

# OUR FOREST FIRES

### Work of Uncle Sam in Preventing and Fighting Them.

## RIGID RULES FOR CAMPERS.

The Permit System Has Been a Big Factor in Checking the Destruction of Trees—How the Alert Rangers Discover and Locate a Blaze.

Eternal vigilance is the watchword of the forest service of the United States in preventing and fighting forest fires. August and September are the critical time when forest fires are most numerous and disastrous. These are the driest months of the year on the Pacific slope, and in consequence the grass and brush in the forests are under dry and offer the least resistance to fire.

Throughout the dry season, which begins about April and extends through the early part of November, according to the latitude of the different states, the forest service of the department of agriculture increases its working forces until it has a host of men throughout the ranges ever on the alert for fires. These additional forces augment the regular range force, which is on duty the year round.

High up on some lonely peak, far from the centers of civilization, stands a high watchtower that daily is the post of a forest ranger, who, with powerful binoculars and telescope, is on the lookout for the thin, telltale banner of vapor that tells its own story of the fire ahead to the watcher. On other peaks there are similar watchtowers, and the watchers here, too, may mark the rising column of smoke from afar. All report to a central station, where the fire is accurately located.

At each watchtower there is a circular map of the district within the view of that particular tower. By triangulation on this map the watcher notes the direction of the fire from his tower. The other watchtowers do the same, and all report to the central station these various directions. Where the triangulation lines meet on the great map of the central station there the fire is. It is a simple and yet a most effective method. The fire located, the fighting forces of the district are mobilized and the battle begins. It may be short, and it may last for weeks, but it is fought none the less relentlessly.

Stretching in every direction from the central ranger stations are miles of telephone and telegraph wires that are used in time of danger to mobilize the fire fighting army. Once the call has been made they come from every direction prepared to combat the common enemy. Frequently these lines occur within a short distance from small villages and towns, and then the problem becomes more complex, in that the homes, once a flame, are extinguished with greater difficulty.

Besides the use of the telephone and telegraph, the forest rangers also use the heliograph, with which they are able to send flashes of sunlight many miles to bring aid. These are where telephone and telegraph lines are not yet available. At centrally located depots are caches of dynamite that are also used for signaling purposes. At these depots are stored materials for fire fighting purposes and highly specialized apparatus.

Rigid rules have been laid down for persons camping in the woods, and the fire permit system has lessened the number of fires very appreciably. The greatest loss comes from the negligent pleasure seekers, who drop lighted matches in the grass and low brush. The fire permit cards can be obtained either at the general office or of any ranger, and there is no expense attached to it. The goal accomplished by this arrangement appears in the fact that when a fire breaks out it is possible to know who had a permit to build a fire in that territory, for a close record is kept of the permits issued.

The fire permit card authorizes the holder to build camp fires on the national forest land between certain dates, provided the following requirements are complied with. To build small fires only, to build fires in the open and not against a tree or log, to scrape away all leaves and trash from around the fire, never to leave a fire unattended, even for a short time without first extinguishing it, to extinguish fires first use water, then cover with dirt, bonfires are not allowed. It is further provided that when camp is moved the ground must be left in a clean and sanitary condition.—New York Tribune.

**Facts About the Dollar.**  
When you break a dollar the pieces disappear mysteriously.  
A dollar spent is far smaller than a dollar saved.  
Doubling a dollar is far harder than dividing it.  
A dollar thrown away can never again be found.  
A borrowed dollar is never so big as a dollar lent.—Baltimore Sun.

**The Owl Valuable to the Farm.**  
Do you know a monkey face owl when you see one? Perhaps you know it as the barn owl. Anyhow, if you see one hanging around don't kill it. It's worth six or eight cents to you on the farm or suburban place, according to the state biologist of Washington.—Chicago Tribune.

**How shall I be able to rule over others that have not full power and command over myself?—Rabelais.**

## LAND OF INFINITE DETAIL.

Japanese Farmers Produce Several Crops in Small Space.

Japan might well be called the land of infinite detail. Perhaps nowhere on earth may one see detail carried to such extremes as in that land, where every available square foot of soil must be made to yield every possible return. Farms of one or two acres produce six, eight, ten or a dozen different crops are common sights, the soil being fertilized and handled in such a manner as to bring results in every month of the year.

One peasant who obtained some overgrown land turned what in this country would be waste ground to profit. Converting the marshy overflow into a garden, he bred and raised snapping turtles, which in Japan are considered the most delicious of the snappers. Thousands of these, being shipped to Tokyo and Yokohama markets by the ton.

Japan has also a pearl oyster farm. In the bay of Argo there has been established a plantation from which a harvest is obtained. In May or June stones weighing from six to eight pounds are sunk in shallow water, and in August the shells begin to appear on them. The stones remain for two months, but since the young oysters cannot endure cold in November all rocks in less than five feet of water are moved farther out, where the temperature is more even. At the end of three years, when the shells are about two inches across, they are taken from the water, and pearls inserted in them and replaced in the water, thirty of them to every six square feet of bottom.

There they are left for four years, then, being seven and a half years old, they are removed and searched for pearls.—Washington Star

## HOUSING THE MOTORCAR.

Some Advice on Building and Fitting Up a Practical Garage.

The size of the garage depends upon the size of the car it is to be used for, says C. H. Chandy in the Woman's Home Companion. "A convenient size for most cars is 14 by 18 feet. This will usually give plenty of room to work around the car. Shelf room is essential and should be all along one side, seven feet high and one foot wide. On the other side have plenty of nails for hanging things on. At the rear end, above the door, have a shelf wide enough to hold spare outer tires. At each rear corner have a three cornered closet for old clothing, etc. At the front corners have several three-cornered shelves set in.

A workbench is an essential feature. This should be built near a window, so that there will be abundance of light. Make the workbench of two inch boards and have it as large as space will permit. Do not have the supports or legs come down straight to the floor, as they will be in the way but slant them back to the wall. Make drawers to slide under the bench for holding nails, tools, etc. A tool chest of common and useful tools under the bench is a good friend. Have two electric light extensions also a hand electric searchlight.

A life saving equipment is a length of garden hose that will fit over the exhaust pipe of your engine. When the engine is running, with doors and windows shut, at one end of the hose over the exhaust pipe and put the other end outside through a hole previously made for that purpose. This may prevent you from being asphyxiated, as the gas from the exhaust is very poisonous and has been known to cause death.

## Colombia—the Hebrew Republic.

Colombia is the runaway daughter of Spain. She is twice as large as her mother, and many times as promising. And it may surprise you to learn that the most progressive element in the country is not the Spanish population of the natives, but a Jewish people called the Antioquians, who have old Testament names, raise families of from twelve to thirty children and are fast becoming the dominant power in the land. Both in numbers and influence. Colombia is the great Jewish republic of the near future.—Dan Ward in World Outlook.

## A Stump Jump Plow.

In western Australia they use a special type of plow called the "stump jump" on account of the fact that nearly all the areas susceptible of cultivation in that region are heavily wooded and the land cannot be cleared of stumps and roots because of the dearth and high cost of labor. The stump jump plow, which is the invention of an Australian, is so made that it will roll over stumps and other obstructions lying on the ground.

## Gardening.

The way to keep up the interest in gardening is not to do the same thing year after year. That is monotonous. Try the new fruits, vegetables and flowers. Hold to the old, tried and true for mainstays, if desired, until the new prove that they are what is wanted to entirely displace older varieties.—New York Sun.

## Sizes.

"I wish a ton of coal, please."  
"Yes, madam. What size?"  
"Dear me, I didn't know coal came in sizes. I want a No. 3 shoe and a No. 6 glove."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

## An Instance of Woman's Superiority.

No man ever dared to beat the truth about women; only a woman can do that.—E. W. Howe's Monthly.

## HOW

### To Apply Home Remedies For Nosebleed.

BLEEDING from the nose is seldom anything to be alarmed about unless it comes from a blow on the head or is the result of a severe internal hemorrhage. In most cases it stops after awhile of its own accord, but even then it is extremely annoying and often most inconvenient and embarrassing as well. In most cases a vigorous motion of the jaws, as if in the act of chewing, will stop the trouble very shortly. A child should have a wad of paper inserted in the mouth and then chew it hard. It is the motion of the jaws that stops the flow of blood. With some people it is only necessary to place a small wad of paper under the lower lip and the flow will stop. With others salt and water or vinegar and water snuffed up the nostrils cures it in a few moments. In very severe cases it is sometimes necessary to plug the bleeding nostril with cotton and make a pressure on this by pinching the nose from the outside or to soak the hands and feet in water as hot as can be borne.

When the nosebleed is caused by a blow in the face it can be stopped by holding the head back and breathing through the nose and expectorating the blood that falls into the throat. This is the plan adopted by most prize-fighters to stop such bleeding. If the bleeding comes from any severe injury of the head, such as a fractured skull, the nose should be allowed to bleed until the doctor arrives.

An old fashioned remedy for nosebleed to which many mothers pin their faith is to apply something cold to the back of the neck. This is often done by dropping a large key down the back, but it is much more efficacious to use a cold compress for this purpose, such as a cloth wrung out of very cold water or a bit of ice wrapped in a cloth and applied to the neck just under the hair.

## ORIGIN OF HANDSHAKING.

How It Comes Down From the Days of Barbarism.

There are many curious ideas in regard to the origin of the handshake. Some people think that it was the custom handed down from the days when the lines of society were closely drawn. Others have thought that the handshake originated with the most common classes of early English times and that it was a bond of their friendship not recognized in the aristocratic circles.

As a matter of fact the custom of shaking hands dates back to the days of barbarism. In those days every man carried a dagger in his belt because he did not know when he had to defend himself. But when one friend met another it was considered necessary to show that his errand was a peaceful one by holding his hands in front of him, palms extending outward. The one who was thus met repeated this token of assurance of friendliness, and the most natural thing happened—that is, they clasped each other's hands. A little later, when the dagger became more useless, it was worn simply as an ornament. But the custom of stretching out the hand continued. This gradually changed until the extending of one hand and that of clasping that of the friend only remained.

From this the handshake grew to a conventional form of greeting, the refusal of a hand thus proffered was taken as an insult, and a duel usually followed, which often resulted in the death of one of the principals.

The different fads which we have found creeping in, such as holding the hands high or merely touching the tips of the fingers, are interesting to study. For example the handshake with the elbow held high resulted from a sim and the British hold that one of the princes of handshaking had under his arm. This high handshaking was purely accidental and never intended to be set as a fashion. But it has been taken as such, and Antioquians, who have old Testament names, raise families of from twelve to thirty children and are fast becoming the dominant power in the land. Both in numbers and influence. Colombia is the great Jewish republic of the near future.—Dan Ward in World Outlook.

## How to Care for a Rubber Plant During Its Indoor Life.

A rubber plant does not require as much water as flowering plants. It should have air and some sunlight, but need not continue in the sun. The leaves may be washed off with a little soap and water, and, if there are any insects, with a solution of quinine. See that the soil is good, that it is not dry, and never disturb the roots. Keep it even temperature and out of the wind.

A good fertilizer is ammonium chloride, two parts; sodium phosphate, four parts; sodium nitrate, three parts; water, eight parts. Mix and dissolve. To use add twenty-five drops of water and use as in ordinary watering.

## How to Bleach White Fabrics That Have Become Yellowed.

White garments that have turned yellow may be bleached in the following manner. First wash them in the usual way, then plunge them into a thin bluing hot starch which has been slightly blued. Allow them to remain in the starch until cold, and dry them in the sunlight. Two bleachings in this manner will restore their snowy whiteness.

## How to Clean Zinc So It Fairly Sparkles.

Take a thick slice of lemon and rub it over the stained zinc. Allow it to remain for an hour, then wash the zinc metal with soap and water. It will become clean and bright.

## GUARDING A NAVAL SECRET.

How England Cloaked the Building of a New Type of Cruiser.

In Europe extraordinary precautions are taken by all the great powers to mask their military plans, and constant efforts are made to ferret out the military designs of opposing governments. Admiral William S. Sims of the United States navy threw an interesting sidelight on this phase of preparedness when testifying before the house committee.

"To show the extreme importance of this matter of a new type," said Admiral Sims, "when Great Britain first built these vessels (swift and powerful battle cruisers) extraordinary precautions were taken to prevent her possible enemies learning their characteristics. Great Britain had a number of armored cruisers, and Germany had a number of them. Great Britain knew that if she could build a number of these battle cruisers that had battle-ship guns and twenty-eight knot speed—in other words, more speed than any other cruisers in the world and guns stronger than those of any other cruisers—she would thus be away ahead for a long time.

"She laid down three of these vessels. In the estimates they were called armored cruisers, and everybody in the world supposed that simply three more armored cruisers would come out, with ordinary guns, which are 9.2 inch, etc. They were going to mount on these vessels eight twelve-inch guns apiece, and they were going to give them a higher speed.

"You can conceal the speed, of course, while the vessel is building, but it was wholly impossible to conceal the fact that they were building twenty-four twelve-inch guns that could not otherwise be accounted for. Great Britain did not want other nations to know that these three cruisers. So they induced Turkey to sign a contract for those guns, and a certain foreign attaché in London paid not less than £14,000, or \$70,000, to officials of the companies to get to look at their books and assure himself that the guns were being built for Turkey. Of course they pestered Turkey to find out what she wanted with twenty-four twelve inch guns, but in the meantime the vessels were completed and the guns mounted before foreign nations knew that a radically new type of vessel was in existence.

"The British wanted to get that type out because in any conflict with another navy that did not have similar vessels the British would have a great advantage. Their scouting power was so great and their powers of destruction so great that anything except a battleship was practically helpless before them."—Spokane Spokesman-Review.

## Our Poor Record.

The average yield of potatoes in the United States is 113.4 bushels to the acre. In Germany it is 183 bushels. The average yield of wheat here is 15.0 bushels. In Germany it is 32. The yield of oats here is 37.4. In Germany it is 41. The yield of barley is 29.7. In Germany each acre produces thirty-six bushels.

But German fields did not always yield such bountiful crops. Thirty-five years ago Germany raised only 114 bushels of potatoes, nineteen bushels of wheat, twenty-five bushels of oats and twenty-three bushels of barley to the acre. The German soil is poor. The German climate is unfavorable to successful agriculture. Yet by a careful study of the subject of fertilization it has been possible to increase their productivity by 66 per cent.—Philadelphia Ledger.

## The Pocket Stage.

It may fairly be claimed that humanity has within the past hundred years found a way of carrying a theater in its pocket, and so long as humanity remains what it is it will delight in taking out its pocket stage and watching the antics of the actors, who are so like itself and yet so much more interesting. Perhaps that is, after all, the best answer to the question, "What is a novel?" It is, or ought to be, a pocket stage— scenery, light, shade, the actors themselves, are made of words and nothing but words, more or less cleverly put together.—F. Marion Newford.

## Crows and Crops.

The biological survey of the department of agriculture has investigated the relation of crows to man. The essential conclusions are that crows are about equally beneficial and injurious, and that they are not so wary and suspicious as they are to need legal protection. Lack of this, while not endangering the species, will permit farmers to protect their crops or other property whenever necessary.

## Wares Still to Come.

Henderson—What makes you so blue? Sander—My wife's bread's a failure. Henderson—Is that all? Sander—All? No; something worse is coming. Henderson—What? Sander—A week's ordeal of bread pudding.—Puck.

## Then Ma Sent Willie to Bed.

"Pa, what is a filibuster?"  
"A filibuster is an attempt to talk a plan of action to death, my boy."  
"I see. You married into one, didn't you, pa?"—Detroit Free Press.

## A Bit of Sentiment.

"Why all these footsies you pass that village?" inquired the fireman.  
"Toots is my wife's pet name," explained the engineer.—Pittsburgh Post.

Worry poisons the mind just as much as a deadly drug poisons the body and just as surely.

## Re-establishing A Family

By F. A. MITCHEL.

Herman von Bishoff came to America a young man, determined to make a fortune, return with it to Germany and build up his family, which was an old one, though impoverished. Von Bishoff chose a valuable field for money making in America. He became a brewer and by the time he was fifty years old was in a position to retire from business with the fortune he had come over for. But a business life had accustomed him to active habits, and he did not relish going back to Germany to a life of idleness. Besides, the pan-European war had come on, and he thought he could be of more service to the Fatherland by sending money for hospital service.

Von Bishoff had no son, but he had a daughter, Hilda, about twenty years old. It had been his intention to send for his nephew, the son of his older brother, to come over to America with the hope of making a match between this young man and Hilda. His fortune would ultimately pass to Hilda and through her and her husband the former influential status of the Von Bishoffs would be re-established. But the war came on, and of course Carl von Bishoff was needed in the army, and since this account the plan was delayed if not altogether extinguished.

Hilda von Bishoff's associates were native Americans, and she had not that love for Germany that had remained in her father. When the war broke out she told him that she wished to go abroad to do Red Cross work, and he only consented on her promise to devote herself to the care of sick and wounded soldiers in Germany. But Hilda, though she had learned the German language in her childhood, had forgotten it, and she did not relish the idea of going among a people whose language she did not understand. Her father would not consent to her going to any other country.

Hilda had been given plenty of pin money and, not having spent it all, had something in bank. One day she left for Europe without saying anything to her father as to her going and on her arrival at the seat of war was enrolled in the American Red Cross service. She found that the sick and wounded consisted of all kinds. There were English, French, Belgians, Germans, Austrians and citizens of the United States to be cared for, and all received the same attention. Of course the enemy sick and wounded as soon as they recovered were considered prisoners and placed in concentration camps, while the French, English and Americans were returned to duty.

Hilda remained at her post of duty a year, when, her health giving out, she returned to America. Some of her friends suspected while nursing a soldier she had lost her heart to him, but Hilda would not admit it. Her father got hold of the rumor, and it worried him very much, for he had not given up re-establishing his family in Germany through her. He questioned her as to the matter, but got nothing out of her. Indeed, she denied the story.

However Von Bishoff's plan for building up his family by marrying his daughter to her cousin Carl was dashed because news came to his uncle that he had been killed in the war. One day a young man who gave his name as Fiegler appeared at Herman Bishoff's residence and asked for Hilda. He was the soldier that she had nursed as a prisoner. He had been sent to England as a prisoner of war and had escaped. He had then got transportation to America by securing a berth as fireman on a ship about to sail for New York. His object was to get back to Germany by way of the United States.

The first thing Von Bishoff knew about the stranger's coming was in information from his daughter that she had given her troth to the fugitive and desired her father's sanction to the match. She and her lover planned to be married before his return to the army. Von Bishoff, realizing by this time that his daughter would have her way in the choice of a husband, gave a forced consent. The couple were married, and a few days later the groom sailed for Holland, from which country he expected to cross the line into Germany.

Six months after his departure his wife received word from him that he had succeeded in what he had undertaken and was again in the ranks fighting for the fatherland. Then came a letter stating that he was at home badly wounded.

Hilda, now Frau Fiegler, determined to join him. Her father, finding that she was resolved on doing so, determined to go with her. They went by way of Copenhagen and in due time arrived at the village from which Herman Bishoff had departed thirty years before for America. The Schloss, a dilapidated residence that had once been a noble pile, was still in possession of the family, and there they went. It was occupied by a sister of Von Bishoff, whom he had not taken account of since his departure for America, for he especially valued only the male members of the family. The father and daughter were to put up here until they could learn of the whereabouts of their husband.

"I have a son who is at home recovering from wounds," said the frau. "Indeed?" replied her brother. "Let us pay our respects to him at once." They fled into the room where the young man lay. Hilda gave a spring for him. He was her husband.

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