SOUTH AMERICAN ABORIGINES HAVE EDEN STORY LIKE THAT IN BIBLE

Tell of "Tree of Life" and of Sentence of Mankind to Hard Labor, but Embellish Legend With New Details.

A new story of the creation of man, told by a tribe of South American Indians who had never seen a white man, has just been added to the known stories of primitive man. This is contained in the verbatim rendering of the story, as narrated by one of the wise men of the tribe.

The tribe was discovered in the mountains which separate Brazil from the British Guianas, utterly cut off for many centuries from the rest of the world. The tribe is wholly unaffected by civilization, and has never even learned the art of making metal implements.

The story of the creation held by this tribe, according to records of the University Museum, is strikingly similar to the account of the creation in the book of Genesis, in that it describes a "tree of life" from which the first men and women ate the "fruit of knowledge" and thereafter were forced to give up the idyllic life in the Brazilian Garden of Eden to earn their bread "in the sweat of their brows." The Indians claimed a great rock to be the petrified stump of the "tree of life." Its story was told by the old "wise man" of the tribe in the following words:

Curiosity Possessed Them.

"In the beginning there were two gods, Taminkar and his brother Duwid: It was Tuminkar who created men and women, and afterward the other animals. It was Duwid who brought men and women food. Day after day he brought fruits and vegetables in great quantities and in much variety for them to eat, so that they were grateful to Duwid and rendered him thanks.

"Having nothing to do, the first men and women amused themselves by looking at the animals. They soon noticed that these were in the habit of passing in one direction in the morning of each day, and returning in the opposite direction in the evening; so they said to themselves, 'Let us go with the animals and see where they go, and what they do.'

"So they followed the animals and came to a great tree, bearing on its branches all kinds of fruits and vegetables upon which the animals fed each day, and there was plenty for all—the vegetables and fruits lay in great profusion on the ground. Then they said among themselves: 'This is where the god Duwid gets our food. Let us, hereafter, come and get it for ourselves—then we will not have to thank the god for it."

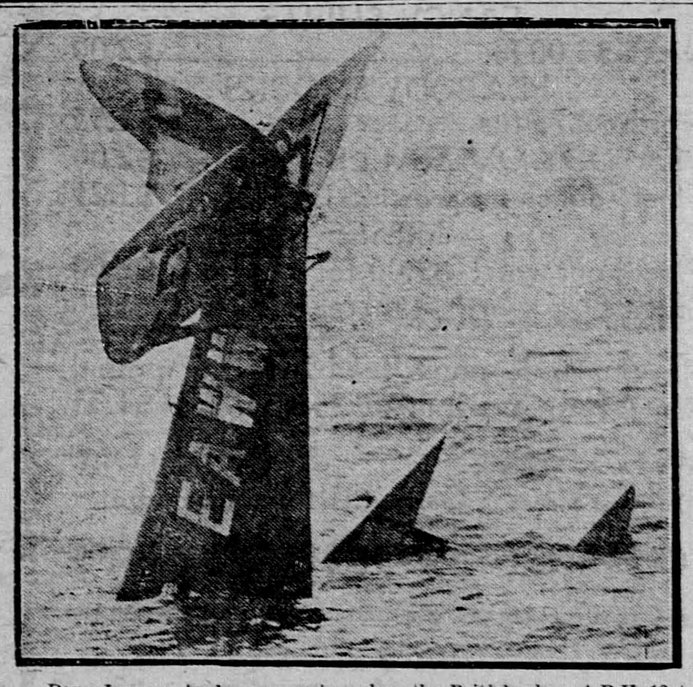
"Next day, therefore, they told Duwid that he need not trouble himself to bring them food any more, for they knew where to get it themselves.

" 'It shall be as you wish,' said Duwid, 'but henceforth you will have to work to obtain food to eat. To-morrow the tree will be cut down, but, in order that you may not starve utterly, I will tell you this: If you break off a branch bearing each kind of fruit and plant this in the ground and water it every day and cultivate it, and protect it, it will grow and bear its own kind. Then you may plant the seeds which are in the fruit, and they in turn will grow and produce each after its kind. Thus you may continue to eat of the fruit of the tree, but you will have to work for it.

Were Lazy; Lost Many Foods.

"Following the instructions of Duwid, the first men proceeded to break off branches of the tree, selecting those which bore different kinds of fruit and vegetables. Presently they grew tired of their labor and stopped; hence, when the tree was cut down only a few of the many varieties of food which it bore had been saved for mankind. Consequently, there are only a few varieties of edible plants in the world, whereas, if the first people had been more industrious, these would have been found in greater plenty. Moreover, to this day it is necessary to work hard to make the cassava grow. The stump of the tree remains to this day."

Anthropologists are aware that similar legends are to be found in many parts of the world, but they are at a loss to account for their spread probably thousands of years ago.



Davy Jones gained a rare prize when the British plane A.D.H. 18 took a nose dive into the channel and disappeared beneath the waves never to be seen again. Casualties nil.

What Some Plants Can Do.

Some kinds of plants have been found which can be made to photograph themselves.

A beam of light is turned on them, the plants absorb it, just as phosphorus will absorb light, and then give it out again. A photographic plate is placed over the plants, and when the light is yielded up by them they photograph the outlines of their own form and structure on the sensitive plate.

They are very small plants which thus supply their own photographs, so small as to be seen properly only under the microscope; but they may be very important for good or evil, for the bacteria, the yeasts and the moulds, are all microscopic plants.

It has always been difficult to obtain trustworthy portraits of the insides of these tiny things, but now it has been found that in many of them the substances which color them have this power of giving out light again, and so producing the color photographs.

Cross-Road Sarcasm.

Bug Traffic Cop—"Hey, Mr. Snail, this is the third time I've warned you about obstructing traffic, get a move on."

You get cheerfulness out of life in proportion as you put cheerfulness in. You cannot invest counterfeit coin and expect dividends in real money.

Colors.

Oh, scarlet hurts, like some strange lust;
Mauve stills your heart with sleepy things;
Blue dreams forever; yellow laughs;
But green—green sings.

Oh, silver is a shining peace,
And purple throbs, like Bacchic kings;
Opal has quick, fair mysteries;
But green—green sings.

—Weir Vernon.

No Need to Ask.

One after another the neighbors had come in to admire the new baby that had arrived at the Jones' household. Little Mary was rather fed-up with all the attention that was lavished on the newcomer—attention which had, up till then, been hers.

"Does the baby talk yet, Mary?" asked one of the friends of the family.

"No," replied the baby's disgusted sister, "the baby doesn't need to talk."

"Doesn't need to talk," exclaimed the friend, astonished.

"No," said the little girl bitterly. "All the baby has to do is to yell, and it gets everything worth having in the house."

He Hurried.

"How far away were you when the first shot was fired?" asked counsel.

"Four yards," replied the witness.

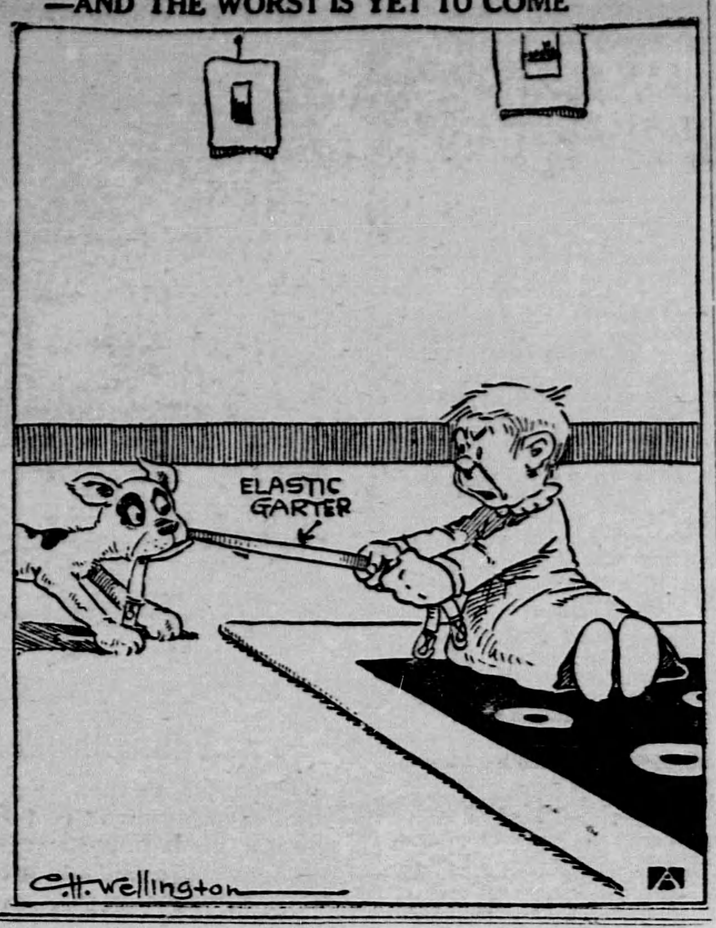
"Take your time now," cautioned the cross-examiner. "This is an important question. Where were you when the second shot was fired?"

The man in the box hesitated.

"As a matter of fact, sir," he said at last, "I didn't take my time, but I was about half a mile away."

No ship that was ever launched drifted into harbor. You have got to work to get it there.

—AND THE WORST IS YET TO COME



Developing Canada's Mineral Resources.

Government reports indicate that the mineral output of Canada in 1923 amounted to $214,102,000, and that in 1922 minerals to the value of $184,297,242 were produced.

While we appreciate that the value is rapidly increasing, we do not quite realize what Canada's mineral resources mean to her. It is only when comparisons are made that big figures can be fully appreciated. One of the largest figures with which Canadians generally are familiar is that of the national debt. On December 31, it amounted to $2,415,538,100, truly a large figure, mainly the result of the war; but the value of the minerals produced in Canada since 1910 amounted to $2,410,225,000, almost an equal amount.

The importance of mining to Canada is very aptly put by Dr. Camsell, deputy minister of the Department of Mines, in his annual report for 1923, when he says:

"The mineral resources of Canada are among its greatest natural assets, and, owing to our natural climatic conditions and the relatively limited area of the country capable of agricultural development, the mining industry must necessarily occupy a proportionately larger place in our economic development than in those countries of the world more fortunately endowed with respect to climate. Mining is not affected by climate and can be carried on irrespective of it. The importance of this industry is indicated by the growing increase in the annual production of minerals per capita, which has risen during thirty-five years from $2.23 to $26.40 a head of population. This production is increasing from year to year until it should ultimately exceed that of any country in the world."

The range of minerals found in Canada in commercial quantities is very large, and in many this country has almost a monopoly. In others the Canadian supplies are nearer to large United States markets than their own, such as in the case of the gypsum of the Maritime Provinces, and in these development is taking place at a rapidly increasing rate. Many of our own minerals, unfortunately, are being exported in a raw state, and supply the materials for large industries outside of Canada. It is of interest, however, to note that there is a growing tendency to manufacture more of our mineral products at home. This is especially noticeable with regard to nickel ,asbestos, lead and zinc.

In discussing the question of greater home manufacture of mineral products Dr. Camsell says:

"It is urgently necessary that we should develop home markets by the establishment of industries complementary to the mining industry, so that the products of our mines may be utilized for manufacture into finished articles. A study of our mineral trade balance will show several instances where the raw material for a manufactured article is produced in this country, but is shipped outside for manufacture and is then sold back to us at many times the value of the material in it. The securing of capital for the development of these complementary industries appears to be more in the general interests of the country than capital for the production of raw material, and until those complementary industries are established in our own country the production from the mine will not increase to a stage bearing a proper relation to what we believe to be our potential resources."

As an indication of the possibilities of mineral production in Canada in 1918 the copper output was 118,769,434 pounds, while last year it was 86,312,000 pounds, and the latter was more than double that of the previous year. In 1918 the production of nickel was 92,507,293 pounds, while last year it was 61,444,000 pounds, and in 1922 it was but 17,597,123 pounds. In 1913, when building construction was normal, there was over one million barrels of portland cement more produced than the 7,652,000 barrels recorded for last year. In 1918, notwithstanding the great demand for lead created by the war, Canada's total output was but 51,398,000 pounds; the production of 1923 was more than double that amount, being 112,600,000 pounds.

Development of natural resources is one of the most pressing problems with which Canada is to-day face to face, and in none is the situation more acute than in that of minerals. The Mines Department is giving particular attention to finding markets for our wide variety of both metallic and non-metallic minerals, in their raw state and as manufactured goods, and in this work the department has the whole-hearted support of the Canadian public.

Points About Common Salt.

Coal sprinkled with a strong solution of salt and water will last much longer on the fire, and its heat-giving properties will not be affected. The colors of a carpet that has been sprinkled with salt before sweeping will "come up" well. A tablespoonful of salt dissolved in a tumblerful of lukewarm water is a simple emetic. A handful of it thrown on the fire when the kettle has boiled over will prevent a disagreeable odor. Added to the bath salt gives an invigorating effect.

Headless, Too.

"How could Washington Irving's headless horseman find his way?"

"Just as easily as many motorists do to-day."

NATURE'S BALANCE OF LIFE IS NOW THREATENED BY CIVILIZATON

Rule of World May Pass to Busy Insects — Extinction of Species That Prey Upon Lower Forms of Life May Wipe Out Reigning Power on Earth.

By G. A. Brown.

Nature delights in balancing organic life. Throughout the history of animal life on the earth we find that, while there has been an endless succession of types and species developing and decaying over long intervals of time and in more or less restricted areas, there always has been a noticeable balances of forces. To-day we find parasites living on parasites, insects upon insects, fish upon fish, bird upon bird, animal, upon animal, and, economically, man upon man throughout the animal kingdom.

This interdependence of organic life follows fixed laws which are definite parts of the physics of the universe. They assure a balance of life, the proper dispersal of birds, insects, fish and animals over the surface of the globe where they can secure an abundance of food and do the economic work nature sets for them.

Man is Subject to Great Laws Which Govern Animal Life.

Man has been subjected to the operations of these great laws from the remotest period of his history. He has been restricted by them when they have operated against him, and he has been their agent when called upon to atack other animals. Being always a mighty hunter, he has always tended to keep down the spread of big game animals like the lion, tiger, elephant and buffalo. Since he has become civilized he has exerted stronger and ever stronger activities against the other species of organic nature, and to-day we find many authorities warning us that the balance of nature is being destroyed and that this will, in the near future, lead to world-wide economic disturbances. Game, bird, forest and plant preservation associations are carrying on broad campaigns for the balance, while farmers and others are advocating the continuance of a war of extermination against predatory animals, birds, insects, plant diseases and germs.

It has taken nature many millions of years to design and develop her creatures and man, within a couple of generations, has completely wiped off the face of the earth some of her finest animals and birds and is to-day hastening the destruction of many other species. Within another century there will be comparatively few of the many wild animals remaining. Future generations will have to depend for their knowledge of lions, cheetas, beavers, tigers, moose, zebras, giraffes and elephants on the descriptions of them written by naturalists to-day.

The destruction of wild life advances cumulatively with increased settlement and occupation of the land by man and his domestic herds and flocks and commercial slaughter hastens the destruction. Civilized man and his destructive weapons are menacing wild life throughout the world. Civilization is warring on nature everywhere and nature is severely suffering. Man is carrying the day, but what will happen when nature is completely mastered and her wild life destroyed?

Plants, insects and the lower animals have all played their parts in helping man to develop. They have fed him, helped him, clothed and ornamented him and protected him. They also have warred on him and made him develop his brain power and co-operation and social habits. In a recent scientific monograph dealing with the important roles invertebrate animals have played in the development of civilization these assertions are made:

"There is no group of animals, vertebrate or invertebrate, which has so much significance to man as the group of insects. They touch almost every activity and interest of civilized life. They attack our growing food, our orchards and forests, our clothing and our dwellings. Our bodies and those of our domestic animals are annoyed or infected with disease germs through the activities of insects. They are our chief competitors in the struggle for existence, and our fight against them is getting more severe and costly every year."

Other scientists express fears that in the next few centuries man will be unable to continue the struggle against insect life and will not be able to sustain himself in the face of their competition. Therefore, the future holds out the prospect of the possible extinction of man with the buffalo, lion and elephant and the dominance of the world by the insects.

Insect pests are innumerable. Every economic crop raised in North and South America, and in all tropical countries, is subject to attack by destructive insects. The wire-worm is an enemy of wheat, the grasshopper destroys grass, eelworms cause root-knot in the cotton plant, the boll-weevil destroys the boll, the bud-worm eats the heart out of the tobacco plant, the cinch-bug, army-worm, Hessian fly, cutworm, corn-rot and other aphides; bill-bugs, white grubs, saw flies, fruit-flies and weevils and beetles are all given to raiding some crop or farming stock. There is constant warfare being waged against them.

Not all the so-called predatory insects, animals and plants are generally harmful. The snakes, lizards, toads scale insects, beetles, fruit and grain flies, wildcats, rodents and multitudes of other organisms perform services valuable to others. They feed upon or are fed upon by others, or they render similar services to the bee in fertilizing plants and palms, like the date palms, they aerate or fertilize the soil, they remove disease germs, or other harmful matter from plants and animals and in many other ways assist in the balance of nature. These services have become so effectively adjusted that any considerable interruption of them is liable to destroy nature's balance and seriously jeopardize civilization.

Not Successful of Late.

Teuton—"All the former rulers of Germany learned trades and were successful at them."

Yank—"All our Presidents have been cabinet-makers—but not very successful of late."

Laws of Leap Year.

Leap year once had a definite place in the social system. A law in Scotland of the fourteenth century read: "It is ordained that for each year known as leap year each maiden lady of high and low estate shall have liberty to bespeak the man she likes; and, if he refuses to take her to be his lawful wife, he shall be mulcted in the sum of one pound or less, as his estate may be; except if he can make it appear that he is betrother to another woman, he then shall be free."

For emergency messages the Canadian air force depends on carrier pigeons. The trustworthy little birds always return to their base when released.

A Most Excellent Reason.

In a book by Sir J. C. Percy entitled More Bulls and Blunders, we read of a man who went up to a railway porter at one of the big London stations and said, "There are half a dozen clocks in the place, and they are each different."

"Well, sir," replied the porter, "if they were all alike, one would do."

According to Orders.

Doctor—"Has your husband had any lucid intervals since my last visit, Mrs. Jinks?"

Mrs. Jinks (with dignity)—"He's had nothing except what you ordered."

Canada is getting plenty of baby immigrants these days. The babies shown, with their fine, wholesome-looking Scotch mothers, range in age from 12 days to 12 months.