

# THE TENSAS GAZETTE

Gazette Publishing Company, Ltd.

Official Paper of the Parish of Tensas School Board and Fifth Louisiana Levee District.

\$1.50 Per Annum.

NEW SERIES VOL. XVIII.

ST. JOSEPH, LA., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1911.

NUMBER 42.

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## PET BULL SNAKES ARE CROP SAVERS

Kansas College Tells Alfalfa Growers Reptiles Will Keep Fields Free of Pests.

## NEED TWO TO AN ACRE

Are Said to Be Affectionate Little Creatures and Far Superior to Poison for Killing Gophers—Crawlers Declared to Be Certain Destruction.

Manhattan, Kan.—If the advice of the Kansas Agricultural college is followed every Kansas farmer will keep a herd of trained snakes on his farm and when Bill Jones meets Hi Jenkins at the crossroads on a Sunday morning on the way to church they will tell of the prowess of their respective snakes and talk trade.

Snakes are valuable to the farmer who raises alfalfa, and they are advised to breed and raise them because the snakes drive out the pocket gophers and moles, the worst foes of alfalfa. Farmers who have been experimenting with snakes in the alfalfa fields say that two active bull snakes will keep three acres of alfalfa clear service is worth at least \$5 per snake in a saving of alfalfa.

The agricultural college has issued a bulletin on snakes on the farm. The bulletin advises that legislation be enacted protecting certain kinds of snakes from the ravages of the man with the club, as game birds are protected. Maybe a snake warden, with oodles of deputy snake wardens, will be provided for and then there will be a lot of new jobs for the politicians. The gophers and moles have done such damage in Kansas alfalfa fields



Having a Snake Fight.

that legislation has been attempted to require farmers to kill the gophers and to use poisons.

But the bull snake is held to be far superior to poisons for killing gophers and moles. Most farmers keep dogs and cats, but the snake experts assert that a herd of bull snakes would be much more valuable. The farmer is advised to give the wriggling protectors of alfalfa as much care and consideration as he does the helpful hen and the rat terrier that keeps the rodents from undermining the corn crib and wheat bins.

Bright and early every morning the farmer should gather his bull snakes about him and hasten to the alfalfa field, where the gophers and the moles are wont to cavort in the dew and alfalfa.

"Whoop-la. There he goes! A ter him, Jimmy Bull! Right down that hole, Bill Bull! Wriggle along there now, you bid sinner! After 'em, ole snake! Sic 'em, Bull. Swaller 'em whole."

These and similar cries the farmer boy would give as his trained bull snakes go wriggling through the alfalfa and into the gophers' holes. It ought to be lots of fun.

Then the bad boys of the farms will sneak away on a Saturday night with dad's favorite bull snake and they will meet under the railroad bridge and have a snake fight.

Cool nights drive bull snakes into winter quarters, where they remain until late spring, while the gophers and moles work a much longer season. To guard against this the farmer could gather his snakes every evening just as he does the cows, only place them in lined baskets and keep them behind the kitchen stove.

Sometimes the snakes might escape from the basket and decide that on the farmer's bed was a much warmer place and they would crawl over and cuddle down on the farmer's manly bosom. But one wouldn't mind that when he got used to it.

The bull snake is a light yellow, spotted with brown. They often grow to be six to eight feet long and are very powerful. They are not poisonous, but in fighting they bite very hard and cause ugly wounds.

**Lighted Cigar Stump Fatal.**  
Raleigh, N. C.—Miss Maggie Suggs, daughter of a prominent farmer, was burned to death while returning home in a buggy from church. It is believed that some one carelessly threw a lighted cigar stump into the vehicle just before she started for home.

## FLOODS FLOAT COFFINS FROM OLD CEMETERIES

Fishermen Reap Reward for Catching Boxes as They Drift Down the River.

Little Rock, Ark.—The recent rise of the Arkansas river brought a new kind of drift down the stream and the river "rats," instead of pulling in stray saw-logs, have been catching coffins. Reports from Conway and other points state that fishermen along the Arkansas river have caught and tied up several coffins which contained the bodies of persons evidently dead for some time.

Robert L. Gregg of Conway first noticed a coffin floating down the river.



Catching Floating Coffins.

It lodged on a sandbar, but later was floated away. W. W. Matthews and James Helton were with Green at the time, but the sight was too gruesome for them and they did not make an effort to catch it.

Word of the floating coffins was conveyed to those who have relatives buried in cemeteries along the banks of the Arkansas within the limits of Conway. Relatives visited other graveyards to find their fears realized. Rewards were offered for the recovery of bodies. Several fishermen abandoned their usual diversion to watch for the floating coffins, but not so with the negro fishermen.

## COWS IN A JEWELRY STORE

Break into Shop in a Massachusetts Town and Cause Girl Clerk to Hike.

Cambridge, Mass.—Miss May Richardson, stenographer in a jewelry store, was busily engaged in transcribing notes when she heard a "Mo-o-o" behind her. The girl glanced up and beheld a cow in the main aisle of the store, leaning carelessly against a show case filled with diamonds, with another just ready to come into the door. Grasping her puffs in one hand and her hobble skirt in the other, Miss Richardson left the shop by the back door in haste, and sprinted toward Memorial hall.

The cow made her entrance to the store attracted by the damp sidewalk which had just been flushed.



Cows in a Jewelry Shop.

Two cows make a crowd in a jewelry store. Two young men ejected the intruders.

## DOGS AID IN MAKING ARREST

Animals Win Place on City Payroll by Helping Police Officers Catch a Fugitive.

Kansas City, Mo.—Queen and Moch, two dogs made homeless when the big North Side market was built, and which have since made their home at police headquarters, have become fixtures by making an arrest.

Queen and Moch were walking a beat with Patrolmen Malb and Hensley. Patrick O'Neill, a truck gardener, got into a fight with another man on the street and ran when the officers approached. The dogs ran after O'Neill and one caught his coat tail and the other the seat of his trousers. This was too much of a load for O'Neill to carry and the officers had no trouble getting him. Now the dogs have been placed regularly on the police rolls and allowance is made for their food.

**Bass Catches Itself.**  
Allentown, Pa.—While members of a club were fishing, a 12-inch bass jumped into the boat. It is supposed the bass broke in play.

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