

OVERDOING A GOOD THING

One Brave Physician Points out the Dangers of Fresh Air.

EARNEST PLEA FOR MODERATION

Importance as a Cure-All Overestimated, Endangering Many Lives—Characteristics of the Fresh Air Fad.

The common adjuration on the discovery of a good thing, to "push it along," is needless enough, taking human nature for what it is. It seems to be the fate of all good things that they no sooner appear than they are at once pushed beyond the limit of common sense.

In these days of open air cures for consumption and nature cures for nerves, the importance of fresh air is in little danger of being underestimated. Whereas our forefathers were wont to take every possible precaution to shield all who were troubled with coughs from the assaults of fresh air, we now insist on open windows night and day, and, whenever it is possible, we send our consumptives to mountain tops and keep them in shade without windows of any kind, and leave them exposed to winter and summer, to every wind that blows.

And, not content with fresh air cures for consumption, in which the air is breathed, the patients' bodies being protected with abundance of clothing, we have learned that fresh air is good for something more than breathing, and that fresh air baths are just as good as fresh air douches for the lungs. Hence the establishments now springing up in various parts, where conditions are favorable, enabling the worn-out victims of modern life to recuperate their forces by a return to natural conditions of a life in the open air, freed from the embarrassments and incumbrances of clothes.

So forth they marched in this goodly sort, to take the solace of the open air. As Spencer has it, fresh air is breathing, fresh air is bathing, without sunlight added when sunlight can be had—it is the newest panacea for the numberless ills of modern life.

DOUBLING LIFE OF TIMBER

Experiments by Railroad and Mining Companies Produce Important Results.

Plans for treating mine timbers and railroad ties are to be erected by the Philadelphia, Reading, Coaling and Iron company and the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad company, in the Pennsylvania anthracite region.

This action follows a series of tests with wood preservation made by the coal and iron companies. The tests showed that by the proper application of creosote and zinc chloride the life of peeled, seasoned timber was more than doubled. Indeed, much of the timber treated may last throughout the life of the mine.

As a consequence of these tests, which were made with the co-operation of the forest service, the companies are about to treat round and square mine timbers and railroad ties on a large scale. The forest service is supervising the construction of the necessary sheds and will place them on a satisfactory working basis.

The preservative treatment of mining timbers has become an important matter for anthracite miners because of the growing local scarcity of the supply. The chestnut and oak, near at hand, have been greatly exhausted, and the Pennsylvania pitch pine can be used only in small quantities. Birch, beech and maple from New York, and loblolly and shortleaf pines from Virginia and South Carolina are now being drawn into use. At the same time economy of consumption is being sought through using preservatives to reduce the decay of timbers in the mines, and cutting over waste to save and utilize sound portions.

Transportation of timber from remote forests means high freight charges, a great loss of time, and an uncertain supply. Delay in timber shipment has frequently forced the suspension of operations requiring timbers of peculiar size. Closer utilization and adding to the life of timber in service by means of chemical treatment afford the best ways of solving the problem.

With a view to widening the field of supply, several additional kinds of timber have been introduced in mining work. For example, for shaft and breaker-construction timbers, Douglas fir has been introduced from the state of Washington, at a cost not greater than the price of the loblolly pine; round cypress props have been purchased at shortleaf pine prices; and a market has been found for black gum in the pulleys and rollers of slopes and rope haulage ways.

By way of utilizing partially decayed timber, round gangway props have been sawed into short planks and small dimension lumber, with profitable results. It is said that a surprising large amount of sound lumber will be cut out of discarded mine props formerly considered rotten and worthless.—New York Post.

LEADER OF GREAT MOVEMENT

Weight of Personality in the Sphere of Politics.

TWOFOLD ADVANTAGES OF TAFT

Superior Qualifications of the Republican Candidate—Supported by Progressive Forces of American Nationality.

The most conspicuous man in the United States today is William H. Taft, and it is speaking conservatively to say that the matter of conspicuousness is the foremost criterion of the world. He is the leader of the greatest organized power in the politics of either hemisphere, and to this distinguished leadership he adds the weight of a faultless personality. The more deeply we inquire into the character and capacity of Mr. Taft the more colossal does he appear habitually and intellectually. He is one of the extraordinary statesmen who, on close acquaintance, inspire confidence in great nations. Gladstone, Blaine and Lincoln were of this class. Their dominating character and genius were of such magnitude as to inspire implicit confidence. And it is doubtful if this country ever had a president who was higher in the people's estimation than is the republican presidential nominee.

Mr. Taft's advantage is twofold and is far greater than that of any competitor. He is a man to whom the people can freely intrust the most august station in their gift. Can that be said of any one in competition with him? Examine the list and see if it can. Mr. Bryan is the head man of the opposition. What the power of the republic is free from encroachment under the application of his impractical and reckless policies? It suffered very serious encroachment under the leadership of more conservative democrats than Bryan. Don't ever come to the stereotyped false conclusion that the country would get along well enough with a democratic administration. Six or seven candidates are out for the presidency, and the only representative of constitutional government among them is William H. Taft. This is his advantage in conjunction with his remarkable capacity for statesmanship.

The personal qualifications of the republican candidate, you see, are reinforced by a majestic depth of background that in the case of every other nominee for the presidency is either very inconspicuous or totally lacking. He runs on both personal and party records. And where a man is impelled in his candidacy by a combined force of this kind that defies suspicion you can't well beat him. From any point of view he is dominant. The elements of his superiority are manifold. Beyond the vulnerable individuality of Mr. Taft lie those profound powers of a political party that know not defeat and of a government whose supremacy is unquestioned. It is not at all wonderful then that the personal attributes which link him with the character of the man who has the weight of influence and persuasion that presages victory. He leads the hosts of popular government and it is the vast power of popular sentiment that sustains him.

Mr. Taft's Position Considered.

If one would have a fair estimate of Mr. Taft individually he must take into consideration the position he occupies. No other man living is so fortified by political power as he is. The perpetuity of popular government and the execution of the party's control are in his hands. He is the only man before the people from whose election they will derive any benefit at all. We have a wonderful scheme of protective politics now in operation, and this Mr. Taft promises to both preserve and improve. There will be more national protective power in his administration than at his inauguration. The sentiment that animates the people is what brings him before them and makes him one of them. He is the promoter of the cause, and he alone does they find recompense for their sacrifices and struggles. There are vast movements now under way everywhere in the political world, and every one of them has a definite character and purpose, but in these world-wide activities the people, the source of the government, have but one leader, one candidate, and that is William H. Taft.

In order to get a just conception of the individuality of Mr. Taft in this campaign it is necessary to take into consideration the infinite field of nationality, the genius of the dominant party for the promotion of the nationality of the constitution and the people and the unanimity of the vast popular sentiment for Mr. Taft's nomination. Only when we are looking at this in its comprehensive sense do we see fairly and completely the personality of the republican presidential nominee in our politics. He is not simply the nominee of a numerically strong political party. He is the spokesman of the nation, the party whose tenets and policies are promulgated by constitutional or popular government. Destroy the republican party and defeat its principles and you prohibit the liberty and domination of the people.

Emphasis as Leader Apparent.

The eminence of Mr. Taft as the leader of the republican party is at once apparent. The people of every land oppressed by imperialism are justified in rejoicing at his candidacy. He is the chief of the innumerable host whose ambition is to participate in the government. He is the leader of the people. He is not, however, to the American people the Moses or a Lincoln, as Mr. Bryan professes to be. He is not engaged in redeeming them of bondage or an intolerable condition of servitude. He is not engaged in the leadership of a people who are colored. His leadership reflects their genius.

From the standpoint of American or popular politics, this is the highest tribute that can be paid to statesmanship that does not come at the expense of the people's genius; but the case of Mr. Taft is peculiar, there being no other leader except himself of a popular movement. This fact gives him a personal weight in politics greater than that of anyone else before him. You can find no other man whose history men have appeared distinguished for their striking individuality, but in the absence of an underlying and a sustaining sentiment there would have been no medium for the impress of their native greatness. The personality of Jackson in his presidency would have been commonplace had not the nullification movement pushed him to heroic action. And there was no ample recognition of Lincoln until after he entered upon the scenes that immortalized him.

Lincoln, of course, was sustained by the forces of American nationality and popular government, and thus set forth before the world, the nobility of his nature was obvious. It is with Mr. Taft. He leads the movement the Lincoln of Lincoln. He is its only leader, its only representative. It hasn't the elements of commonness that had in Lincoln's day, but it is a broader and a grander sweep. It leads a far greater range of power than has yet been attained. This is the invincible and aggressive movement of the people, and its chief is William H. Taft. It is in the light of his activity that we see the greatness of his personality. He is the illustrious leader in the politics of either hemisphere.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

His Role in Politics.

In that discovery the statesmanship of the republican party struck the bulwarks in politics. The best sentiment of the country had struggled through two successive parties for absolute independence, but it was not found until the parties to whom they materialized. Then we got the independence of the platform on which Mr. Taft stands and requests the support of the people. Here the personality of the nominee is made more illustrious by the reputation of his party, but the latter in turn is strengthened by the individuality of its nominee.

Then there is this additional consideration: Mr. Taft comes on the scene in the capacity of leader at a time when the republican party is more powerful than at any preceding time in its history. Its policies, you see, are protective

TERRORS OF FOREST FIRES

Mysterious Power Almost Beyond Belief of Men of Experience.

THEY DO THE UNEXPECTED

Less Spectacular, but More Dangerous Than a Prairie Fire—Impossibility of Flaming a Running Down a Man.

How is it possible for a forest fire to show such immense loss to property and cause such a terrible loss of life as did the fire in the woods of Canada? To one not versed in the great mysteries of the forest it seems almost beyond belief. Forest fires are not thoroughly understood even by those who have had experience with them all their lives. Forest fires are terrible because they are mysterious. They never do what is expected of them. A prairie fire is more spectacular, but less dangerous. Given a certain set of circumstances and a prairie fire and the plainman knows exactly how to outwit the flames. City firemen know exactly how to handle a group of buildings, and even at sea sailors have certain well established rules for fighting a fire in the cargo. But there is no successful means of fighting a forest fire, simply because there is no way of telling what the fire will do next. It is why it is the most terrible fire known.

Newspaper dispatches relating to the big fire in British Columbia explained that at times the fire moved so slowly that a man could outrun it. This statement is absurd and was doubtless written under stress of great excitement. A man cannot outrun any forest fire, but he can outwalk the swiftest of them. A man cannot outrun a forest fire, but the fastest sprinter is as likely to fall a victim to the flames. That's the mystery of it. The forest fire is not honest. It is one of the most treacherous of all enemies that it baffles its victims by strategy.

Face of the Flames.

While the loss of life in the Canadian fire was estimated as high as 300, it is doubtless true that not one person was overtaken by the flames that "roared down upon him." A fire in the woods does not "roar down" upon people. The ground in front of a fire is a smooth, level plain, and the flames sneak "down upon him," slowly but irresistibly.

The surface fire slowly crackles in the brush, moving very slowly over the green places and more rapidly through the dry underbrush. There is a small flame and a massive cloud of smoke. This is true because the proportion of green fuel is greater than the dry, even in the driest season. The fire does not leave "the ground bare behind it." It burns away the dry brush and leaves the blackened trees standing. The flames are rapid if they are a few miles in twenty-four hours, so that it can be readily seen how absurd it is to say the "flames swept through the forest like a race horse."

It is the subterranean fire that causes the damage and outwits the woodman. On the surface the fire would naturally move with the wind, and under ground it is as likely to move directly against the wind. Men who live in the woods often see a fire approach to within a half mile of their homes. They take wet sacks or blankets and go out and beat out the fire. When they return home they find their house in flames. The fire has traveled with surface against the wind. To them it is a mystery because they do not understand the workings of the flames, but in fact, the reason is simple enough.

Cushion of Inflammable Material.

Pine trees have for centuries deposited their carpet of brown needles on the earth. These needles, filled with pitch, are highly inflammable. Season after season they drop, and the surface of the ground is a sort of false earth is formed. Over this vegetation grows. In a few centuries the pine needles, leaves and sand form a cushion sometimes three or four feet deep above the soil.

Rains moisten the surface, but the cushion of needles under the surface, as dry as tinder. When a fire is started this under stratum is ignited. The fire moves along the line of least resistance and naturally starts off underground in a line parallel with the surface, following the dry stratum underneath the moist layers on top. This subterranean fire ignites needles, leaves and dust cakes but little smoke. Thus while men are beating out the comparatively harmless blaze in the brush on the surface the dangerous and deadly fire is hurrying along directly under their feet, but it leaves not the slightest trace of its presence.

This under fire does not break through to the surface because above it there is a moist layer through which it cannot break. Thus it runs along until it comes to a house. The house has protected the earth on top. It is a cushion of needles, leaves and dust cakes, but little smoke. Thus while men are beating out the comparatively harmless blaze in the brush on the surface the dangerous and deadly fire is hurrying along directly under their feet, but it leaves not the slightest trace of its presence.

Another source of danger is the fact that while men are fighting the fire before them, it will sneak around behind them and hem them in. They are working desperately and do not notice their predicament until too late. Waited in by circles of flames and enveloped by a cloud of smoke, a man does not retain his consciousness for a very long time. He sinks down unconscious and is often dead long before the fire reaches him. However, a forest fire never ran a man down.

Beds from passing locomotives start many fires, often causing immense loss to the railroads. Trains are frequently obliged to run through miles of fire, with the flames nibbling at the ties and heating the rails. It is an uncomfortable feeling that the tenderfoot gets when the crew comes through the train on a hot August day, closing the windows and transoms, pulling down the blinds and asking the passengers to stand in the center of the car while the train dashes wildly through the fire. The car is filled with smoke and becomes stiflingly hot. The engine driver opens his throttle as wide as possible and the train plunges blindly through. The happiest moment in the life of the passenger is when the train finally emerges into the clear daylight again.

Perhaps the most extensive cause of forest fires is the camp fire of the inexperienced hunter. He goes away and leaves his fire to die out of its own accord or he beats it out with brush. Neither method is safe. There is but one safe way to put out a camp fire and that is to drown it out and then it takes plenty of water. A man may beat his fire out, so far as surface indications go, but he leaves some smoldering embers deep under the surface. Likely as not this will end in a disastrous fire.

Campfire and Carelessness.

In Michigan last year a party of city men were camped on Look lake hunting deer. When they were out in the morning they beat out their fire by their feet.

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They left not a vestige of it. When they returned a few hours later their tent was burned, together with their extra guns, ammunition and provisions of all kinds. They were tired and hungry and night was coming on. The nearest town was twenty miles away. The next time those men will drown their fire out with water.

There is a section of northern Michigan known as "The Plains." The territory is about twenty-five miles wide and more than 100 miles long. The soil is so infertile that nothing grows there but dwarfed timber and huckleberries. The rainfall is very light, and this district is visited annually by extensive forest fires. They result from the camp fires of careless huckleberry pickers. The loss is comparatively small because of the sparse vegetation, but what loss there is must be borne by the persons who cause the fire. The huckleberry crop is usually ruined, depriving thousands of persons of the summer employment. Entire families go to the plains and pick berries for the market during the season. For many families the berry crop furnishes a livelihood for about

three months. Naturally a fire means much to them, and they try to be careful, but scarcely a year passes that a part of the territory is not burned over.

On the plains there are a few sheep and cattle ranches. The annual fires are particularly a pest to the ranchmen. The fires drive the sheep and cattle into the swamps, where they are often caught in the quicksands and lost. Not only this, but the fences are burned and what little vegetation thrives there is burned, depriving the live stock of its grazing lands. The ranchmen are so bitter against the careless campers that they have adopted heroic measures to put an end to the fires. Evidence of this is found in the fact that hunters and berry pickers go to the plains and frequently do not return to their homes. Relics in the shape of charred bones, and not those of wild animals, are not so very rare.—New York Herald.

W. A. Moserve of Croighton, Mrs. M. E. Leahr of Lincoln, Mrs. W. H. Corstock of Ellsworth, D. J. Allen of St. Paul, Minn., and Mrs. F. J. K. of Altadena, Cal., are at the Rome.

Advertisement for Sunderland Brothers Co. featuring a brick building and the slogan 'There's a reason!'.

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Advertisement for State Medical Institute, featuring a portrait of a man and text about medical services.

Advertisement for AK-SAR-BEN and National Corn Exposition, featuring a portrait of a man and text about corn products.

Advertisement for The Bee Building, featuring a portrait of a man and text about office space.

Advertisement for Jett's Gold Top beer, featuring a portrait of a man and text about the beer's quality.

Advertisement for 'We Cure Men' featuring a portrait of a man and text about medical services.