

**The Jack Rabbit Plague in California.**

On the San Joaquin plains of California jack rabbits are a nuisance, and the practice of the farmers is to thin them out by annual drives. A corral is formed with barbed wire fence, and around this, forming a circumference ten to twelve miles long, from 5,000 to 7,000 persons collect at the appointed time. Many are mounted, there are many hundreds of light waggons and other vehicles, the mass on foot form a skirmish line in advance, provided with clubs. As the line contracts the jacks are put up and headed for the corral. Marshal so direct the advance that the animals are massed on the opened side of the corral. The close of the latest drive is thus described by the *San Francisco Examiner*: "Before the contracting line of men, women, boys and girls lay about 500 acres of plain so thick with madly rushing hares that the ground was actually hidden from sight."  
"Within a space of a few acres over 25,000 rabbits were huddled together in one place the terror-stricken mass had rushed into one corner and lay there over a foot deep. It is estimated that at least 3,000 were never touched by clubs, but were simply smothered to death by the rush of those in the rear. Photographs were taken of the mass as they lay huddled up, and then the veteran guard of California, clubs in hand, were formed in line of battle, and with a yell moved down upon the mass of 25,000 bunnies, clubbing as they ran. A sickening slaughter took place, lasting about an hour."

**The Best Mosquito Remedy.**

Mr. C. H. Russel, of Bridgeport, Conn., has recently communicated to us the following interesting fact: A very high tide recently broke away the dike and flooded the salt meadows of Stratford, Conn. The receding tide left two lakes nearly side by side of the same size. In one lake the tide left a dozen or more small fish, while the other one was fishless. A recent examination showed that while the fishless lake contained tens of thousands of mosquito larvae, that containing the fishes had in it no larvae.

An English gentleman living on the Riviera, according to a correspondent of *Nature*, having been troubled by mosquitoes, discovered that they bred in the large tanks kept for the purpose of storing fresh water, which is rather a rare commodity at this Mediterranean resort. He put a pair of carp in each tank, and succeeded in this way in exterminating the insect pest.

The utilization of fish in this way is an old suggestion, and a very practical one under some circumstances. Many people suffer from the mosquito plague when the insect breeds in a circumscribed and easily accessible place, and where it could be destroyed by some such method as that used by the level-headed Englishman.—*Insect Life*.

**Field-mice in Scotland.**

The mice which the Scotch mountains are bringing forth so prolifically are an expensive and formidable nuisance. For some months past the hill grazings and rough pastures of six Scotland counties—Dumfries, Roxburg, Kirkcubright, Peebles, Selkirk, Lanark—have been devastated by these pests. In Roxburg and Dumfries, from 80,000 to 90,000 acres, says a report just presented to the Board of Agriculture, have been overrun by them. Owls, kestrels, hawks and weasels are natural enemies of the field mouse. The fever of these enemies, the better the field mouse's chances. There has been a scarcity of owls and kestrels, says the official publication. The mice have prospered accordingly. And just for the same reason, the sheep are suffering a corresponding amount of adversity; their food is eaten up by all these myriads of mice. Seventeen years ago the same part of Scotland was visited by a plague of mice. So were several districts in northern England. In the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries the southern and eastern counties of England were afflicted in the same way. The New Forest and the Forest of Dean were plagued with mice in 1814. France, Holland, Germany and especially Australia, have been victimized by them.

A farmer living near Qu'Appelle has discovered a good deposit of coal on his property.

The people of Naples are again in dread of an eruption of Vesuvius. The flow of lava is redder than usual, and other signs indicate danger.

Wooden shoes are made in large quantities in Grand Rapids, Michigan, which is the seat of the industry in North America. About sixty pairs per day are made, and a market is found for them all over the country. They are sold to those employed in establishments where chemicals are employed which are destructive to leather. Basswood is used almost altogether in their manufacture.

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4. In the Royal Canadian animals are insured against lightning while at pasture anywhere. In the London Mutual they are insured while pasturing on the premises of the insured only.
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8. In the Royal Canadian it is a part of the contract that standard STEAM THRESHERS may be used without a special permit and without any restriction as to the distance from stacks or buildings, caretakers, piles of water, kind of fuel or direction of the wind. Many of the policy holders in the London Mutual were obliged to run their own risk while threshing last season, because it was found to be impossible to comply with the conditions of their permit. When a farmer pays for insurance he should secure a policy which will hold him safe when it is most required.
9. The Royal Canadian is obliged to pay its losses within sixty days and usually takes much less. The London Mutual need not pay for ninety days, and since it has become so hard up as to be obliged to borrow money largely, it usually takes about the full time allowed.
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11. As to security, the inspector of insurance reports that the Royal Canadian has \$202,758, the amount he estimates to be necessary to enable the company to carry out all its engagements with its policy holders. Besides this he reports that it has to the good the \$40,000 capital paid in cash by the shareholders, and a net surplus \$117,607 making in all a total cash surplus of \$517,607 to protect its policy-holders against unexpected contingencies. In addition to these cash items it has a subscribed capital of \$100,000 not called up. Regarding the security of the London Mutual the inspector reports that the amount of unearned premium it should have on hand is \$290,379. To make up this amount in cash a second call would have to be made on the premium notes for a large amount, leaving a surplus of only \$74,218, even if there were no bad debts, and this surplus is made up wholly of the unpaid balance of premium notes already heavily assessed. The company reports the losses adjusted but unpaid at the close of the year at \$6,387, but the Inspector of Insurance finds that the liability for unpaid losses at the end of the year was \$29,286. The cash on hand to pay these losses only amounted to \$13,911.

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