

The Vermont Phoenix

VOL. LXXXII.

BRATTLEBORO, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1915.

NO. 52.

AFTER CHRISTMAS Bargains and Closeouts

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CANNIBAL INSECTS.

Henri Fabre's Studies of the Simple Way Bugville Handles Its Problems.

When much that is happening in Europe now is forgotten, our children's children and their children in turn will be revealing in the fascinating stories of insect life told by Henri Fabre, the famous savant, who has lately died at the age of ninety-two. Fabre was a man who devoted his entire life to the study of insects. He spent days, weeks, months, and years in minutely observing their habits, and the results of his observations have been embodied in works which are now the world's textbooks on the subject.

Fabre knew everything about insects. From his book on "Social Life in the Insect World" we learn, for instance, how the mantis, a species of grasshopper, lives exclusively on living prey. "It is the tiger of the peaceful insect peoples," and has a habit of appearing in an attitude of prayer when it is really seeking whom it may devour. Let a victim come within reach and the attitude of prayer is promptly abandoned. "Suddenly unfolded," to quote Fabre, "the three long joints of the deadly fore limbs shoot out their terminal talons, which strike the victim and drag it back-wards between the two saw-blades of the thighs. The vice closes with a movement like that of the forearm upon the upper arm, and all is over. Crickets, grasshoppers, and even more powerful insects, once seized in this trap with its four rows of teeth, are lost irrevocably."

Sisters eat sisters, brothers eat brothers, and strenuous female mantises eat their lovers and husbands. Fabre relates how in the course of two weeks he has seen the same female mantis devour seven husbands—not a case of jealousy, but simply through depraved taste.

The female species of the golden scarabaeus, a beetle often seen in the country, are equally murderous towards males. Fabre relates in the book already mentioned that the female scarabaeus between the middle of June and the first of August devours quite a number of males, and that of twenty-five of these beetles placed in a cage, only five remained, all of whom were females, all the males, to the number of twenty, having disappeared.

Perhaps the most popular of Fabre's works are those dealing with the life of the bee and wasp. Darwin was greatly interested in his account of the instincts which led wasps to paralyze their prey—beetles—not a case of jealousy, but simply through depraved taste, on which their young feed—by stinging them at the precise point where the nervous system is most concentrated, instead of killing them, thus keeping a sort of live storehouse to provide their young with food that remains fresh, though incapable of any harmful movement.

Fabre used to relate how he was led to certain studies of the bee by noticing the mysterious conduct of his pupils during an outdoor lesson. He caught numbers of them licking a bit of straw. The mystery was then explained. The pupils, local lads, knew that the great black bee made its earthen nest on the pebbles, and that in these nests there was honey which could be easily extracted by the aid of a straw. That was Fabre's first acquaintance with the Mason Bee, about which he afterwards wrote so charmingly.

Fabre informs us that the Mason bee lays her eggs in nests composed of different sized compartments. In the large cells she puts females and in the small she puts males. Hence, according to Fabre, we must needs admit that the mother knows the sex of the egg she is going to lay, because that egg is placed in a cell of the proper capacity.

We can go farther, and admit that the mother alters the succession of the sexes at her pleasure, because her layings between an old nest and another are broken up into small groups of males and females, according to the exigencies of space in the actual nest which she happens to be occupying.—Tit Bits

BRITISH WITHDRAW.

Give Up the Dardanelles Campaign After Losing Over 113,000 Men and Some Warships.

The great news feature of the European war this week has been the withdrawal of the British troops from the Gallipoli peninsula, this action being tantamount to confession that the Dardanelles campaign, which has cost 113,000 soldiers, killed, dead and missing, is a failure. In addition the expedition met with large naval losses, including several warships which were struck by mines. A British force, which is entrenched at the tip of the peninsula, where it commands the entrance of the Dardanelles straits, will retain their position.

That the allies are determined to fight the war to the bitter end is shown by calls from Great Britain and Italy of 1,000,000 more men each. The new draft will bring the total number of men enlisted in the British army up to 4,000,000 men.

The German, Austrian and Bulgarian forces are now entrenched on the Greek frontier, but have made no attempt to advance on the Anglo-French forces which are making their permanent base at Salonika. Greece has been placed under martial law.

A report was sent out to the effect that the Russians had bombarded the Bulgarian port of Varna and were landing large forces there from transport, but later despatches indicate that this statement is incorrect. Evidently it was founded on the fact that Russian ships attacked a Bulgarian destroyer and that the shore batteries opened fire on them, without serious loss being inflicted on either side.

The king and queen of Belgium narrowly escaped death recently while coming out of a church. Bombs dropped by German aviators struck within a few feet of them and exploded, but they were not hit by the flying fragments.

BASEBALL WAR AT AN END.

Federal League No More—Contract Jumpers Reinstated—Two Major League Clubs to Change Hands.

Probably the most disastrous war that the baseball game has ever experienced came to a close Wednesday at Cincinnati, Ohio, when a treaty of peace between the Federal league and both parties to the national baseball agreement, better known as organized baseball, was signed, whereby the Federal league passes out of existence. Two major league clubs will change hands as the result of the bringing about of peace and two new faces will be seen among major league magnates in the future.

Charles Weeghman, who has been president of the Chicago Federal league club, will buy the controlling interest in the Chicago National league team from Charles P. Taft of Cincinnati. Phil Ball and his associates, who were connected with the St. Louis Federal league team, gain control of the St. Louis American league club from Robert Hedges, Cal McDiamand, John E. Bruce and others, who have long been connected with major league circles.

The agreement gives immunity to all men who have jumped their contracts from both the major and minor leagues of organized baseball as well as all other Federal league players. All of them have been reinstated or made eligible to organized baseball.

That there will be a wild scramble for some few of the best Federal league players was clearly indicated by a provision in the treaty that the Federal league as a league and which, in so far as actual baseball playing is concerned ceases to exist, will assume all of the contracts of Federal league players.

ELECT REEVES COLONEL.

President of Norwich at Head of Vermont National Guard.

Field officers of the Vermont National Guard Wednesday elected Capt. Ira L. Reeves, U. S. A., retired, recently chosen president of Norwich in place of Capt. Herbert T. Johnson of Bradford, resigned. Lieut. Col. Fred B. Thomas was also a candidate.

Capt. Reeves, who was military instructor at the University of Vermont until recently, has been connected with the adjutant general's office in an advisory capacity. He was with Gen. Shafter in Cuba and was wounded in the Philippines.

American railroads employ 1,315,259 persons, who have an average yearly wage of more than \$1,000.

Freehold sites near the Bank of England, in London are worth \$16,250,000 an acre, that is, \$75 a square foot or more than 10 shillings a square inch.

The Vermont Phoenix.

TEN PAGES

BRATTLEBORO
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1915.

THE VERMONT PHOENIX

Published in Brattleboro every Friday.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE \$1.50 A YEAR, \$1.00 for eight months; 75 cents for six months; 50 cents for four months; 40 cents for three months. All subscriptions are payable strictly in advance, and all papers are stopped promptly at their expiration unless the subscriptions are renewed.

Rates of display advertising furnished on application. Small classified advertisements, 10 cents per line first insertion, five cents per line each subsequent insertion. (Entered at the Brattleboro post office as second class mail matter.)

THE TARIFF AND OUR BILLS.

There is a campaign in progress under the auspices of the unofficial body called the Chamber of Commerce of the United States for the establishment of a permanent tariff commission. The two great objects of the proposed commission are to take the tariff out of politics, and to adopt a budget system for the United States.

As long as a tariff exists it must be under the control of congress, and will, therefore be in politics. The most that any tariff commission can do is to make such a study of facts as the average member of congress cannot make for himself, and to give congress the benefit of that study, and perhaps to take off the hands of the legislators some details in the adjustment of schedules.

The matter of a budget is more important because more practical. Congress makes up the huge appropriation bills without accurate knowledge as to how much money will be required when the grand total is footed up, or how much money is in sight to pay the bills. The government of the United States should make up a budget and cut its garments according to its cloth, just as any good business man should do.

The literature sent out by the Chamber lays down the principle that the President and his cabinet should prepare the budget for the guidance of congress. Someone responsible to the whole people should do so, and it is difficult to suggest anyone more competent than the officers named.

Coal has advanced \$1.50 a ton at Philadelphia in the last week and a half. Plausible reasons for this rise are given. Labor in the soft coal regions has been cut down through attractive offers for labor to join in the work of making munitions. Miners leaving from \$90 to \$125 a month are leaving in great numbers to work in powder mills at much higher wages. In order to keep the rest of the coal companies have raised wages, thus increasing the cost of operation. Then there is the difficulty of moving freight.

The Vermont newspaper which a few years ago sneered about the possibility of a Stanley finding a Nile river or a Lake Nyanza hidden in the recesses of Vermont would probably be ashamed to talk along that line at the present time. The development of immense water powers on the Connecticut below Brattleboro and in the Deerfield valley have opened the eyes of many people to the possibilities of harnessing our natural resources. The big power project which is planned in Rutland county is another important step in this direction. With suitable storage basins Vermont could develop enough electricity to run all our manufacturing plants, to heat and light our homes, factories and streets, and to furnish heat for all cooking purposes, in bakeries and homes.

Senator Borah got a round of applause when he arose to address the National Republican league at its banquet at Washington the other night. And he got still more when turning to the foreign policy of the administration, he said: "We must place our nation in a proper light again with other nations. Today the United States is the most hated nation. We are held in contempt, according to reports, in the country which helped us to gain our freedom. Our professed neutrality seems to be tinged with a desire for gain, in the opinion of Europe. Already we are beginning to reap the effects of this bitterness abroad. Our vessels are sunk or seized, our people are murdered, and what have we gained? Not even the respect of the nations to which we yield. The Republicans should put in their platform a plank which says we are prepared to protect American citizens at home and abroad."

Russian railways represent a mileage of 46,900, just twice that of the railways in the United Kingdom.

THE GRANGE.

The recent meetings of the state Granges of Vermont and New Hampshire, the former in Burlington and the latter in Keene, has called renewed attention to the Patrons of Husbandry, undoubtedly the largest and most influential farmers' organization in the world. Life in the rural regions lack a social side, and the Grange meetings with their literary programs and debates, go a long way in providing this important feature. The Grange is interested in all of the various phases of agriculture, its needs and its problems, but its good work does not end in trying to teach its members better farming. The Grange stands strongly for better methods of living, for temperance, for improved highways and more efficient public schools, and its position is usually right on all matters concerning public welfare. Vermont is better and stronger and people in the state are better contented on account of the Grange and its activities. We believe the organization will continue to grow and prosper and to find still greater fields for usefulness.

VERMONT CROPS.

Vermont crops are 4 per cent better this year than last, it appears from the government report, just published. In corn, the acreage is 47,000 and the production is 2,256,000 bushels against last year 2,115,000. Of oats, 81,000 acres produced 3,483,000 bushels, as compared with last year's 3,358,000. Potatoes are a much smaller crop on about the same acreage. This year 24,000 acres produced 2,592,000 bushels, while last year the figures were 25,000 and 4,200,000. Hay was a better crop than last year, the number of tons being 1,310,000 and 1,188,000.

The price of corn has risen from 81 last year to 84 now, while oats have fallen from 55 to 53. Potatoes are now quoted at 81, while last year they were 47—by far the biggest change in the whole list. Hay is set at \$15.50, ninety cents higher than last year.

Vermont is the only New England state that shows as good crops this year as last. Maine shows a decrease in production of 35 percent. New Hampshire 19, Massachusetts 29 and Connecticut and Rhode Island 4 each.

It isn't the size of the gift that counts, it is the proportion as compared to means and the spirit that is back of it. The widow's mite, which was all she had, outweighed millions from other sources. Robert Cobb, a colored barber, who died in St. Johnsbury last week, was a poor man, but he deserves to be ranked higher as a public benefactor than many men with great fortunes. It is rather pathetic to read of the way that he disposed of his savings, as follows: \$100 to the Sunset home for aged women; \$100 to the Red Men, to be used for flowers for funerals of members; \$100 to the North Congregational church; \$50 to the St. Johnsbury cemetery association. When additional chapters of the St. Johnsbury history are written the name of Robert Cobb ought to be perpetuated in them.

More than a third of the total population of Dublin consists of families living in a single room.

King George rules 114,753,554 square miles of the earth's territory, and some 379,000,000 of its inhabitants.

WANTS RATES PROTESTED.

Board of Trade Gets Request from Boston Chamber of Commerce—Local Interests Involved.

Secretary Carl S. Hopkins of the Brattleboro board of trade has received a letter from W. H. Chandler of the Boston chamber of commerce, who is chairman of the executive committee of the New England southeastern freight rates conference held in the Chamber of Commerce building in Boston, Dec. 17, asking for support in a protest against discriminating freight rates.

With the letter are copies of a notice of protest sent to the interstate commerce commission protesting against an increase in freight rates from New England to southeastern points on the ground that they discriminate in favor of New York shippers, and a copy of the minutes of the meeting held in protest as well as a copy of the names of concerns and organizations represented at the conference which united in the protest.

The protest to the commerce commission asks that the proposed new rates, which are to be effective Jan. 1, be suspended so far as they make rates from New England higher than from New York because the proposed increase in rates discriminates against many of the manufacturing interests of New England by placing them at a disadvantage with similar industries in New York and Pennsylvania. It is claimed that the proposed increase means the raising of freight rates from New England points to southeastern points from 40 cents to \$1 a ton instead of leaving them, as in the past, on the same basis as from New York points.

The transportation companies concerned are the Merchants and Miners' Savannah line, the Clyde Steamship Co., the Pennsylvania railroad, the Baltimore & Ohio and the Philadelphia & Reading railroads.

The board of trade here may take some action as there are manufacturing interests here which will be affected by the increase in rates.

SENTENCED FOR HITTING WIFE.

Townshend Man Brought Here for Trial Yesterday—Sent to House of Correction.

Eugene Riendeau of Townshend, who had appeared on several occasions before the courts of this county to answer charges of disturbance of the peace and intoxication, was brought to town yesterday for trial by the state on a charge of disturbance of the peace by striking his wife.

Riendeau was arrested that morning by Deputy Sheriff William K. Sparks of Townshend upon a warrant issued by the town grand juror on complaint of Mrs. Riendeau. The alleged assault took place Tuesday.

Judge Frank E. Barber heard the case in the municipal court room. Riendeau retained C. S. Chase & Chase as counsel. Mrs. Riendeau told of her husband, who she said was "feeling pretty good," knocking her down against a sled by a blow from his fist. She had a black eye as mute testimony to the effectiveness of the blow. The respondent insisted upon going on the stand to tell his version of the story, which was to the effect that the blow he struck was not what did the damage.

Judge Barber imposed a sentence of not less than three and one-half months nor more than four months in the house of correction at Rutland. Riendeau was taken there last night by Sheriff C. E. Mann.

Sometimes, waiting for a dead man's shoes results in the discovery that they are worn out.

If a chimpanzee is wounded it steps the bleeding by placing its hand on the wound or dressing it with leaves and grass.

Christmas Greeting

May the Day bring its share of the Good Things of Life and Happiness and Sweet Content. Above all, may it be a day spent among those you Love the Best, and who Love you. May that which was unprofitable and unpleasant during ninteen hundred and fifteen disappear with the old year, and may good health, good fortune and happiness be your companions for ninteen hundred and sixteen.

FOR SALE.

FOR SALE—Vast big value for little money. I have no use for it. TAYLOR, 10 Spruce St. 52-17

FOR SALE—Handsome black mare coming 4 years old; partly broken, kind and gentle. Price reasonable. J. J. DUTTON, Wardsboro, Vt. 50-17

FOR SALE—Few white leghorn chickens from hens imported from Tom Barrow's. Every hen has a record of 202 or more eggs. Price \$2. CORA J. SMITH, Cambridgeport, Vt. Tel. Saxtona River 51-21. 50-17

WANTED.

WANTED—Competent girl for general housework. Mrs. Mary R. BROWN. 52-17

WANTED—We will list your property to commission unless a sale is made. Write or call S. W. EDGETT & CO. 50-17

WANTED—We have a customer for a farm with 100 to 150 acres, near high school, adapted for raising fruit and animals. Will pay from six to nine thousand dollars. May be a good trade for the money. W. C. HADLEY & CO., Bellows Falls, Vt. 52-1

TO RENT.

TO RENT—Room for garage or furniture storage. C. H. GRANT, 4 Bullock Street. 50-17

SPECIAL NOTICES.

MRS. J. M. SHAW of West Northfield, Mass., will be at the rest room, Thursday, to take orders for all work on funerals. 51-17

FUR WORK of all kinds; repairing a specialty; new suits for sale. MRS. E. E. HOLMES, 59 Green Street, hours 9 to 5. 46-17

CHIROPODY and Shampoo Parlors—swiches, pompadour combs made up to order. MRS. E. P. BAILEY, 117 Main St. Phone 46-17

SLATING AND ROOFING of all kinds and chimneys changing done to order. E. D. TORREY, 2 Front St., Brattleboro. Telephone 42-W.

Vegetables Cheaper Than Potatoes

Seventy bushels table carrots, 50 cents; 100 bushels turnips, yellow stone, 50 cents; 150 bushels pine parsnips, \$1. Orders for 25 worth or more delivered free to any address in Brattleboro. GEO. E. TYLER, South Vermont, Vt. Telephone 27-2, West Northfield.

For Sale—A Few Cords of Dry Hard Wood

CUT SHORT FOR STOVE
J. Henry Pratt, 11 Oak St., Brattleboro

FLOWERS

Loose or in DESIGNS can always be had at right prices of

HOPKINS, THE FLORIST
Main Street, Brattleboro

Moran & Rohde

Embalmer and Funeral Directors
Phone 354-W, 57 Main St., Brattleboro, Vt.
Vt. License 190-10, N. H. License 227.

ANNUAL MEETING

The 33d annual meeting of the Jamaica Savings Bank for the election of officers and the transaction of necessary business, will be held at our banking house in Jamaica on the last Wednesday in December, it being the 23rd day at 10 o'clock a. m.

J. S. ROBINSON, Secretary.
Jamaica, Vt., Dec. 13, 1915.

The Melrose Hospital

WEST BRATTLEBORO, VT.
Well equipped for the care of medical, surgical and gynecological cases, also chronic invalids, rheumatic, nervous and mild mental cases, skilled nursing, good food and reasonable rates.

DR. E. B. LYNCH, Supt.
Helena D. Mathews, Matron.

Many of our annuitants

buy additional annuities and bring in their friends. This shows that annuity service is appreciated. Send for information, giving date of birth. National Life Insurance Co., Montpelier, Vt. (Mutual).

EARLE & KINSLEY, Rutland, Vt.
General Agent.

PROFIT BY THIS

When it comes to investing money, look carefully into the security that protects your principal. See to it that it is on a par with security that is back of the First Mortgage on improved Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana farms to be secured through this office and you will never spend any sleepless nights worrying over the safety of your investments or whether you will get your interest or not. Write, call or phone us for information.

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BRATTLEBORO, VT.

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Buy your clothes now and save money.

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Blue Ribbon Guernsey Butter and Pure-bred Bull Calves for sale. Visitors always welcome. Orders taken now for pure Maple Syrup.

Nutting Pictures
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ERMONT BRICK COMPANY
PUTNEY, VT.
Manufacturers of high grade Building Brick