

CITY NEWS.

TALE OF A TRAVELER

Career of G. D. Strong, Who as a Boy, Charmed Birds Just for Fun.

Has Been With Barnum and Forepaugh and Now He Joins Jabour.

What books might be written, could one read afloat the life pages of his every-day fellow travelers?

A stereopticon lecturer, a Minneapolitan, recently walked up to his operator at the close of his lecture and said: "Where did you develop the sense which makes you able to anticipate a speaker's ideas and moods in the way you do? You are a stranger to me. You can be no possible ally to me. What I was to say, yet what was my attitude to my subject, yet your operating was like a magnificent tempered accompaniment to a piece of music. How do you do it?"

"I take it you chose your pictures to add to what you had to say, and that you hired me to manipulate them to that end. The power to anticipate is the only power that makes this possible. You're right in saying it is exactly the same ability that makes a good accompanist. But why should it occasion comment? A man has unlimited gall to offer himself in either capacity, unless he is perfectly sure of his power to anticipate. As to how I got it—maybe I was a born with it, maybe the incidents of a long life of ups and downs have taught it to me."

The casual observer would have seen nothing unusual in the man, but close scrutiny would have discovered something cosmopolitan about him, and a study of the deep-lined, bronzed face, and the kindly eyes, would have led to a belief that the rather unusual remark might have been expected.

The lecturer, the operator and five other choice spirits had by now reached a downtown restaurant, and over the Bohemian supper, the following conversation took place:

Boy Bird Charmer.

G. D. Strong was a Wisconsin boy, the son of a farmer. As a child he was fond of wild animals, especially birds. He knew the names and could imitate the songs of most of the birds in Wisconsin, and he seemed to possess that subtle instinct which disarms the feathered songsters of fear. They would gather round him in flocks, and now and then one would become intimate enough to answer his cry with a song of its own.

As a child, too, he wanted to see the world. Burr Robbins, the old-time circus man, with his "calico horses" and his "magic lantern" pictures of the "Adam and Eve" class, was his first clue as to how to manage it.

He lived near the lead mines and was allowed to have the pickings. From these he managed one season to save \$14, with which he bought a sperm-oil lantern and a few slides of the "Adam and Eve" variety and carried them on his back from school house to school house, where he exhibited them, charging a fee for admission. This was his beginning of a life of wandering. A little later his father was interested in a circus and the boy became an all-round performer, but his days had his eyes open for something new in the line of entertainment.

About this time Peter Cartwright, the famous performer on musical glasses, began to be talked about, and in this line the boy saw his opportunity. He fitted himself out with a set of musical glasses. They were ordinary goblets and wine glasses, but he charged them with music that they paid his expenses through the United States and Canada, the West Indies, South America and Europe, netting him most in the near vicinity of London, where he bought the equipment which he now uses, and with it and a sensational series of pictures which he called "Fata Morgana," he returned to America in 1878 and entertained at the Centennial with great profit and afterward toured the United States successfully.

An Alliance with Barnum. In Belfast, the work of Professors Blix and Logranja with trained birds had attracted his notice, and he conceived the idea of confining the work to canaries. While touring the country with "Fata Morgana," he was training his canaries, and for three years he exhibited them at watering places in the summer and at poultry shows in winter. The attention of P. T. Barnum was attracted to Mr. Strong. Mr. Barnum suggested that it would be a great charity if Mr. Strong would exhibit his birds for the benefit of the "Ladies Aid Society" of his (Mr. Barnum's) church in Bridgeport, Conn. At the end of the performance Mr. Barnum had closed with Mr. Strong, who was with the great circus as a side show for five years.

"In all my travels," said Mr. Strong, "I have never come across anything that has interested me as Mr. Barnum's superb powers of exaggeration did. He never missed a chance of bringing his friends

A WOMAN'S PRAYER.

It is notable that in the dependency caused by womanly diseases, there seems to many a suffering woman no way of escape from pain except at the price of life itself. It would be sad to record such a story of struggle and suffering except for the fact that in such dire distress many a woman has found a way back to health and happiness by the use of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription.

This great remedy for womanly ailments has been called "A god-sent to weak and sick women." It establishes regularity, dries weakening drains, heals inflammation and ulceration and cures female weakness. It makes weak women strong and sick women well.

"My medicine came from the dead," writes Mrs. Edwin H. Gardner, of Plymouth Co., Mass., Box 14. "My urine was like brick dust, and I had pain all over me and such a dragging feeling it seemed I could not do my house work. I had to sit down to wash the dishes, even. In the year I was so sick I did not care to live and prayed many times that God would take me. One day I found a little book. I read it and wrote to Dr. Pierce, and in a few days received an answer. I decided to try his medicine, and to-day I am a well woman. I have no headache, no headache, no pain at all. I used always to have headaches previously to the monthly period and such pain that I would roll on the floor in agony. I took three bottles of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription and three of Golden Medical Discovery, and three vials of Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets, and was completely cured."

Accept no substitute for "Favorite Prescription." There is nothing just as good. Dr. Pierce's Common Sense Medical Adviser—sent free on receipt of stamps to cover expense of mailing only. Send 21 one-cent stamps for the book in paper covers; or 31 stamps for the cloth bound volume. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

to see my 'marvellous trained birds,' and his stretched stories kept me on the ragged edge trying to make the birds live up to their reputations. While Dick was alive, tho, I never trembled, for Dick was equal to anything. That bird was a marvel! He illustrated exactly what you spoke of to-night, doctor, the power of anticipating. I had six horses of different colors on a merry-go-round. The birds had been taught to mount and ride according to the color of the horse. They all did well, but Dick seemed to catch the spirit of the thing. One day he startled me by throwing back his head and singing, while he swayed to the movement of the horse in perfect rhythm. I didn't wonder that Mr. Barnum was fascinated with Dick, nor at his wonderful tales. One day he brought a party of clergymen to see the birds, and when Dick began his famous ride and song act, Mr. Barnum turned to the oldest clergyman and said: "Instinct, do you tell me? Why, that bird, Dick, possesses reason, just as surely as you or I possess it!"

"Then you must argue that he has a soul," was the clergyman's reply.

"A soul? Certainly," came Mr. Barnum's response, "and he doesn't need our poor method of language to express it."

A Comic Opera Experience.

After his five years with Barnum, Mr. Strong was three years with Adam Forepaugh. He had acquired a considerable fortune. The comic-opera fever seized him. He organized a Pinafore company of 100 people, toured the western country and wound up at the Tivoli in San Francisco, exactly \$30,000 out of pocket and with all his people on hand to transport to their several destinations.

"I was a year ahead of time," said Mr. Strong, "and you might as well be a generation behind time as a year ahead. The year after, Ford of Baltimore organized a company of sixty, with some of the same singers, and cleared up \$130,000 in a single season."

The year of the Baring Brothers' failure in London, Mr. Strong had a considerable fortune on the road and was doing well. As soon as the rumors of the failure began to circulate, Mrs. Strong advised working north, but Mr. Strong didn't believe she knew what she was talking about. Three weeks after he was a second time stranded, with a deficit of \$13,000 and his people on hand. Out of her savings of \$700 Mrs. Strong paid for the transportation, and Mr. Strong again started exhibiting his birds.

Some time ago Mr. Strong took up his old occupation of operating a stereopticon. Hence this story is to be advanced in July, August or September. Assuming that a beetle had penetrated a given tree in July, 1899, the leaves of the tree would turn yellow in May, 1900. At this stage such a tree is known in Dakota as a "sorrel-top." In October of the same year the leaves would all be red and the lower leaves would begin to fall off; the tree would be called locally a "red top." In May, 1901, the pine would be distinguished as a "black top." Most of the leaves would then have disappeared. The "red rot" would be starting around the top of the afflicted pine. In October of the same year nearly all the leaves would have fallen, the top of tree would be seriously decayed, and, in many cases, broken off. Thus the tree begins to decay about two years after it has been attacked by pine bark beetles.

After these beetles have made holes in the bark of the tree, the spores of the blue fungus—*Ceratospora p. filifera*, as they call it in the Black Hills—are blown about by the wind. The spore grows rapidly and soon spreads to the bark of healthy trees at home, the wood turns blue in the lower part of the trunk. When five months have elapsed the fungus has discolored the upper part of the trunk, and the wood is now and has partly affected the upper part. Within ten months from the coming of the beetles all the wood is blue, except the timber, which is white.

It is also a matter worthy of thought that the original brand of beetle is assisted by a relative whose personality is even more active. The relative, appearing soon after the first beetle had killed the bark, excavates subways for the convenience of the fungoid boys in blue.

The exact tint of this curious blue pine is difficult to describe. Artists have called the color "a blue gray approaching Payne's gray." The freshly-cut wood looks decidedly blue but when dry the wood becomes "blue gray," if it means a regular discoloration; but here and there shine through the yellow of the healthy wood. Whether the fungus itself is blue, or whether the blue is caused by the fungus or by a result of the fungus growth is a delicate question as to which Dr. von Schrenk has not yet made up his mind.

Strength of Blue Timber.

Wherever this blue timber is found, it is considered much inferior in strength and durability to pine of normal color. Yet elaborate tests made at Washington university, St. Louis, have demonstrated scientifically that blue timber is really stronger than green pine. The sample blocks compressed endwise and broken acrosswise. The superiority of blue pine is especially marked when the timber is two years old, that is, when it is just about to be attacked by the "red rot." At that stage blue pine is seasoned. The tree, deprived of leaves, has been exposed to every wind. All sap has disappeared, all water has found ample egress thru the thousands of perforations with which the bark has been perforated. "Therefore," says Dr. von Schrenk, "where wood is used, as it is unfortunately in these days, almost immediately after it is cut from the forest, 'blue' pine is certainly as strong as green wood, and ought not to be discriminated against because of any supposed weakness."

As to its durability, the blue pine, when sawed and split for cord wood, will keep as well as green pine. If the blue pine is dry, it will probably last a long time, especially when piled up in the open air to circulate between the separate pieces. The tendency to rapid decay may be prevented by treating the blue wood with some preservative. The effectiveness of zinc chloride in thus preserving blue pine is now being tested on certain ties that have been laid along the Santa Fe railway. Other ties so treated will be tested on a Mexican railway under tropical conditions that have quickly destroyed here, before the most resistant timber.

The amount of timber cut for ties in the Black Hills forest reserve has been very small. Most of the pine has been taken by the mining companies, which are dependent upon the local supply for mine props, "lagging" and fuel. Only a small part of the dead but sound timber can be used in the Black Hills—perhaps 75,000,000 feet altogether—and owing to the absence of railroad connections, practically none of the available timber can be taken to other parts of South Dakota. Yet the forest preserve law prohibits the shipping of any reserve timber to another state.

Some Recommendations.

In view of the foregoing facts, Dr. von Schrenk recommends that the dead timber from the Reserve at once. The dead wood is a standing menace of destructive forest fires. The beetle-infested trees serve to spread a pest that has destroyed timber worth many millions of dollars. Hence the dead timber should be taken out at the earliest possible moment, and the living trees already infested should be felled and peeled. Prompt action is necessary. Every day adds to the difficulty of warding off the threatened destruction of the entire reserve.

It is not to be forgotten, however, that the removal of the dead timber will be comparatively expensive, because of the distance to which the timber must be shipped, because of the difficulty of cutting blue pine, which is much tougher than green wood, because of the irregular distribution of the afflicted trees; and, finally, because of the great care demanded in the selection of "blue" wood that is really sound. The timber removed should, therefore, be sold at a nominal price in order to clear the forest with all possible speed. The forest reserve, however, should be left so as to allow the shipment of timber from the Black Hills Reserve beyond the borders of South Dakota.

Neighbors Give a Benefit Which Nets a Total of Nearly \$900.

The neighbors of Mrs. Walter E. Scott, who was widowed by the Northwestern Star Oil company catastrophe and left with several small children to care for, have done well in assisting Mrs. Scott to provide for the future. A committee consisting of J. A. Lewis, J. E. Ryan, Hugh Jennings, F. S. Anderson, Charles H. Huhn and A. Page arranged a benefit entertainment, which resulted in the raising of \$92.47, and there are still some outstanding tickets which will probably bring the total to \$900. Contributions were liberal from outside sources, but the neighborhood should be credited, says a member of the committee, with at least \$350.

It is the intention of the committee to invest the money so that it will produce a permanent annuity for Mrs. Scott.

F. D. VARNUM APPOINTED

He Succeeds C. L. Pillsbury on State Board of Examiners in Electricity.

C. L. Pillsbury has resigned from the state board of examiners in electricity, and Governor Van Sant has appointed Forest D. Varnum of St. Paul to fill the place. Mr. Pillsbury was originally appointed as a municipal inspector, but no longer in that position, and therefore is not eligible to serve, except as a master electrician. As his partner in business is already serving on the board, he withdrew.

Solid Trains Chicago to New York, Via Niagara Falls, leave Chicago 11:05 a. m. and 3:02 p. m., via Grand Trunk-Lake Shore Route, arriving New York at 11:00 a. m. and 3:00 p. m. (Cortlandt, Desbrosses or West Twenty-third streets, or Brooklyn Annex, foot of Fulton street) following day 4:30 p. m., and 8:30 p. m. Direct connection for Philadelphia, Atlantic City, Cape May and seashore resorts.

Information and time tables will be furnished on application to Advertising Department, Grand Trunk Railway System, 125 Adams street, Chicago. Geo. W. Vaux, A. C. P. & T. A.

Special Train to Hotel St. Louis, Lake Minnetonka, Sunday, June 7; Via C. M. & St. P. Ry.

Leave Milwaukee 10:00 a. m. Arrive Minnetonka 10:45 a. m. Leave Minnetonka 4:00 p. m. Arrive Milwaukee station 4:45 p. m. 50c for the round trip.

PINE MAY BE SAVED

Some Information and Suggestions That May Mean Much in Black Hills.

Hermann von Schrenk, Government Expert Gives Results of His Investigations.

Much valuable pine timber may be saved in the Black Hills of South Dakota if the federal and state authorities adopt the measure lately recommended by the United States department of agriculture.

These measures are contained in a department bulletin entitled "The Blue Pine and the Red Rot of the Western Yellow Pine with Special Reference to the Black Hills Forest Reserve." The author is Dr. Hermann von Schrenk, special agent of the bureau of plant industry.

At the present time an immense amount of dead and dying timber may be found in the Black Hills forest reserve. The quantity of such timber, variously estimated, will probably approach 600,000,000 feet.

Much of the pine is actually decayed, and is worthless. Part of it, discolored by the so-called "blue" rot, has also been considered of no value. But Dr. Schrenk declares that this blue timber may be used for many purposes. He also points out methods by which the dead and dying trees may be removed in order to protect from fire and decay the large body of pine that still is sound.

The "bluing," first of the abnormal conditions investigated, means a blue coloration of all the sapwood in the pine. It is a phenomenon brought about indirectly by the attack of a wood beetle. Yet the pine would soon decay even in the absence of the coloring fungi. After the tree has been killed by the beetle and discolored by the first fungi, fungi of another sort appear that brings about "red rot." All the three are readily communicated to sound trees.

Denroctonus Ponderosae.

The insect that causes all this worry for the blue pine (pinus ponderosa) is known to every household as the denroctonus ponderosae, or pine-bark beetle. Hence this story is to be advanced in July, August or September. Assuming that a beetle had penetrated a given tree in July, 1899, the leaves of the tree would turn yellow in May, 1900. At this stage such a tree is known in Dakota as a "sorrel-top." In October of the same year the leaves would all be red and the lower leaves would begin to fall off; the tree would be called locally a "red top." In May, 1901, the pine would be distinguished as a "black top." Most of the leaves would then have disappeared. The "red rot" would be starting around the top of the afflicted pine. In October of the same year nearly all the leaves would have fallen, the top of tree would be seriously decayed, and, in many cases, broken off. Thus the tree begins to decay about two years after it has been attacked by pine bark beetles.

After these beetles have made holes in the bark of the tree, the spores of the blue fungus—*Ceratospora p. filifera*, as they call it in the Black Hills—are blown about by the wind. The spore grows rapidly and soon spreads to the bark of healthy trees at home, the wood turns blue in the lower part of the trunk. When five months have elapsed the fungus has discolored the upper part of the trunk, and the wood is now and has partly affected the upper part. Within ten months from the coming of the beetles all the wood is blue, except the timber, which is white.

It is also a matter worthy of thought that the original brand of beetle is assisted by a relative whose personality is even more active. The relative, appearing soon after the first beetle had killed the bark, excavates subways for the convenience of the fungoid boys in blue.

The exact tint of this curious blue pine is difficult to describe. Artists have called the color "a blue gray approaching Payne's gray." The freshly-cut wood looks decidedly blue but when dry the wood becomes "blue gray," if it means a regular discoloration; but here and there shine through the yellow of the healthy wood. Whether the fungus itself is blue, or whether the blue is caused by the fungus or by a result of the fungus growth is a delicate question as to which Dr. von Schrenk has not yet made up his mind.

Strength of Blue Timber.

Wherever this blue timber is found, it is considered much inferior in strength and durability to pine of normal color. Yet elaborate tests made at Washington university, St. Louis, have demonstrated scientifically that blue timber is really stronger than green pine. The sample blocks compressed endwise and broken acrosswise. The superiority of blue pine is especially marked when the timber is two years old, that is, when it is just about to be attacked by the "red rot." At that stage blue pine is seasoned. The tree, deprived of leaves, has been exposed to every wind. All sap has disappeared, all water has found ample egress thru the thousands of perforations with which the bark has been perforated. "Therefore," says Dr. von Schrenk, "where wood is used, as it is unfortunately in these days, almost immediately after it is cut from the forest, 'blue' pine is certainly as strong as green wood, and ought not to be discriminated against because of any supposed weakness."

As to its durability, the blue pine, when sawed and split for cord wood, will keep as well as green pine. If the blue pine is dry, it will probably last a long time, especially when piled up in the open air to circulate between the separate pieces. The tendency to rapid decay may be prevented by treating the blue wood with some preservative. The effectiveness of zinc chloride in thus preserving blue pine is now being tested on certain ties that have been laid along the Santa Fe railway. Other ties so treated will be tested on a Mexican railway under tropical conditions that have quickly destroyed here, before the most resistant timber.

The amount of timber cut for ties in the Black Hills forest reserve has been very small. Most of the pine has been taken by the mining companies, which are dependent upon the local supply for mine props, "lagging" and fuel. Only a small part of the dead but sound timber can be used in the Black Hills—perhaps 75,000,000 feet altogether—and owing to the absence of railroad connections, practically none of the available timber can be taken to other parts of South Dakota. Yet the forest preserve law prohibits the shipping of any reserve timber to another state.

Some Recommendations.

In view of the foregoing facts, Dr. von Schrenk recommends that the dead timber from the Reserve at once. The dead wood is a standing menace of destructive forest fires. The beetle-infested trees serve to spread a pest that has destroyed timber worth many millions of dollars. Hence the dead timber should be taken out at the earliest possible moment, and the living trees already infested should be felled and peeled. Prompt action is necessary. Every day adds to the difficulty of warding off the threatened destruction of the entire reserve.

It is not to be forgotten, however, that the removal of the dead timber will be comparatively expensive, because of the distance to which the timber must be shipped, because of the difficulty of cutting blue pine, which is much tougher than green wood, because of the irregular distribution of the afflicted trees; and, finally, because of the great care demanded in the selection of "blue" wood that is really sound. The timber removed should, therefore, be sold at a nominal price in order to clear the forest with all possible speed. The forest reserve, however, should be left so as to allow the shipment of timber from the Black Hills Reserve beyond the borders of South Dakota.

Canadian Government Food Test Grape-Nuts

Shown to have over sixteen times the amount of digestible food as the least one, and about two-thirds more than the next best food made, and nearly double the energy-producing power of any other food known. (Extract from report of Gov't officials at Ottawa, Can.) LABORATORY OF THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT. Ottawa, December 10, 1902.

Thos. Macfarlane, Esq., F. R. S. C., Chief Analyst Inland Revenue Department. Sir—I beg herewith to submit a report of my work on Breakfast Foods. These samples, as you are aware, were not collected and examined because of my suspicion regarding their wholesomeness or genuineness, for they were believed to be, as their analysis proves them to be, nutritious and palatable foods. In view, however, of the high prices at which they are sold, and of the extravagant claims put forth by their manufacturers as to their digestibility, nutrient power, etc., there exists a wide-spread demand for information as to what they really are, and how much of all the value claimed for them they really possess.

Table with columns: SAMPLE, Moisture, Fat, Ash, Proteids, Nitrogen x 6.25, Crude Fibre, Dextrin, Starch, Calories per gram, Material Soluble in cold water. Rows include GRAPE-NUTS and various other food samples.

GRAPE-NUTS is away in the lead of every other food in the following respects: It has less moisture, less fat and less starch; it has more dextrin and is more soluble than any other food.

The first four are the most heavily advertised cooked foods in the world.

Scientifically made food works wonders for the users.

We will furnish any enquirer with the names by mail, but prefer to omit them in a public announcement of this kind.

Six years ago Grape-Nuts started to supply the public with a scientific food, fully and correctly cooked at the factory and made to supply the certain elements needed in making the gray substance in the brain and nerve centers, and to supply human energy, while at the same time furnish

In the sixth column, under Dextrin, observe Grape-Nuts percentage is more than NINE TIMES the small one, and nearly double the next best food.

A food so easy of digestion that an Infant's Stomach will handle it without question

DEXTRIN is the form of sugar that the starch part of grain is turned into before it can be digested. Dextrin is the part that makes human energy.

The public made Grape-Nuts A tremendous success.

The four blank spaces in this column showing no Dextrin whatever, apply to that number of uncooked foods.

DON'T FORGET Grape-Nuts has about double the energy-producing power of any food on earth.

And this started a long procession of followers, whose facetious names, odd movements and funny pictures have brought more or less derision upon them, for the public mind is shrewd to understand that imitators are fundamentally ignorant of food value, and simply "cook up" something, and hire an advertiser to "copy Post as near as you can."

IN THE LAST COLUMN Is shown the percentage of food that is ready for immediate digestion. Grape-Nuts has over sixteen times the amount of digestible food as the least one, and about two-thirds more than the next best food made.

But the analysis of government and other prominent chemists turns light on the question, and the public can profit thereby. We believe these cereal foods are practically all cleanly. But their makers do not understand how to produce a food with anything like the genuine food value of The Old Original Giant of them all, Grape-Nuts Made at The Pure Food Factories of the POSTUM CEREAL CO., Ltd., Battle Creek, Mich.