

SEX DETECTOR DECLARED FAKE

"Marvel of the Age" Doesn't Work, Says Department of Agriculture

(By Associated Press)
WASHINGTON, Mar. 10.—Beware of the sex detector, says the department of agriculture. It is widely advertised as one of the greatest "marvels" of the age, but there is nothing to it, the department asserts in a formal statement.

According to its manufacturers and publicity agents, the detector is a small instrument that will infallibly indicate the sex and fertility of eggs, the department says, adding that poultry raisers were promised phenomenal hatches and high percentage of females as they might desire by its use.

"But this was only part of what might be expected of this simple but potent little device," declares the department in a recent circular. "It was said to tell the sex of oysters, butterflies, caterpillars, beetles, worms, and even the sex of the animal from which were obtained such products as leather and cheese, although there would seem to be little difficulty in the case of dairy products."

"Even the criminologist was offered assistance, for it was claimed that the unfailing little detector would tell the sex of the person who shed the blood found on a ring or elsewhere. One manufacturer said that by attaching a wire to his apparatus and running it through a keyhole he could determine the sex of any person holding the loose end of the wire."

At the suggestion of the post office department the bureau of chemistry of the agricultural department made tests of several such instruments—with the result that all the manufacturers have now gone out of business.

"One of the detectors," continues the report, "was an elongated, tubular, glass-shaped device made of nickel plated iron and filled with a greenish mixture of calcium carbonate and an aluminum salt, and suspended by a fine thread."

"When held an inch above an egg containing a male germ the stuffed tube was said to swing back and forth like the pendulum of a clock; but if the egg were of the opposite sex, the bob would describe little circles, and in the case of an infertile egg there would be no motion at all."

"Another device consisted of a small gilded wooden gull having a cavity filled with red lead and covered by a small iron disk, the whole suspended by a cord. The tell-tale motions were claimed to be the reverse of those that indicated male and female with the other instrument."

Try as the agricultural department experts would, they could not get the "miracles" to work. Tests on eggs and other things by a number of persons showed that all the instruments were useless, and eggs known to be infertile gave positive indications that they would hatch both pullets and cockerels.

COLONIZING IS NOT UNDER WAY

ANCHORAGE, Alaska, Mar. 10.—



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MUCH SILVER FROM MEXICO

(By Associated Press)
MEXICO CITY, Mar. 10.—Mexico produced 38.5 per cent of the total world production of silver in 1921 and the United States in the same period produced only 31 per cent of the world total of 161,000,000 ounces, says the American Chamber of Commerce in Mexico.

The year 1921 was classed as a bad year in silver mining, due to the low market price of the metal but despite this condition more than 62,000,000 ounces were taken from Mexican mines.

Due to the revival of mining activity in Mexico during the closing months of 1921 and the re-opening of mines in all parts of the country, the chamber expects that the Mexican production of 1922 will greatly exceed that of last year.

Large-sized, clean cotton rags wanted at The Observer.

"TACTFUL PRESSURE"

(By Associated Press)

WASHINGTON, Mar. 10.—Refusal of the United States to participate in the Genoa conference may be viewed as the first step in a campaign of "tactful pressure" to promote the economic rehabilitation of Europe, said a high official of the American government today.

It should not be regarded, he said, as an indication that the United States desires to hold aloof from the grave problems confronting Europe.

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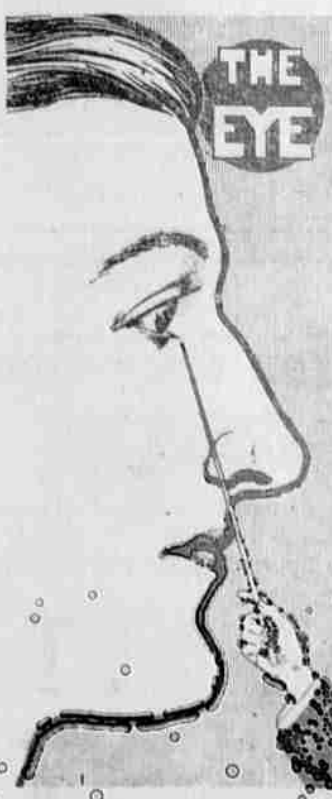
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