

Wild Camels in Arizona.

The camels now running wild in Arizona are the descendants of a small herd originally imported for use in the State of Nevada. In the early days of mining on the Comstock, long before there were any railroads in the Great Basin region, it was thought that camels might be profitably used about the mines, particularly in packing across the surrounding deserts, and twelve "ships of the desert" were accordingly purchased and brought to Virginia City. They were wanted for use in packing salt from the Salt Springs salt marsh to the Comstock reduction works. This salt deposit lies far out in a desert region, and to reach it many waterless stretches of sand and alkali had to be traversed. The camels were able to cross all the deserts in perfect comfort, carrying heavy loads of salt and finding means of subsistence in the prickly and bitter plants everywhere to be found in abundance. In short, the animals did as good work here in our deserts as they are able to do in any country in the world, but they were too slow. The camel may be fast enough for an Arab, but he is too slow for an American.

When the occupation of the camels as packers of salt was gone they were sold to some Mexicans, who used them for a time in packing wood down out of the mountains. The Mexicans took them up rocky trails into the rugged hills and used them the same as they used a mule—unmercifully. They soon killed three of the wretched beasts, and would soon have killed the remainder had not a Frenchman, who owned a big ranch on the Carson River, below Dayton, taken pity on the poor, abused creatures and bought the whole of them. This Frenchman had been in Algeria with the French colony, where he had developed an affection for the camel—probably owed the animal a debt of gratitude for having saved his life on some occasion. He had no use for the beasts, therefore turned them out to roam the desert plains at will.

The animals, left to shift for themselves, soon waxed fat, and increased and multiplied. In a few years from nine the herd had increased to thirty-six, old and young. The Frenchman then sold the whole lot to be taken down to Arizona to be used in packing ore down off a big mountain range. It is said there was a good smooth trail, but the animals found all the rocks and soon became footsore and useless, when all were turned adrift to shift for themselves. They have regained the instincts of the original wild state of their species and are very wary and swift. They fly into waterless wastes impenetrable to man when approached. Some of the old animals, however, occasionally appear in the vicinity of the settlements. Of late it is reported that the cattlemen have been shooting them for some reason, perhaps because they frighten and stampede their horses. No one knows how many camels are now running at large in the wilds of the Gila country, but there must be a great number. One is occasionally caught. Four years ago one was captured near the Gila Bend that measured over nine feet in height. It appeared to be a stray from one of the herds in that region.—*San Francisco Chronicle.*

Little Bits of Knowledge.

It is estimated that one of the largest stones in the pyramids weighs fully eighty-eight tons.

The refuse hops, hitherto thrown away in breweries, are now converted into a good article of paper by a German chemist.

Water alone has been known to sustain life fifty-five days; if only dry food were taken death would result in a quarter of that time.

It is estimated that the sunflower plant draws from the soil and exhales, in twelve hours, twelve ounces of water.

The brain of the ant is larger in proportion to its size than that of any other known creature.

The skeleton of the leathery-winged bat is, bone for bone and joint for joint, similar to that of a man.

The roofs of Egyptian temples are composed of huge blocks of stone laid from column to column.

The light of the firefly is caused by the slow combustion of phosphorus in the system.

The Paris *Matin* says that the Prince of Wales won £18,000 at Monte Carlo this week and donated the whole sum to the poor of Monaco.

Altman is a new mining town in Colorado and there is evidently serious trouble there. Troops have been ordered there from Colorado Springs by the sheriff. These are the particulars, as contained in the latest despatch: "Six deputy sheriffs were taken in charge on Bull Hill by miners at about eight o'clock in the evening, and are now under lock and key in the town of Altman. A messenger reports that the telephone wires went down and are supposed to have been cut. Sheriff Bowers has sent a message into the hills to verify the story."

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BACK AGAIN.

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A Great Offer.

The *GLOBE* of Toronto is offering great inducements in connection with their weekly for 1894. To all subscribers who forward them one dollar by the end of December inst., they will send the *Weekly Globe* for 1894, and, in addition, present them with a copy of "Hints for the Million," published by Messrs. Rand, McNally & Co., the celebrated publishers of Chicago and New York.

This work is an invaluable book of reference and handy for the household, being a compendium of thousands of new and valuable recipes and suggestions on hygiene, medicine, business affairs, travelling, the workshop, laboratory, house, kitchen, garden, stable, etc. The regular selling price is 35c.; it is worth one dollar.

PRESS NOTICES.

Useful to an inquisitive and economical housekeeper.—*New York Sun.*

A book which will be found useful by everybody.—*Boston Traveller.*

A very useful thing for a handy person.—*New Orleans Picayune.*

The "Hints" are comprehensive enough, and the wonder is they aren't called a "Household Encyclopedia."—*Cincinnati Commercial Gazette.*

More useful information could not well be crowded in the same space.—*San Francisco Bulletin.*

No well regulated household should be without a copy of "Hints for the Million."—*Spirit of the Times.*

In a wonderfully compact form a vast amount of information.—*Manchester Union.*

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SECOND DIVISION COURT

—OF THE—
County of Victoria.

The next sittings of the above Court will be held in Dickson's hall, Fenelon Falls,

ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25th, 1894,

commencing at 10 o'clock in the forenoon

Saturday, April 14th, will be the last day of service on defendants residing in this county. Defendants living in other counties must be served on or before April 9th.

S. NEVISON, E. D. HAND, Clerk

Fenelon Falls, Feb. 22nd, 1894.

NOTICE.

To the residents of Fenelon Falls.

Take notice that any person or persons removing from any village or district infected with diphtheria to Fenelon Falls will be quarantined for a period of 14 days or longer, at the discretion of the Board of Health. The citizens of Fenelon Falls who do not wish to be so inconvenienced will govern themselves accordingly.

By order of the Board of Health.

A. WILSON, M. D., Medical Health Officer

Fenelon Falls, Feb'y 22nd, 1893. 1-1-f.

A Bogus Bear Story.

RESULT OF A LITTLE DIFFERENCE OF OPINION BETWEEN TWO FARMERS.

"Well, yes, matters are pretty rough out our way yet," admitted the old farmer from Montana. "Still we've made tolerably rapid advancement, too, all things considered. A large part of the state which, being outside of the mining district, has long been considered worthless is now devoted to farming and grazing. With the advent of school houses and churches and such things the whole territory will assume a new aspect. But just now every man looks out for number one. See that slash across my cheek here? That was one of the terms of settlement of a dispute about a number of hogs owned by a neighbor of mine a couple of years ago. What did it? A chunk of lead.

"It was this way: I planted about half my farm to corn that year. Corn was little more than an experimental crop out there, and I took a good deal of pains to give mine a fair show. Zeke Brown, whose farm was next to mine, was also experimenting a little, although in another line. He was trying to make hog raising pay. He contended that old Montana was good for something besides mining and grazing, and added that if I raised corn he would raise hogs to eat it.

"And he did. Matters moved along smoothly enough until Brown's shoats were about two-thirds grown. Then every blamed hog developed an appetite several sizes too large for him, and Brown experienced difficulty in finding an adequate food supply. Finally, in desperation, he turned the whole drove loose to 'root, hog, or die,' and the porkers promptly invaded my corn fields. It took three of us nearly half a day to get those hogs back home again. Zeke, of course, was surprised that his live stock had broken out, and was profuse in his apologies for the trouble they had caused. But the next week the performance was permitted without the variation of a single feature. I grew suspicious that Neighbor Brown had devised a scheme by which he hoped to give his hogs at least one square meal a week. This in itself was quite commendable, but when my corn was invaded for the third time I surmised who was expected to stand the expense of the weekly banquets.

"I didn't like to quarrel with Zeke, but I felt that I couldn't afford to have my agricultural experiments interfered with even to boom his. So I determined to study the hog question a little on my own account. After a good deal of hard work my men and I succeeded in cornering one of the shoats and carried him kicking and squealing to the house. The spring before one of the boys had shot a cub bear, and the half tanned hide was nailed against a shed. We tore the bearskin down and tied it upon the hog, fastening it securely. When the job was ended that porker made a pretty fair imitation of a bear; and when we turned the animal loose he made a bee line for the corn fields to again join his companions. Well, you know the bear is the mortal enemy of the hog tribe, and there is nothing bruin likes better than a fat, juicy pig.

"Perhaps you can imagine just what sort of reception that bogus bear received. The whole drove seemed to scent danger in the air before he got near them, and scurried out of the corn fields squealing in terror. The cause of all the disturbance apparently was more excited than any of the remainder of the drove—as indeed he had good cause to be—and as he was a good runner the flight soon became a veritable rout. It was the queerest sight I ever beheld, and I expect never to see its equal. Imagine a drove of hogs in a stampede, snorting, plunging, squealing and acting as if all the devils in that Biblical story actually possessed them! And in the midst of it all a lean, bedraggled, lopsided 'bear,' which half the time was ahead of the hogs!

"That porcine regiment swept through Brown's farm like a cyclone and went tearing out of sight in the distance. It took weeks to get the drove together again, and when this had been accomplished several were neither present nor accounted for. A couple of months later the Government employees in the Yellowstone park reported the discovery of several wild hogs in the geyser region.

"Somehow or other Brown charged his losses to my account. He sent word by one of the boys that if he saw any more bears around his place he proposed to shoot 'em at sight. I understood what that meant, and in the interest of my health also 'loaded for bear.' We met one night just at sunset on the old Yellowstone trail. I saw him first and sang out, 'Good evening, Zeke.'

"'Good evening, Bill.'

"As he spoke his arm flew up, there was a flash, a crashing report and the blood was trickling from a smarting furrow across my cheek. You can see the result of that argument yet.

"Brown? Oh, I don't know anything about him now. His oldest boy is running the farm, though, and he manages hogs a great deal better than his father before him did."

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