

THE FALLS CITY TRIBUNE

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GRANDSTAND OF THE FUTURE

Poetic Prophet Tells What It Will Be Like When All the Contests Are in the Air.

Ah, the grandstand of the future—I can see it in my dream, where, crowded thick like packed armies, we'll watch the while wings gleam. The wings of angels? No, no, no—oh, reader, do not mock, but hold your breath as still as death and harken to my talk.

Still Waiting for Him.

As a rule, the ministers, priests, rabbis and other ecclesiastics, occupying the pulpits of Cleveland churches, greatly enjoy the few minutes of rest and recreation that follow their exacting periods of service every Sunday.

On a certain Sunday morning not long ago, Secretary Shinn, of the Cuyahoga County Sunday School Union, was announced to speak at the rally day services of the First United Presbyterian church, Carnegie avenue and East Seventy-first street.

Rev. Dr. J. R. J. Milligan, the pastor, sort of hurried the services along in order not to keep Secretary Shinn waiting. Dr. Milligan's theme, "Things That Remain"—taken from a verse in Revelations—was invested with an extraordinary solemnity, and when he came down from his pulpit everybody almost was under the spell of the minister's uplifting discourse.

Hurrying forward after the sermon, the superintendent of the Sunday school asked importunately: "Seen Mr. Shinn?"

"No," replied Dr. Milligan, "no man of that name has shinned in here yet."

Chestnut Blight in Pennsylvania.

Hundreds of giant trees have been obliged to bow to the woodman's axe and heroic treatment has been applied to thousands of others in the effort to stay the sway of the death-dealing disease familiarly known as the chestnut blight in the campaign inaugurated three weeks ago by a corps of the state forestry department, says the Philadelphia Record.

In this brief period, and in the attempt to check the ravages of the disease that in epidemic form threatened to wipe out the vast chestnut groves of eastern Pennsylvania, and particularly in the suburban section of Philadelphia, 10,000 trees have been examined in the neighborhood of Ardmore, Haverford and Bryn Mawr. The alarming extent to which this blight had invaded this section is shown in the reports of these forestry experts, for examinations in minute detail reveal the fact that no less than 50 per cent of the trees in these great groves are infected. In some forests as high as 90 per cent has been noted.

Motion Pictures of Children a Fad.

Society women, who are accustomed to spend from \$3,000 to \$10,000 a year for photographs of themselves and their children have seized on a new phase of this idea. They are taking motion pictures and the phonograph. They want motion pictures of their children at play or at parties, so they may have them in after years just as they have their children photographed several times a year to keep until the children are grown up. Likewise they are keeping records of the voices of the children by phonograph. When the time arrives that both the motion pictures and the phonograph can be made to work synchronously the value of the picture and auditory records will be increased. The idea of society women at present is to take moving pictures of their children and to show them at Christmas time or on occasions when the members of the family are gathered together. The fad, of course, is somewhat expensive, but society women have taken to it.

A Pardonable Mistake.

"These new hats bother me considerably with my weak eyes." "The hats are big enough to see, aren't they?" "Oh, yes; but at an afternoon reception I mistook a young lady for a piano lamp."

PYTHON IS FINICAL

Will Not Look at Anything but White Rabbits.

Black Bunnies Placed in Big Reptile's Cage Are Unharmed—Zoo Store-room Full of Many Choice Things to Eat.

Chicago.—The lion house at the Lincoln park zoo has been in a turmoil the past few days because of the refusal of the python to break its fast. The python's refusal was not due to the fact that it was not hungry. It was, but, being an epicure of the first order, it had to have its food as it wanted it or not at all.

Cy de Vry, head animal keeper, tempted the snake with rabbits, and when it refused to employ these as a means to stay its hunger he tried guinea pigs. They also were refused, and it was thought the python would starve itself. The problem was solved in an unexpected manner when one of De Vry's assistants told the head keeper he was going to try again to tempt the snake and was given permission to do so.

All of the rabbits used in the former meals served to the particular reptile were black and, although the man who had the snake had no intention of discriminating, as far as color was concerned, he chanced to put a white rabbit in the cage. The moment the python saw the newcomer it darted toward it and gulped it down. A black rabbit was next, but it was spurned as all of its color had been before. The problem was solved. It was white or none for the snake and its wishes were gratified.

Before the first meal for the coming season was finished the snake had done away with four pretty white bunnies, and for the time being everything is quiet about her cage. De Vry says it is the first time in all his experience that he has known a snake to discriminate in regard to the color of its food.

A story going the rounds of the zoo makes De Vry the butt of sarcastic comment by the park employes. It tells of a complaint made against him by a woman who recently visited the zoo and wrote a letter to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, saying there were live animals in the snake's body and that she wanted them to investigate it.

It is one of the peculiarities of members of the reptile family that they contract the muscles of their bodies when they are digesting food and as the snake mentioned had been fed only a short time previously the movement of its body was caused by a brave effort on its part to digest a large meal of guinea pigs. The society sent Agent Nolan to investigate the case, and when he asked De Vry if there was any truth in the statement made by the woman, De Vry told him he was privileged to enter the cage occupied by the snake and see. The agent did not enter the cage.

The other residents of the zoo are fed with the best of food, and if the citizen who finds it difficult to supply his table with enough meat and vegetables should see the storeroom of the zoo he would open his eyes in amazement.

In the icebox there is always a supply of the finest beef and fish. The beef is used in feeding the lions, tigers and other large beasts. The fish is fed to the sea lions and water fowl. All of the meat is bought from a large Chicago market house and a fresh supply is brought in every morning.

In the storeroom a full line of the choicest vegetables is kept, including celery, lettuce, cabbage and potatoes. All of the smaller animals are fed from the supplies in this room, and the monkeys and lions are given a dog biscuit occasionally.

JAPS HAVE GROANING TREE

Crowds Assemble Nightly to Listen to Sounds Resembling Human Voices—Extraordinary Story.

Tokyo.—Another of the many extraordinary stories with which the vernacular newspapers fill their columns daily has just found its way into print. It is about the discovery of a tree which nightly emits sounds resembling human groans.

The account is quite circumstantial. It is to the effect that the tree is an enoki, something akin to the oak, this particular specimen standing in the garden of one Mr. Ozawa, at Nishiyashiro.

The tree is several hundred years old and so large that it requires the outstretched arms of five adults completely to embrace its trunk.

In the last few years this tree has acquired the habit of groaning at night for a certain stated season, i. e., from the beginning of winter till the cuckoo begins to make herself heard. The same phenomenon has been noted this year, the ancient tree having groaned regularly every evening since early in December. Crowds are said to assemble nightly in the garden to listen to these weird and ghostly sounds.

Speaking generally, the current social craze in Japan is for the occult, the newspapers almost without exception devoting a special section to matter of this description, and more particularly to the doings of the so-called "clairvoyants," who are springing up in every direction all over the country. The craze may be expected to die a natural death like its numerous predecessors in the course of a few more months.

HEDGEHOG FIT FOR EPICURE

Maine Advocates Say Bounties Caused Great Waste of Good Food—Preferred to Skunk or Muskrat.

Machias, Me.—"It is a shame," says a lover of hedgehog meat, "that the people of Maine have remained in ignorance regarding the delights of eating roasted hedgehog for so long. If they had been utilized as food those 150,000 dead hedgehogs for which Maine has paid out \$38,000 in bounties would have kept two regiments of soldiers in meat for six weeks. It was a cruel and wanton waste of precious food."

The advocates of hedgehog meat as part of the regular bill of fare assert that in England the average poacher prefers a hedgehog to a hare for breakfast. In Michigan the legislature has placed a perpetual close time on hedgehogs, so that persons lost in the woods and without food may find meat to satisfy their hunger and kill it without the aid of shotgun or rifle. It is asserted on good authority that more than 20 men are saved from starving in Michigan every year because hedgehogs are abundant and easy to capture.

When a Maine Indian has his choice of a hedgehog, a skunk, a woodchuck and a muskrat for dinner, he will select the first named invariably, and take the skunk as second choice, leaving the woodchuck, which is the only one of the lot a Maine white man will taste, to the last. Unlike the skunk and the woodchuck, which are lean and unsavory except for a few months in the fall, or the muskrat, which is never fat, and which has a strong flavor in spite of parboiling, the hedgehog is always in an edible condition, and has meat that is as tender and white as that of a spring chicken.

The method of cooking a hedgehog is so simple that a novice can learn in one short lesson. When the epicure is permitted to make choice he should shun the large, old males, which at times weigh 30 or 40 pounds. The preparation consists in removing the viscera, washing out the interior and filling the cavity with slices of fat pork, peeled raw potatoes, sprigs of spearmint and wild celery from the brook.

Then, without removing the quills of skinning, the body is plastered thickly with wet clay, from the nearest bank. The muddy, bulky mass is thrust into live coals and covered with blazing fagots, to be roasted for two hours.

On removal from the coals, the clay is found to have been baked into a hard and solid mass, which must be broken open with an ax or a heavy stone, whereupon the skin and quills of the animal cling to the clay wrapping and fall away, leaving the clean, white meat ready to be eaten.

Ten years ago the Maine legislature passed a law providing for a bounty of 25 cents a head on all dead hedgehogs brought to the town clerks. An appropriation of \$500 for each of the years 1901 and 1902 was made, but when the total for the two bounty years reached \$38,000, the legislature quickly repealed the law.

RULES FOR REDUCING TIPS

President of Servitors' Organization in New York Advises Cutting Down Gratuities.

New York.—Arthur Matson, former head waiter in the palmroom of the Waldorf and now president of the New York-Geneva association, an exclusive and powerful waiters' association, says there are times when one should not tip, and lays down these rules for tipsters:

"If the waiter doesn't greet you cheerfully when you approach his table and take your hat and coat quickly, jot it down in your mind and deduct five per cent from the tip."

"If he shows annoyance because you are a party of only one or two and take his table when he might have caught a party of four or five, deduct five per cent from the tip."

"If he lays your pet walking stick against a chair so every passing waiter and 'bus' knocks it down, deduct ten per cent."

"If he slaps the dishes about and jingles the knives and forks in an irritating manner, deduct ten per cent."

"If he makes himself scarce throughout the course of the meal and is generally at the other end of the room, discussing politics or the shortage of the French wine crop, deduct ten per cent."

"If he is supercilious and makes remarks about you in a foreign tongue to his partner, deduct ten per cent."

"If he is careless and spills the soup on your woman friend's frock or a few raw oysters down the back of your neck, deduct 20 per cent and collect from the management."

"If he has done all these things, deduct 100 per cent, and tell the head waiter about it. He will thank you."

WOULD PUT HOBOS ON FARMS

Governor Dix of New York Suggests New Use for Abandoned Lands in State—Place for Tramps.

Albany, N. Y.—The use of abandoned farms owned by New York state as farm colonies for tramps and vagrants will be urged by Governor Dix. Many unused farms have come into the possession of the state through nonpayment of mortgages given to secure state loans at the time of the Civil war, and a bill providing for their use as farm colonies for tramps will be introduced in the legislature. At present the state is paying thousands of dollars a year for the maintenance of tramps in penitentiaries.

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