

In the Public Eye

RAILWAY ACROSS ANDES



Another link in the world's chain of railways is to be forged shortly, and the master who will direct operations is Sir John Jackson of London. When it is stated that this railway—which is to connect Arica in Chile and La Paz in Bolivia—crosses the Andes in its course, and at one point reaches an elevation of 12,000 feet, it will be seen that Sir John has no light task before him, and the accomplishment of it will add one more triumph to his record of engineering achievements.

Sir John Jackson did not, like many of the great captains of industry, begin life upon the bottom rung. He comes of well-to-do parents and was educated at York and afterwards at Edinburgh university. Showing early in life a decided taste for engineering, he decided to learn his subject thoroughly, so went through the shops like an ordinary workman. His first great job was the last section of the Manchester ship canal, on which, by the way, John Ward, now a labor member of the British parliament, worked at a salary of ten cents an hour. This was followed by the foundations of the Tower bridge across the Thames in London, and the difficult task of constructing the harbor at Dover. At this latter place he had perhaps the hardest element to contend with—the weather. Time and again were his half-finished walls carried away by some great storm to which that part of the coast is subject.

The distance between Arica and La Paz is about 250 miles as the crow flies, but the actual length of the line will be 300 miles. The first 30 miles from Arica is mostly desert and at one part of the line water for drinking purposes will have to be carried some eighty miles. The part of the Andes to be crossed is still unsurveyed, and the population consists mostly of Indians. Here the route will pass through deep canons, where the cliffs exceed 2,000 feet in height, and these cliffs are so close together that it will be difficult to place a double line of rails between them. The laborers will be mostly natives, engineers being sent out from England, and it is estimated that over 3,000 workmen will be employed in the construction, which is to cost \$15,000,000. From three to four years will be required to complete the work.

TELLS ISLAND'S TROUBLES



Eugenio Benitez Castanos, head of the commission of three sent by the Porto Rico house of delegates to Washington to explain political conditions in that island and ask the American government for relief, makes out a strong case in favor of his people.

In truth, the sort of control exercised over Porto Rico by the United States government seems in many respects worse than that of Spain, from which we rescued the island. The islanders were really happier under Spanish domination, according to Commissioner Castanos. Under the old order they had representation in the insular government, whereas at present they have nothing to say or do except pay the rather high bills. In the nine years of our rule there has never been a native Porto Rican made chief of an executive department. Even the high-salaried clerks and assistants are outsiders, except where the duties demand an unusually well educated man or a linguist, when the government finds itself compelled to name a native. Their taxes are fixed arbitrarily by a board of outsiders and they have no appeal.

The legislative body has an upper body of appointed department heads and an elective lower house of delegates with 35 members and limited powers. The present clash came when the delegates desired to wipe out the appointed justices of the peace and create an elective court. They wanted to create manual training schools. All of these the American governor coolly denied. In reprisal, the delegates made a few salary cuts, from five to fifteen per cent, in the salaries of the American officeholders. The result was that the upper council, headed by Gov. Post, refused its assent, and the body adjourned without passing any appropriation bill whatever.

WON BY ADVERTISING



Joseph H. Brown, the new governor of Georgia, is probably the first state executive to carry the methods of modern business advertising successfully into politics. We have millions of politicians of the city and county size who are adept at self-advertising and at securing gratuitous publicity from the newspapers. But Gov. Brown is the first man to sit down with a card index and a follow-up system and yank himself from comparative obscurity into the governor's chair of an important state.

Brown beat Gov. Hoke Smith when the latter was after a renomination. Smith is an orator, editor of an Atlanta newspaper, a member of the Grover Cleveland cabinet and altogether an unusually strong man. Brown was to 99 per cent, of the people of Georgia merely a name—scattered impressive eloquence and personal attention all over the state. Brown sat in his dinky office in Atlanta and sent out letters to the electorate individually. Postal cards and newspaper advertising were incidental features. He made no speeches, he shook hands with no regiments of voters.

Brown is a little, unimpressive individual, self-made, a railroad man most of his life and a son of the late United States Senator Joseph E. Brown. Two years ago he was a state railroad commissioner and was discharged from his office by Gov. Hoke Smith just three weeks before his term would have expired. The fact had something to do with subsequent events connected with the governorship.

TO SEARCH FOR SOUTH POLE



Dr. William Speirs Bruce, the British explorer who is about to set out on a trip to the south pole, is connected with the Scottish Oceanographical laboratory. At 42 he has won a reputation as a traveler in strange and faraway lands, and has already six polar journeys to his credit.

In the present attempt to reach the unknown, Dr. Bruce will depart from the methods of his predecessors in the Antarctic search and will approach the pole from the Atlantic side rather than from the Pacific. The ice field on the former side is widest, as admitted by all who have attempted to cross it, but Dr. Bruce believes it is to be less steep and therefore the easier to cross. He is also convinced that there is but one great Antarctic continent and this he hopes to traverse.

Ambiguous Bow-Wow.

A big black dog puts in a good deal of time trotting about Pleasant Hill. Whenever it meets any one it wags its tail in a most friendly manner, but at the same time growls warningly. The Pleasant Hill Times offers a leather medallion to any one

who will tell the town which end of the dog to believe.

No Wheat Grains.

"What do you think of the losers in this wheat speculation?"
"I haven't a grain of sympathy for them."

BIRDS OF PREY

IN THE HIGHLANDS



YOUNG PEREGRINE FALCON

The distribution of birds of prey in the Highlands at the present day furnishes a striking object-lesson in the effects of protection on any given species, says a writer in Country Life. In the middle of last century, when game preservation as a source of income began to be considered an asset of the country, there were few sportsmen who realized how easily and quickly any non-migratory bird could be exterminated. At that period birds of prey were unquestionably too numerous, and game could scarcely have been expected to flourish under such conditions. Our forefathers, perhaps better sportsmen than their descendants, skilled in all manner of woodcraft and content with small bags obtained by their own unaided efforts, were more tolerant and forbearing towards the birds and beasts of prey than we have since proved ourselves to be. The rising value of sport, however, marked the commencement of a relentless warfare against all marauders other than man himself, a warfare which has continued to the present day and threatens to exterminate many of our most interesting species, which, once vanished, can never be replaced. The position of many of our birds of prey is a matter of the greatest concern to ornithologists and sportsmen alike, for there are few sportsmen who would knowingly exterminate a species whose members are already so few as to cause no concern to game preserves. The harm done by the few pairs of eagles, peregrines and buzzards which still survive is not worth consideration, and the fact that most of their prey is obtained in the deer forests renders their presence desirable, rather than otherwise, in many of the latter.

Of the British eagles, two species have already vanished, or almost vanished. Experience shows that we cannot hope for migrants to take their place. The sea eagle is now but rarely seen on our coasts, and the fishing eagle, the graceful osprey, is no longer a familiar feature of our inland lochs. On some lone islet or surf-beaten rock an odd pair may survive, but for most of us they are but memories of the past, and never again may we watch them as in days gone by. The golden eagle is the only one remaining to us. For him alone of his race protection came not in vain. The preservation of this grand species is the only bright spot in the history of the British eagles. In some districts the king of birds is actually increasing; almost everywhere he holds his own. This is due entirely to the action taken by proprietors to protect the eyries, and to the courteous forbearance shown towards the birds by the great majority of shooting tenants—f forbearance which is, unfortunately, not accorded to them in the south, where the appearance of any large bird of prey seems to be regarded as the signal for its destruction. The buzzard, in appearance closely resembling the golden eagle when on the wing, though easily distinguished by its smaller size, has in the past suffered for the sins of its bolder neighbors, for of all birds of prey this is the least harmful to game; mice, voles and carrion form its diet, and it is probably quite incapable of striking down any game-bird on the wing unless the latter is weakly or wounded. In flight slow and heavy and by nature a coward, common sense will show us that the character of this species quite belies its predatory appearance. Yet in spite of these facts, which have been proved times without number, keepers continue to shoot these harmless birds on their migration in autumn, the period when the young birds, driven away by their parents, are seeking fresh quarters. If proprietors would include buzzards in their orders for the protection of eagles something might be gained. Of all our birds of prey, the buzzard is, at the present moment, most in need of protection.

Two other species claim our attention—the kestrel and the merlin, both

of which the writer has turned out in considerable numbers during the last few years. It is, indeed, a treat for the bird-lover to see these lesser falcons losing their fear of man day by day, to watch them from the window hunting mice in the meadows below, hovering, perhaps, within a few yards of the watcher, then pouncing with lightning swoop on some hapless vole, pausing to devour their prey before one's very eyes. To naturalists, the fact that the writer had three kestrels' nests under observation in 1908 in a small pine wood may be of interest, as showing that there is comparatively little antagonism between individuals of this charming species. In the case of one of these the bold behaviour of the adult was conspicuous, and the female would almost allow me to handle her on the nest. It was conjectured that she was one of those liberated in the previous year; one of a brood which had become exceptionally tame before being released. With certain exceptions the kestrel is always harmless to game. In the case of 99 nests out of 100 the kestrels will be found to be bringing fur—i. e., mice, voles, etc.—to the young, and the benefit thus conferred on farmers is enormous.

With merlins this is by no means the case, and young grouse are often the principal food of the family; but at no other period of the year are they destructive to game. Owing to the fact that they nest on the ground and in the most secluded places they are not easy to locate, and to this they often owe their safety. The numbers of kestrels in the Highlands are apparently on the increase, and it seems now to be generally recognized that they are worthy of encouragement. Both kestrels and merlins are to some extent migratory, and the latter seem less able to fend for themselves when the ground is covered with snow, departing southward at the approach of winter. It is a curious fact that grouse are aware that the kestrel is harmless, and that the cock grouse will boldly attempt to drive the "wind-hover" away from nest or brood should the little falcon approach too near when hunting for mice. On the approach of the peregrine, however, he crouches close to the ground, well knowing that no courage will avail him here.

A few words in conclusion as to the owls, of which we need only consider three species—the tawny, the long-eared and the short-eared, for the barn-owl, common in the south, is a rare avis in the Highlands. The appearance of the short-eared owls in autumn marks the approach of winter, and the regularity with which they arrive at the time of the flight has earned for them the name of the woodcock owl. A few of these remain to breed with us, and in time more may be induced to follow their example if they are carefully protected.

GOT HIS MORNING'S HOT MILK.

Thoughtful Friend Turned the Trick and Landlady Received Credit for Thoughtfulness.

"Living in a boarding place is not without its objections," confided W. B. McCarthy to his friend over their noonday lunch. "For instance, I'd like some hot milk in the morning. There's no reason why I should have it, health's good and all that, but I've taken a fancy to hot milk for breakfast. When I draw up to the table, I think to myself how nice it would be if I just had a bowl of hot milk. But if I were to ask for it, every boarder in the house would be wanting the same thing. That's the way it goes in a boarding house. And I don't like to make myself a nuisance to the landlady. The other day I said I'd like some toast. No one else had thought of such a thing before, but everybody had to have some of my toast when it came in. And there you are."

"Too bad McCarthy can't get a little swallow of hot milk in the morning," thought McCarthy's friend as he sat at his desk that afternoon. "Mebby I can fix things." He reached for the phone and called up McCarthy's landlady.

"This is Mr. McCarthy's physician," he told her. "I wish you would see to it that he gets all the hot milk he can drink every morning. Give it to him instead of coffee or tea. You see his nerves are in a bad way, and if he doesn't get hot milk for breakfast we'll have to send him off to a sanitarium. Don't say anything to him about me calling. Just see that he gets that hot milk. Thank you very much."

And ever since then, McCarthy has been bragging about what a mind-reader his landlady is. "Just sort of knows what I want almost as soon as I know myself," he says. "Never saw anything like it."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

MODERN METHODS OF SHEEP SHEARING GREAT HELP

Many Improvements Over Old Days When Wool Was Gathered by Allowing Animals to Rub and Squeeze Each Other.

The earliest method of securing the wool was to drive the sheep quickly through a narrow passage, and the squeezing and rubbing of one against another loosened and detached the wool. Later, an "improved" plan was adopted, which, in our ears, sounds somewhat inhumane, although, as a matter of fact, if done at the right time, there would probably be nothing painful or severe about it. The sheep were caught, and the wool was pulled from their backs by hand. This practice continued for many hundreds of years, for although Laban and the other great pastoralists of his time clipped their sheep, Pliny tells us that, in his day, when Rome was in the zenith of her glory, "the sheep are not everywhere shorn, but the custom of pulling off the wool continues in some places." It is to the old patriarchs, then, that we must give the credit of having set about getting the wool in a business-like way, and from their day until now practically no change has taken place in the manner and method of clipping. Most of the clipping on the big Border farms in Great Britain is done by the ordinary shepherding staff.

belief that it was beneficial from the point of view of health. In the North Country the clipping is usually done in an open-fronted covered shed, where there is plenty of light. An old sail-cloth, or a covering of boards, is laid over the earthen floor, and these are kept clean by sweeping. The actual method of clipping is very similar, I fancy, in all districts—first the opening out of the head, neck, brisket and thighs, then the curving round the ribs from the belly up to the back, first on one side and then on the other, and then the quarters. A well-clipped sheep should show the rings formed by the shears running in continuous lines all round its barrel and up the quarters; there should be no break along the back where the line traveling up one side meets that coming up the other. These lines, or little ridges of wool, should be small and of uniform size, and they should all be at the same distance from one another. It is quite wonderful how much better a nicely-shorn sheep looks than one which is carelessly and untidily done. And there is more in it than a mere pleasing of the eye. A well-clipped lot of sheep, because



Sheep, Shearing Time.

Very often a helper is engaged for a fortnight or so, to push the work through, but the heaviest part of the burden rests on the shoulders of the permanent hands. Needless to say, it is a busy time while it lasts, for all the other work of the farm has to be carried on simultaneously, and it means, for the shepherds, getting up very early—not later than 4:30, and working late. The permanent hands, having their ordinary work to get through as well, do not, of course, clip so many sheep in a day as a clipper specially engaged for the job. About a score per man, or thereabouts, is considered a very good day's work; a good hand working full time will turn out, on an average, about thirty. Formerly he used to be paid by the day, but it is more usual now to follow the piecework plan.

On both sides of the Border, the Lowland sheep are always washed a week or so before shearing. But many farmers assert that there are other benefits which accrue from it. They say the washing improves the health of the sheep. Some old writers held this view, and Youatt quotes that excellent chemist Vauquelin, who says: "In this respect I am inclined to adopt the opinion of those who think that the washing of sheep, during dry warm weather, may be useful to their health and to the quality of the wool." However this may be, it is beyond question that the practice of washing, previous to shearing, is of ancient date, and it is quite probable that its origin is to be found in the

of their attractive appearance, will bring, as a rule, an appreciably higher price than another lot done in a slovenly manner; this may frequently be seen in the case of clipped hogs. There is also no loss of wool in the former case; in the latter, too much is frequently left on the ridges, and this, of course, reduces the weight of fleece.

The use of clipping machines instead of hand-shears has made, as yet, little headway in the north; but more attention is being given to the idea year by year. On some of the larger farms, one or perhaps two hand-driven machines are to be found; none is power driven. If machines come into general use it will be because of the difficulty of finding casual clippers rather than for reasons of economy. The farmers do not anticipate any great saving of expense by the use of machines; they say that one man with a machine driven by a lad or woman worker will not get through more than the number which two good men could clip—that is to say, about sixty per day. When the woman's wage is added to the cost of cleaning, oiling, repairing and depreciation of the machine and is set against the out-of-pocket expenses incurred under existing circumstances by a big farmer, there can be little saving by the new method. For it is to be remembered, as stated previously, that most of the clipping is already done by permanent servants, whose wages have to be paid anyhow.

FACTS ABOUT HENS AND EGGS

How to Make Most Money from Poultry.

When cholera appears in the flock give no water except that in which pokeroot has been boiled. This is both a preventative and a cure. An Illinois man says one of his hens laid an egg two and seven-eighths inches long and one and fifteen-sixteenths inches wide, the measurement being taken with callipers.

One man will win with one kind of hen and another man with some other breed. It is with hens as it is with cows. We should choose the breed we like the best and then stay with it.

Fowls are naturally hardy, and contagion in a flock is due to carelessness on the part of the poultry keeper. This is proved by the fact that expert poultry raisers have very few sick chickens.

Hens need a better place in which to roost than the trees around the house. Of course, they may survive there; but merely living and returning a profit are two different things.

Don't stop feeding the hens shells just because they are out of doors and can shift for themselves. There is no line, not even an imaginary one, between the days when the hen likes shells and when she does not. All days are alike in that respect.

from 60 pullets and 12 yearling Rhode Island hens she sold last year eggs to the amount of \$262.62, not counting the eggs used in a family of four. Feed, advertising, etc., cost \$94.77, making a gain of \$167.85. These hens laid 8,745 eggs.

To have the chickens mature rapidly a proper type of breeding fowl should be obtained. This type consists of fowls of medium size and broad and blocky in shape, like the Plymouth Rock and Wyandottes. The chickens should be frequently fed, and a sufficient quantity of food given each time to satisfy them.

Sugar as a Finishing Feed.—A herd of 15 Black Angus cattle which was awarded first prize at the Chicago International Stock show, and which was sold at \$17 per hundred pounds live weight, was fattened on a ration which included molasses. Besides pasture feed, corn and oats, the owner fed during the last month a mixture of oil meal and oats, to which was added a sprinkling of molasses. It was found that the molasses added a glossiness to the hides and improved the appearance of the animals in every way.

Alfalfa Seed.—Alfalfa seeds resemble those of red clover in size, but differ in not being so uniform in shape. The color should be light olive green or greenish yellow. Darkened, discolored and shriveled seed should be discarded, as its germinating power is low. Plump, well-matured seed produce more plants and stronger plants than do the small and immature.