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Could Not Live Without Birds

"Man kind owes more to the birds of the field, the woods, and the air, than he does to the fishes of the sea, or the domestic cattle of the fields," said Mr. T. Gilbert Pearson at the Yarbrough House yesterday to a group of gentlemen, among whom was a reporter of the Farmer and Mechanic.

"Although thousands of earth's inhabitants win their living at the fishing trade, humanity could make shift in some way should a great plague suddenly kill all the fish. Cattle are of wonderful use and convenience, but the human race could in a pinch exist without them. If, however, the birds should be exterminated a far more serious state of affairs than either of the above would at once present itself. The average person would not perhaps at first glance recognize the real value of birds to man, for the reason that while the intrinsic value of fishes and cattle is a very apparent one, the true worth of the feathered tribe is not so generally known. The birds are the chief enemies of the insects which infest our growing crops and other vegetation, and scientists generally have not hesitated to say that without them insects would rapidly become so numerous as to render practically impossible the growing of many varieties of fruits and vegetable, if indeed the growth of all vegetation did not become impossible."

"Continuing in his conversation, Mr. Pearson stated the following interesting facts regarding the value of our native birds, the rapidity of their destruction, and what it is proposed to do in North Carolina for their preservation.

"To those who have thought but little concerning the practical value of birds, it may not be amiss to say that their economic value to man is a very pronounced reality. This value lies chiefly in the service they render as destroyers of insects which are injurious to vegetation, as consumers of small rodents, as destroyers of large quantities of seeds of noxious plants, and as scavengers. Birds constitute the chief force in keeping down the surplus number of insects and which otherwise would be far more destructive to the agricultural products of the country. As matters now exist, one-tenth of the entire agricultural products of the United States each year is a total loss through their inroads, and we are told that owing to the decreasing number of birds, its per cent is annually increasing. The work which birds do simply as preventatives is enormous.

"The young of some species eat more than their own weight of insect food daily. The adult birds of many kinds subsist chiefly on an insect diet, and two-thirds of the varieties found in North Carolina are almost wholly insectivorous. Birds digest their food so rapidly that it is difficult to estimate the real amount which they consume. It is known, however, that a swallow will eat six or seven hundred flies in a day. The stomach of a cuckoo, shot at six o'clock in the morning, contained twenty-three tent caterpillars partly digested. The stomachs of chickadees not infrequently have been found to contain two hundred eggs of the cankerworm and as many as twenty-five of the female moths, each holding over one hundred eggs. It has been estimated that during the one month in which these insects infest the trees, each chickadee would destroy over 130,000 eggs. A crow which I once watched captured sixteen insects during a period of ten minutes. The bird would dart out a few words, seize a passing insect and return at once to her lookout perch. When some hours later I again saw the bird, it was still busy at its work.

"The real value of birds as insect destroyers has not been appreciated generally. One reason for this is their work is not apparent to the casual observer, who rarely sees a bird except when it is observed, and, therefore, is not feeding. Superficial observation has been a cause of much suffering to birds and a great monetary loss on the part of the observer. As a simple example of this, the Legislature of Pennsylvania, in 1885, passed a 'Scalp Act' for protecting the domestic fowls. The law provided for a bounty of fifty cents each on the heads of all hawks, owls, weasels and minks killed within the borders of the State. The State also fixed a fee of fifty cents for the notary or justice taking the affidavit in each case. During the next year and a half, \$90,000 was paid in bounties. This accounts for the destruction of 128,571 of the above named creatures, the larger part of which were hawks and owls. Dr. C. Hart Merriam, ornithologist and mammalogist of the United States Department of Agriculture in his report for 1888, speaking of the result of this action of the Pennsylvania Legislature says:

"Granting that 5,000 chickens are killed annually in Pennsylvania by hawks and owls, and that they are worth twenty cents each a liberal estimate in view of the fact that a large proportion of them are killed when very young, the total loss would be \$1,250, and the poultry killed in a year and a half would be worth \$1,875. Hence it appears that during the past eighteen months the State of Pennsylvania has expended

\$90,000 to save its farmers a loss of \$1,875. But this estimate by no means represents the actual loss to the farmer and the tax-payer of the State. It is within bounds to say that in the course of a year every hawk and owl destroys at least a thousand mice or their equivalent in insects, and that each mouse or its equivalent so destroyed would cause the farmer a loss of two cents per annum. Therefore, omitting all reference to the enormous increase in the number of these noxious animals when Nature's means of holding them in check has been removed, the lowest possible estimate of the value to the farmer of each hawk, owl and weasel would be \$20 a year, or \$30 in a year and a half.

"Hence in addition to the \$90,000 actually expended by the State in destroying 128,571 of its benefactors, it has incurred at least \$3,857,130, or a total loss of \$3,947,150 in a year and a half, which is at the rate of 2,631,420 per annum. In other words, the State has thrown away \$2,105 for every dollar saved! And even this does not represent fairly the total loss, for the slaughter of such a vast number of predaceous birds and mammals is almost certain to be followed by a corresponding enormous increase in the numbers of mice and insects formerly held in check by them, and it will take many years to restore the balance thus blindly destroyed through ignorance of the economic relations of our common birds and mammals."

"At the end of eighteen months this law was repealed and a State ornithologist was appointed to study the relationship of birds to the agricultural interests of the State. We, as a people, have failed to observe carefully the feeding habits of our feathered neighbors, and thus have not learned their intrinsic value. For the same reason, we have not been sufficiently interested in their preservation to enact adequate laws for the protection of non-game birds. There have been recorded in North Carolina 312 species of birds. Only eight species are protected by the law of the State except in the case of two counties. Public sentiment is so lax in many sections that these laws are really little better than no laws at all.

"There is scarcely a bird within the limits of our State that is not regarded as a legitimate mark for any gun. Numbers of men and boys in almost every section of the country at times shoot non-game birds indiscriminately. Thousands of chimney swifts, swallows, martins and nighthawks (bullbats) are shot every summer 'just to see them fall.' The small boy plunders the nests of their eggs for his 'collection' and goes so unrestrained by parental authority. New York millinery dealers have employed hunters to traverse our coast line and kill the sea birds in their breeding places, until our coast is all but destitute of the thousands of beautiful flying forms which once added to it so much grace and beauty. Even now, when the sea birds which seem to nest along our beaches have been so reduced in numbers that it would seem scarcely profitable to hunt them, the millinery dealers still send their gunners to our shores.

"The citizens in many other States have become alive to the situation, and there is no place on the Atlantic coast of the United States north of Carolina where the millinery hunter can murder sea birds with impunity. Not alone Massachusetts, New York, Maryland, Virginia and other Northern States passed laws providing for the protection of the sea birds, but bird lovers are seeing that the strong arm of the law is upheld by appointing wardens to guard these sandy beaches on which the sea fowls are wont to congregate to breed. This prevented from carrying on their work elsewhere, the employees of the milliners turn with eager joy to our coast, knowing that here no warden awaits to keep them from landing on our beach, knowing that here no law frowns upon their bloody work, and knowing that the public sentiment and the public conscience, which is ever stronger than either of these, yet slumbers on the subject of its duty to the birds.

"Plume hunters in spring traverse the swamps of Eastern North Carolina seeking out the breeding places of our beautiful herons. These birds are killed for their plumage. They are shot down before the eyes of their helpless young, which are left by hundreds in the nests to perish of starvation. Great numbers of young mocking birds are taken by people who attempt to rear them in captivity for the ever ready Northern market. The problem with which nature is confronted of adjusting the habits of her wild creatures to meet the changing environment occasioned by the advancement of civilization into the wilderness is a stern one. When, therefore, man adds to her difficulty by causing the wholesale destruction of any particular form of wild life, the rapid falling off in numbers of the persecuted species necessarily follows. The alarming decrease of the numbers of birds in the United States of recent years has been the occasion of much anxiety in the minds of all thoughtful people.

"A scientist who undertook the task of estimating the extent of this decrease during the past fifteen years in a number of States, reports in part as follows: Nebraska has lost ten per cent of her

Bill Arp's Letter.

I believe the millennium craze has subsided for awhile. Within my recollection it bobbed up three or four times and excited good people all over the country, for good people wish it to come and live in hope and expectation. I remember when William Miller, of Massachusetts, had all New England excited, for he was a very learned man and a sincere Christian and believed all that he professed. For ten years he exhorted the people to be ready for the coming of Christ in 1843 and even fixed the day when they would see Him descending from heaven in magnificent glory and escorted by Moses and Elijah and a retinue of angels. He had over 50,000 devoted converts and the night before the promised day they arrayed themselves in white raiment and sang and shouted and prayed until morning and then climbed the high hills and the tree tops and the spires of the churches to meet Him as He neared the earth. But He didn't come and it nearly broke their hearts and they liked to have perished to death, for they had given away all their earthly possessions.

Next came Dr. John Cummings, a very learned minister of London, who wrote a book on it and fixed the millennium year at 1863. We were fighting over here about that time and the millennium had to be postponed. The millennium means the reign of Christ upon the earth for a thousand years, when everybody will be good and there shall be no more death nor pain nor sorrow, and there has not been a century since His crucifixion that the religious people have not been looking for His coming. The Christians got their belief from the prophecies of Daniel and from St. John and St. Peter and later on from Irenaeus and Justin Martyr, and they delighted themselves with dreams of glory that was near at hand. Some of them declared there would be no more winters, no more nights and everlasting wells would run with honey and milk and wine. Jerusalem would be rebuilt and the fruits of the earth would be colossal and never dying. One notable writer said that every grape vine would have 10,000 branches and every branch 10,000 shoots and every shoot 10,000 grapes and every grape would make twenty-five gallons of wine. 'God gracious!' how thirsty that fellow must have been. But the millennium didn't come, and by and by, Oregon, a very wise and good man, came along in the third century and declared that there would be no such grapes, but that Christ's coming would be altogether spiritual. Still His coming kept on being predicted and when the reformation of Luther and Calvin came about they said that the pope was the anti-Christ and the millennium was now at hand. Next came Oliver Cromwell, who excited his followers with a prediction of the millennium—and so it goes on and on and now it is about time for another just as soon as we have done killing off the Filipinos and England has killed out all the Boers.

Well, now all these ruminations about the millennium were provoked by what I have been reading about the recent discoveries of oil all over the country. One thought brings on another, and if the coming of Christ is near at hand and His reign is to be a spiritual one for a thousand years, and there is to be no winter or night, or sickness, or pain, or sorrow, we don't need all this oil, neither for fuel nor light. And so I don't believe the millennium is very near. If all the people are to be converted and become good it will be a long time off, for it is a slow process, and all the coal and oil that is in the bowels of the earth will be needed. It wasn't put there for nothing. Missionary work is going on more rapidly than ever before, but it is like a drop in a bucket of water. We have got 20,000 missionaries in heathen lands and they are aided by 80,000 active preachers and teachers, but these 100,000 will have to convert an average for each of ten a year to make a million, and there are over a thousand millions of heathens now and more coming on. But they do not convert half a million a year, for the last report gives only 4,000,000 all told. Last year we spent \$20,000,000 on them and have now over 21,000,000 children going to Christian schools and have 23,000 churches and over 1,000 secondary schools besides medical colleges and training schools and hospitals and asylums for orphans and the blind and the insane and the lepers. They have got almost everything that we have got and now have protection in Constantinople and Pekin and Beirut and other great heathen centers. The work they have done in the last ten years is amazing, and the abduction of Miss Stone has increased their zeal. Thirty million dollars has been promised for this year, and they say that if we cannot convert them we can at least civilize them and teach them the doctrine of a clean shirt and a comfortable home, and these are the first lessons in religion. The last official report tells us that more than half the pupils are girls. For centuries women and girls have been under the ban and were of no consequence in the household than dogs or cats of burden, but now they are being lifted up and treated with humanity and respect. If the work of our missionaries accomplished no other good but the rescuing of women from the degradation of ages it is worth ten times its cost. Cost! what is the cost but the surplus of our wealth, and that surplus is not ours, but God's. Libraries and colleges are good things to build up and foster, but how

much do the millionaires give to the cause of missions? Most of this charity we are told came from those who are not worth one-tenth of a million. It is a lamentable fact that the more a man has the more he wants, and the less he gives away in proportion to his wealth. The parable of Dives and Lazarus was intended to alarm the rich and selfish, but most of them say give me a little more money and I will take the risk of losing heaven. Paul said to Timothy: "Gain is not godliness, but godliness with contentment is great gain. We brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out, and they who would be rich fall into temptation and into foolish and hurtful lusts that cast men into perdition. The love of money is the root of all evil." There is a sermon to live by, but it is hard to do. Somehow I can't help wishing I had a little more than I have got—not for myself, but my wife would like a carriage and horses and ride around and take the grand-children, and she would like to have some money of her own to give away and buy little presents without asking me every now and then for a dollar or two. She does hate to do that, and I don't let her when I have any to spare.

BILL ARP.

RUFFIN JURY DISMISSED.

Jury Finds Langley Killed in Self Defense Case of Gay and Ruffin Undecided.

(Special to News and Observer.) Wilson, N. C., March 22.—The jury in the Ruffin case failed to agree, and was discharged by Judge Allen this evening. Court has been in session here during the entire week. The case against Langley for killing a negro near Wilson during last summer, was tried. The jury brought in a verdict of self-defense. The next case taken up was that of Will Ruffin for the killing of Robt. Bullock on December 31st, 1899. This is Ruffin's second trial, the previous one having resulted in a mistrial.

The case of George Gay for the killing of Aycock a few months ago was taken up yesterday. All the evidence for both sides is in and today begin argument by counsel. It is the plea of the defense that Gay did the killing in a moment of insanity. It has been brought out on the stand that at times he was not himself, and on several occasions he has had to leave his work in order to recover from these spells. The only eye witness in the case says he heard no words before the shooting except that Gay told him, that is Aycock, that he had treated him like a damn rascal and that he was going to kill him. Public opinion in the case has quieted down considerably.

No verdict has yet been rendered in the Gay case. This has been the most interesting case of the term.

George Gay was charged with the murder of Wade Aycock, his employer, which occurred in Wade Aycock's saloon last November. It will be remembered that after shooting Aycock, Gay turned his pistol to his own breast and inflicted a wound that narrowly escaped being fatal. Gay was placed in jail and reports reaching here that there were threats of lynching him he was removed secretly to Raleigh for safe keeping and placed in the penitentiary, where his wounds were treated. At the time of the shooting Gay was almost a physical wreck from dissipation and supposed morphine habits, but when he was brought back he had fully recovered and looked the picture of health. Court this week has been held in the new court house. The conveniences offered by the new building facilitate to a great extent the workings of the court.

HIS CHURCH SUSTAINS HIM.

Reverend Granville Lowther Who is Charged With Heresy.

(By the Associated Press.)

McPherson, Kas., March 22.—Rev. Granville Lowther, against whom charges of heresy have been preferred in the Methodist Episcopal Conference to meet at Arkansas City next week, has practically been sustained by his church in this city. A canvass of the membership shows that four fifths of the members are in favor of sustaining him. Rev. Mr. Lowther, in explaining today his idea of the temptation of Eve, which teaching prompted the filing of the charges against him, said:

"On the temptation of Eve we maintain that the language used with reference to the serpent that tempted Eve was figurative rather than literal; that the methods used were serpentine, subtle and deceptive in their nature; that the serpent was a man of the same race to which Adam and Eve belonged. 'The account of the temptation was written by Moses at least 2,500 years after the temptation. It would be perfectly natural that the spiritual idea should be lost sight of, and the sign stand for the thing signified. This makes the temptation harmonize with the temptations of men today, harmonize with reason and does no violence to the sacred record, while any other theory we have read that requires a miracle is irrational and unnatural. We do not deny the power of God to perform miracles, but when the scripture can be made more reasonable without a miracle, we prefer the rational interpretation.'

A meeting of the National Baseball League magnates will be held at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, New York, Tuesday evening, April 1st, to arrange a schedule for the coming season and to discuss other business matters.

A FAMINE IN COTTON

Facing a Deficiency of 1,000,000 Bales in the Supply.

(Special to News and Observer.)

New York, March 22.—The cotton market closed tonight at 25 points below the highest figures reached during the course of the present bull movement. The decline has been the result of selling on the part of over-loaded bull operators in conjunction with bearish attacks made by those whose purpose it is to profit through the unwisely extended accounts of weak speculators. Thus it seems that the decline has run its course. The following are the chief facts of the situation. Spot cotton throughout the South is selling above the equivalent of New York prices, and at very nearly the highest prices of the season. Consumption is practically the largest on record. The reports of the exhaustion that reach us from the South are from people who cannot be untruthful, and the prospect of the greatest cotton famine the world has ever known is none the less definite, because prices have reacted 25 points. The statistical situation tonight is as follows: Receipts today are 17,000 bales; exports are 44,000 bales; net stocks at the United States ports tonight are 624,000 bales. The amount of cotton to come into sight if the crop is 10,000,000 bales is 900,000; total available supply in America 1,968,000. The minimum required from this supply for American and American consumption, to the end of the season, are 1,969,000. For export 1,200,000. Necessary stocks at the end of the season 150,000; total 3,650,000. With an American crop of 10,000,000 bales, therefore, we are face to face with an actual deficiency of 1,000,000 bales of cotton in the supply. Under these circumstances there seems to be no reason to anticipate any further decline in the market. I take this method of replying to the many telegrams that I have received and to advise people who own cotton to hold it, and those who are prepared to trade in it to buy it.

THEODORE H. PRICE.

Fertilizer Quotations.

Please explain the terms tankage per unit, 2.25 and 10 cents. What is meant by unit? What is meant by muriate potash ex ship? What is meant by muriate potash ex shore?—W. J. C., Northville, N. Y. The quotations are seaboard prices for car load lots. The terms "ex ship" and "ex shore" mean the prices before cartage and freight is paid. The abbreviation c. i. f. means "cost, insurance, free." Tankage per unit \$2.25 means 1 per cent of ammonia in one ton of tankage. In other words, one unit means 20 pounds of ammonia, and it sells at \$2.25, or 11 1/2 cents a pound for the ammonia that is in the tankage. When the tankage analyzes 19 per cent of ammonia, then a ton would cost ten times \$2.25.—Country Gentleman.

CONTESTED ELECTION CASES.

The House Will Vote on Moss Versus Rhea Tuesday.

(By the Associated Press.) Washington, March 22.—The House today entered upon the consideration of the contested election case of Moss vs. Rhea from the Third Kentucky district. In this case the Committee on Elections divided on party lines, the majority sustaining the view that Mr. Moss had been elected and the minority that Mr. Rhea, the Democrat, was entitled to retain his seat. On the face of the returns Mr. Rhea had 156 plurality. According to the contention of the majority certain votes rejected under the Goshel Election law would transform this plurality for Rhea into a plurality for Moss of 21. Mr. Mann, of Illinois, and Mr. Smith, of Iowa, spoke for the majority today and Mr. Burgess, of Texas, for the minority. An agreement was made whereby the vote shall be taken next Tuesday. Before taking up this case the unanimous report of the committee in the case of Spears vs. Burnett, from the Seventh Alabama district, confirming the title of the sitting member to his seat, was adopted. The House today passed bills to authorize the construction of a life saving station at Ocracoke Island, N. C., and to authorize the Kingston and Carolina Railroad Company to construct a bridge across the Neuse River at Kingston, N. C.

By an almost unanimous vote the House Committee on Foreign Affairs have struck out of the Mitchell-Kahn Chinese Exclusion Bill the paragraph prohibiting ships flying the American flag from employing Chinese sailors, after \$2,000 for each offense. This provision has proved one of the chief sources of controversy over the bill.

The main argument leading to striking out the provision that American ships on the Pacific compete with English and Japanese lines, and the latter ships would indirectly receive a great advantage in continuing the employment of Chinese at \$7.50 per month, whereas the American ships would have to pay about \$20 per month for white sailors.

Harrison Grain Company Fail.

(By the Associated Press.)

St. Louis, March 22.—The W. B. Harrison Grain Company failed today, making an assignment to A. P. Richardson, of the Richardson Grain Company.

THE CONDITIONS IN TRADE IMPROVING

Labor Controversies Are Less Threatening.

SOME STRIKES SETTLED

In a Few Cases Wages Are Advanced

Voluntarily.

TRAFFIC CONGESTION HAS SUBSIDED

The Leading Lines of Manufacture Are Fully Engaged. Reports from the South Unanimously Report Stocks of Cotton Nearly Exhausted.

(By the Associated Press.)

New York, March 22.—The G. D. Dun & Company's weekly Review of Trade tomorrow will say: "Evidences of further improvement are numerous. Labor controversies are less threatening, many settlements having been effected, while others are momentarily anticipated; wages have been advanced, not only through strikes, but in some cases voluntarily, traffic congestion has subsided, until it is possible to deliver goods according to specifications; aside from some idle footwear shops, the leading lines of manufacture are very fully engaged, while jobbing trade of exceptional magnitude. Retail dealers are also very large, the Easter stimulus being felt in all lines of wearing apparel. With domestic demands so vigorous, it is especially encouraging to notice a gain for the last week in foreign trade at the principal ports.

"Pressure for iron and steel has not diminished perceptibly, yet the impression is growing that after July 1st the situation will become approximately normal and it will be possible to secure deliveries with some degree of promptness. Large contracts are constantly under consideration for structural material on domestic account, including railway bridges, viaducts, car shops and office building. In this respect the domestic consumption this year will far surpass all records. Open weather has brought out a heavy tonnage of merchant ship.

"Advanced wages at cotton mills means a higher cost of production and the market has hardened in consequence. Business under the new conditions has not yet been sufficiently large to establish quotations, yet some advances of 2 to 5 per cent are recorded. Export sales are still checked by high prices. A helpful feature is the increased limit at Southern jobbing centers.

"Grain markets have begun to feel the effects of weather reports and for the next few months it will be a simple matter for speculators to secure erratic fluctuations. Strength was conspicuous on Thursday, last year's serious injury to corn making quotations particularly sensitive to indications of drought.

"Cotton showed no response to Mr. Nellis' reiteration of his early estimate placing the yield at 11,250,000 bales. Although 69,000 bales more cotton has come into sight than a year ago, reports from the South are almost unanimous regarding the exhaustion of stocks.

"Failures for the week number 209 in the United States against 224 last year and 31 in Canada against 33 last year."

COMPARATIVE COTTON STATEMENT.

New York, March 21.—For the week ending Friday, March 21st. Net receipts at all United States ports during week, 161,331; net receipts at all United States ports during same week last year, 129,523; total receipts to date, 8,899,191; total receipts to same date last year, 6,232,145; exports for the week, 87,714; exports for same week last year, 97,191; total exports to date, 5,457,500; total exports to same date last year, 4,707,777; stock at all United States ports, 717,324; stock at all United States ports same time last year, 324,444; stock at all interior towns, 112,093; stock at all interior towns same time last year, 694,831; stock at Liverpool, 118,000; stock at Liverpool same time last year, 746,000; stock of American afloat for Great Britain, 112,690; stock of American afloat for Great Britain same time last year, 163,000.

TOTAL NET RECEIPTS.

New York, March 21.—The following are the total net receipts of cotton at all ports since September 1st, 1901: Louisiana, 1,872,748; New Orleans, 625,659; Mobile, 148,428; Savannah, 1,053,997; Charleston, 257,987; Wilmington, 253,239; Norfolk, 430,427; Baltimore, 76,598; New York, 147,234; Boston, 19,722; New York, 18,811; Philadelphia, 25,624; New York, 2,554; Brunswick, 112,719; Pernambuco, 4,950; Panama, 152,091; Port Arthur, 43,978; Port Townsend, 190,000; San Francisco, 19,975; Portland, Ore., 6,232. Total, 8,899,191 bales.

TOTAL BANK CLEARINGS.

New York, March 21.—Total bank clearings week ended March 20, \$2,167,794,910, decrease 19.1 per cent; outside New York \$759,632,684, increase 7.8 per cent.

On the Diamond Yesterday.

(By the Associated Press.)

Lexington, Va., March 22.—Military Institute, 1; Fishburn Military Academy, 12; Charlottesville, Va., March 22.—University of Virginia, 15; Miller School, 2.