

SOME INTERESTING INSECTS.

Except among the select few, generally enthusiastic boys who keep fresh water aquariums and replenish them from ponds and brooks, few people either see or know much about water insects; yet "The Naturalist on the Thames" says that many of these little creatures are perhaps better equipped for encountering all the chances of existence than any others. They can swim, dive and run below water, live on dry land or fly in the air, and many are so hardy as to be almost proof against any degree of cold.

The activity of many of the water insects is astonishing. Besides keeping in almost incessant motion, those which spend most of their time below water have generally to come up constantly to breathe. Such are the water bugs, water scorpions, and stick insects, which, although slender as rushes and with limbs like hairs, can catch and kill the fry of the smaller fishes. Most of these are like human divers, who have to provide themselves with air to breathe, and work at double speed in addition.

If a group of whirling beetles is disturbed, the whole party will dive like dab chicks, rising to the surface again when they feel the need for breathing air again.

The divingbell spiders gather air to use just as a soldier might draw water and dispose it about his person in water-bottles. The tail of the spider is covered with black velvety hairs. Putting its tail out of the water it collects much air in the interstices of the velvet. It then descends, when all this air, drawn beneath the surface, collects into a single bubble, covering its tail and breathing holes like a coat of quicksilver. This supply the spider uses up when at work below, until it dwindles to a single speck, when it once more ascends and collects a fresh store.

The writer has seen one of these spiders spin so many webs across the stems of water plants in a limited space that not only the small water-shrimps and larvae, but even a young fish were entangled. The other and more artistic means of gathering air employed by the spider is to catch a bubble on the surface and swim below with it. The bubble is then released into a bell woven under some plant, into which many other bubbles have been drawn. In this divingbell the eggs are laid and the young hatched under the constant watch of the old spider.

Domestic Tragedy.

The younger man had been complaining that he could not get his wife to mend his clothes. "I asked her to sew a button on this vest last night and she hasn't touched it," he said. At this, says the New York Press, the older man assumed the air of a patriarch.

"Never ask a woman to mend anything," he said.

"What would you have me do?" asked the other.

"Simply do as I do," was the assured reply. "You haven't been married very long, and I think I can give you some serviceable suggestions. When I was a shirt mender I take it to my wife flourish it round a little and say 'Where's that rag bag?'"

"What do you want of the rag bag?" asks my wife. Her suspicions aroused at once.

"I want to throw this shirt away if it's worn out," I say, with a few more flourishes.

"Let me see that shirt," my wife says then. "Now, John, hand it to me at once."

"Of course I pass it over, and she examines it. "Why, John Taylor," she is sure to say, "I never knew such extravagance! This is a perfectly good shirt. All it needs is— And then she mends it."

Human Nature.

The occupants of a motor car were riding through a sparsely settled country when they became very thirsty. Noticing a little farmhouse, they stopped and were pleasantly received and given all the cold spring water they wanted. The farmer was very polite to the strangers, and asked them if they would like to look about his little estate, and, according to the Chicago Record-Herald, they were pleased to do so.

Among other interesting things he showed them a tremendous potato patch. Over this field he shook his head gravely. He said that all the potatoes had been ruined by a parasite. One of the party sympathized with the old farmer, and said:

"I am sorry to see such a fine field of potatoes spoiled."

"Yes," said the farmer, "I have only one comfort."

"What is that?" inquired the visitor.

"Well, Thompson's field, east there and Shannon's, on the south, are a bad as, if not worse than, mine."

Taking It Out on the Family.

Mrs. Ferguson—George, what particular falling of yours did the preacher touch on in his sermon this morning?

Mr. Ferguson—What do you ask me that question for?

Mrs. Ferguson—Because you have been as cross as a bear ever since you came home from church.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Also Matches for the Servants.

"Yes, ma'am," said the obsequious grocery clerk to Mrs. Briley, who was ordering her first bill of supplies, "I've put down parlor matches; what next?"

LITERARY LITTLEBITS

E. P. Dutton & Co., are about to publish "Canada in the Twentieth Century," by A. C. Bradley, author of "Fight With France for North America."

A gift book that contains calendars of every month in the years 1901 and 1915, inclusive, is an unusual volume published by the Grafton Press, New York.

Lorado Taft's "History of American Sculpture" will be the first volume to appear in Professor Van Dyke's series to be known as "The History of American Art."

Driving all sorts of horses with all kinds of vehicles is the content of "Driving," an elaborately illustrated and complete volume written by F. M. Ware, who is an authority.

Colonel George B. McClellan, the newly elected mayor of New York city, has written a book entitled "The Oligarchy of Venice," which is to be published next spring by Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

The Kinneys, illustrators of "The Thrill of Leaf the Lucky," have undertaken a series of paintings for a story which A. C. McClurg & Co. will "star" in the spring. It is promised that the pictures, which will be reproduced in full color, will surpass anything yet attempted in the illustration of fiction.

A new book by Bishop Spalding is always an interesting event. A. C. McClurg & Co., announce "Glimpses of Truth," comprising a large number of the bishop's "aphorisms" on life and conduct, which distinguish his addresses and writing. A new photographic portrait faces the volume as a frontispiece.

"The Opening of the Mississippi: A Struggle for Supremacy in the American Interior," will be the title of Professor Frederic A. Ogg's new book, originally announced as "The Exploration of the Mississippi." It deals with the history of the region drained by the great river as well as with that of the river itself.

The interesting announcement comes from London that Israel Zangwill, the author of "The Grey Wig," "The Man of Elijah" and "Children of the Ghetto," is engaged to be married. Miss Edith Ayrton, the daughter of Professor W. E. Ayrton, one of the best known electrical engineers and inventors in England, is the young lady who is to become Mrs. Zangwill.

Miss Fannie Merritt Farmer, the well-known author of "The Boston Cooking School Book," has written an important new book entitled "Food and Cookery for the Sick and Convalescent," which is designed to meet the needs of the trained nurse, the mother or of anyone having the care of the sick. The work is the result of years of study along the lines of food and feeding, and it will include a great deal of important information in addition to hundreds of recipes.

SPORT IN NEWFOUNDLAND.

Many Picturesque Streams and Lakes—Interior of Island.

Along the Newfoundland coast salmon begin to press in toward the fresh water early in the month of June, says the Halifax Chronicle. They follow the enormous schools of that curious fish, the caplin, which frequently crowd into the shores in such vast numbers for purposes of breeding that tons of them are often picked up dead and used for fertilizing the soil. There are several later runs, depending altogether on the state of water. Most of the rivers, being short, readily run off in a dry season. Then the fish will hang about the estuaries until the arrival of a freshet which invariably impels them up stream. In most of the estuaries sea trout can be taken with the fly readily, but salmon will rise only in the streams.

There are no finer salmon streams anywhere than those in Newfoundland. Although they have suffered in the past by the deplorable greed and lust of killing by the improvident class of poaching fishermen, it is pleasant to know that, especially in the many fine streams of the western shore, the number of fish are of late years steadily increasing. Better preservation will doubtless continue to improve the fishery.

Unlike the numerous streams of New Brunswick and Quebec, which are all leased, the rivers here are free and open to all comers. The first red holds possession—that is the rule of the river. A camp may be occupied just as long as the owner chooses to remain.

The magnificent Humber, pursuing a course through the immense lake known as Deer pond and lapping the base of precipitous cliffs, affords glimpses of enchanting and often noble scenery from the windows of the railway carriage. Although it has many a likely-looking pool tenanted by large salmon it is of no use for the angler to waste time with them, as for reasons not determined the Humber fish steadily refuse to take the fly. In this respect this noble river offers a singular exception to the general rule in Newfoundland, as in every other salmon stream fresh-run fish will take the fly with a rush that is often tigerlike in its fierceness. Along the west branch of the Humber, from Big falls to Junction brook, there is, however, a succession of most charming salmon pools known collectively as "The Willow Steady," from the number of wild

ducks which edge the banks, and here sometimes the obdurate heart of the Humber salmon will relent and he may look with favoring glance at a well-flung "yellow legs" or a "dusty miller" or "fairly."

One of the very best salmon rivers of the island is the Hare river, away up on the extreme northeastern apex of the island, flowing into Hare bay. To reach this stream it is necessary to take camp outfit and proceed from the railway terminus at Burnt bay by coasting steamer as far as Tilt Cove copper mine. A small steam tug carrying mulls is sometimes available whereby to cross White bay and to proceed within easy reach of the attractive river. The little boat hugs the rugged coast line and often threads a pathway through an archipelago of interesting islands. Good caribou hunting can also be had on the neighboring plains and as the Newfoundland deer season opens July 15 a fishing party may never be without venison.

Some fifty miles from the city of St. John's is the noted Salmonier, which is the home of a small but gamey salmon. Around the banks of this stream stretches a fine country, where willow grouse may be shot in season and where an occasional snipe marsh is found embowered in a dark evergreen forest.

One of the best known as well as the largest river of the island is the Exploits, falling into an arm of the Great Notre Dame bay. It has a source in Red Indian lake and thence pursues its course through steep rock gorges and winds away through good caribou country and past some excellent timber lands to the sea.

NEBRASKA NOTES

Mrs. Johanna Neitzke, a pioneer resident of the state, died recently at Norfolk, aged 63 years.

Mrs. John D. Mann of Lyons is dead at the age of 77 years. She came to Nebraska in 1871.

William Thomas, a barber at Odell, died suddenly of heart failure. A wife and two children survive him.

Mrs. J. K. Hesler died at her home at Cozad this week. The remains were taken to Lexington, Ky. for burial.

Henry Johnson of Norfolk and Miss Georgia Drake of Hannibal, Mo. have been married. They will live in Lincoln.

Nathan B. Morehouse is dead at Tekama. He was born in Springfield, N. J., in 1813, and came to Burt county in 1870.

W. H. Wiseman of Thurston county was arrested at Plattsmouth charged with giving a mortgage upon three houses which he did not own.

Word has been received at Lincoln that much of the material for the new cells has been shipped from the Van Dorn Iron works at Cleveland.

The Fremont school board has decided that teachers who wish to resign from the service must give thirty days' notice of their intention.

The names of Thomas A. Healy of Milford and John M. Mills of Laurel have been submitted as candidates for the postoffices at the above places.

E. C. Phillips of Table Rock was recently appointed carrier on a rural route, but as he has a better position another appointment will be made.

The funeral of Mr. Asa Baer, who died January 1, was held at Wahoo under the auspices of the Odd Fellows. A wife and seven children survive him.

A reception was given at Oakdale in honor of Miss Mamie Dworak, champion speller of the school of Antelope county who made a perfect grade at Lincoln.

The Farmers' elevator meeting at Rogers on January 2 was well attended. Frank Krjvi was chosen temporary chairman. Another meeting will be held January 14.

The funeral of Mrs. Elizabeth Simpson was held from the residence of her brother-in-law, Charles Barrington, at Edgar. Sue came to Nebraska in 1878.

Charles Noyce of Arlington, aged 70 years, one of the oldest settlers in the state, was buried this week. He came to Nebraska in 1857. He leaves eleven children.

Hampton is now lighted by electricity. The plant is owned and operated by H. Madsen and started with 110 lamps. The streets are to be well lighted.

After twenty years of married life Mrs. Clara White of Dakota City has been granted a divorce from her husband on the ground of non-support and drunkenness.

Harvey W. Giddings, a pioneer resident of Nebraska for the past thirty-two years, died this week at Beatrice at the age of 74 years. A wife, three sons and two daughters survive him.

The teachers of Johnson county presented County Superintendent Adkins with a handsome gold watch and chain on the eve of his leaving the office he has held for three terms.

The Nebraska State Poultry association, which holds its annual meeting at Lincoln January 18 to 26, will have for one of its attractions the exhibit of the Water Fowl club of America.

William Gross and Alfred Cochran escaped from the city jail at Lincoln by simply walking out of the door. Jailor Kirk noticed them leaving and fired at them, but the shots went wide.

The funeral of the late Carl Hembeck, who died recently at Fremont at the age of 86 years, was held this week, the Rev. I. Laipley of the German Evangelical church officiating.

The New York Life insurance company shows that the amount of business done in Nebraska during the year was \$12,768,428, an increase of \$1,093,940 over 1902. The premiums amounted to \$416,553.

In the damage suit of Hill against Schmuck at Beatrice, the court has awarded judgment of \$1,000 to the plaintiff. Schmuck was accused of sending obscene and indecent letters to Miss Hill.

C. R. Crumb, a lineman for the Nebraska Telephone company, fell down a twenty-five foot pole at Hubbard and sustained a fracture of one arm and numerous bruises. He lives in Omaha.

Loup City has organized a militia company with the following Spanish war veterans as officers: Captain, Arthur Inks; first lieutenant, N. S. Crise; second lieutenant, Ask Conger; sergeant, F. S. Robbins.

Long Live the Cook. We respect a good poet; we reverence a good cook.—Life.

The average political complexion is seldom more than whitewash deep.

When a man is his own worst enemy, he is apt to love his enemies.

FIRM HAND NEEDED

SITUATION IN SANTO DOMINGO GROWING WORSE.

PROTECTION FOR AMERICANS

DECISION REACHED FOLLOWING STARTLING REPORT.

Commander Dillingham Declares Demoralization and Reign of Anarchy Exists Around Puerto Plata.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—With a firm hand the Washington government from now on will protect American life and property in the island of Santo Domingo. This decision follows a rather startling report received yesterday from Commander Dillingham.

It is said that the administration has as yet adopted no permanent policy for the conduct of affairs in Santo Domingo beyond that which it always has pursued in protecting American life and property. The statement is authorized that the conduct of Commander Dillingham while following only general instructions, is entirely endorsed and approved by the government, and it is believed that his intelligent handling of the situation will have a powerful influence toward restoration of order in the island.

It is realized by the administration that the Dominican problem must be taken up and disposed of in a way that will put a stop to what was described by an European ambassador last night as "an insufferable nuisance which the civilized world looks to the United States to clean up."

The navy department yesterday received a telegram from Commander Dillingham of the cruiser Detroit, telling of the demoralization near Puerto Plata. It says:

"In and around Puerto Plata anarchy prevails. Business is at a standstill. Puerto Plata is quiet at present. Jimenez authorities are collecting duties and dues, while Jimenez is at Santiago. There is a revolution between factions I shall not allow interruption of commerce."

Close To Crisis.

PARIS, Jan. 6.—The CRO-FOO correspondent of the Paris edition of the New York Herald cables as follows:

"Eight thousand Japanese troops are ready to land at Masampo, and their landing will probably mean war. A regiment of Cossacks is expected at Port Arthur."

"Reserves are being moved from the capital of the Amur province in eastern Siberia to Tsitsinar (in Manchuria)."

"The position of the troops in Manchuria is being rearranged, but their location is kept a secret."

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Paris edition of the New York Herald says that should the Japanese occupy Masampo it would result in bringing matters to a crisis, Admiral Alexieff, the Russian viceroy in the far east, having full power to act in the case of such provocation.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Paris edition of the New York Herald says he is authorized to state that Admiral Evans has been instructed not to allow the movements of his war ships to be such as to encourage the construction that the United States is supporting Japan.

The correspondent says that the action of the Washington government is sincerely appreciated, the conviction in some quarters being that Japan, if unsupported will not declare war.

SEOUL, Korea, Jan. 6.—A detachment of thirty-five marines for the United States steamer Vicksburg now laying at Chemulpo, arrived yesterday as a guard for the American delegation. Another body of seven marines will arrive tomorrow. The United States transport Zaphir is also at Chemulpo, where Russia, Japan and Great Britain have each one man of war.

No Thought of Fire.

CHICAGO, Jan. 7.—By their own evidence yesterday before Monroe Fulkerson, who is conducting the fire department investigation into the Irquois theater holocaust, Will J. Davis, Harry J. Powers and Thomas J. Noonan, active managers of the theater, showed that a worse condition of affairs existed as to prevent than had heretofore been suspected.

Trial of Car Barn Bandits.

CHICAGO, Ill. Jan. 7.—The trial of three of the car barn bandits—Marx, Noid and Van Dine, was begun yesterday before Judge Kersten, and court adjourned without a juror being accepted. It has been announced that the defense would be insanity in each case, but attorneys for the defense yesterday by the questions put to witnesses, indicated that some other line would be adopted.

CAN SEE NO FUTURE HOPE

FINAL REPLY OF RUSSIA TO JAPAN A BID FOR WAR.

Favor Abandonment of All Further Negotiations as Useless—Governor Taft Has Conference With Marquis Ito.

LONDON, Jan. 8.—The Daily Mail's Yokohama correspondent says that Russia's reply to Japan practically removes all hope of a peaceful settlement.

The Daily Mail's Tokyo correspondent learns that Russia has made new demands which it will be impossible for Japan to entertain.

The correspondent says that all the powers are landing troops in Korea and that the British bluejackets landed at Chemulpo are expected to go to Seoul immediately.

Constant telegrams are passing between M. Ravloff, the Russian minister to Korea; Baron de Rosen, the Russian minister to Japan, and Viceroy Alexieff.

TOKIO, Jan. 8.—The attitude of Japan toward the response of Russia is still undefined. Premier Katsura, the minister of foreign affairs, the minister of war, the minister of finance and the minister of naval affairs held a council yesterday afternoon. It was decided that the cabinet confer with the older statesmen before deciding on a course of procedure. It is manifested that the Russian proposals are unsatisfactory. It is believed that Russia will make concessions in one direction and impose new conditions in another.

The Japanese nation is deeply stirred. Public sentiment favors the abandonment of negotiations, believing them useless, and urges a resort to arms.

PEKING, Jan. 7.—General Yuan Shai Kai, commander-in-chief of the Chinese army and navy, sent his foreign advisor Charles Denby, jr., to Peking to investigate the report as to the probability of war. Tonight Mr. Denby has reported that according to the best obtainable, based on diplomatic information, war cannot be averted.

LONDON, Jan. 7.—The Daily Mail's Tokyo correspondent says:

Governor Taft had a secret conference with the Marquis Ito this afternoon at the United States consulate at Yokohama. I understand that Governor Taft assured the marquis that the United States will observe a friendly neutrality towards Japan in the event of war and that if necessary it would grant the use of American ports in the far east to the Japanese fleet.

Gen. Vifquain Dead.

LINCOLN, Neb., Jan. 8.—General Victor Vifquain, soldier and statesman, died at his home in this city Seventeenth and L streets, Wednesday afternoon, after long illness. He was sixty-seven years of age and a native of Belgium. He received a military education in Europe, but early in life he became a pioneer of Nebraska. From the then unsettled prairies of this state he went to the east and offered his services to his adopted country. After serving with distinction, having been twice promoted on the field of battle for meritorious and gallant conduct, and receiving a medal from congress in recognition of services, he returned to his new home in Nebraska and was among the foremost of those who helped build up the commonwealth. Later in life he served his country as consul in Colombia.

All On His Side.

OMAHA, Neb., Jan. 8.—Lawyer and spectators who sit throughout the hearing in the federal court yesterday expressed last night their strong belief that the Dietrich prosecutions or such of them arising out of the Hastings postoffice deal as have not already done so, will glimmering this morning. It is almost a certainty that the bribery case will hardly survive the opening of court this morning. Not a witness will have opened his mouth for this is not going to be a hearing at which it can be determined whether or not Jacob Fisher of Hastings was ever required to pay \$1,300 or any other sum for his appointment as postmaster.

Status of the Smoot Case.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8.—Senator Burrows, who is chairman of the senate committee on privileges and elections, which is conducting the investigation of the charges against Senator Reed Smoot of Utah, said yesterday the committee probably would meet on Saturday, January 9.

Fifty-six Men Expelled.

TELLURIDE, Colo., Jan. 8.—Fifty-six men have been expelled from San Miguel county by the military authorities since the publication of the governor's martial law proclamation. About forty-five of these men are quartered at Montrose, and intend to return to Telluride after the troops are withdrawn.

The search for firearms and ammunition has been completed and between 600 and 700 weapons have been confiscated.