GREAT LOCUST PLAGUE

WIDE AREAS MADE DESOLATE IN SOUTH AMERICA.

Five Governments are Fighting the Pest, Which is Yearly Getting Worse.

A cable despatch received in France a while ago described how in the province of Catamarca, Argentina, many women had fallen to the ground in convulsions of weeping and for a time were almost bereft of their senses, repeating over and over only the words: "The locusts, the locusts!" It was the third successive season in which they had seen the skies darkened with clouds of locusts that settled down upon their fields and plains, destroying the crops and every vestige of the vegetation on which their cattle and sheep subsist.

No other part of the world has in recent years suffered from such a plague of locusts as the agricultural States of subtropical and temperate South America—Argentina, Bolivia, southern Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay share the affliction.

In these regions the swarms have been steadily increasing for a number of years. They are supposed to originate in the southerly part of the Amazon basin and in the Chaco of Bolivia and of northern Argentina.

They come from the north in clouds that sometimes darken the sun and some of the swarms have been estimated to be sixty miles long and from twelve to fifteen miles wide. But these billions of flying insects are only the forerunners of the

GREATER MISCHIEF TO COME.

They make desolate the area in which they settle, but often jump wide areas in their flight. Before they take to the wing they lay billions of eggs in the warm earth which in a few weeks become hoppers. It is this young, voracious brood, before it can fly, that utterly strips the land of everything green as thought it had been burned over.

All the Governments are fighting the evil. Two years ago the Aregntine Government organized a bureau under the name of Defensa general agricola para la extinction de langosta, or Commission for the Destruction of the Locust. Last year the Argentine congress placed $4,500,000 at the disposal of this commission.

Sub-committees represent the general commission in every department exposed to these invasions and they extend from the northern limit of agriculture in the republic to the Neuquen River, almost to Patagonia. Everything possible is done to minimize the damage.

A fine of 100 pesos is imposed upon any settler failing to report to the sub-committee in his district the presence of locust swarms or hopper eggs on his land. An organized service embracing thousands of men is in readiness at any moment to send a force to any place where danger is reported. The most effective war is waged against the young hoppers.

THE OFFICIAL REPORT

is that as many as 52,000 hopper eggs have been counted in a space less than three and a half feet square. A prodigious number of the young insects are destroyed soon after hatching by means of sprinkling carts filled with arsenic water or other poisonous liquids. Still many of them escape and the country they cover is too vast to be entirely treated with the sprinkling process. Fortunately the young hoppers have a habit that facilitates the destruction of millions of them.

By the time they are two weeks old they have developed an enormous appetite. But they do not set to eat up the world in thin array or scattered detachments.

They collect here and there in compact masses to move forward on the food, and when an army of millions advances from one space to another there is nothing left to eat and they have deserted the ground. They move forward they cannot fly, they move only from 400 to 600 feet a day. Now is the time to trap them. In front of them a trench is dug five six feet deep and wide and 200 feet long. From each end of the trench pieces of sheet tin seventy-five feet long and a foot high are stuck into the ground, forming two lines of fencing fanlike from the mouth of the trench. These fences are bent till their outer ends are a few feet apart, wide enough to enclose the flanks of the army. Then all is ready for

A HOT WORK,

at sunrise, and all the settlers and the Government men sent to their aid take part in it with weapons that are effective, though they are only pieces of cloth, with which they flap the ground and urge the hoppers forward. Very often darkness falls and the rear guard of the hoppers has not yet reached the brink over which they tumble to their fate. The hoppers will not stir till sunrise, and then the flapping of the cloth is resumed till this particular army is engulfed. The crops and grass just ahead are safe for a while.

But such work as this spread over several countries is enormously expensive and is only a palliative of the terrible evil, not a remedy for it. A remedy has not yet been found. Can the plague of locusts be quenched if attacked at its head sources? Is there any parasite or natural enemy of the insect that can be introduced to quench the plague or mitigate it? Such questions as these are now being anxiously discussed in South America.

ILLS OF CHILDHOOD, HOW TO CURE THEM

In thousands of homes Baby's Own Tablets is the only medicine used when children are ailing, and the mother who keeps this medicine on hand may feel as safe as though there was a doctor constantly in the home. Baby's Own Tablets cure all stomach and bowel troubles, break up colds, expel worms, and make teething easy. The mother has the guarantee of a government analyst that this medicine contains no opiate or poisonous soothing stuff. Mrs. H. H. Bonnyman, Mattall, N. S., says:—"I have used Baby's Own Tablets for my little girl while teething and for constipation, and think there is no medicine can equal them." Sold by medicine dealers or by mail at 25 cents a box from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

CRUISING FOR CASTAWAYS.

Two British Men-of-War are Continually on the Look Out.

H. M. S. Pegasus, which, as reported recently, has succeeded in bringing off from Antipodes Island, in the South Pacific, twenty-one shipwrecked sailor, is the cruiser whose special duty it is just now to scour these seas in search of castaways.

Two men-of-war are continually engaged, all the year round, on this humane errand. They steam from one desert island to another, so timing their arrival that each is visited in turn at least once every six months.

Altogether there are about two hundred uninhabited and isolated islands, atolls, and archipelagoes, which are thus kept under observation. Of course, if the cruiser sees no sign of anything being amiss on approaching an island, no attempt is made to effect a landing; for this, besides wasting much valuable time would be very dangerous, many of them being exceedingly difficult of approach and inaccessible.

But if signals are observed, or if floating wreckage is seen which appears to be of recent origin, then investigation is lowered, and the fullest search during them is made. In this way, during the last few years, over 300 shipwrecked men have been rescued from certain death by starvation and exposure.

It says something for the humane instincts of the British Admiralty officials, that the British is the only Navy that troubles itself about this ambulance service of the sea. And this, although, in a large proportion of cases, the saved seamen belong to other nationalities.

The men mentioned above, for instance, as being rescued by the Pegasus, belonged to a French ship, the Felix Faure; while a number similarly brought away from the Crozet Islands, a few months back, formed the crew of a Norwegian barque.

If you would be happy live on an optimistic diet.

IN MERRY OLD ENGLAND

NEWS BY MAIL ABOUT JOHN BULL AND HIS PEOPLE.

Occurrences in the Land That Reigns Supreme in the Commercial World.

The British salmon is said to be worth $550 per ton.

Two Sunderland shipyards have been closed through lack of orders.

Ten million sterling is every year subscribed for charity in Great Britain.

The shelves of the British Museum are estimated to contain 39 miles of books.

The County of London covers 75,442 acres; but the London police area is 443,421 acres.

Last year 372,515,754 passengers were carried by the London County Council tramway cars.

Hull claims the distinction of having the cheapest tram rides — a half-penny for three miles.

Capt. Cox, of Ash, Surrey, has died from blood poisoning, caused by a mosquito bite while fishing.

The London and North-western Railway Company keeps a maker of artificial limbs in its employ.

Great Britain has the longest coast line in Europe—Italy, Russsian and France coming next in order.

The average life of note of the Bank of England is a little less than 70 days. Notes are never re-issued.

Out of 300,000 volumes lent last year by the Westminster public libraries of London, only five were lost.

King Edward is 67, the Emperor of Austria is 77, and the King of Roumania is 68. President Falliéres is 67.

The Victoria Cross carries with it a pension of $50 a year to those below the rank of a commissioned officer.

The cruiser Agincourt, which was for many years the flagship of the Channel Fleet, is to be converted into a floating coal depot.

The will of General Sir Redvers Buller has been proved in Exeter Registry Court. The value of the estate is sworn at $174,960.

Wheeled in a bath chair to a meeting at Droitwich, an old lady aged ninety, embraced General Booth, who presented her with his photograph.

A memorial service for Gen. Wolfe was held recently at the Church of St. Alfreze, Greenwich, where the remains of the victor of Quebec are interred.

During the last twelve months more than one hundred bicycles have been reported to the Surrey Constabulary as having been stolen from porches of country churches.

Normanhurst Castle, the country seat of Lord Brassey, which has been seriously damaged by fire, is one of the most picturesque mansions in England, and was completed in 1871.

At a meeting of suffragettes, Lady Frances Balfour suggested that a better method than breaking the law would be for every woman to refuse to cook the voter's dinner. They would then get the vote in a week.

An abnormal number of Jewish wedding were celebrated in London recently. This was particularly noticeable in the case of the east end synagogues, the officiating clergy were kept from an early hour.

"What profession do you think Joe had better adopt?" asked Mrs. Brown. "I dunno," answered her husband. "Joe is rather handicapped by circumstances. The only profession he's naturally adapted to is that of a capitalist, and I don't quite see where he's goin' to get the money."

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WHEAT

TWO OF PERSIA'S CITIES.

Tabriz One of Most Ancient Towns —Teheran Centre of War.

Persia's ancient city of Tabriz, one of the scenes of recent violence in the Shah's dominions, can hardly be said to have ever enjoyed a quiet life. When Turk and Turcoman and Persian were not shaking the old walls with battering rams the earthquake was having its inning. The public buildings bear traces of this sort of violence—notably the Kabud Masjid — blue mosque—constructed of wonderfully arabesqued blue tiles; while the citadel gapes with its earthquake-riven sides. Although the Anglo-Indian telegraph runs through the city, it is not as in the ancient days when it was known as the "glorious Tauris." The new Russian railway has deprived it of much of its importance, and the leather merchants and silversmiths eke out a precarious livelihood by engaging in a little smuggling.

Teheran, the centre of the civil war now raging in Persia, has within the last twenty years undergone the most rapid transformation of all Oriental cities. Since the old four-mile wall was taken down and the ditch filled up to form a broad boulevard, gas, street cars and telegraphs have modernized the ancient birthplace of Haroun-el-Raschid. To preserve the character of the city, however, the old pits that tap the subterranean water courses, on which all local life depends, are still as they were centuries ago.

AN OLD-TIME QUACK.

In the right hands, it is a poor root that will not work both ways. An old quack doctor was once called to see a boy who had chills and fever.

He proceeded to scratch the bark off a root, and put some in one glass of water and some in another glass of water.

"Give the medicine in this glass for the chills," he then said to the lad's mother, "but give this in the other glass when the fever comes on."

"But, doctor," the mother protested, "it is exactly the same in both glasses."

"Oh, not at all," declared the quack.

"But I saw you scrape the bark off the same root and put it in each glass."

"Yes," admitted the quack, smoothly, "but you didn't see how I done it, my dear lady. This for the chills I scrape up on the root, and that makes it high cockalorum. This for the fever I scrape down on the root, and that makes it low cockahighrum."

HELPFUL.

Tramp—Can you assist me along the road, mum?

Lady of the House—Personally I am afraid not, but I will unchain my dog, and he will be most pleased to do so.

Every German soldier is to learn to swim, some of them being taught to cross a wide stream, carrying their clothes, arms, and ammunition.

EXPLORING WITH AIRSHIP.

Hopes to Get Past Obstacles in New Guinea in a Baloon.

An attempt will be made next year to explore a part of New Guinea by balloon. This great island, the largest in the world excepting Greenland, is very difficult to explore. It abounds in swamps, dense tropical forests and hostile tribes. Dr. Poch two years ago found tribes only fifteen miles inland from the coast of German New Guinea that had never been seen by white men.

The chief of the mining department of British New Guinea in his last annual report said that though gold had been found in many parts of the mountains, the cost of prospecting further afield was almost prohibitive because parties have to hew their way through the tropical vegetation and are likely at any time to be attacked by the natives. The worst savages are in Dutch New Guinea, two-thirds of which is still unexplored.

These are the reasons why Lieut. Rambaldo of the Dutch navy, an experienced aeronaut, has been authorized to make an experimental balloon trip next year across the western part of Dutch New Guinea, for the purposes of exploration. His plans are all made and his Government is backing the enterprise.

He will travel in a free air balloon, and he has the utmost confidence that, ascending from Cape Steenboom on the south coast, he will land at the foot of Geelvink Bay, on the north shore. The meteorological conditions seem to justify his faith. From April till October the southeast trade wind can be counted upon as regularly as the daily reappearance of the sun. From October till April the northwest monsoon takes its turn. Rambaldo will chose some fine day in June next for his ascent, and has no doubt that he will be carried almost due northwest and will land somewhere near the shore of Geelvink Bay.

Upon the success of this short air voyage depends future endeavor of this sort in New Guinea. The distance in a straight line is only about 200 miles and the balloon explorer expects to make it in the daylight of one day.

Of course he will be equipped to see and record a great deal. He will have a number of the special cameras now used in balloons and he expects to secure panoramic views of the earth below and on both sides of him throughout the journey.

His course will take him about midway across the Carl Louis Mountains and he thinks it very likely that he will be able to count all the snow peaks in that mighty range. The plains, forests, rivers, lakes and hills will all be caught on his photographic plates and Rambaldo believes that this material will suffice for the production of an excellent map of the region above which he will float.

If the journey succeeds it will afford a good idea of the topography of an almost unknown region.

Teacher—"What is velocity?" puts a "Velocity is what a man throws a plate down with."

MAGISTRATE SPEAKS FOR ZAM-BUK

Magistrate Perry, of Goldfields, B.C., believes in making a good thing known. Writing of Zam-Buk, the great household balm, he says:—"After a very fair trial I have proved Zam-Buk eminently satisfactory. In my case it cured a skin rash of five years' standing which no doctor had been able to do any good for. I would certainly encourage any person to keep Zam-Buk in his home." The magistrate is quite right. Every home needs Zam-Buk. Unequalled for cuts, burns, bruises, eczema, blood poisoning and all skin diseases. All stores and druggists sell it at 50 cents a box. Sure cure for piles.

DON'T NEGLECT THAT SORE!

A Chicago man has just died from blood poisoning arising from neglect of a small sore. Don't neglect a cut, a patch of eczema, or an open sore of any kind. The air is full of poison germs, waiting to start up their evil results in neglected sores, wounds, etc. Zam-Buk is safety. Zam-Buk is so highly antiseptic that applied to any skin disease or injury it makes blood poisoning impossible. In using Zam-Buk you have three processes going on at once for Zam-Buk is healing soothing and antiseptic. Try it without delay.

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We appreciate the position taken by the man or woman who says:—"If your preparation is what you claim, you should have no objection to letting us try it before spending our money on it." To every person taking this view we say, send one cent stamp (to pay return postage) and name and date of this paper to Zam-Buk Co., Toronto, and we will mail you a free trial box of Zam-Buk. Zam-Buk is purely herbal, suitable for the delicate skin of little children, yet powerful enough to heal chronic sores of long years' standing. All druggists and stores, 50c. per box, 3 for $1.25.

Every Home Needs Zam-Buk

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