

# Crow Farmer's Friend and Foe

"Twice as Good as He Is Bad,"  
Writer Says of Persecuted Bird.

## IS BACKED BY UNCLE SAM

Kills Young Chickens and Destroys Eggs of Other Birds, But on Other Hand He Kills Field Mice and Insects.

Washington.—The United States biological survey sends out a bulletin about the crow. It says that the big, black fellow is the farmer's friend and should not be exterminated, and it goes on to assert that many crows recently examined were found to eat 38 per cent grain and 62 per cent May beetles, tussock moths, grasshoppers, gypsy moths, army worms, chinchbugs and brown moths. So he is about twice as good as he is bad.

But the crow also kills young chickens and destroys the eggs of other birds, George F. Burba writes in the Columbus Dispatch. Charge that up against him along with the 38 per cent grain which he eats. Then on the other hand, set down a large number of field mice and cutworms which he also gets away with and there is still a balance in his favor. Besides, much of the grain the crow eats would be wasted anyway, since he picks up the scattered kernels in the field and eats a lot of very poor corn and wheat that wouldn't be any account to anybody else.

### Hunted Become Intelligent.

The government bulletin isn't going to have much effect, one way or another, however. Everybody takes a shot at a crow whenever he gets a chance, but the crows persist. They have been warred upon so much that they have become very intelligent.

Take note of that—anything that is warred upon or hunted becomes intelligent. The hunted birds and animals acquire knowledge and cunning, or whatever you want to call it. Otherwise they would disappear.

If crows were stupid and sat around on fences when they see a man in the field with a gun; if they built their nests where the nests could be easily broken up; if they did not help each other by giving warning of approaching danger, there would be no crows. But everyone seems to be an enemy of the glossy fellow, and he knows that he must keep at a safe distance.

He learns that he must build his nest high up in a tree, away from human habitation, and watch out every moment for somebody or something that would kill him. All of this has made him what we call one of the most intelligent of birds.

### The Crow as a Pet.

And still the crow is a sociable bird. He likes human beings, when they

treat him right. He makes a splendid pet, although a naughty one. In that he is always getting into trouble. If you will take a crow when it is young and raise it it becomes as gentle as a chicken.

He likes to be around the house, where there are a lot of boys. But at every opportunity he will fly upon the table and snatch the food, or carry scissors or thimbles or spoons of thread or jewelry away and hide them. He is a mischief maker with the hens and chickens and fuses and quarrels and wrangles with the dog that sleeps upon the porch.

But he will not desert the family; he will remain with the boy that feeds him and attends to him, although he may take a trip occasionally to the fields and talk to the other crows, coming back at night to his regular roost.

### Girls Beat Boys Spelling.

Tiffin O.—Girls in the Seneca county schools are better spellers than the boys. Honors at the county school spelling and speaking contest held here went chiefly to the girls. Miss Gertrude Bertsch of Thompson won the seventh and eighth grade spelling contest. Harry Sperow of Hopewell the fifth and sixth and Irene Hatton of Attica the third and fourth. Rosamond Showalter of Attica and Thomas Watson of Old Fort won in the two divisions of the speaking contest.

### Audience Applauded as Snake Crushed Trainer

Applause from a large audience resounded in the little theater at Serbruck, Switzerland, while a gigantic python slowly crushed its trainer to death.

The trainer, a Hungarian girl named Ciro, realized her peril and shrieked for help as the coils of the serpent closed about her, but the audience believed her cries were part of the entertainment and cheered loudly.

Franklin Ciro's manager rushed on the stage and shot the snake, but not until the young woman was beyond help. It was not until after the performance was over that the people were apprised, of the fact they had witnessed a gruesome tragedy.

### Now Grows Over the Doctors.

Huntington, W. Va.—Marguerite, the twenty-month-old daughter of E. W. Stoller and wife, was slowly wasting away. Physicians saw no hope of her recovery. She was seized with a fit of coughing and a watermelon seed she had swallowed last September was disgorged. Now she will get well.

### Met Death on Duty.

Lawrenceburg, Ind.—Capt. Wesley L. Moore, aged seventy-eight, river pilot, often said he hoped he might die on the Ohio river. Death came to him as he wished. He was found lifeless in his cabin on the Ivory Wood, a vessel he operated between Cincinnati and New Orleans.

### HEDGED IN BY SUPERSTITION

Customs of Thousands of Years Influence the Daily Lives of African Natives.

I did not realize until I was out in the African bush how complex is the life of a savage native, and how completely he is hedged in by rules and prohibitions, the breaking of which results often in death, if only by reason of his entire belief in the inviolability of these rules, writes a British traveler.

On one occasion a burly, deep-chested native of mine temporarily lost his voice. He came to me and speaking in a whisper, said: "Bwana! (Master) My most beautiful child is dead. My eldest, but less beautiful child, is ill. My wife has run away, taking with her my best cooking pot. I am not feeling well myself. Is it your will that I go away to sacrifice one chicken that the Evil Eye may be averted?"

I laughed at this idea until I remembered that, according to the ethnologists, the natives have lived in this stage of ignorance for thousands of years, performing every act of life in accordance with those rules and prohibitions.

For instance, there are many strange customs in connection with journeys. Before a long journey is undertaken offerings must be made and complicated ceremonies performed. The journey must be abandoned or the course altered if a hyena has crossed the trail in a certain way, or if a woodpecker calls from one side of the road. In any case, it is the custom when crossing the first stream to dip the end of the bow into the water and place it to the lips. If a man drinks from a stream he is about to cross, he must retain the last mouthful and spit it back into the water when he reaches the far bank.

### UTILIZING THAT HALF HOUR

Average Person Will Be Surprised at the Amount of Reading Which It Can Contain.

What I do venture to press upon you is, that it requires no preternatural force of will in any young man or woman—unless household circumstances are more than usually vexatious and unfavorable—to get at least half an hour out of a solid busy day for good and disinterested reading. Some will say that this is too much to expect, and the first persons to say it, I venture to predict, will be those who waste their time most. At any rate, if I cannot get half an hour, I will be content with a quarter. Now, in half an hour I fancy you can read 15 or 20 pages of Burke; or you can read one of Wordsworth's masterpieces—say the lines on Tintern; or say, one-third—if a scholar, in the original, and if not, in a translation—of a book of the Iliad or the Aeneid. I do not think that I am filling the half hour too full. But try for yourselves what you can read in half an hour. Then multiply the half hour by 365, and consider what treasures you might have laid by at the end of the year.—Lord Morley.

### "Halcyon Days."

The seven days preceding and the seven days following the winter solstice, which falls on Dec. 21 or 22, were the halcyon days of the old world. In modern dictionary halcyon has come to be a synonym for idyllic, peaceful or happy; but among the ancients it was the name of a bird now called the kingfisher, and the 14 days nearest the winter solstice were called halcyon days because it was at that period that the bird deposited her eggs on the rocks by the margin of the sea, or in a floating nest in the midst of the waters. Out of consideration for the halcyon bird, which was supposed to be favored by the gods, it was expected that the sea would remain calm, that the eggs might not suffer injury. The superstition persisted in spite of the storms that often prevailed at that period, some of the ancient writers attributing to the kingfisher the power of arresting the violence of the waves.

### Experiment in Cross-Breeding.

A most interesting experiment has been going on in the county of Middlethian. Some years ago Professor Ewart obtained a fine male zebra from Africa, and crossed him with a pony mare. The resulting animal, called a zebraule, is strong, hardy, very intelligent, and easily broken to saddle and harness. The zebraule stands about fourteen hands high, and can easily carry twelve stone. These creatures are very good trotters, and some have already been sent to India for government use. It is quite likely that the new animal may gradually take the place of the mule.—Exchange.

### Cake's Two Names.

A Journey-cake is the same as a Johnny-cake. A Johnny-cake is a flat cake made of Indian cornmeal, mixed with milk or water, salted, and baked on a griddle or toasted. When baked upon a shingle and placed between the coals, it was termed journey-cake, so called because it could be so speedily prepared. This name has been corrupted in modern times to Johnny cake.—Literary Digest.

### Not Quite the Same.

Robert's father received this communique from his son absent in the halls of learning: "Dear Father: I am sorry to say that I was mistaken when I wrote last week that the professor had said that my abilities were mathematical. He said that they were problematical. Affectionately, Robert."—New York Evening Post.

# RECOMMENDED TO THE SEAMSTRESS



The fairly efficient seamstress who has what the French call "a sense of clothes," can take a small allowance in money and dress much better on it than richer women who lack good taste. Also she gets more pleasure out of her achievements and there are a good many women in this favored land who have the knack of doing much with little. Thanks to the wide publicity given by newspapers to all matters of dress in centers of fashion no American need ever be behind the times in styles.

Two afternoon gowns shown in the picture here, may be recommended to the seamstress who undertakes to make her own dresses. They offer a choice between long, straight lines for those who admire the slim silhouette and curved ones for those who are too slender, or those who find unbroken lines unbecoming to them. Tricotee with an open or drop-

stitch stripe, makes the handsome straight line dress. The design is simple but original, achieving a sleeveless jacket effect in the body which slips over an underbodice carrying the sleeves. Wide satin-ribbon, in a soft quality, makes a short crushed band across the front, simulating a girle, and square buttons are set at each side where it terminates. The elbow sleeves are finished with turn back cuffs that employ a band of ribbon and buttons in the same way. There is a very simple neck with sailor collar at the back.

A plain satin underskirt and bodice supply the foundation for the attractive frock of georgette, which might be made of voile. It features the new neck mode—high at back and open in front, and very full ruching of plaited silk with pinked edges, at the bottom of a full, short tunic. The girle is a folded length of bias satin.

## Little Maids in Silk Attire



IT IS, or it ought to be, a great occasion for the very little girl when she arrives at the splendor of her first silk dress. With it she has responsibilities thrust upon her; she must be taught to be careful to keep it clean and thus comes the beginning of her training in neatness and the unfeeling charm of daintiness. Fashion decrees silk coats and frocks for little maids by the time their third birthday dawns and has selected spicily taffeta as the prettiest and most practical of weaves for them, although neither crepe de chine nor georgette are denied them. But these softer silks are used in light colors for dress-up times while taffeta is sturdier and extends its usefulness to coats and dresses that will stand more wear.

Taffeta in dark blue makes the charming little frock shown in the picture on a little girl of four. It has a quaint flavor of old times (which it is easy to achieve in taffeta) with its short baby waist, round neck and wide, ruffled collar. The bottom of the waist is finished with a frill and band of the silk, the band having slashes in it for a narrow ribbon girle to slip through. Short ruffled sleeves are caught up at the elbow and tied with ribbon. White socks and buck slippers are in keeping with this little affair of old days.

Either taffeta or cotton will be successful in the pretty embroidered frock shown. It is scalloped at the bottom and set on to a narrow yoke also cut in wide scallops. A very simple stitchery like feather or cat stitching runs parallel with the scallops and little rose buds are embroidered above it. The same decoration appears on turned back cuffs that finish elbow sleeves and there is a sash of the dress material slipped through slashes cut in the body of the frock.

*Julia Bottomley*

### THAT SPLASH OF COLOR.

Organdie and novelty cotton frocks are good looking. Imported embroidered voiles dotted in vari-color are given the splash of interest by a vivid sash of organdie with butterfly loops and trailing sash ends. Another treatment which is very effectively used in these voiles and in the organdie frocks is two-inch insertions of shirred tulle or of tucked organdie in a contrasting shade, which gives a much

more hand-worked effect than the insertion of narrow laces. Yellow organdie is used in this way with gray organdie and white tulle in the pale colored frocks.

### Novelty Ribbons.

New novelty ribbons are brilliant alternatives of the woman whose expenditures must be restricted, for they may be fashioned into evening bodices of bright color and rich effect, as well as into girles and panels.

# Tell Ships of Ocean Noises

Secret Ears to Be Placed on Merchant Ships by the Government.

## TEST PROVES IT A SUCCESS

Hydrophone, Government Controlled Invention, Can Explain Many Sea Mysteries—Tried Out on Destroyer.

New York.—In olden times when Chinese shipbuilders designed and constructed their lateen-rigged craft for war or commercial purposes, prominent and oftentimes ferocious "eyes" were located on either side of the bow.

Today modern America, now the leading nation in ship construction, is proposing to equip her merchant vessels with "ears," the location of which, like the eyes on the Chinese junk, are

on the ship's bows, but under instead of over the water. While superstition induced the Chinaman to equip his ship so it could "see" its enemies and work its way into a safe port through shoal water, hidden rocks and through crowded waterways, science has designed the "ears" for the same purpose.

### Test is Made.

With the destroyer Breckenridge equipped as a demonstration ship, 40 or more representatives of leading steamship lines have just had an opportunity to see and test the efficacy of the listening device. It is now a government-controlled invention, used on fighting ships during the war as a protection against submarines and officially designated by the navy as "the M. V. type, hydrophone." Its object is to disclose in surrounding waters the presence of other craft, to forestall the approach to shoal waters, apprise the navigator of the vicinity of lightships equipped with submarine bell signaling devices. It is expected also to disclose with a remarkable degree of accuracy the depth of water where-in the ship so equipped is floating.

### Tells Depth of Water.

The apparatus includes 48 hydrophone receivers located in a tank of water in the bow of the vessel so that an equal number is on either side. In the test the sound of the propellers of a steamer five miles distant was heard. The depth of the water is ascertained by listening to the noise made by the propellers of the vessel carrying the hydrophone as it is echoed back from the bottom of the sea. In depths beyond 100 fathoms, however, the hydrophone refuses to record, it was explained, but as a majority of collisions occur near a coast line and at congested harbor entrances, the inventors and officers of the navy predict that its adoption will remove many of the hazards of navigation now caused by fog.

Dr. H. C. Hayes, formerly of Swarthmore college, said the device had been installed on one transport, Von Steuben, and on one occasion probably saved the ship from running aground on the Long Island shore during a heavy fog. Doctor Hayes also claims that the invention will enable a mariner to locate icebergs, through the reflecting back to the operator from the submerged portion of a dangerous berg the sound of the operating ship's own propellers.

# NEW REVOLT LOOMS

Outbreak of Junker Army in Pomerania Feared.

Kapp Supporters Scattered Among Big Estates Obviously as Farm Laborers.

Stettin.—Everyone in this section of Pomerania will tell you something is going to happen, but they do not know what.

Former Minister of War Reinhardt, who is trying to find the answer and to devise a lid for threatening outbreaks, feels the same way, but apparently he is satisfied there is no immediate danger. Under his direction the headquarters of two junker outfits have been raided and closed, and the militarized police force has been strengthened. There are no outward signs, except that general unrest indicates a tensely in the situation.

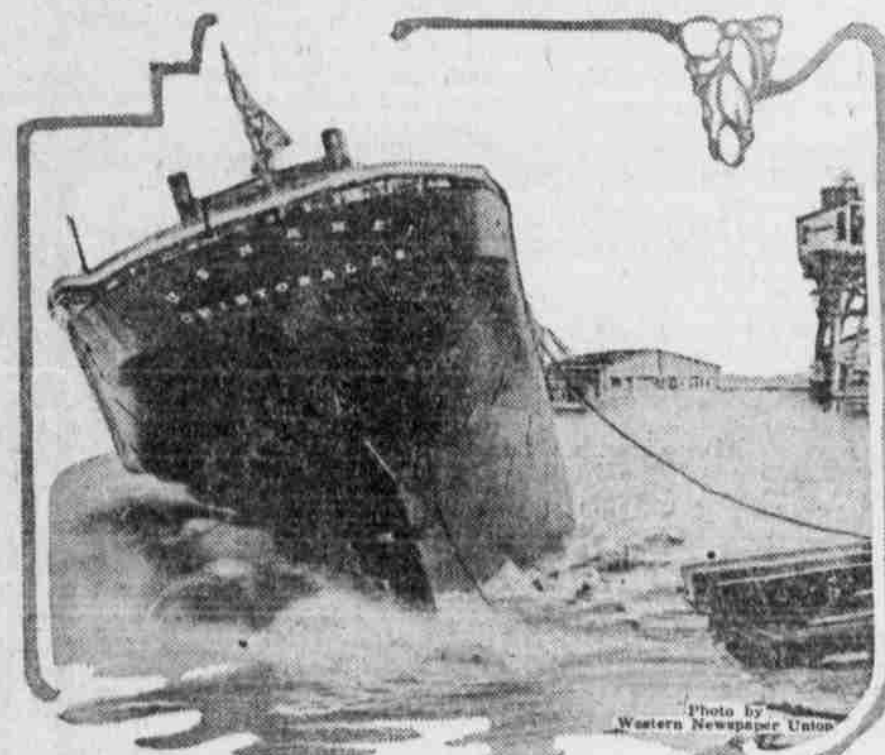
one eye open. No confidence is felt in the Reichswehr, which still retains most of the officers who supported the Kapp forces, and these still have their arms and are scattered among the big estates, obviously as farm laborers, but in reality more like small bands of mercenaries as bodyguards for the junker barons.

The opposing forces are the actual workmen. On the estates there nominally are two organizations, but it needs only the first hint of a monarchist coup when they will be under one leadership ready for battle.

### Let the Defense Hang Itself.

Noblesville, Ind.—Mrs. Rosa Davis, administratrix, suing the Central Indiana Railroad company for the death of her husband, Charles E. Davis, who was any witnesses, but on the evidence of the railroad's witnesses she was awarded a verdict of \$3,000. All testimony for Mrs. Davis was brought out on cross-examination.

## Big Freighter Launched Sideways



View of the sideways launching of the steel freighter Mamet, built for the Panama canal commission. The vessel has a capacity of 10,000 tons.

### Man Fell into Bear Pit; Arm and Leg Torn Away

August Kabler, a medical student at Berne, Switzerland, was terribly mauled by bears into whose pit at the zoological gardens he had fallen while he was throwing carrots to them. He was taken to the hospital in a serious condition, his left leg and left arm being entirely torn away.

### None Dies in This Town.

Cranmore, Cal.—This town asserts itself as the healthiest community in the state, basing its claim upon the fact that the local cemetery has not had a grave dug since 1863, the date of the last funeral in Cranmore. Since that time several residents of the community have died in other sections of the state, but it is a remarkable fact that not a single death has occurred in the community since 1863.