

Brings Cold Water to Tropical Coast

Humboldt's Current Causes Climatic Paradoxes.

Washington.—The Humboldt, or Peruvian, current which has bathed the tropical coast of Peru with icy waters and so has given rise to numerous climatic paradoxes, is reported to be changing its course, working havoc to animal life. A steamer captain recently passing up the coast reports that he encountered thousands of dead birds and fish in the sea. Other reports state that regions rainless for years are having rains and that rivers have formed almost over night in the one-time parched desert.

A bulletin from the Washington headquarters of the National Geographic society quotes a communication to the society from R. E. Coker telling how Peru's cold current has shaped conditions along the coast.

"The Humboldt current, supplemented no doubt by the upturning of cold bottom waters, maintains its steady course for thousands of miles, from icy Antarctic latitudes to the equator," says the bulletin. "Thus it is that tropical shores are bathed by cold ocean waters, and, with this fundamental contrast, the stage is set for an array of phenomena not fully paralleled in any other part of the world.

Cold Current Prevents Rain.
"Only two events in that interesting series command our present attention. These are the absence of rainfall and the consequent accumulation, through centuries untold, of a mine of wealth which might have been dissipated by a few seasons of rain.

"Guano, it will be understood, is primarily the deposit of fish-eating birds, into which may be mixed and incorporated—in greater or less proportion—a variety of other substances, such as the eggs and bodies of birds and the deposits and the bodies of sealions. It may be found mixed with gravel and sand in very small proportion or sometimes to an extent rendering it unprofitable to extract.

"Peruvian guano" is practically synonymous with nitrogenous guano and has long been recognized as the best nitrogenous fertilizer—that is, as a fertilizer of generally high nitrogen value in which the nitrogen compounds are found in a condition most readily assimilable by our plants.

"Consequently, a peculiar interest attaches to birds of the Peruvian islands, which have long served to aid the world's agriculture. They are the numerous sea fowl of the coast, which find their abundant food in the ocean and make their nests upon the islands or points of shore.

Acres of Fish.
"The peculiar climatic conditions previously mentioned offer merely the proper environmental conditions for the preservation of the product. The primary requisite for abundant bird life is the existence of a plentiful food supply, and this is found in the schools of small fish, called anchobetas, that swarm in the Peruvian current. There 'schools' of fish, acres in extent, are often pursued in the water by bonitos and other large fish, while beset from the air by thousands of birds.

"Billions of pounds of fish must be consumed each year by the birds, besides the incalculable quantity devoured by other fishes; but the fecund-

Autos Crash; He Sells Other Fellow Policy

Omaha.—Omaha claims the champion salesman of the universe. John Rosenzwele, debonair representative of a life insurance company, was arrested on a reckless driving charge, and when taken to the police station declared himself "happy to be arrested." While Desk Sergeant Payne arranged Rosenzwele's bond the salesman lectured him on the importance of life insurance, and before he was released had Payne's signature on the dotted line. Now he's waiting to meet the judge.

Recently after a collision with another machine Rosenzwele explained to the disgruntled motorist that it was a miracle he wasn't killed and then sold him a policy on the spot.

ity of the anchobetas is such that their numbers are still maintained. At times great areas of the sea are made red by myriads of small, brightly colored shrimplike crustacea; and these, too, play a part of importance as food for the fishes and birds.

"Not all of the birds are of equal importance. From the commercial point of view, indeed, three species virtually support the guano industry at the present time—the white-breasted cormorant (guanay), the big gray pelican, and the white-head gannet."

"Blushing Venus" Found in Africa

New Discovery Rivals Her Sister of Milo.

Rome.—A new Venus which may attract the homage of the world away from the better known Venus de Milo, now in the Louvre at Paris, has been uncovered beneath the shifting sand dunes of a north African desert.

It is "the Blushing Venus," a charming, timid creature in stone that has lain beneath the sands of Tripoli since Septis Magna, the magnificent city of the Emperor Septimus Severus, was overwhelmed centuries ago by the rolling dunes and disappeared from sight.

So alluring are the coy charms of "the Blushing Venus" that the Italian government plans to erect a hotel at the village of Homs, three miles distant from the ancient city, to care for American and other tourists who may be lured to see a graven beauty fit to sit beside the Capitoline Venus or the Venus de Milo.

Statue Is Intact.
The blushing one equals, if it does not surpass, the Melos Venus, which is the standard of perfect feminine proportion. Unlike the famous sister, "the Blushing Venus" is intact, and its finders declare it to be one of the finest examples of Grecian art.

DID SHE KIDNAP HIM?



Jackson Barnett, seventy-five-year-old oil millionaire of Oklahoma and richest redskin in the world, with his wife, the former Anna Laura Lowe. She is suing the Creek Crosses to establish her claim to \$200,000 worth of Liberty bonds. Barnett, through his guardian, avers the pretty Kansas widow "kidnaped" him and lured him into marrying her. He accuses her of being a "designing and unscrupulous adventuress" and says the "gift" was the result of extortion.

Fleas Cause Trouble
Akron, Ohio.—Because the flea population in the neighborhood of the county dog pound at the Fountain park fair grounds is so prolific, notice has been served on the county commissioners by the Summit County Agricultural society that the pound must be moved.

Battle of Concord Is Fought Once More



New Englanders, celebrating the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the battles of Lexington and Concord, reenacted those famous fights in vivid fashion. Above are seen the Minute Men rushing across Concord bridge in hot pursuit of the British redcoats.

\$3,688,873 Expended for War-Torn Area

Committee for Devastated France Reports.

Washington.—The final report of the activities of the American Committee for Devastated France, Inc., covering the period from its establishment on April 1, 1918, to the formal ending of its work in the war-torn areas of France on March 31, 1924, has just been issued. The report disclosed that the committee received a total of \$4,813,740 in cash and supplies and of this sum 76.85 per cent, or \$3,688,873, was sent to France, or spent in the United States for the benefit of France.

In making public the report, Rouget D. Jenkins, executive vice president of the committee, said that the principal services developed in France by the committee had been taken over by French committees. This step was in line with the original policy of the organization, which sought to reduce to a minimum the after-waste of war and insure the continued effectiveness of the work. Miss Anne Morgan, chairman of the executive committee of the organization, wrote a foreword to the report.

"The American Committee for Devastated France," she said, "has completed its work. Its records show a total of more than \$4,000,000 received and disbursed. The committee regarded itself always as a trustee, responsible to its donors and friends. To them it now presents this summarized statement of its activities. To the thousands who gave so generously of their means, their time and their thought in order that its purposes might be realized, the committee extends its deep gratitude."

Established Forty-Five Canteens.
Even before the organization applied itself to the civilian problems of the war zone it was called upon to aid the military forces. In this work 45 canteens were established, and more than 300,000 American and French soldiers were served, and, in addition, six women doctors and ten nurses went into service in emergency hospitals.

"In retrospect," said the report, "the committee's program appears to have been planned at the outset and carried through to the end. Actually, it was forged on the anvil of demand.

Baby of 22 Months Uses Four Languages

Seattle, Wash.—Not every child of twenty-two months can speak one language, to say nothing of chatting in four. Little Kathleen Draper is already a linguist and mixes Dutch, Chinese, Malay and English in a medley of baby talk and makes known her every wish. Kathleen was born in Java, her parents arriving here on a business trip. Her linguistic efforts are not the will of parent; nor teacher, but were absorbed from her environment of daily life.

done farms were worked and syndicate and farmers' co-operatives were organized. Fifty-two tractors were used in showing the farmers of the Alsine more progressive methods, and wheat from 125,000 acres was thrashed at three central points. Under the auspices of the ministers of agriculture and of education demonstrations in American methods of canning fruits and vegetables were carried on for four years in 36 French departments, including more than 100 domestic science and normal schools.

"The infant mortality," said the report, "in the committee's region was reduced to 24 per 1,000, less than 2.5 per cent. The infant mortality in the entire Department of the Alsine was 87 per 1,000, and as a comparative figure the rate for New York city in 1924, which was 6.8 per cent, might be cited."

Ship 6,000 Miles Out Claims Sending Record

New York.—A long-distance record for radio transmission from a vessel at sea was claimed for the 1,500-watt continuous-wave transmitter of the liner Belgenland, when the vessel returned to New York from a round-the-world voyage. Thomas R. Walker, ship's radio operator, reported that he exchanged messages with San Francisco on January 27, when the Belgenland was at Shanghai, 6,000 miles away. Communication was maintained with San Francisco all the way from Shanghai to Hongkong, he said.

AERIAL WINDMILL TO HARNESS GALE FOR WORK ON FARM

British Expect to Generate Cheap Electricity.

London.—Having failed to achieve any world-beating records in aerially racing the wind, John Bull is trying to harness the "blasted" gale. An "airplane windmill," invented by a Berlin scientist, Major Bilau, is the backbone of the effort. A specimen of this invention and four other types have been erected on the hilly ground near Harpenden, in Hertfordshire, where the Oxford University Institute of Agricultural Engineering has established a testing ground.

Englishmen have been so encouraged by the results of the experiments to date that they already have visions of huge economies and a brighter countryside, through the cheap generation of electricity.

It is believed that a windmill will eventually be capable of operating all of the plant of a large farm or of supplying all the needs of the average village—lighting the streets and houses, and, perhaps, running its "movie" house. After the installation, it is thought, the cost of operation will be almost nil. All the attention required will be the visit of a man with an oil can once a month. The steel sails of the Bilau aerodynamic are mounted on a stout post some thirty feet high. They give the appearance of a greatly magnified airplane propeller. The sails are so constructed that suction is brought into

play to get every possible ounce of turning power from the wind. As the sails revolve they set cogs in motion, which operate a dynamo contained in a balloon-like attachment behind the propeller. The current so generated is carried by wires to the power station.

Dick Turpin Capes Cloak English Women

London.—The highwayman's cape worn by robbers in the time of King George I is coming into fashion this spring for women. Capes generally are in favor, but the style made famous by Dick Turpin, 200 years ago, and other notables in the robbing game have been particularly popular, most of them dipping far past the waistline, many of them scalloped.

Strange Visitor From Honduras



This animal, strange to northern climes, was found clinging to a bunch of bananas upon arrival in Cincinnati from Honduras. It has been identified as one of the Iguana family of lizards noted for its beautiful iridescent coat of claws which enable it to cling to smooth surfaces and climbing walls. Its green and gold. It is almost 10 inches long and has extremely long sharp tongue is flat and like that of a human. It has taken up its new home at the Cincinnati Zoological gardens.

Tells Age of Salmon by Lines on Scales

Seattle, Wash.—Salmon and trout, like rattlesnakes, have a way of telling their age, according to John N. Cobb, director of the college of fisheries of the University of Washington. "Every year adds a series of half-circles to the scales of trout and salmon," said Dean Cobb. "Each series is distinguishable from the preceding ones by a line. The lines are similar to those on a cross-section of a tree, and the method of telling the age of a fish is like that used by woodsmen to ascertain ages of trees.

"Salmon reveal the amount of food consumed each season. When salmon have a good year with plenty to eat, the lines are wider than in lean years." Experiments are being conducted by Dean Cobb in telling the age of other species of fish.

Cronies 30 Years, They Die Same Day

Ottawa, Mich.—They lived together, died together and they are to be buried together. Such epitomizes the lives of two old cronies, mill employees for the same company for 30 years, who are to be buried at one service here, following their deaths on the same day.

Frank Victor, fifty-seven years old, died on a Monday morning, and his roommate, Adolph Ericson, sixty-three years old, died late the same day. Each succumbed to pneumonia, following an attack of influenza.

They had lived together in the same rooming house for more than thirty years. Neither had any relatives in this part of the country.

LOOK OUT BELOW!

Photograph shows a four-thousand-pound bomb such as was used in the joint army and navy maneuvers in Hawaii. Bombs of this size, it is claimed, will destroy an entire battleship, if they make a direct hit.

