

TRIBUTE LEVIED BY BUGS

Farmers Held Up Annually for Hundreds of Millions.

FRUITS OF TOIL DESTROYED

Related Movement in Congress to Protect Insectivorous Birds—Surprising Facts Revealed by Report.

If all the 600 colleges and all the college endowments in the United States should be destroyed tomorrow, the insect tax of one year not only would replace them, but would leave a balance sufficient to endow thirty-two new universities in the sum of \$10,000,000 each.

It costs more by many millions each year to feed our insects than to educate our 20,000,000 children.

It is clear to those who know most about the subject that unless radical and immediate measures are adopted to restore a sure safe and natural equilibrium between insectivorous birds and their foods, the time will soon come when the annual loss caused by insects to the agriculture in this country alone will be counted in billions instead of millions of dollars.

The estimated annual loss to farmers through insects is now about \$800,000,000 a year.

These are some of the striking facts and figures with which the senate committee on forest reservations and the protection of game accompanies a bill, reported to congress by Senator George B. McLean of Connecticut, to protect migratory game and insectivorous birds in the United States.

To see a bill like this pass has been the ambition of true sportsmen and economists for many years. The destruction of game and song birds and their eggs by pot-hunters and thoughtless boys has gone on almost unchecked, except by sporadic state legislation for so long that regions that once abounded with the feathered creatures are now destitute.

No people ever were more blessed with a plentiful supply of useful and beautiful birds than the people of the United States; and in no country have the little creatures been slaughtered more recklessly.

Many persons are now living who remember when all the markets of the east were glutted with partridge, quail, prairie chicken and wild water fowl.

An official report of 1894 states that one dealer in New York is known to have received twenty tons of prairie chickens in one season, and that some of the larger poultry dealers were estimated to have sold from 150,000 to 200,000 game birds in six months.

Provisions of the Bird Bill. The bill reported by the committee is intended to combine the best features of all the protective bills introduced by congress, including notably those of Representative John W. Weeks of Massachusetts and Daniel R. Anthony, jr., of Kansas, to say nothing of Senator McLean's own bill.

It does not stop at the protection of migratory game or song birds, but includes every kind of bird that is regarded as useful in consuming destructive insects.

Agriculture is hereby authorized to adopt suitable regulations to give effect to the previous section by prescribing and fixing closed seasons, having due regard to the seasons of temperature, breeding habits, and the time of migration or flight, thereby enabling the department to select and designate suitable districts for different portions of the country within which said closed season it shall not be lawful to shoot or by any device kill or seize and capture migratory birds within the protection of this law, and by declaring penalties by fine of not more than \$100 or imprisonment for ninety days, or both, for violations of such regulations.

Section 1. That the Department of Agriculture, after the preparation of said regulations, shall cause the same to be made public, and shall allow a period of three months in which said regulations may be examined and considered before final adoption, permitting, when deemed proper, public hearings thereon, and after final adoption to cause same to be enforced and submitted to the president of the United States for approval; provided, however, that nothing herein contained shall be deemed to affect the regulations and laws of the states and territories for the protection of non-migratory game or other birds resident and breeding within the borders, nor to prevent the states and territories from enacting laws and regulations to promote and render efficient the regulations of the Department of Agriculture provided under this statute.

Section 2. That there is hereby appropriated, out of any moneys in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this act, the sum of \$100,000.

Disposing of State's Rights. In every attempt to secure legislation of this character its advocates have been met with the opposition of certain constitutionalists who have argued that it would infringe the rights of the states.

The committee disposes of this contention briefly, but pointedly. They show that for many years European countries have protected bird life by treaties, regulations and laws, and that the United States and that the fact that several states of the union have exercised the right to regulate the taking of both migratory and non-migratory birds where no discrimination or distinction has been suggested or desired does not preclude the nation from asserting its right of protecting migratory birds whenever conditions make such protection necessary.

"The power of the federal government to regulate by treaty the taking of migratory seals and fish cannot be questioned," says the report, "and your committee can see no distinction between the right to regulate by law and treaty the taking of seals and fish that today may be in the waters of one state or nation and tomorrow in the waters of another state or nation and the right to regulate the taking of wild birds whose habitat changes from one state or nation to another with the changing seasons. None of the European states allow the selling of game birds during the spring months."

The economic arguments adduced by the committee in favor of its bill are of the most striking character, as the suggestions at the opening of this article indicate. The committee points out that as mammals have succeeded reptiles, insects soon will possess the earth unless some agency less expensive than arsenic is discovered to check their increase.

The money value of the damage done by insects seems incredible to one who has hitherto given little thought to that phase of the bird question. A short time ago, suggests the committee, the farmers of the country, especially in the northwest, were much agitated because of a proposition for reciprocity with Canada. The loss by insects which they, with the other farmers of the country, will suffer this year and which will benefit no one, will exceed by hundreds of millions of dollars the total value of the entire wheat crop of the nation.

In 1904 Dr. C. L. Bartlett, basing his estimate on the crop reports of the Department of Agriculture, asserted that the loss to the agricultural industries that year caused by insects alone, could be conservatively placed at \$735,100,000; and

this does not include a dollar used for insecticides. State Ornithologist Forbush of Massachusetts, in his comprehensive book entitled "Useful Birds," maintains that insect pests destroy agricultural products to the value of \$800,000,000 a year.

The details whereby such enormous totals are reached are available and indicate that the scientists are not guessing wildly. For example, the Hessian fly in 1904 cost the wheat growing states \$50,000,000. Chinch bugs costs the crops in the Mississippi valley \$100,000,000 in one year. Rocky Mountain locusts in their years of greatest activity cost the northwest more than \$150,000,000 at one time. Thus it is seen that the terrible loss of \$800,000,000 in one year is fairly easy of proof.

Fecundity Beyond Imagination. The fecundity of many insects is beyond imagination. The green leaf louse or aphid, so destructive of the hop industry and many other of our most valuable fruits and vegetables, reproduces its kind at the rate of ten sextillion to the pair in one season. These inconceivable figures mean 40,000 for every square inch of land that is above water. Placed in Indian file, ten to the inch, it would take light traveling at the rate of 180,000 miles per second 2,500 years to reach the file leader. The potato bug is less fecund. One pair will reproduce from 50,000,000 to 60,000,000 only in one season. The unchecked natural increase of one pair of gypsy moths would defoliate the United States in eight years.

Some insects live to eat. Some insects increase their size at birth 10,000 times in thirty days. No less than 175 specimens of insects attack the apple, plum, peach and cherry trees; 400 species are found upon the oak.

Bird Appetite for Insects. Fortunately for the protection of humanity against its insect enemies birds are among the most important agencies in staying the inroads of insect devastation. Most birds eat most of the time, and eat insects and little else. Mr. Treadwell of the Boston Society of Natural History, fed a young robin sixty-eight angleworms in one day. A young crow will eat twice its weight a day in almost anything set before it.

Mr. Forbush has seen two parent grosbeaks in seven hours make 450 trips to their nest carrying two or three larvae at a time. Columns could be filled with the stories of devastation of the great food crops of the world brought by insect attacks, and of the final rout of the invaders by the bird legions. In Europe in 1848 a great outbreak of gypsy moths occurred to ward off the affliction. But on the approach of winter titmice and wrens paid daily visits to the infested trees and before spring the eggs of the moth were entirely destroyed. Sealions once saved Utah from an army of crickets, and in 1855 the blackbirds redeemed Nebraska from the locusts.—Boston Transcript.

He Changed the Climate. "It is strange," said the irascible little man, "that a person of your advantage."

"What's that?" the big man demanded. "The little man said that you are the only little man and the big man looked very big."

"I was going to say," he mildly resumed, "that it seems to me a person of your advantage should not take up these questions as a serious study and master them as I am sure you could."

"That's all right," said the big man affably.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Recalled. "Remember, George, dear, you promised, if your man were nominated, to give me \$100 for a summer gown?"

"Oh—did I say that?"

"Yes—you did—say—just—that!"

"Ah, yes, I remember now! But, my dear, that was before I became a disciple of the recall!"—Judge.

WEST POINT IN NEW GARB

National Military Academy Undergoes a Transformation.

FEW OLD BUILDINGS REMAIN

Millions Devoted to the Scheme of Enlargement and Beautification Begun Ten Years Ago.

The splendid scheme planned a little more than ten years ago for the enlargement and beautification of the United States Military Academy at West Point is being rapidly realized. Should a West Pointer of a class as recent as one in the late '90s return there now for the first time since his graduation, he would behold something vastly different from the West Point of his own days, insofar as equipment and magnificence of buildings is concerned.

About the only old things of his day he would find would be the old cadet barracks, the library building, the ancient chapel, which has been moved to the cemetery, where the officers of the army who were of West Point are buried; the mess hall, some of the old-time residences, the oldest hotel in New York state, and, of course, most important of all, the same old "spirit of West Point," for that, as every West Pointer will tell you, never has and never will undergo a change.

For the enlargement of West Point congress has appropriated since June, 1902 \$7,500,000, and of this amount about \$7,000,000 has been expended in the construction and equipment of new buildings among them many magnificent structures, including a chapel that is admittedly one of the finest examples of the ecclesiastical type of architecture on this continent, the finest riding academy in the world, a magnificent new cadet barracks, a gymnasium such as no other institution in America can boast of, a new academic building, a group of the finest cavalry and artillery buildings in the United States and a classic headquarters building which stands on the site of the old building, in which such superintendents as Robert E. Lee, Sylvanus Thayer, Richard Delafield, Pierre G. T. Beauregard, John M. Schofield, Oliver O. Howard and Wesley Merritt had their headquarters when they were at the head of the institution.

A Magnificent Picture. On the Hudson side of the reservation the plan of the architects have been realized with the single exception of the demolition of the ancient West Point hotel and the erection on its site of either a home for the superintendent or a modern hotel structure.

From the deck of a river steamer or from any train on the east shore of the river a glance in the direction of West Point reveals a magnificent picture. Going north one sees first a splendid building that dominates the picture from the east. It is the new headquarters building from which the military and academic administration of West Point is directed. It crowns the slope of the hill which leads up from the railway station in the hollow below.

Just below post headquarters and standing on the banks of the Hudson is the magnificent riding hall, the finest on this continent and probably the finest in all the world. The old riding hall, which was demolished to make way for the present structure, was a creation of Robert E. Lee, and in it were trained all the West Point cavalrymen of the last sixty years.

The new hall is three times as large as was the old one and represents the last word in equipment so far as instruction in horsemanship is concerned. Next, on the Hudson side of the picture, but not yet completed, is the second of the new academic buildings. It is at present one-fourth finished and will be ready for use early next fall.

The officers' club, a classic structure, built by officers who are graduates of West Point and not by the government, is the building that stands just to the north of the riding hall. Then comes another splendid structure, Cullum hall, a gift to the academy in memory of its greatest superintendents.

In Cullum hall are held the West Point graduation exercises and other important functions. From its rafters and along its walls are suspended scores of flags, tattered and sacred relics of great battles in which West Pointers have won glory for their alma mater.

Another beautiful structure is the home of the bachelor officers who are detailed for duty at the academy. Magnificent New Chapel. These are the new buildings that stand out prominently in the picture of the new West Point from the reservation. Back of them and on a great hill that overlooks the plain below and which can be seen for miles is the magnificent new chapel, with its great memorial window, which emphasizes, by scenes and characters taken from biblical and ecclesiastical history, "duty, honor and country," and which is a memorial to West Pointers who served their country well.

"To the Glory of the God of Battles and in Faithful Memory of the Departed Graduates of the United States Military Academy at West Point. Erected by the Living Alumni, MCMX." is the inscription that tells the story of that window, the most beautiful and costly of any in any church in this land.

On the plain proper, the new buildings that stand out most prominent are the gymnasium, the new north cadet barracks, the finished academic building and the new one in process of construction, the new homes of the married officers, the new north battalion guardhouse, and, just beyond the reservation in the direction of Highland Falls, the splendid group of buildings for the cavalry and artillery on duty at West Point.

garding the different positions he had held.

"Jim" was telling of a period of his early newspaper days when he had held many places and none for long. "Then where did you go?" thundered the lawyer after Evans had told of working a few days in the southwest. "To Dallas, Tex. Worked two weeks," replied Evans.

"Why did you change?" asked the lawyer. "My boss and I could not agree upon the question of national policy," was the answer. "Then where did you go?" "To New Orleans. Left there in a week."

"And what was the reason this time?" from the attorney. "Same thing," answered Evans with a smile. "The proprietor and I found that we did not agree upon a political question of national importance."

The same answer was given as Evans told of numerous other places he had taken and given up. The attorney finally gave up his attempt to break down Evans with the remark: "You must be a hard man to get along with if you have such set political ideas."

A few days after the case had been decided Judge Brentano met Evans on the street. "Say, Jim," he asked, "what was that question of national importance that cost you so many jobs? What did you and your bosses disagree over?" "Prohibition," answered Evans with a smile.—Chicago Tribune.

Healthy Mothers. Women who bear children and remain healthy are those who prepare their systems in advance of baby's coming. Unless the mother aids nature in its pre-natal work the crisis finds her system unequal to the demands made upon it, and she is often left with weakened health or chronic ailments. No remedy is so truly a help to nature as Mother's Friend, and no expectant mother should fail to use it. It relieves the pain and discomfort caused by the strain on the ligaments, makes pliant and elastic those fibres and muscles which nature is expanding, prevents numbness of limbs, and soothes the inflammation of breast glands. The system being thus prepared by Mother's Friend dispels the fear that the crisis may not be safely met. Mother's Friend assures a speedy and complete recovery for the mother, and she is left a healthy woman to enjoy the rearing of her child. Mother's Friend is sold at drug stores. Write for our free book for expectant mothers which contains much valuable information, and many suggestions of a helpful nature. BRADFIELD REGULATOR CO., Atlanta, Ga.



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Strong Healthy Women

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Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription

Cures the weaknesses and disorders of women. It acts directly on the delicate and important organs concerned in motherhood, making them healthy, strong, vigorous, virile and elastic.

"Favorite Prescription" banishes the indispositions of the period of expectancy and makes baby's advent easy and almost painless. It quickens and vitalizes the feminine organs, and insures a healthy and robust baby. Thousands of women have testified to its marvelous merits.

Honest druggists do not offer substitutes, and urge them upon you as "just as good." Accept no secret nostrum in place of this non-secret remedy. It contains not a drop of alcohol and not a grain of habit-forming or injurious drugs. Is a pure glyceric extract of healing, native American roots.



The Superiority of Electric Toast

to the charred, or brittle, or soggy kind made in the tedious old-fashioned way, is relatively the same as the superiority of grilled steak to fried steak.

For one-tenth of a cent a slice the General Electric Radiant Toaster makes Perfect Toast faster than you can eat it. It is Perfect Toast because the radiant heat forces the necessary chemical change in the bread. This insures delicious golden Toast that fairly melts in your mouth.

You can operate the General Electric Radiant Toaster on the finest damask table cloth. Its neat porcelain base and cheerful glowing coils add grace and charm to any table.

Omaha Electric Light & Power Company

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