

For the Boys and Girls

THE TOUCH OF KWANNON. — The wind was blowing through the garden of a little toy Japanese garden in Jean's room. There was snow outside, and the wind blowing through the window was cold and chill. But in the little garden it was summer time as anyone could tell by looking.

"Swish," said the little sedges softly as they brushed together.

"Jean looked from them to the snow end of the tree then and there, outside and then turned to her mother, gentle Kwannon merely raised one hand and touched the pine tree softly.

"I don't like Margerie Goodyear," she said; with a little pout.

"Why she—"

Mother interrupted. "Jean, listen to the little sedges before you finish that sentence."

"Swish," said the sedges softly.

"I hear them," said Jean.

Mother closed the window and sat down by Jean near the little garden.

"Do you see that image Uncle Gilbert brought from Japan?"

"Yes," replied Jean. "He said it was Kwannon."

"Kwannon, the goddess of mercy," said her mother. "She has great influence over the other things in your garden. I will tell you how it all came about.

You see, Kwannon is placed under that ancient pine tree near the temple on the hill."

"Yes," said Jean.

"Well, once upon a time the pine tree became angry. He did not like the way the wind treated him, and so he tossed his branches in wrath. That made the great owl you see perched among the boughs want to swoop down upon an innocent dove, asleep on the temple roof. The dove was wakened by the noise of the branches and flew about wildly in the moonlight till morning. She wished to dash herself against the stark tree, tossing quietly near the little pool by the temple garden.

The frog wished to splash himself and scare the owl. The frog lay lazily upon the still surface of the water and had no wish to fly off to the marshes to frighten the little water hen, and the little water hen sat quietly among the sedges without stirring them up to clash madly together with a horrid, unhappy sound. That is why, when I open the window again, as I do now, you hear their soft music: They are saying:

"Swish, swish; through the great green boughs we may gently about,

"Swish, swish, we must speak gently that we may carry on that touch of mercy. Swish, swish."

Jean listened silently to the soft music.

"Oh," said her mother after a few seconds, "I think you were telling me something about Margerie Goodyear, Jean. What was it?"

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Jean hung her head. Then suddenly she wished to leap into the air and fly about that swam upon the hill. The duck wished to fly off to the westward, and scare a little water Wade, in Youth's Companion.

The Early Risers.

"Not long ago, writes a contributor, there appeared in a Sunday paper this ran somewhat as follows:

Carl J. Farley's hat was curly; Some folks called him curly Farley. He agreed to plant some barley for a man named Peter Worley.

Worley liked to get up early;

Two o'clock with curly Farley He came late to plant the barley, which made Peter Worley surly.

Worley said, "Now, Mr. Farley, I've been looking for you hourly."

Farley said, "I get here fairly."

Early though I'm feeling poorly."

Worley could not stand to party.

Ad the thing was feeling hurly;

So he hauled fair on Farley,

Knocked him through the gates called "party."

The verses bring to mind the real Peter Worley, who was the original early bird. He and his hired men have provided many of their public with wings. The wind shakes them from their stems, carries them into the air, and the travel in all directions. The stay-at-home seeds now loosen from their stems which are visited by the Goldfinches in their winter coats. They cling to the weed heads and off the seeds of the snow-capped Lark and the pretty horned Junco can find a meal ready at all hours.

Some of the plant-mothers fit their out with mechanical springs, in seed-pocket

and the birds help to set these off when they tap at the door.

This burst open and the babies are pitched to a distance of several yards.

The dandelion and the milkweed believe that "milk" is best for the tribe ion of their seed-babies. But the witch-hazel prefers to protect them violently through the air, the yellow jessamine.

The boy, however, expressed himself being perfectly satisfied with his job, so finally Mr. Baldwin said,

"Have you no other aim in life?"

"Sur!" replied the youngster promptly. "In fact, I have two aims."

"Indeed! And what are they?"

"The first is to become a millionaire."

"So!" said Mr. Baldwin, smiling.

"And the second?"

"The second, sir, is to become a multimillionaire."

Butterfly's Tiny Nose Longest in Scent Range.

The Germans and French are agreed

at least upon one thing, and that is

that the butterfly has the keenest

sense of smell of any living creature.

The marvellous smelling power of

the Purple Emperor, the Zebra Swallowtail, the Painted Lady and other species is so acute and operates

over such a long range that it is almost inconceivable to the average person

considering the minuteness of the butterfly's olfactory apparatus.

In a book written by Dr. Kurt Floeckel, one of Germany's best known entomologists, the writer of the French Professor Fabre, citing now

length, Professor Bracken in addressing the

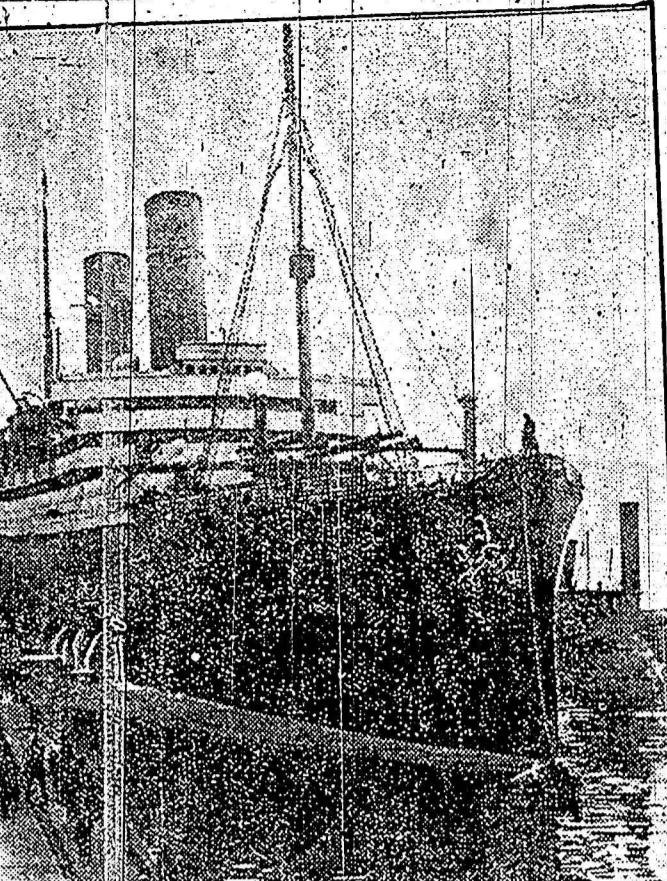
Canadian Club, Regina, some years

ago, said that Saskatchewan farmers

lost \$25,000,000 yearly by growing

weeds.

I do not know of estimates of losses



GREAT OCEAN LINERS FOR ST. LAWRENCE ROUTE

The steam being transferred from the Halifax route to the St. Lawrence route. "Carmania" which with its sister ship, the "Carolinia," is 22,000 tons, are now being converted into oil burners, and service in the spring. They belong to the Cunard line, which Canadian-born pioneer in ocean transportation, Samuel Scott, who played a big part in early development of the steamship.

THE GLEANERS OF THE YEAR

By Laura B. Durand

Now is the season of the seed-eating birds. An occasional fat sleeping in its lonely boughs, affords varied food to the diet, and the bright yellow berries clinging to the naked stems will provide the necessary percentage of vegetable food. But the main diet of our characteristic winter birds is seeds.

This is a fortunate circumstance for both the birds and mankind. For seeds are plentiful. The air is full of them, and the canning plant-hunters have provided many of their public with wings.

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The Canadian Muskrat

By William MacMillan

Of the numerous Rats that infest Canada the Muskrat is certainly the most important and the only one that furries anything about. It is in fact the only member of the rat family whose pelts have any commercial value. There are few streams or lakes that haven't quota of these industrious little animals. He swims in the swamps where he feeds on leaves and root, and altogether lives a happy sort of life. As a swimmer, the Muskrat recognizes no superior; even the speedy Otter and the powerful Beaver have no advantage over him in this direction.

His build reminds ones very much of the bigger Beaver, but the two have little in common, for while the latter eschews noisy places and the advance of the woodsman, the Muskrat is more or less of a friendly individual and follows the path of civilization as closely as he dares. A dam, a stream, will eventually be spied out by some wandering family or individual and soon the place is swarming with the gurgling stream of quiet little brooks that form the network of the lake in every direction.

The young are born in early spring or late winter and they stay with the mother till well into the autumn, when they wander off by themselves and establish new homes in some quiet, subterranean channels that run over the floor of the lake in every direction.

The sharp hoofs are similar to those of the ordinary rats, the toes are long and webbed and while he cannot climb

up trees he nevertheless can make good speed along fallen trees and logs. His tail is bushy and thick, getting coarser as the winter closes in. The young emerge from the winter home soft and silvery as to fur.

Hundreds of thousands are used annually for commercial purposes. The long hair, that protects the animal from the wear and tear of life is plucked out and the down that remains is then treated and dyed to imitate seal. It is then known to the wearer as Baltic Seal, Hudson Seal, or French Seal. Its durability and wearing qualities are unquestioned.

Some of the Eastern Provinces there are found a few, so called Russian Mink. The pelt of these animals is almost black and rich enough in appearance to manufacture in the natural shade.

A fair "Red" Muskrat pelt is worth from 50c to \$2.50.

THIRTY-FIVE PER CENT. OF TOTAL MAN POWER SLAIN IN GREAT WAR

The number of casualties among British troops in all theatres of war up to November 11, 1918, is given as 3,084,018, or more than 35 per cent. of the total man power employed. Of these 659,246 were killed or died of wounds or disease, the greatest proportion of these mortalities, 551,325, occurring among the forces in France. The wounded numbered 2,035,965.

These figures take no account of the production of the number of effectives through such casualties as ordinary illness, and which in several of the theatres, were the cause of very heavy wastage.

In France, for example, though the maximum strength at any time was 2,046,903, the total personnel was 5,399,663, requiring heavy replacements.

The operations in Mesopotamia created the heaviest wastage of all.

There the maximum strength on any date was 447,631 and the total personnel employed during the operations was 889,702, or 100 double largely because of heavy casualties from sickness, there being only 31,758 battle mortality, 61,336 wounded and 15,350 missing and prisoners.

Another table gives the approximate number of British casualties from the outbreak of war in 1914 to December 31, 1920, as 908,371 soldiers dead or

wounded, 2,092,212. Of the 2,092,212, 56,330 were Australians, 50,200 Indians and 62,056 were natives of the British Empire.

The length of the British forces in France is given in another table from twenty miles in September, 1914, following the retreat from Mons, and the first battle of Ypres, to the end of March, 1918, when it steadily declined, until it reached a length of 123 miles in April, 1918.

The operations in Mesopotamia, which began in April, 1916, and ended in November, 1918, included London, Liverpool, and the sea ports of the British Empire.

British raids in Africa, from 1915 to 1918, killed 1,337 persons, and wounded 557 and were responsible for the bombardments in Egypt and Ceylon.

The total number of British casualties in the British Empire during the war was 1,137,000, and the number of British women and children killed or wounded was 1,210 women and 773 children.

The number of British military men killed or wounded during the war was 1,052,000.

The number of British sailors killed or wounded during the war was 1,052,000.

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