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AN AUTHORIZED ACCOUNT

Means That Are Used to Extermi-nate Prairie Dogs.

So many inaccurate statements in regard to the work of the Nebraska station in exterminating prairie dogs have appeared in the press that it seems well to give an authorized ac-count of the work done to date, al-though the experiments are incomplete. The work was inaugurated a number of years ago under the general direc-tion of Dr. A. T. Peters. He worked out a formula for poisoning the dogs, which with some slight modifications, has been adopted by the government experts and others engaged in the work. There are, however, certain ob-jections to the use of poison, chief of which is the danger attending its use, and the fact that under favorable conditions only a certain percent of the dogs is exterminated. Carbon bi-sulphide has been used with better success. This substance kills the dogs by asphyxiation. The method is to in-troduce it into the holes by means of an absorbent material, covering the holes with sod and allowing the fumes to do their work. This is a brief out-line of the methods in vogue up to the present time.

After the passage of the law requir-ing the extermination of prairie dogs, the station took up the work trying to find a cheaper method than any yet proposed. During the early part of the summer laboratory experiments were conducted by Dr. S. Avery. A great many substances capable of liberating gases were employed. The most prom-ising of these proved to be a light hy-drocarbon obtained as a by-product in the manufacture of Pintsch gas. This substance in the laboratory proved to be as deadly as carbon bisulphide. Its cost is less than one-tenth as much as the sulphide.

Drs. Peters and Avery experimented together at Springview on a field be-longing to Senator Brown. Three holes were dug out and dead dogs found in each instance. Later Dr. Peters con-ducted experiments on the Richards-Comstock ranch, and Dr. Avery con-ducted experiments on the ranch of the Standard Cattle company. Holes treat-ed with the substance and covered, if located near the untreated holes, were generally found open later, but remote holes showed no evidence of the work of the live dogs. The evidence, there-fore, is strong that the holes treated, covered and afterwards found opened from the outside by dogs from the parts of the town which had not been treated.

In order to obtain conclusive evi-dence it is planned to select a small town and treat every hole in it with Pintsch gas. If all the dogs are killed by this process full details of the work will be given to the public.

From the data at hand it looks as though the Pintsch product were quite as effective as the expensive carbon bi-sulphide. In case, however, the for-mer does not prove to be sufficiently deadly a plan will be taken up looking towards treating it on a commercial scale with certain very deadly gases.

This statement, although incomplete, is given to the public in order to cor-rect certain erroneous impressions and to assert our claim to priority in case the method proves in all respects sat-isfactory.

As soon as the field experiments are complete, a bulletin issued by the de-partment of animal pathology and ag-ricultural chemistry will appear. In this bulletin full details of the work will be given.

The librarian yesterday received a shipment of books direct from Ger-mang. Among the more important vol-umes are ten volumes of Marten's and De Coursey's "Collections of Treaties Relating to the History of Europe in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Cen-turies." This set will be used exclu-sively by the department of European history.

Dr. Ross, of the department of so-ciology, has arranged to contribute a series entitled, "Moot Points of So-ciology," to the American Journal of Sociology, during the coming year. Professor Ross is an advisory editor of the magazine.

Don Cameron's lunch counter for good service.

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