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SAVING TURPENTINE TREES.

New Method of Tapping Prolongs Their Usefulness.

The recent experiments of the forest service, designed to conserve the life of turpentine trees gives promise of remarkable success, says the Gainesville (Fla.) Sun. It is believed that the improvement tested in these experiments will, in addition to prolonging the life of the trees, greatly increase their total yield of turpentine. When the cup-and-gutter system of turpentine was introduced by the forest service some three years ago the economy which it secured led to its adoption on a large scale by southern turpentine producers. What lends this system its great value is the fact that it does away with the old practice of "boxing" which consists in cutting a deep cavity or "box" at the base of the tree for the purpose of catching and holding the resin which flows from the chipped "face" of the tree trunk above. In place of a "box" an earthenware cup of the same capacity is fastened to the tree. To this the flowing resin is directed by means of metal gutters. The disease of the "box" effected a two-fold gain—first, a saving of the deep, fatal wound in the base of the tree consequently a conservation of its vitality, and second, much less waste in gathering of the product, with a greater yield of turpentine and better grades of resin. While this decided improvement spared the trees very considerably, the method of chipping "faces" to stimulate resin flow remained unchanged. This in itself necessitates a deep wound, which, it is believed, exhausts the vitality of the tree more than is necessary. Exhaustion is evident from the fact that after the first year the yield quickly falls off, and the total productive period is also limited.

A further step in advance to supplement the gains already secured by the cup and gutter system was therefore sought in the new plan. This aimed to reduce the size and number of "faces" chipped, and also the depth of the chipping, without diminishing the flow of resin. In the experiments carried out during the last season the first object was to show that at least an equal flow of resin can be secured from shallower and shorter "faces." The success of these experiments has tentatively established the practicability of this plan. A great saving naturally results from reducing the depth of the superficial extent of the wound the drain on the vitality of the tree is reduced and at least an equal yield is secured without discounting the product of future years. Under the old system the annual yield gradually falls off, largely in consequence of the formation of "dry face," which is a kind of local death, affecting the exposed wood of the tree. It is highly probable that with this diminution in the severity of the operation the ordinary term of three or four years during which a forest is now worked can be greatly increased. This means not only a larger total return and consequently larger profits but also that the investment for turpentine capital is lengthened, a fact which especially appeals to the investor. The experiments are being conducted in co-operation with the Hiltner-Sutherland Land Co. which last year placed four crops of trees, of about 8,000 trees each, at the disposal of the forest service, and for the season of 1906 has consented to supply still more timber for the study.

The Sahara Once Populated.

In studying the geological history of this region, Gautier found evidence that it was once rainless and was truly a desert, the gradual desiccation advancing from the Soudan. Then the era of permanent drought and complete desert conditions gradually came to an end. Today a rain belt is creeping up from the Soudan and is extending farther and farther north into the desert. This new epoch may continue for hundreds of years.

But the most startling testimony which Gautier found was absolute proof that long before the present age of rainfall, in what is known as the Neolithic or later Stone Age, a very large population inhabited this part of the Sahara. He found there graves scattered over the grassy plain, as found many hundreds of their drawings on the rocks, where they had pictured animal forms and other objects. He discovered the flattened stones which they had used for grinding grain.

These millstones show that agriculture was then developed in that region, and that the grinding of grain into flour indicates considerable advance of civilization. Here and there were many arrow points, axes of polished stone, and other implements.

It was many hundreds of years ago that human beings inhabited this region, but as time is reckoned in geological epochs, thousands of farmers were tilling this part of the Sahara at a comparatively recent period. They were finally driven back into the Soudan by the increasing drought, and the world forgot that this region had ever been inhabited by man.—Review of Reviews.

Germany's Southwest War.

In two years Germany's war in southwest Africa has cost \$75,000,000. Inclusive of the murdered settlers and their families, the casualty list shows a total of 1,997. The military casualties amount to 1,109 dead and 688 wounded. One-tenth of the total field force, 110 officers and 1,022 men, have fallen in action. In the 150 engagements, 498 men were killed and 634 wounded. Of the total number wounded (688), only thirty-four succumbed to their injuries. The great majority of those who died of disease fell victims to paralysis of the heart or to typhoid fever, caused by impure water.

GUINEAS AS "GAME" BIRDS.

Served as Quail or Pheasant in Hotels and Few Can Tell Difference.

"When game goes out of season by reason of the game laws, the guinea fowl man gets his innings," said an experienced farmer discussing new opening in his trade.

"In habits and instincts the guinea resembles the wild birds much more than it does the ordinary domesticated fowl," he added, "while its flesh is dark meat very solid and plump and of a flavor closely resembling that of a quail. For that reason it is the best substitute for game fowl yet discovered, and that at a fourth of the price asked for the more expensive luxury."

"Much that is sold by poultrymen as guinea by the simple metamorphosis of the oven becomes game. I could name at random a half dozen large hotels in which young guineas are placed regularly before patrons who ordered partridge. It is impossible to secure the latter, which yet figure on the menu, and none but an epicure can detect the difference of flavor. Some farmers sell almost exclusively to expensive hoteliers, which pass the birds off, respectively as quail or pheasant, according to size.

"The export trade in guineas, too, is by no means inconsiderable, as several thousand head are shipped to England from American farms every year. These are almost entirely the old fowls that is, those which have reached full growth.

"Among the many points in favor of guinea poultrying is the fact that the young are hatched out at a time of year when artificial warmth or expensive buildings are not required. The expense of feeding the old fowls too, is hardly one-half of that required for chickens in like quantity.

Chinese Music.

Chinese music is incomprehensible to the occidental ear, but opinions vary as to why this is so. Either the Chinese have less ear for harmony than more civilized peoples, or else they are so far beyond us that we cannot understand their combinations of tone. The Chinese were the first people in the history of the world to develop a system of octaves, a circle of fifths and a lot of other harmonical techniques, back in the days when our ancestors, the European savages, had not invented even the simplest forms of melody. Whether or not we shall finally arrive at understanding and liking something that approaches the harmonious discords of the Chinese, close observers claim to have discovered among the musicians and lovers of music a steadily increasing sensitiveness to harmonies, the existence of which was formerly unknown. Subtle harmonies of to-day are understood, which forty or fifty years ago even, would have been regarded as incomprehensible. The musicians have grown more and more fearless in doing the things that used to be forbidden. When "Faust" was produced, back in the fifties, it was regarded by the critics as too technical ever to be popularly accepted.

On Trial for Sorcery.

A strange sight was seen in Justice Joyce's court recently. It was that of a staid, lawyerlike, elderly gentleman gravely declaring that he had been under the influence of "sorcery," and controlled by a telepathic mesmeric influence which caused him intense pain at night.

As Mr. Joseph William Thomas, who is bringing an action with regard to transactions which took place when he was in an asylum, made these accusations against his brother, Sir Alfred Thomas, M.P., he emphasized his points with a pincer, which he carried in his hand.

"Are you still under the influence?" asked Mr. Isaacs, K.C.

"It has not ceased absolutely, and probably never will," replied Mr. Thomas, raising his pincers.

He added that "distances" made no difference to the "influence," which was conveyed at night. The "influence" might be exercised by his brother's agents.

In adjourning the case the Judge expressed an opinion that the matter in dispute ought to be settled out of court.

A Catskill Scene.

In a dreamy mood you finally make your way back to the road and idly wander on until you reach the village post office and general store. You gaze curiously at its barn-like appearance and at the queer characters congregated there. It is the noon hour, and they are waiting for the one great event of the day, the arrival of the rural mail-man—whose white horse can be seen coming leisurely up the road at a snail's pace. A smile curves your lips as you mark the contrast between this raw-boned farmer, in his blue-jean overalls, and the city postman, in his spruce gray uniform. Nevertheless, in sunshine or storm, the rural mail-man is as faithful as his city cousin. You ask this unique "Uncle Sam" how he likes traveling the mountain roads in stormy weather, and a mild look of surprise breaks over his honest features as he strokes his chin and drawls: "O-h, I do-n't like it so very good."—Four-track News.

Warning to Travellers.

A curious winter custom in Yorkshire is the blowing of a horn to warn wayfarers on the moors near Bainbridge.

At 9 o'clock every winter's night the horn is blown on the green of the little village of Bainbridge. There is little doubt that many a traveller lost in the fog has owed his safety to this custom.

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If you expect to make a trip to Colorado, the Pacific Coast, or any point in the West, Northwest or Southwest, do not overlook the extremely low rates, convenient through coach, sleeper and dining car service offered by the Nickel Plate Road in connection with any route you may choose beyond Chicago. For full information write R. E. Payne, General Agent, 231 Main St., Buffalo, N. Y.

Summer Excursion Fares to Western Points.

The New York Central lines have placed on sale summer excursion tickets at low rates to Banff, Laggan and Lethbridge, Alb.; Butte and Helena, Mont.; Deadwood and Lead, S. D.; Denver, Colorado Springs and Pueblo, Col.; Eldorado Springs, Mo.; Eureka Springs, Ark.; Hot Springs, Ark.; Hot Springs, S. D.; Mexico City, Mex.; Milwaukee, Wis.; Ogden and Salt Lake City, Utah; Phoenix, Prescott and Grand Canyon, Ariz.; San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego, Cal.; Portland, Ore.; Seattle and Tacoma, Wash.; and Vancouver and Victoria, B. C.; St. Paul, Minneapolis and Duluth, Minn.; Spokane, Wash.; and Nelson, B. C.; Sitka, Sprague, Ark.; Trinidad, Col.; Winnipeg, Man.

The above tickets are limited to return to October 31st, except those to Mammoth Hot Springs, which are limited to 90 days. The California tickets can be purchased reading good going via one line and returning another route, and which applies also to tickets to Colorado points, and also to Mammoth Hot Springs. The rates at which these tickets are offered are so low that if one has any idea of making the trip, they should inquire for further particulars as the offer is a very advantageous one. Apply ticket office, New York Central station or at New York Central City office, 20 State Street.

OLD TIME SERVANTS.

Curious Customs That Once Prevailed in England.

No new thing is the servant problem. Here is an injunction to apprentices issued by the English Court of Common Council in 1527: "You shall constantly and devoutly on your knees, every day, serve God, morning and evening, and endeavor the right practice thereof in your life and conversation. You shall avoid all evil company; and make speedy return when you shall be sent on your master's business. You shall be of fair, gentle and lowly speech and behavior toward all men. And according to your carriage expect your reward, for good or ill, from God and your friends."

"Menial" was originally applied only to domestic servants to show that they were "intra moena," or between walls, as distinguished from the apprentice, so called from the French "apprentre," to learn. Until the eighteenth century all single men between 12 years old and 60, and all married ones under 30, and all single women between 12 and 40, not having any visible livelihood, were compellable by two justices to go into service.

But at a still earlier date the domestic servant seems generally to have been some relation to the family, showing that service had no contemptible meaning in those days, and explaining, perhaps, why so often in old books and plays the lady's maid or the valet is referred to as their master's or mistress' "lady" or "gentleman."

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