

Coolidges Are to Have an Afghan



Plymouth (Vt.) women who know the President are busy making an afghan which is to be presented to Mr. and Mrs. Coolidge on their next visit to the birthplace of the President. The photograph shows four of the women making squares for the afghan on the steps of the post office and general store, the house in which the President was born.

U. S. Forest Fires Cause Heavy Loss

92,000 Blazes Burn 29,000,000 Acres in Year.

Washington.—Nearly 92,000 forest fires swept 29,000,000 acres of public and private lands during the calendar year 1924, according to a report just compiled by the forest service, United States Department of Agriculture. The actual money damage was \$38,000,000, exclusive of damage to young growth, watershed protection, wild life and recreational facilities.

The figures, say forestry officials, clearly reflect the bad forest fire conditions which prevailed last year, especially in many southern states and in California. Compared with the calendar year 1923, the 1924 figures represent an increase of 24,000 fires, and compared with the nine-year average an increase of 45,000 fires, or nearly 100 per cent. In acreage swept by flames, the 1924 figures are only slightly larger than those for 1923, but are almost double the acreage figures representing the nine-year average.

Money damage in 1924, estimated at \$38,000,000, is \$10,000,000 above the 1923 estimate, and \$18,000,000 higher than the nine-year average of \$20,000,000. Damage to young growth, watershed protection, wild life, and recreational facilities, and losses to the lumber industry, including wages and other economic values, are not included.

Was a Bad Year.

William B. Greeley, chief of the forest service, states that the material increase in the number of forest fires reported during 1924 is partly the result of more complete reports, although 1924 was a very bad year in many sections of the country.

"Excessively dry weather was experienced in California and in the Gulf states," said Chief Forester Greeley, "and in these states the 1924 fire figures show great increase over the nine-year average. Smaller increases are also shown in most other states."

An analysis of the 1924 statistics shows that incendiary fires top the list with 21,000, or about 23 per cent of the total. Brush burning comes next with 16,000 fires, or 18 per cent, and fires caused by smokers is third with 13,000, or about 14 per cent.

Other chief causes of forest fires in 1924 were railroads, camp fires, lumbering and lightning. Lightning is considered the only natural cause of forest fires. Only six per cent of the 1924 fires were started by lightning.

Public Opinion a Needed Weapon.
"The greatest single agency with which to combat forest fires," said Colonel Greeley, "is public opinion. No thoughtful citizen can read the 1924 figures without coming to the conclusion that the fight against forest fires is his personal fight. The federal and state governments are doing their utmost with the funds and equipment allotted to them. It is high time that a more effective weapon is placed at their disposal, and that weapon is an outraged public opinion."

The figures given in the forest service report apply to all public and private lands in the United States and not merely to the national forest areas under the jurisdiction of the United States Department of Agriculture. On these latter areas, which embrace 157,000,000 acres, the number of forest fires during 1924 totaled 8,247. The area swept by flames was 602,000 acres and the money damage was estimated at \$1,500,000.

CITIES OF THE FUTURE TO BE LARGE TRADE CENTERS

People Will Live in Widely Scattered Suburbs.

Chicago.—Cities of the future will be made up of a central area, devoted to business and night life, and widely scattered suburbs in which all the married people will live.

That is the conclusion of D. R. McKenzie, exchange professor of sociology from the University of Washington to the University of Chicago.

In outlining his study of ecology, or the forces that distribute population, Professor McKenzie asserted it's all a question of transportation.

"The first type of city," he added, "demanded that its inhabitants walk to the center for business and the pursuit of pleasure. That type tended to be circular and family life was

To Restore Lee Home in Arlington Cemetery

Washington.—Restoration of the Lee mansion, on the highest spot in Arlington cemetery, will be undertaken under supervision of the War department, at a cost of \$225,000. A survey by the quartermaster corps, made at the direction of congress, has shown that the famous structure will require much work to put it in a condition comparable to its splendor shortly before the Civil war, and to provide adequate quarters for cemetery officials.

Union troops seized the mansion and estate surrounding it when Gen. Robert E. Lee joined the Confederate cause, and it was purchased by the government for \$150,000 in 1884. The estate of 6,000 acres was originally purchased for six hogheads of tobacco and later passed into the hands of the Custis and Lee families.

LAKE IN TENNESSEE DISAPPEARS IN CAVE

Swallowed Up With Roar When Roof of Cavern Falls.

Mayfield, Ky.—Particulars have reached here from the Idaho Springs vicinity, across the Kentucky line in Tennessee, of the swallowing up of a small lake on the farm of C. P. Warfield by the collapse of the roof of a cave.

The lake dropped into subterranean regions with a roar like that of a locomotive's passing, according to the story attributed to W. L. Warfield, who was in the neighborhood and saw the water dropping into the cavern.

In place of the lake there was an insignificant pool, scarcely worth notice. The hole when first seen by W. L. Warfield was about four feet in diameter, and the waters rushed down in a torrent, carrying fish, turtles and other inhabitants of the lake away with the great force of the suction.

The water plowed through its new channel underground for some distance and then found a new exit a few hundred yards from its former location.

Trades Valuable Violin for Cheap Saxophone

Pittsburgh.—When trial of a violin in a second-hand store revealed a tone such as he had never before heard from such an instrument, William P. Schwartz of Beechview, musician, bought it for a few dollars. The violin had been traded at the store for a cheap saxophone by a youth who found it dust-covered in an attic.

Examination by a connoisseur of old violins disclosed that the instrument was a genuine Peter Guarneri, made before 1700. It is valued at more than \$10,000.

Coal Firms' Heads Rule Spitzbergen

Officials Take Place of Police in Desolate Isles.

Longyear City, Spitzbergen.—Europe has many dictators whose names are household words all the world over, but Spitzbergen has a few less known rulers who understand the art of running a community virtually single-handed to perfection. They are Chief Engineer Sigurd Westby at Advent Bay, Director H. Dresselhuys at Green Harbor and Director Knudsen at Kings Bay.

Each of these men, who are in charge of the local interests of different coal companies, wields virtually autocratic power, and wields it wisely and justly, judging by results.

Not Yet in Possession.

By the treaty of Versailles Spitzbergen became Norwegian territory, but King Hakon has not yet taken official possession of the islands, and pending the enforcement of the Svalbard law, now before the Norwegian parliament, there is no Norwegian governor, law court, policeman, customs officer or tax collector in all Spitzbergen.

It is the coal companies' writ that runs throughout the archipelago or as much of it as is inhabited.

Forced to Be Strict.

Rules and regulations have to be pretty strict in mining camps with floating populations like those in Spitzbergen. Unauthorized drink traffic is put down with a stern hand. The companies' understandings with ship captains is that any clandestine liquor trading by their subordinates is not to be tolerated.

Of course, smuggling occurs once in a while, but detection entails very severe penalties on guilty parties, who have their credit on the companies' books docked by \$25 for a first offense.

Subsequent infringements may entail social ostracism and deportation from the island, but the extreme penalty is seldom enforced.

Rats Warn Miners of Impending Roof Cave-in

Wilkesbarre, Pa.—Rats in the anthracite coal mines on many occasions have demonstrated they are friends of the miners in giving them warning of approaching danger. A

recent instance occurred in the Empire colliery.

Anthony Kopinski and his son, while eating lunch, were attracted by the peculiar actions of two rats which continually annoyed them. Five times they drove the rats away by throwing pieces of coal at them, but each time the rodents returned. This aroused the suspicions of the elder Kopinski, who, directing his son to follow him, went out of the pit.

They had proceeded only about 20 feet when the roof crashed in, bringing down such a mass of coal and rock that would require three weeks to remove it.

The ability of the rats to warn the miners of approaching danger has resulted in many of the men making pets of them. The average miner hesitates to kill a rat, especially if he is working in a chamber where caverns are likely to occur where there is bad air or gas.

Bishop Brings Body of Saint Christina

New York.—In a plain oak box the bones of St. Christina, virgin martyr of the Third century, rest on American soil preparatory to being taken to the Roman Catholic cathedral at Cleveland, Ohio.

The bones were the gift of Pope Pius XI to Bishop Joseph Schrembs of Cleveland in recognition of the \$200,000 which the Cleveland diocese contributed to the erection of a "house of catacombs" in Rome.

Bishop Schrembs, Bishop Michael Gallagher of Detroit and others returned from a four months' holy-year pilgrimage on the liner *Homeric* recently and were met by a delegation of middle western clergy and laymen.

They brought the following message from the pope:

"America has been the hand of Providence for the impoverished and unfortunate nations of the world, and the world will never forget America."

Mark Would Have Been Proud of Her



The first photograph to be made of Mrs. Richard Porter Davidson, formerly Miss Betty Hanna, granddaughter of the late Mark Hanna, with her daughter, Daisy Gordon Davidson. The baby has been named after her maternal grandmother.

Rockefeller Meets Oil Drivers on Road

Magnate Gives Employee and Rival New Dimes.

New York.—Harold Riley, who was driving a big Standard Oil tank truck, stopped as he rounded a turn on the hilly road between Riverdale and Bloomingdale, N. J., and came to a stop as he saw a gasoline truck of the Tidal Oil company approaching. Charley Stout of Dundee Lakes was driving it.

"Leave any business for me?" said Charley, coming to a stop.

"I pretty well oiled up the whole country," said the Standard Oil man. A costly closed car coming from Riverdale stopped between them. A door opened and an old man in a gray

cap and gray duster stepped briskly out on the road.

Pleased by Recognition.

"We're lost boys," he said to the two drivers. Then, addressing himself to the driver of the red Standard Oil truck, he asked: "Can you tell me the way back to the Oakland-Suffern road?"

"Go back to Riverdale and take the right turn, Mr. Rockefeller," said Riley.

"You recognize me, eh?" said the old man delightedly, extending his hand.

"I certainly do," said Riley.

"Glad to meet any oil man," said Mr. Rockefeller, shaking hands also with Stout, who had jumped down from his seat on the rival truck.

"Always glad to meet a man in the oil business, but, of course (shaking the Standard Oil driver's hand again), the Standard Oil is my first love."

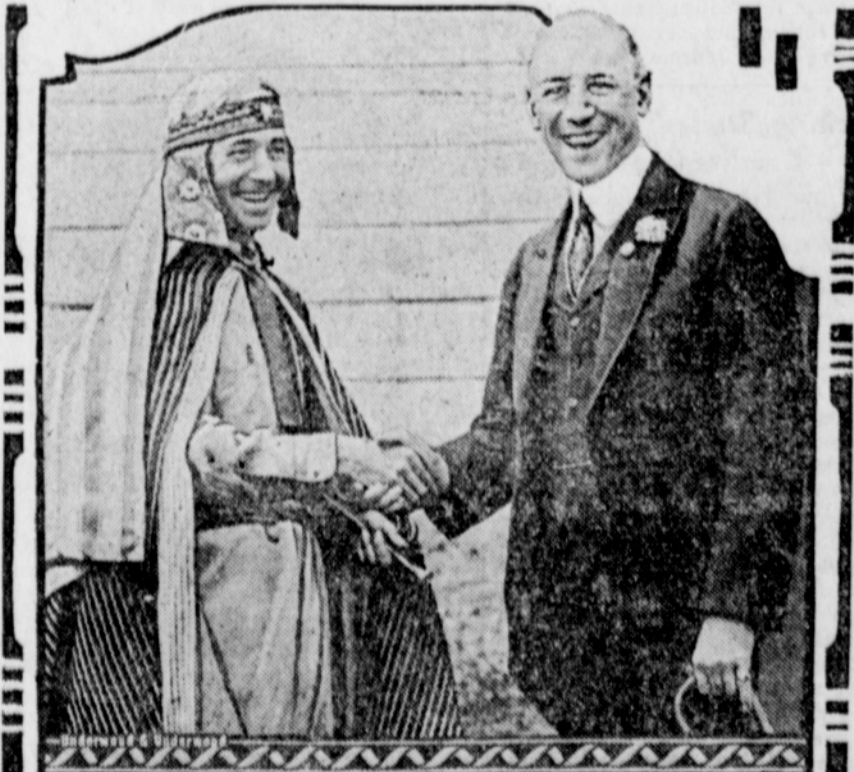
Dimes Begin to Appear.

"Just a minute, boys," he said to the drivers. "Now, Riley, that's for you."

He gave the Standard Oil driver one of his famous fresh minted dimes.

Then he inquired about their families—found Stout had one child and Riley none, so he gave each of them a dime "for the wife" with his "compliments" and an extra dime for the baby.

Dedicating Solomon's Temple Site



A notable feature of Philadelphia's sesquicentennial celebration next year is to be a reproduction of Solomon's temple and citadel. The other day Mayor Freeland Kendrick dedicated the site, and he is seen above with John Mulravin, who acted as sheik of the temple during the ceremonies.

Texas Cowboy, 95, Still Active, Rides the Range

Childress, Texas.—Supple as a youth in muscle, vigorous and hearty, H. R. Mangum, ninety-five years old, is still riding the range on the big ranch of the Smith brothers, near here.

He is said to be the oldest cowboy still in active service in the country.

Mangum has been a cowhand ever since he came to Texas from South Carolina, three-quarters of a century ago. He was well along toward middle life when the famous Chisholm trail was established. He went up the trail with herds of cattle many times.

In his early life he worked on ranches in the southern part of Texas. As the wild lands of the more western parts of the state were opened up he went with the venturesome cattlemen into their new grazing territory. He was upon the frontier when Indian raids were common and when buffaloes populated the unbroken region by countless thousands.

Mangum says that he has observed no set of rules of living. He "went the usual paces" of a cowboy in the stirring days and has devoted himself to hard work and life in the open air.

Plan Memorial to Tom Watson

Atlanta, Ga.—"The Tom Watson Memorial association" has been launched. The object of the association is to erect a memorial or statue of the distinguished Georgian to be erected either in the state capitol or on the capitol grounds.

Tobacco From All Countries



Ben D. Hill, tobacco specialist of the Department of Commerce, inspecting some of the samples of foreign tobacco collected as he toured all parts of the world so that American exporters may be advised of the preferences of the smokers in each and every country.