

TOURING WORLD WITH CORN CROP

"Corn," in Other Countries Don't Mean What It Does in America.

Washington.—Because the three-billion-bushel corn crop in the United States for the past season apparently cannot be marketed satisfactorily either in the sack or "on the hoof," corn holds the center of the economic—and even the political—stage in America just now.

"Just what is corn?" asks a bulletin from the Washington (D. C.) headquarters of the National Geographic society.

"The youngest farm lad will be sure he can answer that question fully," continues the bulletin. "But can he?"

"Tell an Englishman that a bumper corn crop is causing our farmers economic distress and he will not think of fields of great, tall stalks and big golden ears, but of waving wheat and huge elevators. You must speak of 'maize' if you would have him understand."

"Talk to a South African of either corn or maize and he will fall to get your meaning. He grows the same plant with its grain-studded cobs, but it is 'maize' to him. So around the world you will find what we know as 'corn' growing under half a dozen aliases, while in other English-speaking countries 'corn' means something entirely different."

"Corn" is an English word of long standing. Of old, it meant any small, hard, granule. 'Pepper-corn' is one survival, while 'corned' beef is, surprisingly, another. 'Corned' meat gets its name from the fact that it was first prepared with coarse grains of salt—'salt-corns.' Even 'acorn' has had a misspelling legitimized because early Englishmen naturally mistook its derivation to be from 'oak-corn.'

Corn and Lawn Grasses Are Cousins. "From its very general meaning 'corn,' used alone, came in time to mean the small grains of the cereal plants such as barley, wheat, oats, etc.; and finally, in England and some of the colonies it usually meant wheat. 'Corn' meant the cereals in general at the time of the colonization of America, and since 'Indian corn' was the predominant grain crop in the New world, it soon monopolized the name.

"To those who have not dabbled in botany the classification of corn, often reaching a height of 20 feet, as a grass, is a bit surprising. It is, however, just as truly a grass as the tiny plants that carpet golf greens, the succulent foliage that covers pastures, the cereals, wheat, oats, rice, and the like, or its closer kinsmen, the sugar-canes and the sorghums. Corn is often called a 'giant grass.' It is rather a conservative giant, though, beside its cousin, bamboo, 'the grass that grows into the sky.' Bamboo attains a height of 125 feet and more.

"The confusion in regard to corn is increased by the existence of still other 'corns.' 'Kaffir corn,' also a grass, and a cousin of Indian corn, is one of the grain sorghums. It carries its round seeds not on ears but in an upright plume at the very top of its stalk where Indian corn has its grainless tassel. It did not reach America until after 1880.

"Jerusalem corn is somewhat like kaffir corn and the other grain sorghums (milo, maize, durra, etc.) but its seed-clusters hang downward, the ends of the stalk being bent over. It, too, is an immigrant.

"Broom corn is the queerest of the cousins that bear commonly the corn surname, and incidentally it is the oldest of the nonsugar-bearing sorghums to be cultivated in the United States. Brooms were made commercially in America from locally grown broom-corn as early as 1798, and the plant was grown for home broom making some years earlier. The seeds are of little value in broom-corn, but the stems of the seed-clusters, are admirably suited to use in making brooms.

Corn That Turns Inside Out. "Popcorn is merely a sort of dwarfed Indian corn bearing small ears stuffed with small, hard kernels. The latter have the property, however, of puffing or popping when heat is applied. The hard outer shell bursts and the grain puffs out so violently that it turns itself inside out. Millions of dollars in nickels and dimes have changed hands on American street corners because of the contortions of popcorn grains.

"It is generally accepted that America gave Indian corn to the world. A few students have supported the theory that the plant came from Asia to Europe and from America to Europe at about the same time, soon after the discovery of America. There are no generally accepted records of corn's existence in Asia before the beginning of the Sixteenth century, however, while it is known to have been cultivated in America for many centuries before the arrival of Columbus.

"Since the Fifteenth century corn has spread all over the world and is now an important crop in parts of all the continents as well as in New Zealand and other islands. It is one of the most important food grains in portions of Portugal, Spain, France, Italy, Yugo-Slavia, and Rumania. In Burma the corn grain is a sort of by-product. The type grown there has fine, silky shucks or husks inclosing the ear. This is the highly-prized product. It is used to wrap the 'whackin white cheroots' smoked by Burmese men, women and babies."

HAS CLEAREST SKIES IN WORLD

Quetta May Be Chosen for Smithsonian-Geographic Observatory.

Washington.—Quetta, in Baluchistan, near which it is probable that a new solar observatory will be established by the National Geographic society and the Smithsonian institution, is familiar—as a name—to readers of Kipling and workers of cross-word puzzles, but probably means little to most Americans. The city and its region, recently visited by Dr. C. G. Abbot, assistant secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, are the subjects of a bulletin from the Washington headquarters of the National Geographic society.

"Quetta exists primarily for military purposes," says the bulletin, "but the Pax Britannica that has been substituted for the lawlessness and banditry of former days has made an important civil community and trading center of it as well. Baluchistan is India's fortress to the east, and Quetta is its donjon keep. The British have been in control of the place since 1877, and since 1882 have held it under perpetual lease from its old ruler, the picturesque Wall of Kalat.

"When the British went in Quetta was only a little group of mud huts surrounded by unhealthy plains that were virtually swamps. Drainage and sanitation have made the place over. Now Quetta has a population of about 30,000; and the once swampy lowlands furnish a setting for villas and farm-houses surrounded by orchards and planted groves.

Mud Gives Way to Iron. "The outstanding feature of Quetta, still, however, is the cantonment where six or eight regiments of British and Indian troops are quartered. This extensive post is to the north on relatively high ground while the civil town is to the south on a lower level. Mud, in the form of sun-dried brick, is still a most important building material in the town, though not to the extent that it was two decades ago. Then mud-brick domes formed many of the roofs, and were considered safe because of Quetta's scant rainfall (about 10 inches annually). But there came an unusually wet spring, and most of Quetta's buildings melted away. Since then many iron roofs—less picturesque, but better insurance against weather vagaries—have surmounted the mud walls of the town.

"The permeation of Quetta by British, or perhaps more broadly, by Western, influence, is a phenomenon that cannot be escaped by anyone who has known the town over a series of years. The standard of living rises before his eyes. Tea, a little while ago a marked luxury, is becoming a common beverage. Leather footwear has displaced sandals to a noteworthy degree; all classes are wearing warmer and more comfortable clothing; and the native women are decking themselves out in more ornaments, after the manner of their prosperous sisters in other climes.

"The climate of Quetta has interesting aspects. The place is in the same latitude as Cairo, Jacksonville, Fla.; and Shanghai; but, because of its 6,000 feet of altitude and the physical aspect of the surrounding country, its climate is very different. Each day the mercury bobs up and down through a wide range. The difference between daily maximum and minimum has been known to reach 80 degrees; but such excessive changes are confined to certain short seasons. The hills and even the valleys of Baluchistan are largely treeless, and when the sun is down heat radiates away rapidly. As a consequence the nights are always cool—

"In the matter of combating the climate, there is nothing like an American standard of comfort in the homes even of Europeans in Quetta. The winters in general are no more severe than those of Washington, but the houses are so constructed that it is most difficult if not impossible to keep warm. The rooms are huge—16 by 25 feet or so, with ceilings 18 to 24 feet high. Small fireplaces are set far into the very thick walls and what little warmth they radiate into the rooms is lost in their vastness. Yet coal of fair quality is mined nearby and is used in the town. Its use in modern heating systems could make Quetta homes as comfortable as any in the world.

"Clearest Sky in the World." "If the National Geographic-Smithsonian solar observatory is established in Baluchistan it will be placed on top of 7,525-foot Kojak peak about 40 miles north of Quetta near the railroad which pierces the Kojak range and extends to Chaman, ten miles beyond the Afghan border. To the east beyond the Kojak mountains the Registan or Helmand desert stretches for more than 100 miles. It is 60 miles to the nearest mountains in the north. To the east lies a long, broad valley. On this relatively isolated mountain ridge on the edge of the desert the precipitation is even less than in Quetta—probably seven inches or less per year. When Doctor Abbot visited the Kojak peak in January he reported that the sky was perfectly blue right up to the sun's edge and added: 'It was the clearest sky I have ever seen in the world.'"

Can't Be Mike. Milwaukee.—An Italian who wanted the name of Michael Maloney was refused that privilege in the Circuit court here.

Official Greeter. East Orange, N. J.—Miss Mildred Huntoon, twenty-four and a college graduate, is the city's official greeter. The chamber of commerce has made her municipal hostess.

Bar Collectors. Macy, Neb.—Bill collectors are not permitted on the grounds of the agency here when the government is paying the Omaha Indians.

COWS MILKED BY SPOONED BY PHOTOGRAPH

Tennessee Man Makes Interesting Experiment With 100 Cows On His Dairy Farm.

Knoxville, Tenn.—A milk cow will give an additional quart of milk a day when "My Old Kentucky Home," reproduced from instrumental music, is played for her ears by a phonograph.

At any rate, J. G. Sterchi, president of a furniture concern which operates 24 retail and wholesale stores and seven furniture factories in seven Southeastern states, says he proved the statement by getting 25 gallons extra a day from the 100 cows on his dairy farm just outside Knoxville.

Mr. Sterchi asserts that he was convinced after four years of trial that the soothing strains from a violin make them feel at home.

"Just now I am building a large pool which will be stocked with gold fish for my Jerseys to look into," he said. "The slow and graceful motions of the fish will make any cow lie down and chew her cud, and then I have ordered 50 pairs of canary birds for my barn. A cage, containing two birds, will be suspended between the stalls of every two cows, and the music of 100 canaries will perhaps give me another additional 24 quarts a day. In fact, I am confident it will."

Mr. Sterchi is erecting a 13-story building for his Knoxville store, which will be completed within the next year, and on the ground floor will be a fountain spouting fresh buttermilk from his farm. A sign will be placed, he said, reading something like this: "A Man Full for a Nickel," so that a person can drink all the milk he wants for 5 cents.

The 1,300-acre farm on the outskirts of Knoxville is the same one he left 35 years ago to work for \$10 a month in a furniture store.

Gets Submarine Letter Mailed Nine Years Ago



A member of the New York Times staff has just received a letter marked "Submarine Mail," sent in 1917 from Germany. Evidently the U-boat turned back when United States declared war on Germany. Nine years later the letter was sent in the ordinary way by the original sender unopened, explaining that the document should become more and more valuable as the years pass.

First White-Collar Stowaway Hails Home

New York.—It was a handsome Scottish scarf that won Royal Pichon away from the security and comfort of land about two months ago, but all the woolsens from Scotland couldn't coax him back to the waves again. Pichon, who is twenty-five, grew up in New Orleans as a bellhop and then a clerk in hotels. Working in New Orleans, he saw a sailor with the Scottish scarf that invited him away to sea. Working his way across on a freighter, he soon found himself broke in London. Selling his \$85 overcoat for two shillings and a worn-out jacket, he hid under the boilers of a liner.

He had four bananas and three rolls for his two shillings. These kept him alive for the two days before he was discovered. He turned his one suit of clothes inside out while he was hidden so that when he landed here he might be presentable.

He was presentable when he was unlocked yesterday, the first white-collar stowaway discovered. "Go to sea again? If I ever go to New Orleans, I'll die there. European liquor isn't what it's cracked up to be."

Bar Collectors. Macy, Neb.—Bill collectors are not permitted on the grounds of the agency here when the government is paying the Omaha Indians.

NEW STATUTES FILL 3 FEDERAL PRISONS

Swelling Ranks of Convicts Present Problem.

Washington.—In spite of the increasing maze of government activities that have sprung up since the war, Uncle Sam is spending more money and energy every year in the work of rehabilitating the lawless members of society.

Due to the increased number of federal statutes passed in the last few years, the federal prisons are becoming an ever greater factor in the enforcement of the law and the administration of justice in the United States.

Previous to the last decade the total number of federal prisoners was much less than at present and a greater proportion of the lawbreakers, having violated various state laws, were confined in the state institutions.

On June 30 of this year the total number of federal prisoners was 8,518. This was 851 more than the number for the previous year.

The increasing number of convicts in the government's charge has brought about a need for a corresponding extension of the nation's prison facilities and also for a general improvement in the equipment and methods in the present institutions.

If the plans now being worked out are carried into effect, the United States will have probably the most extensive and scientific prison system in the world, according to the experts of the Department of Justice.

At the present time the country has three federal prisons located at Atlanta, Ga.; Leavenworth, Kan., and McNeil Island, Washington.

Prisons Are Inadequate. During the fiscal year which ended last June 30 it cost the government \$1,748,694.85 to maintain and operate these three institutions. This was an increase of \$200,000 over the expenditures of the federal prisons for the previous fiscal year.

Yet, despite the greater expenditures for operating these institutions, federal prison officials claim that the three penitentiaries are wholly inadequate for housing the steady stream of convicts being turned over daily by the courts. Last spring the crowded conditions of the prisons, particularly at Atlanta, became so acute that the superintendent of prisons appealed to the adjacent state institutions to take over some of the federal prisoners. By "boarding out" groups of prisoners in this fashion it was possible to find quarters for all the federal charges.

In order to relieve the situation, the superintendent has recommended to the attorney general that steps be taken to procure new corrective institutions for the government.

Last spring the site was chosen and work begun on the new penitentiary for women now under construction at Alderson, W. Va. This institution is intended to be a model corrective institution and will be modern in every respect.

While the new women's prison will solve the question of what to do with female federal law breakers, who are at present confined in state prisons, it will not add the congested situation in the penitentiaries for men.

Prison for First Offenders. The Department of Justice now favors as a solution of the congestion problem the construction of a prison to be filled entirely by first offenders. The government prison experts advocate this plan, because it is thought that, by keeping first offenders segregated, they will be less likely to learn the tricks of the trade from the hardened lawbreakers with whom they would mingle in the regular penitentiaries.

One of the outstanding problems in the administration of the prison system, in addition to the congestion question, is that of providing suitable employment for all the prisoners. At present large numbers of able-bodied prison inmates are in enforced idleness.

The whole theory of the federal prisons is based on the conception that a prison should be a corrective rather than a purely punitive institution. It is believed that many novices at law-breaking can be reformed if trained in useful trades, which would make it possible for them to support themselves honestly.

Says Methuselah Died Too Soon

New York.—The cost of sickness in the United States yearly amounts to \$2,000,000,000, for Mer Health Commissioner Darlington recently told the Rotary club of New York in the McAlpin hotel. He asserted it was possible to live six score years. "Nearly every one dies prematurely," he declared. "Vital statistics show 4 per cent of our population die of old age and 96 per cent prematurely. Investigation of the 4 per cent even shows that they might have lived longer.

"Even Methuselah died prematurely. He was drowned by the flood when 969 years old."

Old Documents Displayed

Washington.—The originals of the nation's most historic documents—Declaration of Independence and the Constitution—long stored in a vault and displayed only on special occasions, now are on public view in a specially constructed shrine in the congressional library.

Business Directory

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NOTIONS

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NEGRO WEALTH INCREASES.

(Columbian Press Bureau) Washington, D. C.—The present estimated wealth of Negroes in the United States is \$2,000,000,000, according to a recent survey made for the Research Section of the American Sociological Society by Dr. Monroe N. Work, of Tuskegee Institute. The wealth of the group in 1912 was estimated at \$700,000,000. The race has also made decided gains in the matter of health. The death rate, which was 22.9 per thousand in 1912, has now fallen to 15.7, or a decrease of 31 per cent.

Whoso hateth instruction loveth knowledge; but he that hateth reproof is brutish.