

SOMETHING ABOUT BIRDS OF THE U. S.

KINDS AND WHERE FOUND

English Sparrow Less in Numbers Than Formerly; Other Well Known Bird and Habitats

The English sparrow was brought to the Atlantic Coast a little more than seventy-five years ago. For thirty or forty years these birds increased in great numbers, but in recent years, according to the Agricultural Department in Washington, they have declined in numbers, both in cities and in rural districts. Nature seems to be setting a balance against them. They may go the way of pigeons which were once so thick that they blackened and shut out the skies in their flights.

Quail Wide Spread
Quail, including the bobwhite, thrive in certain parts of the country, but in other sections they do rather poorly. In some of the Northern States results in raising quail have not been entirely satisfactory. Virginia and the Carolinas have had remarkable success with them. At one time Mexican quail were imported into Massachusetts at prices as low as \$1.50 per dozen. According to Dr. Phillips of the United States Biological Survey, more than 233,000 bobwhites are recorded as having entered the United States from Mexico in a period of fifteen years, and the price has steadily risen to \$24 and as high as to \$36 a dozen.

Chinese Pheasant
The Chinese ringnecked pheasant increases rapidly in many parts of the country. This is a great new game bird. Reports from Minnesota say that this bird multiplies twice as rapidly as any other species. Iowa has recently distributed about 67,000 pheasant eggs, and the birds have developed healthy and strong, and they have materially increased their species. There is splendid pheasant hunting in Western, Middle Western and Eastern States, including New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, where game authorities have given special attention to propagating pheasants. The most abundant of our native birds is the robin; next to this is the English sparrow, and following these are the song sparrow, chipping sparrow, meadow lark, and cat bird.

Building Materials
The building material situation continued steady during May. In only a few localities fluctuations were reported, but for the most part the high level of building activity was reflected in firmness in material prices. It was noted that the advance usually apparent at this season of the year has so far not appeared.

PROVIDES FOR REFUND OF AUTO EXCISE TAX

Motor Club Head Explains That New Law Permits This; Ends Long Struggle

There is a general belief among prospective purchasers of automobiles that the excise tax repeal, recently enacted by Congress and signed by President Coolidge does not become effective until January 1, 1929.

Charles M. Hayes, president of the Chicago Motor club, points out, however, that "under Section 422, provision is made for refund of the tax already paid by dealers on passenger cars held by them and intended for sale. Under this provision, the dealer is protected for the excise tax already paid by him, and consequently every passenger car sold after May 29 should be reduced in price to the buyer to the extent of the tax heretofore imposed.

"Section 422 (Revenue Act of 1928) refund of automobile tax to manufacturer, producer, or importer, reads: 'Where prior to the date of the enactment of this Act any article, subject to the tax imposed by Section 600 of the Revenue Act of 1926, has been sold by the manufacturer, producer, or importer, and is on such date held by a dealer and intended for sale, there shall be refunded to the manufacturer, producer, or importer, the amount of the tax, or, if the tax has not been paid, the tax shall be abated.'

"Thus ends a five-year battle waged on the part of the American Automobile association and on the part of manufacturers of automobiles and dealers, and the tax reductions secured will mean a saving to motorists of approximately \$65,000,000 during the next twelve months," says Mr. Hayes.

Acid Tests for Ideas
We do not any longer adopt a new idea unless it has been proved by thorough tests.—Woman's Home Companion.

What Politics Isn't
We need to get rid of the idea that business is politics, says a student of affairs in The American Magazine.

Forgetting Success
The less a man thinks about success and his personal advancement, thinks a scholar writing in Farm and Fireside, the more certain he is to succeed beyond his wildest dreams.

FIREPROOF BARN IS NOW BEING ERECTED

Belief Expressed That New Type Will Reduce Loss of Animal Lives

Savings of thousands of dollars in buildings and valuable cattle heads destroyed every year in the United States by disastrous fires may be accomplished in a few years by means of the fireproof barn, described in the June Farm and Fireside Magazine, on the news stands today.

"Ancestral barns that can be passed on from father to son and on to the next generation are likely as a result of successful construction of such a fireproof barn at the Iowa State College Experiment Station," says the magazine.

"If this new type of barn proves as successful as it now appears to be, it will be possible to do this thing at an expense not exceeding the cost of frame construction by more than 25 to 50 per cent," it continues. "The new type of barn is called a masonry arch barn which as the name reveals is made entirely of masonry and with the upper story in the form of an arch. It is built of tile with reinforced concrete floors and reinforced concrete ribs in the roof. Since it is made entirely of masonry, there will be no expense in keeping it painted with the exception of the windows and door frames. Made of construction material that is non-combustible this building would retard a fire to such an extent as to prevent destruction and it would also enable livestock in it to be removed safely."

CARBON MONOXIDE IS TOPIC OF NEW FILM

Picture Issued by Bureau of Mines to Warn Against Poison Gas

"One of man's most deadly enemies, carbon monoxide, which has been called 'the universal poison gas' will be the subject of a new educational motion picture film to be produced in the near future by the United States bureau of mines, department of commerce," according to a statement issued by the Chicago Motor club, which bases its assertion on a bulletin received from the department of commerce at Washington.

"It is said that more than a thousand human lives were claimed by this deadly gas during the past year, and that 700 deaths were due to drivers of automobiles being overcome while their engines were idling in closed garages. In photographing this film, not only will the peril of carbon monoxide contained in automobile engine exhausts be emphasized, but attention will also be given to the hazards due to the presence of carbon monoxide under certain conditions in factories, in homes, and in fact, anywhere that there may be a possibility of exposure to the products of incomplete combustion of fuels."

The Chicago Motor club bulletin points out that "the film will show how, by proper ventilation, accumulations of carbon monoxide may be prevented. There will also be pictured methods of first aid treatment and resuscitation which may be administered to a victim of the poison gas if found before death has occurred. The film will be given wide circulation by the bureau of mines in the hope that, through the universal language of visualization, knowledge of this deadly enemy of mankind may become widespread, thus serving to diminish the annual heavy death toll from this cause."

SOCIALISTS CAUSE OF ENGLISH HARD TIMES

Squander Money for Public Work Not Needed and Cause Taxes to Increase

The chairman of a great engineering firm in Sheffield stated at the last general meeting of the shareholders that no less than 56,669 pounds was paid by the company last year in local rates. He added that if the burden increased the company might have to transfer its works to "centres where the rate burden is less onerous."

Now the point is, says the Protectionist, that the local government of Sheffield is in the hands of Socialists, who are spending public money with extraordinary recklessness. Though the industries of the city are greatly depressed and suffering severely from German competition, the Socialist Party have brought forward proposals for a capital expenditure of two and three-quarter million pounds in the ensuing year. The only check at present is for investors to refuse to subscribe to the city loans and so limit supplies.

ANCIENT EGYPTIAN BOAT IS EXHIBITED

IN THE FIELD MUSEUM

Interesting Craft Has Many Points Similar to Modern Vessels; Oldest In World

Some of the fine points of marine architecture and shipbuilding used to this day in many of the finest modern yachts and commercial vessels, were known and used 4,000 years ago by the ancient Egyptians. This is brought forcibly to mind by an ancient Egyptian boat on exhibition in the Egyptian Hall of Field Museum of Natural History, which has just been reopened to the public after being closed for a year for improvements, re-installations and additions.

Oldest in World
This boat is one of the five oldest still existing in the world, so far as is known. It was built in the Twelfth Dynasty, and was used in an important mortuary ceremony. The boat is built of cedar, still considered one of the finest woods for the building of small craft, and its preservation through all these years is considered largely due to the use of this wood. The dimensions of the boat are: length, 31 feet nine and one half inches; beam 8 feet; draft 4 feet. These proportions, it will be observed, are close to a popular average size of modern motor cabin cruiser or sailing yacht.

When the boat was first received by the museum in 1896, a complete study of it was made by Dr. John Bartlett of Chicago, an authority on marine architecture. In an exhaustive report on the details of its design and construction, he said: "It is a matter of interest that the model of this boat, built 4,000 years ago, does not differ greatly in its underwater body from that of the latest yachts. She has the very latest midship section, and the rake of her stern is substantially the same as that of the yachts of 1897."

Where Excavated
The boat, which yachtsmen and other interested are invited to inspect at the museum, was excavated near the Dahshur pyramid of Sesotris III, about 20 miles above Cairo, and several miles from the Nile. It had been buried after use in the mortuary ceremony.

NAVAL COMPETITION AND BLOCKADE NEEDS

What is really in the minds of people in the United States, and what ought to be in the minds of people in the British commonwealth, too, is the question whether in future any naval power, either Great Britain or the United States or Japan, is to be allowed, in waging its own "private" wars, to interrupt the trade of the rest of the world, as it is entitled to do under international law as it exists today. So long as "private" war is not outlawed, and naval powers claim the right to interfere with neutral trade under international law, then naval competition is inevitable. If, on the other hand, the naval powers are willing to consider developing which would limit their own right to declare a blockade to occasions justified by international authority of some kind, then not only would a large reduction of naval expenditure all round seem to be in sight, but a new and vital element would be brought into the problem of world peace.—Round Table, London.

Shadows and Success
Success seems to be like one's shadow, says a commentator in Farm and Fireside. Chase it and it flees away.

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STORAGE

CYCLIST SHOULD SIGNAL DRIVERS

Methods as Motorists; by Chicago Motor Club

"Motorists signal—so should you" is the admonition contained in a bulletin to children owning bicycles, issued by the accident prevention department of the Chicago Motor club. "Safety first rules in bicycle riding should be taught school children; boys and girls should be impressed with the fact that on a bicycle they must follow the same traffic rules and precautions that govern motorists. With the summer vacation, children will be in the streets in greater numbers, and those riding bicycles should exercise even more care than motorists, because even the slightest collision involving a bicycle may result in serious injury to the cyclist."

The bulletin points out that the "law places the same responsibility on the cyclist as on the motorist, and classes bicycles along with automobiles as vehicles.

"The exercise of ordinary care requires the bicycle rider to give signals indicating his intention to slow down, stop or turn. Bicycles must keep to the right for a right turn and to the center of the street for a left turn. In passing other vehicles, the cyclist should do so on the left hand side, the same rule applicable to automobiles."

The girls are wearing so few clothes nowadays that doubtless the manufacturers of clotheslines are beginning to notice it in their business.

Remember the good old days when you thought you were having a good time if you started the afternoon with a croquet game and ended up with a burly ride?

Well, the pacifists have made some success in reducing the amount of armor. The corset seems to have about passed out of public life.

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Anyhow you have to admit that Tom Hedlin has done the best he could to put the pain in campaign, so far as the Democrats are concerned.

One way to cut down campaign expenditures would be to have both parties nominate nothing but Scotch candidates.

Under the fascist regime the Italians are at least being spared primary elections and senatorial investigations and pacifist agitation.—Detroit Free Press.

Building Youth
One foundation idea of the county agent's job is to build up on the coming crowd; to help people, especially young people, grow.—Farm and Fireside.

A Good Workman
A good workman is a man who possesses those qualities which collectively go to make what we call morale.—The American Magazine.

The Wrong Road
Pleasure seeking and luxury wanting is not the road to happiness, a student of home life writes in The American Magazine.

Summer Radicalism
A vacation is merely a change; the more radical the change the better the vacation.—Farm and Fireside.

Large Lookers
If you are as large as you look, says the fashions writer in Farm and Fireside, there is something wrong with your clothes.

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GARNETT'S
STORE NEWS

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