

BIRD EXPERT IS VISITING COUNTY

Studying Nature of Local Birds— Says They Are Aid to the Fruitgrower.

Professor F. E. L. Beal of the biological survey of the United States department of agriculture at Washington, is in Ashland and will remain in the county for a fortnight perhaps, engaged upon field work for the department. Professor Beal is the "bird man" and is reckoned as an authority upon the life and habits of the inhabitants of the feathered kingdom and studies them officially in their relation to the economics of husbandry and in this region particularly in their relation to the fruit industry as destroyers of insect pests. Professor Beal spent a few weeks here three years ago securing specimens of the birds common to this country and this is his first field work since. In the laboratory at Washington he has analyzed tens of thousands of bird stomachs to find out what they eat in the way of insects.

His investigations all point toward one conclusion, and that is that birds are the great friends of the fruit-grower and with rare exceptions are his most useful allies in the destruction of the various insect pests which infest fruit trees.

Professor Beal says that on his present trip to Oregon he finds that the people here are coming to realize the benefits of bird life. One of the most recent results of his studies is a conclusion as to the downy woodpecker, a common bird in this region, and one which has generally been put in the nuisance and useless class. Professor Beal says he is proven most destructive of codlin moth and his services are invaluable to the apple grower.

Professor Beal is staying in and about Ashland for a fortnight and incidentally will get in touch with the fruitgrowers while securing his bird specimens.

LOCAL MAN TAKEN EAST BY OFFICER

Believed That Charge of Embezzlement Was Only Made to Get a Settlement.

ASHLAND, Oct. 5.—M. P. McDaniel, who has been living in Bellview district, south of Ashland, for two years, but recently sold his peach orchard there and was preparing to remove to Spokane, Wash., left Ashland for Mt. Carmel, Ill., accompanying a sheriff from that place, who brought a requisition for McDaniel to answer to an embezzlement charge growing out of business transactions some years ago in that state. Although it was stated that \$17,000 is the amount involved in the alleged embezzlement, the bonds in the case were only \$500, and the officer stated that it was not thought that the amount involved would in the end exceed \$600 at the most. Mr. McDaniel, who is a man of good repute in all his dealings here as far as known, decided to return to Illinois and meet the charges against him, which grew out of business disagreements some years ago with his partners, it seems.

There is a belief that perhaps the criminal charge was invoked in order to secure McDaniel's presence in Illinois to give evidence in a trial involving the settlement of disputed business transactions.

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JAPANESE AEROPLANE REPUTED WORLD-BEATER

WASHINGTON, Oct. 5.—With characteristic secrecy the Japanese have been developing a military aeroplane at Hakodate which is said to be a "world beater."

While Glenn H. Curtiss was winning an international race by flying six miles in something less than nine minutes—since which Hubert Latham has made a mile a minute for seven minutes—the Japanese constructed a bird-like craft that attained a speed of 68 miles an hour, the fastest on record for aerial navigation.

The flying ground over which the new craft has been practicing is a flat tract surrounded by high hills, on which a line of troops were stationed to insure secrecy. The machine is a monoplane and is said to bear an ever closer resemblance to the "bird form" than either the Latham or the Bleriot machine. The engine develops 80 horse power and drives the propellers at 2000 revolutions per minute, or nearly six times faster than the driving power of a Wright motor. Control of the machine in flight is effected through a flattened tail, which can be manipulated by the aviator to meet diverse currents of air.

EUROPEAN HOP CROP THIS YEAR IS FAILURE

WASHINGTON, Oct. 5.—The European hop crop this year has been a failure. A report from Consul Joseph I. Brittain at Prague, Austria, has just brought the following information:

The normal hop crop in Bohemia is about 23,148,300 pounds, and in the whole of Austria 28,659,800 pounds. The crop of 1908 was an unusually large one and amounted in Bohemia alone to 33,069,000 pounds, and in Austria as a whole to 39,682,000 pounds.

This year's crop for Bohemia is estimated at about 7,716,100 pounds, or less than one-fourth of the 1908 crop. There are at present 550,150 pounds of last year's hops in the hands of the hopgrowers and upward of 2,204,600 pounds in the hands of the brewers.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS EARN \$100,223

NEW YORK, October 5.—In a report made public it is shown that the Columbia University students earned \$100,223.36 while they studied last year. For men in the college the average earnings were \$209.97; for the school of applied science, \$166; for the medical students, 75.78; for the law men, \$295.97; for the graduate students, \$402.28; for those in the faculty of fine arts, \$60.03; for the teacher's college students, \$260.34; for the Barnard girls, \$209.05. The report showed that many opportunities were offered to men while they were studying. One wrote jingles for valentines and another a sonnet for a commemoration.

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