Is Spring Here?

This week we have had evidence in plenty that Spring must be either "Just Around the Corner" or else that it has been "Just fooling us."

A Lone Scout of the "Hound" Patrol at Milford, Prince Edward County, has sent in to Lone Scout Headquarters a "pussy-willow" in full bloom, which he picked the other day.

Those of you who attended the Lone Scout Camp at Ebor Park in 1930 will remember Mr. Luck, the popular owner of the park. He tells us that at the end of December it was much greener there than at the end of July, and he sent us a dandelion which he picked in the park on December 28th.

We also heard of a gentleman who saw a pair of starlings teaching a young one to fly in Toronto a few days ago!

What About the Birds?

All Lone Scouts are friends to the birds, and in spite of all the signs of Spring, we know that there is still more cold weather to come. How about arranging to feed your feathered friends? I heard of one Scout who made use of his discarded Christmas tree for this purpose, setting it up out of doors and tying all sorts of titbits on to it which the birds thoroughly enjoy.

And incidentally, now is the time to prepare new bird houses for next year's tenants. Don't forget that Good Turn, Lonies!

A TROUP OUTING

The newly formed Unionville Troop, who were recently members of the Lone Scout Dpartmnt, paid a visit to Toronto on December 29th, for their Christmas Outing. They visited the Canadian Bank of Commerce Building, which is the tallest building in Toronto, and inspected it from cellar to roof garden. In the afternoon they all went to a "Show," and were afterwards entertained to supper, followed by games and entertainment by the 3rd Toronto Troop.

Here's a Good Motto For 1932

Always keep your tail wagging, even if you can only get the tip of it to work!

A January Suggestion For Lone Patrols

Parties are the usual fashionable functions at this time of the year, and in past years several Lone Patrols have organized very successful Patrol Banquets, which have proved great fun, and which have been greatly enjoyed. What about having a banquet in your Patrol, and each member invite another chap who is not yet a Scout? Don't forget to send an invitation to "Lone E," too!

International Brotherhood

A Boy Scout is a friend to all and a brother to every every other Scout, according to the 4th Scout Law.

Thus we note that the members of the 4th Melton (Leicestershire, England) Troop have sent a gift of Scout Colors to the members of the 8th Jerusalem Troop, Palestine, thus fostering this brotherly spirit.

Lone Scouts can do a great deal to help in this way by corresponding with other Lonies in this country or with Scouts in foreign countries. Every member of the Ontario Lone Scout Department should have at least one Scout Pen-Friend. Have you one? If not, write to your Scoutmaster and ask him to get you one, but don't forget to state if you want to write to another Canadian Lonie or to a Foreign Scout.

The Scout Census

Lonies of this province will be interested to know that according to a recent census of the Boy Scout Membership of Ontario there are 21,793 Scouts in this province, including, of course, Rovers and Wolf Cubs.

Of this number 313 are Lone Scouts, and the above figures shows a very substantial increase over the figures returned a year ago. We are growing, Lonies! Let us see to it that we grow in efficiency as well as in numbers during 1932!

Particulars of the Lone Scouts of Ontario may be obtained from the Lone Scout Department, The Boy Scouts Association, 330 Bay Street, Toronto 2.—"LONE E."

Experts Waging Parasite War On Corn Borer

Kept in Cold Storage in Winter for Massed Attack in Summer

Washington.—An initial shipment of parasites, part of an army that may number 500,000 before recruiting stops, will soon reach the United States as the spearhead of the 1932 offiensive of the Federal Government against the corn borer, one of the most destructive foes with which American agriculture has to deal. Gathered by specialists of the Bureau of Entomology assigned to the laboratory at Hyeres, on the Mediterranean coast, this army of parasites will be released next August to meet the corn borer in the principal regions of infestation. During the winter this shipment, with the others that are to follow, will be kept in cold storage.

Extended surveys of native parasites showed that they killed less than 1 per cent. of the borers beyond the egg state. So the Bureau of Entomology looked abroad for parasities that would attack the corn borer effectively. Studies began in 1919, not long after the corn borer was found in the United States. About twenty species have so far been discovered; these fall into two general classes—the wasp type and the fly type. An examination was made to determine whether these parasites were harmful to plants and whether they could attack one another. The tests showed that they were not harmful to plans.

Hyeres was chosen as being a central point for the collections. The staff of the laboratory includes two Americans and several Europeans; are employed on a part-time basis.

American experts at Hyeres quickly pass upon the advisability of the parasites gathered in the field by the collectors, aand when a sufficient number are ready they are packed up and placed in cold storage on a steamer. They are then sent to Arlington, Mass., where the bureau maintains a receiving station. From there they are distributed throughout the corn-borer-infested areas.

When liberated the parasites are planted in colonies, to assure permanency in their warfare against the corn borer. About 750,000 parasite enemies of the corn borer have been liberated during the past year. Since the importations began, over a decade ago, more than 2,500,000 parasites have been liberated, and at least twelve of the twenty or so species introduced are known to have become firmly established.

Wind Dangerous To Skyscraper

Tests on wind pressures reveal that a suction action on the leeward side of a skyscraper may produce serious effects in a high wind.

Second French Plane To Fly Stratosphere

Paris.—A second French project to send an airplane into the stratosphere was disclosed recently.

Pierre Guerchais, aeronautical engineer, is secretly preparing a plane for a flight some ten miles or more above the earth, where Professor Auguste Piccard last summer made the first experiment by balloon.

The Guerchais plane will be of 700 horsepower, capable of some 200 miles an hour. It will have a sealed duralumin cabin.

The plane will be larger and more powerful than the Farman craft, which has been prepared for a similar flight, as disclosed last week. The Farman plane will make the attempt as soon as weather conditions are favorable, but the Guerchais attempt will be delayed until spring.

The Cosy Season

The N.Y. Herald-Tribune.—One gift brought only by a Northern winter is the sense and mood of coziness. Where snow never falls, where wind never huffs and puffs against the frosted pane, they don't know what coziness is. It goes with the delicious greeting of warmth and with mellow lamplight on book and apples. You feel it intensely when, coming home chilled and wet, you climb the last icy steps to be met by that first breath of the comfortable indoors. Something good is roasting in the oven—something substantial and savory. Already dented by the stretching cat, the porty, worn chair is waiting with open arms. The faithful furnace glows reassuringly. Dumplings! To get home on such a night is worth a winter.

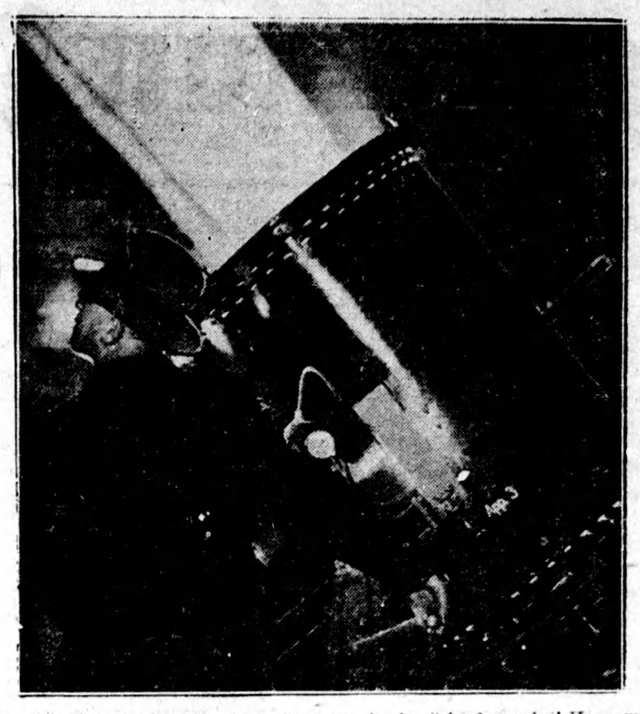
Great Britain's Task

Cape Argus.—Great Britain is still a creditor country with overseas investments valued at £3,500,000,000, and she is quite capable of restoring her adverse trade balance and thus stabilizing the pound at a reasonable level. Moreover, she is now the leader in an endeavour to secure that cooperation from the gold-hoarding countries which is essential to the salvation of Europe and of European civilization. If she succeeds there will be a recovery of world prices. The whole world, including South Africa, will benefit and the gold standard will soon function again as it did before the war. If she fails there will be a succession of crises, each more severe than its predecessor, until finally civilization as we know it breaks asunder.

Portable Theatres To Tour Spain

Madrid.—Spanish students are preparing a nation-wide tour for 1932 to exhibit classic plays in Greek, Latin and Spanish with the hope of improving the country's culture under the republic. They will travel in motor buses and trucks, carrying portable theatres.

"Cloud Movie"



The latest invention from Germany is the "cloud movie." Here we see Dr. H. Mannheimer of Berlin demonstrating his machine which projects short films on clouds to a distance of 2,000 meters.

Gold Findings In B.C.

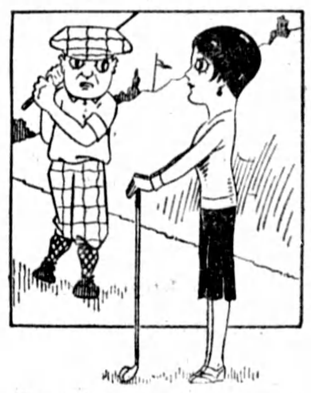
Grand Forks, B.C.—Recent uncovering of ore running $75 to the ton on the Gold Drop Mines in the Jewel Camp is said to be the most sensational find in boundary district mining in recent years. Picked samples are said to have ru nmuch higher. Several samples brought to Grand Forks have large spots of free gold and assays have been running around $30.

The ore was found in a high grade shoot containing telluride and free gold and is a parallel vein from which some 17 tons of ore running $30 to the ton was recently shipped.

The new find has been inspected by P. B. Freeland, Government mining engineer, who states that ore of similar type has been found before in the district.

Death in the Garage

The Montreal Daily Star. — The death toll from the inhalation of carbon monoxide gas in automobile garages is steadily mounting. A chauffeur is the latest victim in Montreal. The evidence showed that the windows of the automobile were tightly closed, as were the windows of the garage itself, while the door of the latter was almost closed. It does seem astonishing that so many people who are connected with the operation of automobiles fail to observe the most elementary precautions when handling cars in garages. Had the chauffeur in this particular instance taken care to open the garage window and door and the windows of the machine, he would probably be alive and well today.



She—"There's a time for sympathy."

He—"Yes, but when a fellow's just missed a two-foot putt is not the time for it."

Every man is occasionally what he ought to be perpetually.—Zimmerman.

Climate and Life In Canadian North

The climate of the Canadian North does not adversely affect sea life, according to the records of the Northwest Territories and Yukon Branch of the Department of the Interior at Ottawa. During the winter much of the surface of the water is covered by approximately five feet of ice, which forms a clearly defined line of demarcation between the Arctic conditions maintaining above its surface and those in the water beneath, the result being that the general conditions in the Arctic waters are similar to those found in more temperate zones. These conditions are clearly reflected in the character of sea life found north of the Arctic Circle. The herds of the sea mammals have not only supported the local inhabitants for many generations but have also entered the world markets. The fisheries, while as yet undeveloped, have long been an important factor in the domestic economy of the country. The supply of molluscs support many of the larger sea mammals, while the smaller varieties of sea life maintain the fish and some of the small mammals. The marine vegetation is plentiful and is drawn upon by all forms of animal life as an aid to their subsistence.

New Treatment Used In Lettuce Seed Germination

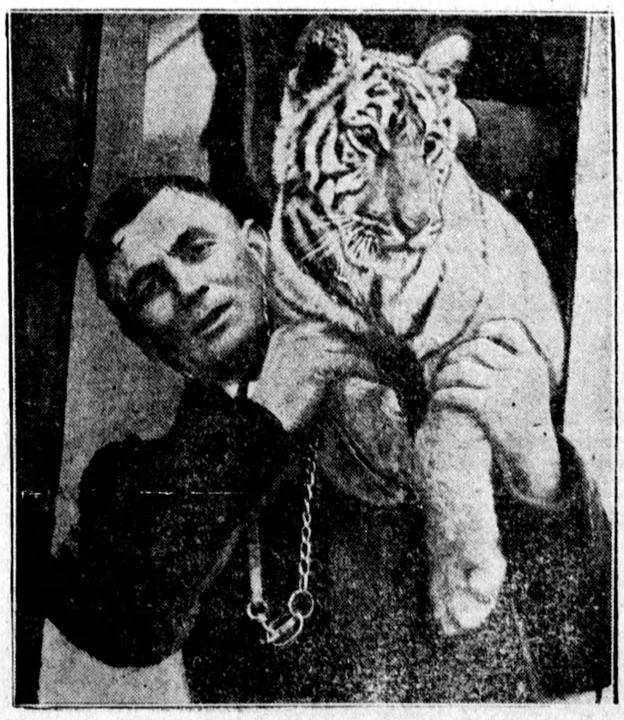
New York.—Germination of lettuce seed although ground temperatures may be high by a new plan of seed treatment has been worked out by Professor H. A. Borthwick of the botany division of the branch of the College of Agriculture of the University of California. Professor Borthwick has recently returned from Imperial Valley, Cal., where he demonstrated the results of his methods to the growers of that district.

Lettuce seed, it is explained, require for germination an adequate supply of moisture, good aeration and a low temperature. High percentages of germination are secured over a wide range of temperature from freezing to about 75 degrees Fahrenheit; between 75 and 85 degrees most varieties fall off rapidlly in germination; at 85 degrees permination is almost entirely stopped in most varieties.

Like the Widow's Cruse

"A book is like the widow's cruse of oil; you dip into it again and again, and the contents remain exactly what they were. Investment in books is a capital investment, the capital of which never undergoes wastage or deterioration."—J. Ramsay MacDonald.

Tiger "Flying High"



Shango has just experienced his first plane ride all the way from Ostend to London. Evidently it must have been a bumpy trip.

Finances of Province of Ontario Are in Most Sound Condition

Though Provincial Treasurer's Report Shows Deficit For This Year, Government Are Making Every Endeavor to Have Balanced Budget Next Year

Despite the deficit as announced by Hon. A. E. Dunlop, Provincial Treasurer, the financies of the Provinces are in sound condition, and a readjustment of expenditures, and retrenchment all along the line will give the Government the opportunity of balancing it's budget next year. This is one of the statements made recently by the Province's Attorney-General, Col. W. H. Price, when he addressed 1500 Toronto businessmen, High lights in Col. Price's speech are as follows:

"The Province will carry out its Debt Retirement Policy and will pay up to date and will, during the year 1932, pay up last year's instalment, and whatever deficits have accrued. The Province is determined to do this and balance its budget next year. There will be no more deficits. In order to make sure that this would be accomplished, not only have we decided to cut our Ordinary Expenditure, but the Province has placed a slightly higher license fee for motor cars and trucks so that this service itself will be self-sustaining.

"The finances of the Province are in sound condition. The taxation in Ontario is less than almost any other Province in Canada. The social services as well as the material benefits are so outstanding as to place Ontario in a class by herself. The public must pay for them. It is no time, however, to consider the expansion of any of these, there must be a marking of time, no matter how good a project there must be no more expenditure until we retrench and catch up. The citizen himself must be given a chance without fear of any more taxation or disability to go ahead and make progress. Ontario is behind her citizens in this.

"A habit has grown up in certain quarters of comparing the finances of Ontario with Quebec. People are told that Quebec's debt is much smaller and that they generally have a surplus. If those who want to discuss the subject desire to be honest about it and give the people the facts, they will tell them at once that part of Ontario's debt, amounting to $186,000,000, has been advanced to the Hydro Electric Power Commission of Ontario for the purpose of carrying out their undertaking, and that the Province has back of that a utility owned by the public through its municipalities.

"They will also tell the public that we have invested over $40,000,000 in the Temiskaming & Northern Ontario Railway and that that is part of our Capital Debt, but that we own that road. They might also say that Quebec owns no Hydro Electric service and owns no Railroad and has not issued bonds for the purpose of construction of such assets.

"They might go forth and say that we have spent $125,000,000 in Provincial roads and that Quebec's roads cannot be compared with Ontario roads. They are not as wide as Ontario roads, they are not as firmly constructed and in most places they are not in any way as good.

"The financial structure in Canada is sound. Our Banks are evolving and performing their functions. True, they must assist in financing Canada and the Provinces. They must help to finance our railways and our big public undertakings. They must stand behind our municipalities although there has been over-expenditure. This function of our chartered Banks in Canada is being carried out in a very helpful way. I think probably they went too far, when times were good, in advancing money, but they are today standing behind all public bodies in an attempt to work out a solution of our problems. It is idle, therefore, to say that, because there are such tremendous deposits in Canada, the Banks can do every thing. There is always a limit to what credit can be given. The less the Banks have to do in raising money for Governments and Municipalities and other bodies the more will they have for the use of business and the help of our people in getting our business structure back to normal."

German School Boys Stage "G.B.S." Play

Hamburg.—German school children, especially boys, who have attained an age at which literature can be appreciated, are proverbially fond of the German classics, according to a correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor. They are well read in English classic and dramatic literature also. It is no uncommon thing for them to act the whole or a large part of a Shakespearian play at breaking up or on a similar fete day and do it admirably. A new departure was recently undertaken by the sixth-form boys—primaner, as they are termed here—of the Hamburg Herder School. They ventured on a performance of G. Bernard Shaw's "St. Joan" in the translation by Siegfried Terbitsch. The boys in their enthusiasm made no cuts and presented a play lasting over four hours. No one in the audience, which filled the large hall of the school to overflowing, appeared bored, however, but on the contrary. The services of a talented young actress, Barbara Schuchard, had been obtained for the name part, but otherwise all roles were given, and given admirably, by the boys. Scenery and effects and incidental music by the school orchestra were highly comendable. It was a performance that might have delighted "G. B. S.' himself.

Modern Toys Traced To Persia

Detroit.—The first mechanical toys were invented by the Persians 700 years ago, Sir E. Denison Ross, professor of Persian art and literature at the University of London, stated in a recent lecture here. Ross said the Persians devised intricate toys early in the thirteenth century. Elaborate drawings of their devices are included in books illustrated by Persian artists, he said.

Indo-Chino Theatres Prefer French Talkies

The first talking picture theatre was opened in Salgon, French Indo?China, in the fall of 1930 and showed American films. This venture was at first a success, but although large crowds came to see the novelty, they could not understand the words and shortly lost interest. The theatre is now showing only French talkies.—U. S. Commerce Reports.

Rules For Citizens-to-Be

Buenos Aires.—Foreigners may become naturalized citizens of Argentina after two years' residence, provided they learn the Spanish language and have no "ideas" or doctrines opposed to the Argentine form of government, under a decree issued recently by the Government.

So safe that it will not ignite even when a lighted match is applied to it, a new fuel for airplanes has been introduced.

Interesting Facts On Bird Life

Humming birds, swifts, swallows and martins cannot walk or hop on a horizontal surface. Of these the humming birds are the most helpless on the ground. Swifts, swallows and martins have small, weak feet, which are adapted only to perching and to clinging to perpendicular surfaces. These birds spend much of their time on the wing and it has been suggested that some of the swifts may spend the entire night on the wing at great heights. They seldom if ever alight on the ground and they capture insects for food, scoop water from ponds and lakes for drink, and pluck twigs from trees and gather other material for their nests, all while on the wing. When some species of swifts are placed on the ground they can arise only by means of clumsy efforts. What is even more remarkable, according to the U.S. Biological Survey, "both the chimney swift and the white-throated swift pair while in flight," although some naturalists doubt that any species of bird actually mates in mid-air.

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The song of an English nightingale was broadcast to the world when Beatrice Harrison, English musician, lured one of the feathered songsters to a microphone concealed in a thicket on her estate in Surrey. The bird was stimulated to enter the thicket and sing when the musician played a cello and sang softly. Many unsuccessful efforts had been made previously and when the bird began to sing in front of the microphone it was switched on the air and all other programs interrupted. The nightingale's song was picked up distinctly in the United States and Australia.—"Animal Life."

Bountiful Fruit Harvest In Southern Germany

The fruit harvest in south Germany this year was large, according to a correspondent of the Christian Science Monitor. Cheap loans for the transport and purchase of fruit have been granted. The shores on the German side of Lake Constance are an especially rich fruit region. In some parts of this land an interesting old custom still prevails. Until October 3, fruit may remain on the trees, but not longer, no matter how brightly the sun may shine. The fruit must be gathered before "Gallus Day," or anybody may take it. A proverb says: 'When Gallus Day is past, whatever fruit remains hanging is mine."

A man was complaining of the lack of warmth in the boarding-house in which he was staying. "In the daytime it is bad enough," he said, "but at night I frequently wake up and hear my teeth chattering on the dressing table."