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IGLOOS ARE NOT DOOMED

ARCTIC EXPLORER SAYS NATIVES HAPPY AND CONTENT.

Movement to Modernize Eskimo by Providing Concrete Huts Characterized as Silly.

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—The movement to modernize the Eskimo by providing him with concrete huts in place of his picturesque snow "igloos," as suggested by an official of the United States bureau of fisheries, would be the death of the denizen of the icy north, in the opinion of Vilhjalmur Stefansson, the Arctic explorer. Not only is the Eskimo devoted to his age-long habitations, as the South Sea Islanders are to their traditional arched huts of woven palm and fresh smel, but he is far healthier, warmer and more comfortable in his domed mansions of snow blocks than he could be in any modern house of concrete.

The statement that the natives of the Pribiloff islands were about to discard their snow huts for modern concrete huts, finding the gales of the Bering sea too strong for the former, upon which the story of the intended change of Eskimo habits was based, Mr. Stefansson characterizes as too silly for discussion. The explorer, talking at his headquarters at the National Geographical society building here, said that the Pribiloff Islanders had never lived in snow, but in wooden huts, and that further north, where the natives do live in snow houses, it would be next to impossible to convert them to any other dwelling.

"Their igloo serves as a home for two or three weeks. Then they build a new one. Because the igloo is clean and sanitary. It is as warm and comfortable as your library. A candle gives as much illumination as three electric lights, because the intense whiteness of the snow. The snow house will stand under any conditions. In all the igloo is as comfortable a home as a man could wish.

"The concrete hut, like the wooden hut, must be uncomfortable and unsanitary. Wherever the natives have changed from the snow to the wooden home there has followed pneumonia and typhoid and a tremendous increase in the death rate.

"The Eskimos are a migratory race. Contact with civilization has affected them and they are dying off. They must soon be extinct and the concrete hut hastens that extinction. The Eskimos are like the species. Try to keep a gypsy in a house of concrete and see what happens.

"Still the Eskimos might be converted to the concrete hut," went on Mr. Stefansson, smiling. "If it becomes the fashion. Should concrete homes become fashionable, all Eskimos would soon be living in them. Human nature is the same the world over. Let someone introduce the wearing of furs, as a fashion, in the Zulu islands, and the natives there would wear furs. Women wear furs in California and Florida, where the climate is just as hot as on the Zulu islands. No, you see, you never can tell."

TRAIN ROBBERY CLEARED

Prisoner in Arizona Tells of Yoncalla Holdup in 1911.

DOUGLAS, Ariz., Dec. 20.—Leon Grannan, said to have admitted a number of mail and train robberies on the Pacific coast and one jewelry store robbery, was held tonight pending investigation.

Grannan, in an interview today, told of how Joe Martinez had held up the Oregon Express at Yoncalla, Or., in 1911 and had given him (Grannan) part of the money. He said Martinez was killed the following year after holding up a train in the Sacramento river canyon.

Grannan, in effect, gave himself up, claiming to have reformed in 1915. He has papers to show service in the Philippine islands and in Siberia with

MOTHER KILLS FAMILY

Bodies of Three Infants Thrown Into Clster on Farm.

COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho, Dec. 20.—Mrs. Lucy M. Mullenax, aged 24, wife of a farmer, was in the custody of Sheriff Quarles tonight facing the charge of having murdered her three infant children and of having murdered her mother-in-law.

Mrs. Mary M. Mullenax, at Mica Bay, 11 miles west of Coeur d'Alene, the younger woman, the officers say, stated she could not leave the children with her mother-in-law. She told the officers, according to their statement, to inform her husband that they did not suffer in death as she had given them poison and later had thrown the bodies into a clster 250 feet from the house, shortly after she had attacked her mother-in-law with a wooden mallet in the latter's room, beating the aged woman badly and causing a fracture of the skull.

\$10,000 Loss Reported to Police.

Gus Miller of 551 Second street, last night reported to the police the loss of a suitcase which he alleged contained the equivalent of \$10,000 in French currency. According to Miller's report, he set the suitcase in a car which was carrying down to step into the lobby of a hotel at Second and Madison streets to speak to a friend for a moment. When he turned around a moment later, the suitcase had disappeared. Miller told Inspector Cahill also that the grip contained some German money and a Luger pistol. He had recently returned from overseas service.

Phone your want ads to the Oregonian. Main 7070, A 5055.

MINES CONTINUE MENACE

GERMAN TASK OF SWEEPING NORTH SEA UNFINISHED.

American Barrage Completely Disposed Of, Naval Official Reports; British Continue Work.

LONDON, Dec. 20.—Until the Germans complete the sweeping of mine fields they laid in the North sea there will be considerable danger to shipping in waters adjacent to the British Isles, say British and American naval authorities. Even after that work has ended, which will not be earlier than next summer, there will be some danger which, they predict, will gradually diminish.

"The American barrage is swept as completely as is humanly possible," Admiral Harry S. Knapp of the American navy, said to the Associated Press correspondent. "After our area had been pronounced 100 per cent clear we re-swept 800 square miles of it (about 15 per cent) and found only four more mines. These were at a buoyed spot where the sweepers believed they had missed some."

"The greatest menace now," said Lieutenant Commander Benson, of the international mine-destroying committee, "is the unswept German area. Until that field has been cleared there will be a good many drifting mines about. Afterward there will be some danger, but it will rapidly diminish as the elements destroy the effectiveness of the mines."

He said the committee accounted for mines as follows: Five per cent explode when laid, 5 per cent are defective, 10 per cent soon become useless through leakage and 80 per cent of the total number laid are destroyed by the different systems of sweeping employed by the British and Americans.

Committee members believe that a great many of the other 30 per cent will be carried by the natural northward currents of the North sea into Arctic ice packs and destroyed, others will go ashore on the Norwegian coast, as have many already, a great many will become harmless through long presence in the water, and a certain number will be destroyed by pat-

TEACHER UNION OPPOSED

W. T. FOSTER ADDRESSES CALIFORNIA CONVENTION.

Head of Reed College at Portland Declares Instructors Must Deal Direct With People.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Dec. 20.—Emphasizing the need of teachers for increased compensation, Dr. William T. Foster of Reed college, Portland, Or., told delegates to the California state teachers' convention here today that it would be a mistake for teachers to organize unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

JAPANESE DEMAND RISE

Hawaiian Plantation Laborers Want 75 Per Cent Increase.

HONOLULU, T. H., Dec. 20.—The

Japanese Federation of Plantation Laborers has presented its demands to the Hawaiian Sugar Planters. The demands include a 75 per cent increase in wages, raising the average Jap laborer's wages from 77 cents a day to \$1.25 with double time for Sundays, legal holidays and overtime.

The demands include a raise to 95 cents a day for women laborers and leave of absence for women before and after childbirth. The list includes a demand that instead of a man having to work at least 20 days a month to be included in the bonus, the number of days be cut to 15. The labor-

ers also want an eight-hour day, better living conditions and more amusements on the plantations, such as moving picture shows.

A man's hair, it is estimated, turns gray five years earlier than a woman's.

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 - \$40.00 Accordion . . . \$30.00
 - \$60.00 Accordion . . . \$45.00
- AUTOHARPS \$7.50 and \$9.00
MOUTH HARPS 50c. 55c. \$1.50 and \$2.00
- Sale on BANJO UKULELES Regular \$10.00 for \$6.50
- MUSIC STANDS \$1.50 and \$2.00
MUSIC STAND CASES \$1.50 and \$2.50
STEEL GUITARS \$8.50 to \$45.00 Free Lessons
VIOLIN CASES \$4.00 to \$30.00
\$5 UKULELES FOR \$3.50 Free Lessons
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