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BETZVILLE TALES

Uncle Ashdod and the Bisquito

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ILLUSTRATED BY PETER NEWELL

Early this spring Uncle Ashdod Clute made up his mind that he was pretty sure to die within twenty or thirty years, and he felt that it would be a shame to die and not leave anything to carry his name down to posterity, and that he ought to make up a bit if he wanted to enroll his name on the banner of fame. The only thing that troubled him was that there were not many things a man could do in Betzville to make his name resound around the world like a June bug in a bass-drum, but one day, when he was down at the creek fishing, the idea came to him like a flash.

He says he was sitting there with a grasshopper in one hand and the fish hook in the other, ready to thread the grasshopper on the hook, when simultaneously at the same time a bee alighted on his left ear and a mosquito on his right ear. He says that any ordinary man might never have got an idea from that, but Uncle Ashdod can wiggle his ears to and fro like a flag in the breeze, and he wiggled them too hard, but he wasn't paying much attention to his ears just then. He says that if he had wiggled his ears with just a slight wiggle all would have been well, but he must have wiggled them mighty strong, for

he did not want his biography until he could run into it the facts about the creation of the stingless bee and the useless mosquito.

Along about the 6th of August Uncle Ashdod opened the hermetically sealed incubator in which he had deposited the eggs of the bisquito, as he called the new insect. He had prepared the eggs carefully, cutting each egg in two and then gluing the rear end of a mosquito egg to the fore-end of a bee egg. He did this with several thousand eggs, and then put them to hatch in a butter tub in his attic. It was his first attempt at egg grafting, and he hardly hoped that more than one or two of the eggs would hatch, but the results far exceeded his expectations.

The butter tub was full of bisquitos of the strongest quality. They were full of vitality and they seemed to recognize that Uncle Ashdod was a sort of step-father to them, and several immediately arose and kissed him in the face and he uttered several exclamations of surprise in a hasty manner, and then he put his hand on the back of his neck and yelped like a painful dog. The experiment had been a great success, and one end of each mosquito was annexed to one end of each bee, but Uncle Ashdod



Three Days Later the Biographer from Chicago found him there with only his nose above water while several hundred bisquitos sat patiently on a log nearby.

It angered the bee and the mosquito, and at the same moment that the mosquito angrily bit him on the right ear the bee arose in its might and swatted its stinger into his left ear up to the handle.

It was immediately after that—with in one-tenth of a second—that Uncle Ashdod saw where a great improvement could be made in bees and mosquitoes.

So, as soon as he got home, he set to work thinking how to improve the bee and the mosquito, and the more he thought about it the surer he became that life was too short for one man to improve both separately and that the right thing to do would be to mix the breeds of bees and mosquitoes. He said that the only objectionable part of the bee was its after-deck and rudder, so to speak, and that the mean part of the mosquito was its fore-deck and bowsprit, and what the world had been longing for these many centuries was a combination of the fore-end of the bee and the rear-end of the mosquito, thus forming one sweet and useful insect.

About that time a bald-headed man from Chicago came to Betzville to get material for a "History of the Prominent Citizens of Ringtail County," the cost of the book being only ten dollars, including the insertion of a hand-made biography of the purchaser as one of the most prominent of all, and \$25 additional for a steel engraving with a firm but gentle look. He strongly urged Uncle Ashdod to fall for it, saying that Uncle Ashdod had a bunch of the most biographical looking whiskers in all Ringtail county, and that now was the time to be steel engraved, before the price of steel went up. But Uncle Ashdod bade him wait. He told the man from Chicago that he would gladly uplift American literature by contributing his face and biography, but that he would not be ready until about potato-digging time. The fact was that Uncle Ash-

had got the wrong ends of them. Each bisquito had a bee's stinger on its nose and a mosquito's biter on its tail, and they were amiable-extrous, as one might say. They worked something like a see-saw. A bisquito could balance on its legs on a tender spot, and then see-saw up and down, and at each teeter the stinger on one end would do its dire work. By the time Uncle Ashdod reached the attic door the whole production of his bisquito factory was showing him how it was done.

Uncle Ashdod was seen passing through Main street at about 3:30 o'clock accompanied by all the bisquitos known to be in existence, and he was on the jump, and at every jump he let forth a yell, but at the speed at which he was traveling the reporter of the Betzville News could not tell whether it was a yell of triumph or a mere expression of annoyance. It was later learned that he had no thought at the time of expressing his triumph, but was simply hiking for the swimming hole in the creek.

Three days later the biographer from Chicago found him there with only his nose above water while several hundred bisquitos sat patiently on a log near by. Occasionally a bisquito would fly toward Uncle Ashdod, who would then duck and swallow a quart of creek water. The gentleman from Chicago mentioned the subject of the biographical history to Uncle Ashdod at the time, but he did not wait for an answer. It seems that a bisquito answered him first. He ran all the way back to Betzville, and the history was forced to go to press without even a mention of Uncle Ashdod.

By the time we have a heavy frost Uncle Ashdod's friends hope the bisquitos will be in a comatose condition and Uncle Ashdod can come out of the creek.

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ALL OVER LOUISIANA

AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT ACTIVE.

Bank Clearances Show That Financial Condition is Improving Throughout South.

Baton Rouge, La. (By a Staff Correspondent.)
Agricultural School Head Active.

V. L. Roy, superintendent of the agricultural schools of Louisiana, who is working in cooperation with the State and United States Department of Agriculture, has returned to Baton Rouge from a tour of the North West, during which he visited a number of agricultural schools in that section, including Minnesota, Illinois, Wisconsin and the Dakotas. The trip was made for the purpose of inspecting the agricultural work done in the public schools, and the splendid ideas gathered by Mr. Roy will be adopted in building up a list of modern agricultural high schools in the State. This is actually the first year that agriculture has been taught with system in the high schools of the state and the work is meeting with such favor that it was decided to send Mr. Roy on a trip in order that he might gain new ideas from the older established schools.

Pipe Line Crosses the Mississippi.

The Standard Oil Company has practically completed its work of placing a pipe line across the Mississippi River a short distance above the Felicite incline, connecting with the company's oil refinery property on the east bank of the stream. The work of laying the pipe across the river was accomplished by the workmen operating from boats, extra lengths and extremely heavy collared joints being the only distinguishing feature from the ordinary pipe on the line which extends to the Oklahoma fields. The refinery which was built here at a cost of over \$2,000,000 will soon begin operations on full time.

Society to Protect Animals.

New Iberia.—This city has a society for the prevention of cruelty to animals. A large number of ladies and gentlemen attended the formal organization, and the mayor of the town who presided at the meeting expressed himself in full sympathy with the project.

Rev. H. C. Gilchrist, of New Orleans, a member of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in that city, addressed the meeting and covered in a comprehensive way the laws governing the society, and also cited statistics to show what excellent work has been accomplished.

Banks Show Times are Better.

Banks and merchants report an increased business this season over the corresponding period last year. There is every evidence of a return to prosperity, and it is stated quite frequently in banking circles that industrial conditions throughout this section are fully 50 per cent better than they were last year. The bankers refer to their increased exchange account as a sure indication that the currency of the country is more on the move, and consequently finds its way more frequently into the hands of the people.

To Extend Capital City Limits.

An extension of the city limits of Baton Rouge has been suggested, and will be one of the early questions to come up either before the present city council before it retires or before the new council which will come into power early next year. There is a great amount of suburban property important to the city, and virtually a part of the city, which is not within the corporate limits. The question will probably be a live one in the discussion of municipal affairs.

Three Hundred Varieties of Rice.

Crowley.—Dr. W. R. Dodson, director of the Louisiana Experiment Stations, was a recent visitor to Crowley in connection with the Rice Experiment Station. Dr. Dodson is now engaged in constructing a building to be used for an office, laboratory and storage warehouse. The funds for the building are furnished by the State. The federal funds are not available for permanent improvements at the station. It is thought, however, that the money furnished by the government may be used for the purpose of constructing a small rice mill to be used in milling experiments. There are over three hundred varieties of rice in cultivation at the station. The government has provided instruments for taking elaborate weather observations at the station, and next summer regular bulletins containing valuable weather predictions and reports will be distributed.

Big Sugar Mill at Angola.

St. Francisville.—Farmers of West Feliciana are elated over the report that the Board of Control of the State entitulary will positively erect a 1,200-ton sugar mill on the Angola State Farm in this parish, and the announcement that they will buy cane from the farmers as well. Quite a number of farmers and planters have already planned to put out a large acreage in cane. Last year Angola planted over 400 acres in cane and it proved to be a paying crop.

MOTHER BURIED; BABY DROWNS.

Distressing Accident Brings More Grief to Bereaved Relatives.

DeQuincy.—While the funeral services of the mother were being held at her late residence, Grace, the little daughter of Mrs. Howard Fielding, who died from the effects of being burned in a gasoline explosion, was drowned in a tub of water near the family home.

On November 5th Miss Fielding was terribly burned by the explosion of a gasoline stove, and for more than a month lingered between life and death. When the final summons came, and the funeral rites were in progress, the little girl, three years of age, straddled unaided away from the house and fell into a tub which had been placed near the barn for the purpose of watering stock.

When the party returned from burying ground a search was made for the child and she was found in the tub of water, head down, where she had evidently fallen while playing.

Finds Timber Depletions.

Natchitoches.—Register of the Louisiana State Land Office Fred Grace has returned to this place after a look into the matter of depletions on State lands in this parish, and in company with Surveyor Henry visited the Black Lake district where a number of depletions have been committed.

While making a fifty-mile drive over the country the officers came upon two negroes who were cutting cross-ties on government land. The negroes admitted that they had been warned not to cut timber on that tract, and their names were furnished to the district attorney, who will enter prosecution by issuing bills of information.

Register Grace recently spent several days at Minden where similar complaints were made, but he has not made public the report of his findings in that locality.

Burglars Reported Busy.

Lake Charles.—A remarkably daring attempt at safe burglary took place at West Lake, when a white man fired off a charge of dynamite and blew the door off the safe in the post office. The bold burglar was trying to batter the door open with a cross-tie when the arrival of a number of citizens on the scene put him to rout. The charge was put off about 5:30 in the morning and was heard over the entire town. The men who were attracted to the scene were unable to capture the robber.

About 2:00 o'clock in the morning the town of Sulphur was aroused by a similar explosion, but the cause was not investigated until morning, when the front of the safe in Buco & Tabor's general store was found to be a complete wreck from a dynamite charge. It is thought the same man did both jobs, but he obtained no money or valuables for his night's work.

Want to Vote on Tax.

Hammond.—The Seventh Ward Good Roads Association of this place has formulated a petition for presentation to the police jury of this parish asking that the seventh ward be set aside as a special road district in order that they may have the privilege of voting on the proposition to levy a 5-mill tax for a period of ten years, which it is estimated will furnish sufficient funds to macadamize all the public roads in the district. The members of the association are all busy working out the details of the plan, and it is thought everything will be in readiness for the election early in the new year.

There is no doubt about the voting, and the feeling throughout the ward is that by the end of another year a system of first-class highways will be an accomplished fact.

Shreveport to Park Fair Grounds.

Shreveport.—The State Fair Association stockholders voted unanimously to tender the city of Shreveport the association's entire holdings, including the grounds, to be owned by the city and used eleven months in the year for park purposes, and to be in charge of the Fair Association one month for the exhibition of the products of the state each year.

LOUISIANA AT A GLANCE.

The First National and the People's Trust and Savings Bank will erect a building for their own use at an expenditure of \$40,000. W. L. Stephens & Co., of New Orleans, are the architects.

The budget for the city of Baton Rouge this year will total about \$120,000. The number of saloons to be in operation will have an important bearing on the budget.

The steamer Louis, from Morgan City, has discharged a cargo of ten thousand cross ties at Baton Rouge. The ties were brought through the Plaquemine locks, and are for the Frisca road.

The Louisiana Bar Association has memorialized the Legislature to increase judges' salaries from \$4,000 to \$5,000 a year.

Governor Sanders was one of a large party of citizens to attend the Rivers and Harbors convention in Washington, D. C. on December 6th.

120 MILES AN HOUR

MASSACHUSETTS MAN CLAIMS THIS SPEED FOR AIR SHIP.

His Machine is 125 Horse Power and Weighs 1,550 Pounds. Ascended 4,000 Feet.

Worcester, Mass.—A remarkable assertion of the practicality of aviation is embodied in the announcement here Sunday by Wallace E. Tillingham, vice president of a Worcester manufacturing company, who claims to have secretly invented, built and tested an airplane capable of carrying three passengers, and in which, he says, he has flown from Worcester to New York, thence to Boston, and then back, a distance of 500 miles. A speed of 120 miles an hour was attained at times, he declares.

The test was made on Sept. 8, at night, according to Mr. Tillingham, who says he ended the Statute of Liberty at an elevation of 4,000 feet, and was seen on the return trip by a coast guard on Long Island, when flying low, the fact being recorded in the newspapers at the time.

Mr. Tillingham says the machine is a monoplane, weighing 1,550 pounds, equipped with a 120-horsepower gasoline engine. He refuses to tell where the machine is at present, but says he will bring it to Worcester in February for a public demonstration.

WOULD REPEAL ARTICLE NINE

Railroads Want Ban Lifted From Their Monopolies.

Columbia, Okla.—The filing with the secretary of state of petitions containing over 60,000 names, asking for a repeal of section 9, article ix, of the state constitution, marks the beginning of one of the most spectacular fights the South-west has ever witnessed. That article of the constitution forbids the monopoly of railroads. No other state in the Union, it is said, has such a provision in its constitution, and it is expected that speakers for the railroads will be sent here from all parts of the country.

The State Federation of Labor has come out boldly against the proposition to repeal the section, and one after another members of the constitutional convention. Commercial clubs, assisted by railroad officials, are leading the fight for the repeal.

Gov. Haskell probably will call an election to take place on the regular November date next year. Every candidate for state office in the campaign next year will go on record on the repeal matter.

CIVIL WAR RECORDS FOUND

Show Strata to Which Union Army Was Driven.

New York.—In a rusty tin box, which had reposed undisturbed in the vaults of the treasury here since the Civil War, a number of musty old documents of great historical importance have just been discovered. They will be gone over carefully by experts and preserved, either here or in Washington.

One of the more interesting documents is a record which shows to what expedients the government was sometimes forced to resort to obtain fines with which to defray the expense of the army during the Civil War. Through this paper fifty New York bankers turned over to the government on a single day's notice the sum of \$1,200,000. At that time, the document says, the success or failure of the Northern army seemed to depend on a speedy moving forward of the sinews of war. The paper bears the date of November 11, 1862.

ENGULFED IN TAR.

Three Men Watch Flames Creep Nearer, Burned to Death.

Pittsburg, Pa.—Entrapped in a lake of flowing tar, four men were held fast at the McClintock & Irvine Company's roofing plant when it caught fire Saturday, and were compelled to watch the gradually approaching flames. Three of them were burned to death, but the fourth managed to extricate himself and escape the horrible fate of his companions, although he was seriously burned.

FIFTY-NINE DIE IN LAKE STORM.

Cleveland, Ohio.—The storm which passed over Lake Erie Wednesday and Thursday reaped a deadly harvest and laid waste more than \$1,000,000 worth of vessel property. Late reports showed that fifty-nine lives were lost; that twenty sailors were rescued; that four boats were destroyed, and that one is aground and sustained heavy damages.

Million in Property Lost—Four Boats Destroyed.

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Sees War of Sexes.

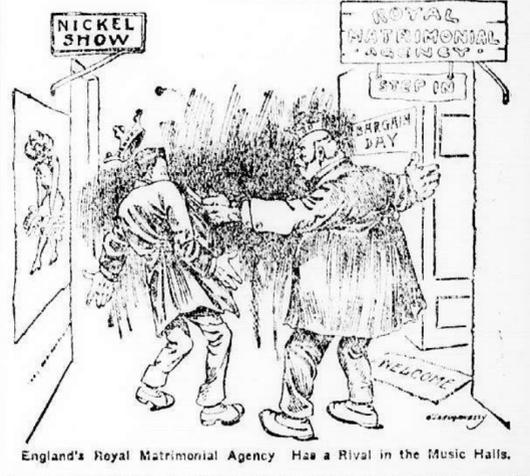
New York.—A war of hatred between sexes was predicted by Mrs. O. J. P. Belmont. It must come, she said, unless equal suffrage is granted to women. An audience of 200 men and women gathered at a meeting of the Men's Club of the All Saints' Universalist Church in Brooklyn, to hear the suffragette leader and other speakers.

Exports Show Increase.

Washington.—The monthly statement of exports of domestic products issued by the department of commerce and labor for November shows increases of \$17,000,000 over the corresponding month in 1908, but a decrease of \$51,000,000 for the eleven months of 1909. For the month the valuations of exports of wheat, corn and mineral oil show the leading increases. While the decrease in the number of bales of cotton exported was several thousand, the increase in value was \$16,000,000. Wheat, flour, meat and dairy products, cattle, hogs and sheep show slight decreases.

COMPETITION

(Copyright, 1909.)



England's Royal Matrimonial Agency Has a Rival in the Music Halls.

MAY COTTON AT 15.60 HELPS DEEP WATERS

THE OFFICIAL CROP ESTIMATE IS 10,088,000 BALES. PRESIDENT TALKS TO RIVERS AND HARBORS CONGRESS.

Smallest Since 1903—Famine Possible to Cotton Mills—Speculators Made Large Profits.

Memphis, Tenn.—With an estimate on the total growth this season of 10,088,000 bales of 500 pounds gross weight, the United States department of agriculture brought to a sensational close its activities in gathering information on cotton for the year. Within 20 minutes following its publication the May option in New York sold at 15.50 cents, and the price of middling cotton, for the first time in five years, was put to 15 1/4 cents in Memphis Friday.

This, briefly, is the story of the day. Incidentally every foolish claim made from June to December was justified and endorsed, and the cotton consuming world now has brought home to them the realization that in spite of a production of 14,000,000 bales in a favorable year, a crop of 10,000,000 bales under adverse conditions is possible. What a crop so small means in the way of prices only demand in the open market can determine.

Sixteen cents is already so nearly a reality that it no longer appears absurd, while there are those who predict 18 cents. For the immediate future the spots markets will be the arena of interest. Futures may advance, but the level of values will, in the end, be determined by the price which the mills of the world can afford to pay for raw cotton. Speculation on the point is idle, but one thing is certain, and that is that curtailment in all mills is inevitable, and that a complete shutdown to many will result, hence the news items of the future may be, to some extent, anticipated here or in Washington.

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NEGRO KILLS THREE WOMEN

Uses Ax on Victims, One of Whom Was 70 Years of Age.

Savannah, Ga.—Victims of a horrible crime, Mrs. Eliza Griddle, aged 70 years, and her daughter, Mrs. Carrie Olander, were found dead in their home here Friday, while a third woman, Mrs. Maggie Hunter, found just inside the front door of the house, is at the Savannah hospital, dying.

One hundred and fifty negro men, caught in the meshes of the police dragnet through Yamacraw, the negro section of the city, are prisoners in the police station.

Mrs. Griddle evidently was attacked from behind as she sat in an easy chair reading. On the floor beside her body were found the newspaper she was reading and her spectacles.

One or possibly two blows were dealt her. Her gray hair, blood matted, shows the imprint of the blunt ax.

It is probable that Mrs. Hunter was the first to be struck down; that she met the murderer at the door as he entered and was struck before she could escape.

Then the murderer, stealthily approaching aged Mrs. Griddle, killed her. It is believed that Mrs. Olander as she left her room to enter the hallway was killed.

Mrs. Hunter's skull was crushed in and her death is a matter of but a few hours. It is almost certainly known that a negro, the negro who was at first suspected, is the guilty man. Persons have been found who state that this negro was seen entering the Griddle house with an ax in his hand, and was seen closing the shutters to the windows of the house and to leave the premises, all at the hour when it is believed the murders were committed.

WILL FIGHT JUDGE LURTON

His Decisions Show Strong Leaning to Corporations.

Washington.—Judge Horace H. Lurton of Tennessee will not be associate justice of the supreme court to succeed Justice R. W. Peckham of New York, without a big fight in the senate. The republican members of the senate judiciary committee are opposed to Judge Lurton and will not vote to confirm him, should President Taft send in the nomination.

It is understood the republican members of the committee opposed Judge Lurton because of his strict construction of the anti-trust laws in decisions involving corporation combinations.

Similar reasoning by Judge Lurton would lead him to take an adverse opinion, it is believed, on the decisions of the Federal courts ordering a dissolution of the Standard Oil combination.

WOULD PUNISH ZELAYA.

Resolution Giving Taft Power Introduced in Senate.

Washington.—A resolution authorizing President Taft to take the necessary steps for apprehension of President Zelaya of Nicaragua and for his punishment on the charge of murder, if the facts in the possession of the state department warrant such action, was introduced by Senator Rayner. The resolution will lie upon the table and Senator Rayner has given notice he will address the senate in its support.

25,000,000 Have Bank Accounts.

Washington.—More than 25,000,000 deposit accounts are carried on the books of the banks of all classes of the United States and its insular possessions, according to statements contained in the annual report of Lawrence O. Murphy, comptroller of the currency. The aggregate deposits on April 28 last were about \$14,425,224,195. The sum of \$5,678,735,379 represented savings deposited by 11,894,696 depositors. The average rate of interest paid by national banks on savings accounts was 3.34; by State banks, 3.71.