cents a pound.

The duke of Westminster's estate in South Africa comprises 10,000 acres of land in northwest Rhodesia, in the vicinity of the Kafur river. The value of the land when the Dutch bought it was four cents an acre; its value since then, with the added value which the success of the experiment in cotton growing has given to it, has been increased to 62 cents an acre.

Carborundum Used in Building.
Paris.—A flight of stairs has been erected in this city over which 14,000, 000 persons have shuffled without so much as scratching the surface. These steps are almost as imperishable as if they had been built of huge diamonds, for in the concrete of which they are constructed a generous portion of carborundum has been introduced, and since carborundum is almost as hard as the diamond it has given the concrete a wearing quality which no marble or granite could possibly approach.

BROWN OUTLINES HIS PLANS

President of New York Central Urges Government to Spend More Money in Conservation.

Galesburg, Ill.—President W. C. Brown of the New York Central was the orator at the concluding exercises of Founders' day at Knox college. He had a large audience, among whom were many farmers from this part of the state. His address was on the subject of the conservation of the soil and of the necessity of increasing its fertility to meet the needs of home consumption. He urged Knox county to instruct its members in the legislature to support generous appropriations for the state agricultural college. As indicating the importance of soil study and improvement he said:

"The United States is building two or three great battlefields almost every year, which cost, fully equipped, perhaps an average of \$9,000,000 each, and it costs close to \$1,000,000 a year each to man, supply and maintain them.

"With what one of these fighting machines cost, the government could establish and fully equip two splendid experimental farms of 640 acres each in every state in the Union, to be operated by the general government.

The establishment of such farms by the government would soon be followed by 160-acre farms owned and operated by the state in every county in our great agricultural states.

"Such farms, once established, would not only be self-sustaining, but, in my opinion, would show a handsome profit. The effect of such a system of practical education upon the products and profit of the nation's farms would be almost beyond comprehension.

"Every thrifless and unimproved farmer would quickly note the difference between the result of his loose methods and those of the experimental farm and benefit by the comparison.

"Men who have no books on this important subject and who could find no time to study them if they had, would learn by that most apt and thorough teacher, observation, the value of improved methods and would adopt them.

"Let the government invest the price of one battleship in this important work, follow the investment up intelligently and perseveringly for ten years, and the value that will have been added to each year's crops of the Nation's farms will buy and pay for every battleship in all the navies of the world today."

SMALL AEROPLANE FOR ARMY

Tiny Machine for English Military Has 45-Horse Power Engine—Given Official Trial.

London.—A new military aeroplane the invention of one of the staff of the war balloon factory at Farnborough, was given an official trial on Luffen's plain, and came through the tests imposed in a very satisfactory manner. The machine is the smallest biplane yet tried by the military authorities and is the invention of G. de Havilland employed in the draughtsmen's department.

The most remarkable feature of the new flying machine is that the engine has also been designed by the same inventor, and is of horizontal opposed type geared direct to the propeller. The aeroplane resembles the Farman somewhat in appearance, except that the steering apparatus behind is different. It is about 28 feet to 30 feet wide and about five feet between the super imposed planes, the depth of the planes being also about five feet, the curves of these from front to back being very sharp, to give plenty of weight-lifting power.

The motor engine is a very small affair, yet will develop 45-horse power. The single wooden propeller is fixed direct to the engine, as in the Gnome type, so obviating the employment of driving chains or belts.

The aeroplane had been tested on the Berkshire Downs by the inventor before being brought to the balloon factory for trials. It is so light that two men can handle it on the ground with ease.

MAKING FUDGE FOR FARMERS

Old Boys Think Cooking of Miss Rose Instructor of Domestic Science, Is Grand Art.

New York.—Miss Flora Rose, instructor of domestic science at Cornell university, scored a big hit with the Long Island farmers at Riverhead, L. I., when she turned out fudge and doughnuts for them. She has been teaching the farmers' wives and daughters how to make hash, etc.