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THE FLORIDA HORROR.

At the close of last year the seers
foretold some of the terrible events
that would be witnessed on the earth
during 1926, and much of what they
prophesied has occurred. The
weather scientists predicted a cool
and short summer, and they were
right. The seers who told us that
we would have terrible earthquakes
and hurricanes in certain parts of
the earth, with great loss of life,
prophesied aright, for several
continents have suffered. The Azores
and Japan were but recently visited
by awful earthquakes and tidal
waves, and now the coast of Florida
has been devastated by a terrible
hurricane that has left only horror
in its wake. How puny is man before
a tornado sweeping over sea
and land at the rate of 130 miles an
hour! Lands are smitten with death
and destruction, as the winds and
waves beat unmercifully upon them.
And before it all, the Christian world
must bow and say that "God moves
in a mysterious way His wonders to
perform."

IS CHICAGO DRAINING THE
LAKES?

The New Republic contains an in-
forming article by Robert A. Mac-
Kay on the subject, "Is Chicago
Draining the Great Lakes?" The
article throughout is sane, well
balanced and shows careful
preparation. It condemns the conversion
of water for the Chicago drainage
canal. It sets forth as one of the
real moving motives of Chicago in
insisting that the drainage be con-
tinued its aspirations to become a
deep water port on a gulf-to-the-
lakes system. If the city could divert
a sufficient amount of water for a
canal to the Mississippi Chicago
would probably have little difficulty
in obtaining from congress the
necessary money to deepen the
channel for larger vessels.
Mr. McKay sets forth that the
present diversion through the
Chicago drainage canal lowers the
lake level from four to seven inches.
The Chicago sanitary district has
itself compiled some figures. It
seeks to explain the fall in lake
levels in recent years and its state-
ment admits that 5.2 inches of the
fall are due to the diversion. When
we consider that a fall of one inch
reduces the carrying capacity of the
ordinary freighter of the lakes and
St. Lawrence from 50 to 170 tons on
every trip, we get an idea of the
seriousness of the situation. It is
estimated that the entire lake fleet
suffers at the rate of one complete
trip a year by the reduction.

Mr. Baker, former secretary of
war, estimates that the present di-
version causes a loss of \$3,000,000
each year. This is to shipping alone
and does not include the damage
done to property along the way, such
as for instance the injury to docks
and so forth at the Thousand Islands
and St. Lawrence river.

The article emphasizes still more
the fact that this withdrawal of the
water from the lakes is a sheer eco-
nomic waste so far as power is con-
cerned. There is no doubt that one
of the phases of Chicago's insistence
has had to do with the power of the
Desplaines river. Engineers estimate
that for one horse power developed
on the Desplaines from water diverted
a total of from four and one-half
to six horse power could be developed
on Niagara and on the St. Lawrence
and this could be gone without
interfering with navigation.

Mr. McKay concludes his article

with this statement: "The Illinois
river development project will bear
watching. The issue boils down to
this—a single city or a single
state to advance its own pet naviga-
tion schemes to the expense of other
states equally important, or of the
nation as a whole, or over the pro-
tests of a friendly neighbor whose
co-operation is essential to any fur-
ther development of the Great Lakes
as a highway for commerce and a
source of power?"

People generally in Northern New
York are alert to the seriousness of
this water diversion situation, re-
marks the Watertown, N.Y., Times.
Especially those persons at the
Thousand Islands and along the St.
Lawrence generally are deeply con-
cerned. The natural changes of the
river level are serious enough at
their best but they can be borne
when it is known that it is simply
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WARFARE AGAINST INSECTS.

The United States harbors within
its borders no fewer than 600,000
named insects and thousands which
have not been sufficiently identi-
fied to be named. These interesting
facts are made public by Dr. Austin
H. Clark of the Smithsonian Insti-
tution, regarded as the leading bug
authority of the country. He says
that new bugs are being card-in-
dexed at the rate of 6,000 a year
and that in 500 years the task will
not be complete.
Dr. Clark points out that the
automobile has done a great deal to
spread the bugs. Bugs are not capa-
ble of covering great distances un-
der their own power. Most of them
are of the short-legged variety. But
the automobile is changing this. For
instance there might be in Colorado
a bug who had no ambition to leave
his native state. But one day curi-
osity led him and his wife to climb in-
to the rear seat of an automobile
bearing a New York state license.
In a few days he is thousands of
miles from his home. He has been
deported. So he sets up housekeep-
ing in New York state and raises a
family which rapidly increases.

Dr. Clark points out the serious
side of this bug business, says the
Watertown, N.Y., Times. The loss
to crops through insect pests is
enormous. Millions of dollars' dam-
age is done to wheat, cotton and
corn crops through various insects.
The attempts to check them are not
being met with success. A larger
acreage is planted in order to make
up for the losses caused by the
pests. Could they be checked a
smaller acreage would be needed
and the energies could be turned to
other channels.

Man is in constant warfare with
his insect enemies, no matter whether
he be the mosquito or the boll
weevil. Some are harmless, some are
annoying while others represent a
distinct economic loss. The federal
government and the state govern-
ments are spending millions in this
war.

PROBLEM OF NEW LEISURE.

Sixty per cent. of the industrial
workers in the United States are
employed on a schedule of eight
hours a day or less, though only
fifteen years ago the eight-hour
group numbered fewer than ten per
cent. of the total, according to a
study of Prof. Norman E. Richardson,
of Northwestern University,
Chicago. The notable change has
created a new leisure, the effective
utilization of which presents one of
the foremost problems as well as
one of the greatest opportunities of
this generation.
Hours passed away from the desk
or the workbench need to be used
as intelligently as are the working
hours if beneficial results are to be
obtained. "The creation of leisure
has brought the educator face to
face with a new responsibility,"
says Prof. Richardson. "To deter-
mine the aims, material, methods
and organization of educational re-
creation is one of the most challeng-
ing problems which schools of edu-
cation now face."

THE NEGRO MOVES NORTH.

The numerical preponderance of
the negro population in certain
Southern states is passing away.
This fact is brought out by the
United States Census Bureau's lat-
est estimates of population. This
tendency which is in part accounted
for by the northward movement of
the negroes, may have important
social and political consequences.
Up to the present year negroes
have outnumbered the whites in the
state of South Carolina for the past
115 years. For the first time since
1810 the white are now in a
majority in that state, outnumbering
the blacks by 16,000. Mississippi is
the only state in the union where the
negroes outnumber the whites.
In 1920 there were according to
census figures, 553,982 whites and
335,184 blacks. The probability is
that within the next ten years, there
will be no state where the negroes
are in the majority.
The change has come about
through two causes. One is the re-
cent heavy migration of the negroes

to the north. The negro has found
his way northward. His labor is
needed there as well as in the south
and he gets better wages. The other
cause is the higher mortality among
negro children than among white
children.

THE WORST MARINE GRAVE-
YARD.

Sable Island, lying in the open
Atlantic Ocean many miles due
south from the most easterly point
of Cape Breton Island, has the
worst reputation in the world for
the destruction of vessels at sea. It
is made up of sand, which is con-
stantly being shifted by the action
of ocean currents and tidal waves.
Since 1763, when it passed from
French to British control, its length
has been shortened from forty
miles to twenty, and its breadth has
been lessened from more than two
miles to about one; the sand hill at
one part of its surface is now
eighty feet high, whereas it was two
hundred feet within the historic
period.

The ocean around this curious is-
land is responsible for its fickle
changes, and for its original forma-
tion as the result of marine currents
caused by the "Gulf Stream" which
sends one of its great branches
northward from the Gulf of Mexico.
There is obviously no possibility of
making the vicinity of such an
ocean sandbank safe for navigation.
Ocean steam vessels are quite able
to keep away from it, but sailing
vessels, on account of fogs and
storms, often in combination, are
still in peril in its vicinity. There
are not now any large sailing sea-
going ships, but there are sailing
fishing vessels, and as a matter of
course, there are still "perils of the
sea" to cause disaster and evoke
sympathy. For a score of years
there has been communication with
Nova Scotia by wireless telegraphy,
but to all appearance the island will
eventually become a shoal, to be
perhaps more dangerous than it is in
our own day.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The good luck of the League of
Nations continues. Wilhelm
Doorn has been denouncing the
League.

An explorer in Africa tells of a
beauty show held in the heart of
the jungle. Five hundred young
women entered, and the winner was
judged by the perfection of her feet.
Toronto, please note.

The press of the United States is
already contemplating the release of
Loeb and Leopold, the two de-
generate youths of Chicago, who
were sentenced to ninety-nine years
in prison for murder. Jail in that
land has no terrors now.

A German metal baron testifies he
paid a United States politician a
bribe of \$441,000 for the release of
seized funds of \$7,000,000. They
upholster their nests over there now,
it seems, instead of just feathering
them, says the Hamilton Specta-
tor.

Business is so good the Massey-
Harris Company, Ltd., and the
Massey-Harris Harvester Company,
Inc., have called for payment by lot,
at 102% with accrued interest, on
Oct. 15th, of \$400,000 of their ten-
year 8 per cent. sinking fund de-
benture bonds due Oct. 15th, 1930.

The Oswego Palladium-Times in
noting the destruction of everything
old, enquires: Why must everything
be brand-new? We have too much
sameness in our architecture, as we
have in our dress and furniture
styles. It is not so in the Old World.
Which is one reason why Americans
go abroad in such numbers.

Speaking of the retirement of
Lieut.-Gov. Cockshutt and Mrs.
Cockshutt the Hamilton Spectator
says they most graciously fulfilled
the exacting duties of their office,
and retire with the good will, the af-
fection and gratitude of the people.

QUEER
QUIRKS OF NATURE

Golden Rod Gains in Favor.
When the shortening days of
summer merge gradually into those
of early autumn, and most of the
more showy flowers have dropped
their withered petals and are ripen-
ing their seeds, the golden rod and
ragweed have their day.

By the dusty roadside, along the
edges of fields where the crop of
grain or forage has been garnered,
on the banks of the stream plying
its course toward the river, or even
taking possession of the broad acres
of an abandoned stretch of hillside
or valley slope, the yellow-crowned
favorite and its humbler associate
fill their appointed destinies.

Few there will be to praise the
ragweed, and deservedly so, for we
could well spare that troublesome
plant, with its myriad scattering
seeds planting trouble for the gar-
dener of next year. Only the junco
and sparrows from the north, that
hardy tribe whose boreal nesting
places daign to visit us only in the
winter months, have cause to bless
its fecundity.

of this province, of all classes and
degrees.

The valet to Presidents Taft,
Wilson, Harding and Coolidge in
turn has just died. If he left a book
of reminiscences recording the
truth, it would be more interesting
than the memoirs of many a more
important man, remarks the
Hamilton Herald.

The moon is to disappear, but not
for a few more moons. Astronomers
say it is moving away and some
centuries hence it may be a mere
speck in the sky like other planets.
Still, there's nothing to grow wildly
excited about. The moon's recession
from the earth is about seven feet a
century, and the increasing length
of our terrestrial day, as the weary
earth grows old and slow, is one-
thousandth of a second a century.
Maybe we can accustom ourselves to
the changes.

Another farm institution is pass-
ing—the threshing bee. A new in-
vention which threshes grain as it
cuts has made hundreds of thresh-
ing machines useless. But it has
cut out one of the happiest of farm
institutions. The farm folks enjoyed
the bees and we can recall the big-
gest and best meals the housewives
provided. For the youth on the farm
the threshing season was a con-
tinuous picnic.

A Great Language

What is sometimes referred to as
one of the defects of the English
language is possibly one of its glories.
It refuses to be bound, by hard
and fast rules for either spelling
or pronunciation. The people who
use it are a free people, and they not
infrequently show their independ-
ence by disregarding both the gram-
marians and makers of dictionaries.

An English paper points out that
the Prince of Wales in a recent ad-
dress at Oxford put the stress on the
first syllable of "pursuit," spoke of
"dis-rection" and "accosities," and
used "laboratory" in one instance
with the emphasis on the "lab" and
in another with the accent on the
"or." The writer acquired his first
interest in history from a teacher
who talked a good deal about the
"Penin-soo-lar War," with the ac-
cent on the "soo," and it was never
charged against him as a crime. Ef-
forts have been made to standardize
"gladiol," but people who put the
accent on the "o" have as much
right to do so as those who insist on
stressing the "i."

It is little wonder that foreigners
find difficulty in mastering the Eng-
lish language but those who have
been brought up on it seem to de-
light in the freedom it affords.

Wit and Humor

"Paw?"
"Now what?"
"Why didn't Noah swat both flies
when he had such a good chance?"
"You go to bed, young man."

"Mandy, what fo' yo' goin' in dat
beauty parlour?"
"Go, 'long Big Boy; ah's goin' to
git me a permanent straight."

Perfectly.
"You call these safely matches!"
shouted the customer to the store-
keeper. "Why, none of them will
strike!"
"Well isn't that safe enough for
you?"—Vikings, Oslo.

Changeable.
"Mabel and I have decided that
our happiness is the biggest thing
in the world, sir," said the ardent
suitor.
"How changeable you are," repli-
ed the father. "Only yesterday you
told me you wanted to marry her."
—Passing Show, London.

Not Enough.
A bishop noticed a small boy play-
ing in the gutter.
"What are you doing, there, my
little man?" he asked.
"Making a kiteserial."
"A kiteserial! And where is the
bishop?"
"Oh, I ain't got enough mud to
make a bishop."—Tit-Bits, London.

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FEAR THE LORD, and
serve Him in sincerity and
in truth.—Jos. 24:14.