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CUTS BARLEY'S BEARD

Professor Performs Feat of Benefit to Farmers.

University of Alberta Agronomists Remove the Barb From Whiskers of Grain.

Edmonton, Alberta.—Trimming the beard of barley is the accomplishment claimed by the agronomists at the University of Alberta this summer. Specifically what they did was to attempt to remove the beard altogether, succeeding only in taking the barb out of the beard. This, it was declared, is of immense potential agricultural benefit.

It is the barb in barley that makes all the trouble in handling and feeding the grain, it is said, and unsuccessful efforts have been made for years both in Canada and the United States, to remove the beard. But with the barb gone the experts say the beard doesn't particularly matter.

If the claims made for the improved barley are borne out authorities hold it may become a staple variety of western Canada. Two varieties of barley are grown in Alberta—the two-rowed and six-rowed. The former is used for beer-making, but six-rowed barley is the chief crop of central Alberta for feeding purposes. It is a sure crop, favored in mixed farming regions, and yields from 40 to 50 bushels to the acre.

IN SCRAP OVER MAUSOLEUM

New York Woman Objects to Having Uncongenial Company in Her Last Resting Place.

New York.—Miss Mathilda Carlson is sixty years old and has no present intention of dying, but, according to her own story told in supreme court when her time does come, she does not want to await the Angel Gabriel's trumpet in uncongenial company.

For upwards of forty years Miss Carlson toiled Justice Greenbaum, she and her sister, Sophia Carlson, toiled as domestic servants in various New York households and saved their money with a view toward providing themselves with "suitable last resting places." With the accumulated savings a mausoleum in Woodlawn cemetery was built.

At the time the purchase was made the Carlsons had no provision for the interment of their nephew, Nils Fegelgren, and his wife and daughter in the same vault. The two families were then on good terms. Recently there was a falling out between the relatives and now Miss Carlson is seeking to have the names of the Fegelgrens stricken from the mausoleum deed.

The plaintiff said she and her sister paid \$7,000 for the plot of ground and the mausoleum, which she testified, was built with a window in it and large enough for a person to walk about inside. The body of Sophia Carlson, who died a short time ago, is now entombed there.

For Repairing Punctured Hulls.
The cement for repairing apertures in submerged ships of a Cardiff patent consists of five parts by weight of crude rubber dissolved in naphtha, three of rosin, two of white lead, nine of coal pitch, and one-fourth part of shellac. The heated mixture is used for cementing metal surfaces and may be applied to cloth to form an adhesive patch. The material may be thinned with naphtha, when it is suitable for paint.

HAVE SIMILAR FINGER MARKS

Important Discovery Made by California Professor as to Peculiarities of Family Groups.

Prof. J. A. Larson, instructor of physiology in the University of California, announced a new discovery in connection with finger prints which is likely to have a remarkable influence on many important cases that concern the law courts of California.

Briefly, Professor Larson's discovery indicates that a similarity of finger prints among members of a family is sufficiently marked to enable scientists to trace family groups and determine positively whether a given individual is really a member of the family to which he claims relationship.

The importance of the discovery in probate cases such as the Slingsby case is obvious.

Should Dr. Larson's new discovery be accepted by law and science, the Slingsby decision may be reversed, as well as many other analogous cases.

Dr. Larson's investigations began in 1913 at the Boston university.

"Since that time I have examined prints of members of approximately 100 families," he said, "and I am satisfied in my own mind that such a means of identification is possible. I am preparing detailed reports of my work now in order that science may be benefited by my discovery. Before I complete this, however, I expect to investigate the prints of fifteen or twenty additional families so as to remove all doubt as to the accuracy of my discovery."—San Francisco Chronicle.

AMBER FORMED BENEATH SEA

Natural Resin of Pines Turned Into Precious Material by the Action of the Elements.

The world's supply of amber, that rare and therefore precious substance, the "gold of the north," as it has been called, comes from the coast of Samland in the eastern Prussian peninsula, between the towns of Burstrort and Palmnicken, and here the shafts of a famous mine run out under the Baltic and the miners are actually working under water. Ages ago the country was a land of pine forests which the ocean overwhelmed; the pine trees vanished beneath the surface of the sea, and then, century by century, the wood became fossilized and the natural resin of the pines was turned into amber. Millions of years were needed to transform the resin into amber, and the search for amber has developed romantic and picturesque episodes like those that have become part and parcel of the story of gold and diamonds. An amber mine, however, is not necessarily under water, and there is an open-air mine at Palmnicken where amber is dug for in much the same way as diamonds are sought in the mines of Kimberley. In normal times this one mine provides occupation for about 3,000 amber seekers.

Bees Raid a Jam Factory.

Syracuse, N. Y.—While Norris S. Dalley was removing honey from the hives at his apiaries on his farm in Penn Yan, a village a few miles from this city, he discovered that the sweet was pink in color. Upon investigation he found that instead of honey, it was raspberry jam. The bees had carried the jam from a preserving plant about a mile from the Dalley farm. The seeds were absent from the jam. Swarms of bees and hornets have invaded the plant several times this summer, driving the operators out of the factory and carrying the jam from the uncovered jars.

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More Than Master of Languages.

Wilfred Stevens, one of the chief translators of the state department at Washington, speaks 23 languages, although he has never been outside of the United States and has never been to college. One of the languages is an invention of his own, which he says is an improvement over Esperanto. Among his list of languages are Chinese, Japanese, Persian, Turkish, Armenian, Arabian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Russian, German, Portuguese, French, Spanish, Italian, Yiddish, Swedish, Norwegian, Dutch, Hungarian, Finnish, Ancient Greek, Latin, Hebrew, Polish and Roumanian. He has also mastered three so-called universal languages—Esperanto, Ido and Ufano, the latter his own idea.—Detroit News.

No More Rabbit Fun.

Greenborough, Pa.—Motorman Roy Michaels is disconsolate. All the fun or running his car between here and West Penn has been taken from him. Michaels says that every night when he reached a heavily wooded section of the track two rabbits met his car and raced ahead of it for miles. The other night one of the rabbits tripped on a cinder and fell under the wheels. The other rabbit has disappeared.

Ancient Egyptian Grain.

Defiance, O.—Samples of corn and wheat which were grown before Christ was born are in possession of Fred S. Stever, cashier of the Merchants' National bank. The grain was taken from a granary in Egypt and sent to him by a friend. The grain is over 2,000 years old. The corn is very small.

Hen Lays Any Place.

Woodville, Mich.—Mrs. C. C. Lyman owns a hen that is a regular old gadabout. She'll lay eggs most any place except in the nice downy nest Mrs. Lyman provided in the most sanitary and scientifically perfect hen house. She selected the top of a straw stack to lay one batch of eggs and hatch out a brood of 15 chicks. Then she had a terrible time getting her youngsters down on the ground.

Bird Darkens Town.

Eau Claire, Wis.—A blackbird roosting on the edge of an insulator of the Wisconsin-Minnesota Light and Power company's line resulted in shutting off of electricity between Altoona and Milwaukee for 20 minutes one evening. The current jumped the wire, electrocuted the bird and passed down the pole into the ground.



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