

Science Gains Rich Data in Gold Rush

Knowledge of California Geology Increased.

Boston.—Conditions which cause factories to stand idle in many parts of the world, and which result in widespread unemployment, are themselves responsible for the opening in California of gold mines which have been deserted for decades, writes Dr. Ralph W. Chaney, research associate, Carnegie Institution, in the Boston Transcript.

With the opening of the mines there are uncovered not only the nuggets and dust of precious yellow metal, but ledges of rock containing fossil leaves, fruits, and wood—less valuable in the markets of the world, but of incalculable significance to the students of the earth's history.

When gold was discovered in California in 1849, the foothills east of the Sierra Nevada became the objective of the pioneer band which made fortunes and romance, and laid the foundations for the development of this westernmost unit of the United States. Hither came men from all parts of America.

Fortunes Made and Lost.
Fortunes were made—and lost—during these early days when by crude mining methods the yellow metal was readily washed from the gravels bordering the Sierra Nevada. Then followed more pretentious mining known as hydraulic mining; by the use of huge spouting streams of water the sands and gravels were washed away, leaving

behind fragments of gold. When the white man had taken all he could from these diggings, the Chinese, who were always awaiting their chance, took over the task of squeezing from the earth the last of the golden grist.

As recently as 1908, there was recovered \$750,000,000 in gold by Chinese miners almost at the center of the diggings at You Bet. The place is still called Tai Flat in honor of the Chinese foreman under whose direction it was mined, after the white miners had decided that all of the gold had been removed.

During these later years, the low price of gold has made it unprofitable to carry on extensive mining operations. Tom Brady has continued to remain as custodian of the properties of the You Bet Mining company, but the question must have arisen many times before him and before the many other men left behind in these hills after the flood of the gold boom had ebbed, as to whether there would ever again arise the tented cities of the miners, and whether great streams of water would cut once more into the gravel cliffs, seeking the yellow fragments which man has always valued.

Then came a change in the gold values as a direct result of unsettled money conditions throughout the world. From \$22.67 an ounce, the price of gold shot up to \$37 almost overnight. Again it became profitable to work the California placer mines, and today they are filled with men, with streams

of water, with excitement. Another gold rush is under way.

Fossils Discovered.
During the early days of mining at You Bet, and at many other diggings in California, large pieces of petrified wood were uncovered in the gravels. So numerous were these that they were stacked in great piles; Tom Brady's house has its foundations built of them.

Annoyance the miners may have felt at having to move this petrified wood, some pieces of which weigh many tons, was more than balanced by the fact that around these fossil trees the gravel was exceptionally rich in gold.

In the early days of mining activity, fossil plants were collected near You Bet, from the high ridge of gravels and clays known as Chalk Bluffs; these have been studied by paleobotanists, and important conclusions have been reached. With the closing of the mines, discoveries of fossils became less frequent, and for many years there has been no addition to our knowledge of the ancient forests of this part of California. With the revival of mining activity, new fossil-bearing layers have been discovered by the miners, and by Harry D. MacGinitie, who is studying the history of plant life at the University of California.

Mr. MacGinitie reports the finding of more than 40 kinds of leaves, including figs, magnolias, palms, sycamores and avocados. Of these none have lived down to the present in the region of You Bet, although palms and sycamores occur in warmer parts of California, and some of the others grow under cultivation. These hills are now occupied by pines and oaks, constituting a forest similar to that found in many of the temperate areas of the northern hemisphere.

SEEN and HEARD around the National Capital

By CARTER FIELD

Washington.—Two tremendously important changes in the known factors of the Far Eastern situation are seriously worrying every nation which has any interest in that part of the world. These are: (1) Proof that Japanese can make good flyers, as proved in the recent hostilities in two widely separated portions of old China. (2) The fact that the Japanese are slowly but steadily extending northward, until they are within striking distance of the line of communications across Siberia.

Until recently, when the Japanese began their latest drive in north China, the Russians had a very powerful argument against Japan's provoking war. This was that the Russians had a strong bombing fleet of aircraft at Vladivostok and other points not too far from the big Japanese cities.

They still have. But conviction among military experts now is Japan would have to endure only one or at most two bad bombings. After that there would be no more bombs. For, in the meantime, the Jap army and Jap flyers starting from north China would effectually block the line of supply from European Russia to the Pacific ports.

A glance at the map in connection with the next news story about Japan's aggrandizing movement in north China will be very illuminating on this.

Still another disturbing fact is that the Japanese commanders in the field seem to have more leeway than any generals since the invention of telegraph. They do not bother to annoy Tokyo with questions as to whether they should seize this or that territory. There is nothing new about this. It has been going on ever since Japan began to expand her influence in north China, in her long drive to take control of first one Chinese province and then another.

Misleading
Which has made it possible for the Japanese ambassador in Washington, or for that matter at Geneva, to deny many things for weeks after they had really happened. Then it would develop that Tokyo had misled the ambassador because it had received no report from the army in the field.

So much so that aides under former Secretary of State Stimson used to complain, with a trace of sarcasm, that there should be a better understanding and exchange of communication between the war and foreign offices in Tokyo.

The immediate importance of this situation, which seems to still exist, is that at any moment there is apt to be some clash in the Far East between Russians and Japanese, due to some Jap movement utterly unanticipated by the Japanese foreign office. And when something of this sort starts, sometimes it is impossible to control it.

Optimists say that Japan has discovered that Russia does not want to fight now, and therefore there will be no war for some time to come. Their theory is that Japan is very busy digesting the big pieces of north China she has bitten off, and acquiring additional pieces—a process which may take several years.

Pessimists point out that the Russians know perfectly well what the reason for Japan extending her troops so far northward has been—to threaten the line of communications of Russia's Far Eastern air fleets. So they believe it unthinkable that Russia has not made some moves to circumvent this danger.

All of which—the arguments of both pessimists and optimists—is probably true. And the situation, as thus summed up, might readily mean only that there is a fair chance of continued postponement of real hostilities. The fly in the ointment is that unanticipated clash which may touch off the fireworks.

Then the big question will be—can the United States, and the rest of the big nations, stay out?

Important Question
What is going to happen about July 1, when Chester C. Davis retires from running the Agricultural Adjustment administration is perhaps the most interesting question mark in the government at the moment.

Davis now has a free hand, with the backing of both President and Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace. He was permitted to throw out the radicals and others he thought were obstructing the carrying out of his policies. But what will happen when he leaves?

The point, of course, is that the brain trust, so far as AAA is concerned, is temporarily in complete eclipse, but that no one knows definitely whether it will stay in eclipse or not.

Davis intends to build up an organization, planned to be permanent, during the five months he intends to serve yet. He thinks that by July 1 this organization will be capable of going ahead without an administrator. But, of course, it would be very simple for some follower of Dr. Rexford G. Tugwell to reverse all this after Davis is out. The question is whether the President and Wallace will permit it.

The answer lies entirely in what

will happen between now and then. If removal of some of the theoretical policies, which proved restrictive on business, results in improvement in business in the lines affected, the Davis policies will continue triumphant long after Davis has gone. If there should be no improvement, it is likely that the brain trusters will be given a chance by the President to try out another scheme.

For the most important problem, now and for some time to come, on President Roosevelt's mind is how to get more men and women employed by private industry. It is no secret that he is somewhat disappointed at the failure of all his efforts to reduce substantially the number of unemployed. So that any scheme, which, without doing too much violence to his reform ideas, promises stimulation of private employment, is very appealing indeed.

Whereas an proposed handicaps on business which might result in a decrease of employment have to be mighty important to his reform program to make any appeal at the moment.

Jars President
This attitude on the part of the President has reached a new peak, in a way, in the last few days. That vote in the senate appropriations committee, which almost upset the apple cart so far as his big work relief program is concerned, was a bigger jar to the President than the vote on the World court. Far worse. And the vote was so close because some of the senators voting against the White House were anxious to hold down the total debt of the government. They were worried about the government's credit.

The President has not been much worried about that. He is convinced it is all right. So is Secretary Morgenthau. But he is very much worried over such an attitude developing on Capitol Hill. It may rise to bother him in any number of ways before this congress is over.

So that the problem has been made more difficult. It was: could the government spend its way back to prosperity before the danger point of spending was reached. Now it is: can the government spend its way back to prosperity before congress thinks the danger point has been reached.

So much has been intimated about government opposition to this and that in business, proposed new taxes, harsh treatment for holding companies, etc., that it was thought a very good idea to indicate that in at least one important governmental unit, dealing with some pretty important lines of business, the government should take on a conservative tinge.

Work Relief Cash
New Deal officials, questioned by senate and house committees as to what would be done with the \$4,800,000,000 lump sum being asked by President Roosevelt for work relief, have been compared by critics to Hauptmann witnesses in their vagueness and contradictions of testimony.

But the answer is very simple. Putting a man under oath and grilling him with great solemnity does not add anything to his information. If he really does not know, it is pretty hard for the shrewdest cross-examiner to find out.

The thing is complicated by a factor as old as tribal government, but which has led to newspapers getting things wrong in their stories ever since the early Romans chiseled bulletins on stone. This is the human desire on the part of officials not to admit that they really do not know what they are going to be told to do—that they are not really on the inside.

In this particular case there is no inside—so far. Mr. Roosevelt himself does not know what he is going to do with the money. He admits it frankly, but the boys on Capitol Hill do not believe it. They think he knows, but is not willing to tell them lest they hamstring him by earmarking too much of the money.

But there is that curious human tendency on the part of many of his lieutenants not to admit they do not know perfectly well what is going to be done.

Remember Wilson Era
Old Washington correspondents remember the era of Woodrow Wilson and Joseph P. Tumulty in the White House, in the days after Joe's contacts with his chief had begun to wane.

Old friends in the newspaper business would ask Tumulty what the President would do on some important matter. Tumulty would reply that he could not discuss that. Which was literally and actually true. Then the correspondents, by shrewd leading of the conversation around a circle and bringing it back, would find out what Joe thought ought to be done.

Next morning would appear long positive stories about what the President would do. They would be based on what Joe had said. Sometimes, in fact, quite frequently, they were right. For Tumulty had studied Wilson so closely, and admired him so tremendously, that he at least achieved what might be called a Wilsonian approach to a given subject.

But often they were wrong, and then there was no recourse. It was the fault of the newspaper men, not Tumulty. He had not purposely misled them.

GEESE and DUCKS



Geese in the Shadow of the Pyramids.

Prepared by National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.—WNU Service.

A N AMERICAN poet wrote: "Dark flying rime against the western glow It tells the sweep and loneliness of things"

The writer of these lines and other poets have drawn inspiration from the striking formations that especially characterize the movements of swans, geese and ducks.

That flying wedge or undulating line etched against the sunset sky or the orderly, swift-moving formation high overhead! Here is the symbol that inspires the imagination of even the casual observer, as it has the poets who have written of flying wild fowl through the ages.

Behind this aura of glamour and mystery lies the fascinating life story of the majestic wild swans, the wild geese, the hardy and adaptable ducks, and the fish-loving mergansers. They are a fairly compact and homogeneous group of birds, their only relatives of undoubted connection being the screamers of South America, large, goose-like, wading birds with unwebbed toes.

Geese and ducks are found all over the world wherever water exists, except on the oceans far from land.

Common to the order are a long neck, sometimes very long; short legs, webbed toes, and a bill covered with sensitive skin and provided inside with comblike structures known as lamellae, modified in the mergansers to sharp "teeth" for holding slippery fish.

The eggs are without markings, and the young, hatched covered with down, are able to find their own food very soon after they emerge from the egg.

The graceful, snow-white swans, sometimes five feet in length, make up the first of seven subfamilies into which are divided the North American members of the suborder. The other six are the geese, tree ducks, surface-feeding ducks, diving ducks, stiff-tailed ducks, and mergansers.

Swans Highly Esteemed.
Much that has been written about swans has been influenced by their aesthetic appeal. This is apt to distort the facts to their advantage, and it is just as well, because no other birds can provide the thrill that a flock of wild swans gives the nature lover. First in order and in size, they have a form too universally known to require description.

The two North American species are so similar that they can be differentiated with certainty only by the character of their internal structure and by their very distinct voices.

The swans are perfect models of conjugal conduct. They mate for life and the sexes share the domestic responsibilities.

The downy young when first hatched are not the "ugly ducklings" of popular belief, but lovely little creatures, clothed in silky, golden down and without the exaggerated neck and huge paddlelike feet of their parents. Very soon, however, these characteristics begin to appear and ungainliness replaces their natal loveliness until the grace and beauty of maturity appear.

Fortunately, there is small if any possibility of the extermination of the whistling swan, and with careful conservation it may even be possible to perpetuate the trumpeter.

The goose family is well represented in North America, especially in the West, where in some localities six species may be seen on the same ground.

Their extraordinary migrations and the mystery of their breeding grounds intensify the interest that both sportsmen and naturalists take in these fine birds. Even yet, there are a few whose summer homes are unknown, while the systematic status of some races and their relation to each other have still to be worked out. Much study in the field, especially at their nesting grounds, is required to establish these facts.

Geese, like swans, pair for life, and the young birds remain in the company of their parents for nearly a year after they are hatched.

Geese Are Smart Birds.
Endowed with keen intelligence and extreme wariness, they can be depended on to maintain a fair degree of abundance as long as adequate wintering grounds are afforded them. But, above all, they, like

swans, require freedom from molestation when they are at rest, so that a large measure of solitude and wide spaces are the chief requirements for their perpetuation.

Both families have a lower rate of reproduction than ducks, as they require several years to attain maturity and the number of eggs laid is much smaller than with most species of ducks.

Both geese and swans are noted for their longevity, the latter being among the Methuselahs of the bird world.

There is actual record of a mute swan that lived seventy years, while rather uncertain report has attributed even a greater age to the birds.

Somewhat intermediate between ducks and geese are the tree ducks. They have only two representatives north of the Mexico-United States boundary, and neither of these penetrates much to the north of this line. Their name is misleading in our own territory, as here we seldom see them perching in trees and their nests are on the ground.

The great group of ducks is divided into two main sections, the surface-feeding and diving ducks. While these names actually afford a general basis of distinction, it does not follow that surface-feeders never dive for their food, nor that diving ducks never feed on the surface.

To separate the groups, look at the foot. In the diving ducks, the hind toe has a lobe, so that it resembles a little paddle.

How to Identify Ducks.
If sportsmen wish to identify the ducks they shoot in all plumages, it is essential that they recognize the distinction between the two groups.

By the "hind-toe" formula, stiff-tailed ducks fall under the category of diving ducks, but in many features of structure, plumage, and life characters they are further removed from true ducks than are the mergansers. The sometimes pug-nacious and somewhat ludicrous-looking ruddy duck is the sole representative of the stiff-tailed ducks in the United States and Canada, although a South American species, the masked duck, has been twice recorded in the eastern states as a straggler.

Mergansers, the last of the duck group, are ducks with a narrow, specialized bill, edged with saw teeth, which enable them to catch and devour good-sized fish. Their feet, though proportionately smaller, resemble those of the diving ducks in having a paddle-shaped hind toe.

Ducks, for the most part, are very different from swans and geese in their family habits. While they pair much like other birds and are not as a rule polygamous or polyandrous, the male in most species is not a constant husband and abandons the female and all family cares as soon as incubation of the eggs is well under way. Stiff-tailed ducks are notable exceptions to this rule, and in some true ducks, like the elders, the male is not altogether indifferent to his family obligations.

Labrador Duck is Extinct.
Mention should be made of the extinct Labrador duck, *Camptolasmus labradorius* the last verified record of which was a bird taken in 1875.

The passing of this species is a mystery which cannot be accounted for; even from the earliest days for which we have any record of the bird, it was a scarce species in the limited area of its range on the North Atlantic coast.

Of all the questions relating to wild fowl, the problem of their perpetuation is the most important. Every one naturally takes an interest in their conservation and wishes to see an increase in their numbers. But unfortunately there are two divergent schools at work, one that wishes to protect wild fowl from the viewpoint that they provide sport, and the opposite group that insists they be protected vigorously and all shooting be abolished. Between the two extremes lie all shades of compromise.

While the dire prophecies of the total extermination of the ducks and geese of North America are obviously the product of a distorted outlook, yet action is required to cope with many of the dangers to which they are now subjected.

Levy by Crime Is Heaviest U. S. Tax

Cost Is Three Times That of the Government.

New York.—Every one of the one hundred and twenty-five millions of people in these United States pays organized and unorganized crime the sum of 30 cents each and every day of the year.

Thirty cents from the new-born babe, or the oldest inhabitant, means thirty-seven millions, five hundred thousand dollars each day or a grand total of thirteen billions, six hundred and eighty-seven millions five hundred thousand dollars a year—three times the cost of the United States government and one and a third times more than the foreign nations owe us in war debts, writes Phelps Phelps in the Chicago Herald Examiner.

Criticizes Parents.
In the city of New York alone, there is an average of a half a million arrests each year for all classes of crime, but the police reports is that an average of forty thousand of those arrested are between the ages of sixteen and twenty years. More than one hundred thousand of the total are between twenty-one and twenty-five years of age, and in the face of these figures, supplied by former Police Commissioner Mulrooney, the present city administration has seen fit to abolish the highly necessary and efficiently conducted crime prevention bureau of the police department.

The underlying cause of wholesale crime in this country can be traced to lack of parental training, brought to a disgraceful low during the decade or more of the "noble experiment." Slums and slum environment have a lot to do with starting the youngster on the downward path and latterly the wild teachings of disloyal and nitwit school officials have inoculated the rising generation with contempt for all laws and all authority whether official or parental.

Blames Politicians.
Of course, we all know it would

have been utterly impossible for the crook army to openly defy authority, especially during the prohibition era, if politicians and officials were not hand in glove with them.

Years ago, I advocated centralizing the police of this country. All

KNIT FOR SPRING

By CHERIE NICHOLAS



Here is something to try out on your knitting needles. Better begin now so as to have it ready for wear in the early spring days. This smart knitted dress of knitting and crochet cotton has everything to

police departments in cities and towns of over 25,000 cost taxpayers a little over five hundred millions of dollars each year, but with the multiple form of government in each of the forty-eight states, with politicians ruling city, county and state police forces, it is a wonder things are not worse than they are.

The bar association should be the first organization in America to war upon crime by purging the ranks of a noble profession of the rats which seem to infest it in many parts of the country.

Judges are not innocent of helping crookdom war upon decent society. Many of our bench ornaments have been chosen for almost every quality save brains, and I might say the same thing of parole boards. Police, courts and parole boards must be entirely out of politics.

Says Divorce Laws, Not Marriage, Need Fixing

Akron, Ohio.—Greed and selfishness cause most divorces, believes Domestic Relations Judge Oscar A. Hunsicker. "People on the verge of divorce might as well admit they have made a mess of their own lives, and look to the welfare of their children," he said.

"The solution of the divorce evil does not lie in stricter marriage laws but in better divorce laws. Something should be done to prevent the throwing of children upon society."

Family Has Fifty Votes
Wayne, Kan. — Politicians in Grant township have been tipped off to get acquainted with the Campbells before seeking office. The family forms a bloc of 50 votes in the county.

commend it. The drop shoulders of the blouse impart a distinctive style touch. Then, too, the five brown buttons which fasten it are clever. The openwork crochet stitchery around the bottom of the blouse and skirt looks lacy and pretty. The most interesting detail, however, is the ribbing around the hips which insures a perfect fit to the skirt. Being carried to a depth of eight inches or more at each side, a wonderfully slenderizing effect is the result.

Floods Take Heavy Toll in Nova Scotia



Receding flood waters at Halifax, Nova Scotia, bared a toll of one person dead, one missing and an appalling property loss. The flood, heightened by rain and a midwinter thaw, inundated a number of communities to a depth of several feet, causing residents to abandon their homes for higher ground. Several rescues were made by aid of rowboat and canoe. The photo was made in the Shubenacadie district which bore the brunt of the flood. The canoe became a popular means of transportation as refugees went to and from their homes, salvaging whatever they could carry away.