

PREMIER PESTS IS THE ENGLISH SPARROW

Introduced at Great Expense in the Hope That He Would Eat Bugs, He Has Shown Himself a Pirate and a Grain Field Glutton.

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN.
(Copyright, 1908, by Frederic J. Haskin.)
Washington, Oct. 20.—It seems incredible that one small brown bird and his numerous family should be costing the United States millions of dollars a year, but that is what the English sparrow is doing. It is the most expensive pest the nation has yet had and the hardest to get rid of. There is very little to be said in its favor. Where the vast majority of the other birds in the country are proved to be of invaluable aid to the farmer, the English sparrow has proved an enemy. Other birds destroy noxious insects, while insects form a very small percentage of the sparrow's bill of fare. Other birds eat weed seeds in such quantities that the farmer saves millions of dollars for the farmer, while the English sparrow does not care for weeds, preferring good grain and wheat seeds, and only eats weed seeds when others are not available. And not only does it fail to eat the farmer's weeds, but it also has driven away the helpful birds and has made itself master of the field in many localities. In some places it is itself protected from the usual enemies that beset the pathways of birds.

Its Race Suicide Mera.

The English sparrow has proved the most prolific breeder among the members of the bird world. The annual product of a pair averages about 24 nestlings. Statisticians figuring on this basis, and assuming that half of these are male and half female, shows that if all these and their offspring should live in 10 years the progeny of a single pair would be over 75,000,000 birds. Happily for the nation there are disasters in the sparrow family that decrease this alarming prospect, but nevertheless the number is large enough. In the recent bird survey of Illinois it was found that the summer population of English sparrows was estimated at 4,000,000. This population formed 18 per cent of the bird population of that state. As it is now found in all the states in more or less varying numbers, it is safe to take Illinois population as an average and from that it will be seen that with a possible general bird population of 1,414,000,000 in the United States, there are approximately 254,000,000 sparrows. Happily for the nation there are new industries destroying grain, fruit and shrubbery, and driving away the birds that might protect these things.

Importation a Huge Blunder.

The importation of this pest, brazen fellow was one of the biggest mistakes ever made in this country. Some misguided people of the northeastern states raised money in 1850 to bring over some English sparrows. They had the hope that they might eat the gipsy moth and other insect pests that were destroying valuable trees. The example of Europe lay before these people, then as it does today, and they might have profited by it, but they didn't. The English sparrow, which is a city dweller, will never leave the city for the country until it has crowded out by its kind. Then it moves to some smaller town or city.

A War of Destruction.

The directors of the Brooklyn Institute are said to be responsible for the first sparrows brought over. In 1850 they brought over eight pairs, and in view of the present sparrow population it is interesting to note that they were zealously cared for in specially designed cages. In the spring of 1851 they were liberated, but they didn't thrive. This is possibly the only record of the kind in the history of this pest. These were the first sparrows brought over. Other birds, from the states, were brought in. In 1852 they were established in 35 states and five territories, occupying an area of 85,000 square miles. Between 1855 and 1880 they spread at the rate of 50,000 square miles a year. It has been estimated that a Chicago fire or an Ohio valley flood, Philadelphia, unwilling to do things on a niggardly basis, in those days brought over the biggest importation ever made—a thousand at one time. It is possible that the greatest bird pest in the Quaker City ever experienced. At any rate, there was some attempt to get even. In 1847 sparrows were slaughtered by thousands and sold as red birds in the restaurants there. The next year New York indirectly got back a little of the money it had spent in bringing them in, for in Albany they were selling in the markets for \$1 a hundred or 25 cents per dozen.

Why Sparrows Stay in Towns.

Hundreds of years of experience have taught these sparrows that the closer they stay to man and his habitations the safer they are. They have learned that out in the forests, the fields and the meadows there are lurking snakes, owls and hawks that will prey on them. They know that the few other birds that come to break up their solitude in the country, as they turn cityward and dwell in close order, the safety of the species is increased. These sparrows, however, would not be so bold as to even think of leaving their city centers, and even that means of helping conditions in the reach of exterminators.

The Swift Awakening.

It is only within the past 50 years that the English sparrow has become a pest. It was introduced from Europe in 1850, and it has since then spread over the entire continent. It is now found in all the states in more or less varying numbers, and it is safe to take Illinois population as an average and from that it will be seen that with a possible general bird population of 1,414,000,000 in the United States, there are approximately 254,000,000 sparrows.

MORE TROUBLE FOR J. B. FORGAN

Banker-Politician Is Again Rapped Hard by Chicago Business Men.

By John E. Lathrop.
Chicago, Ill., Oct. 20.—Another angry depositor wrote a letter here to James B. Forgan, president of the First National bank, protesting against Mr. Forgan's interview in the Record-Herald to the effect that Bryan's election would cause apprehension among business men. The letter says: "Dear Sir: At the Chicago office, I was shown a carbon copy of a letter written by one of your depositors, protesting against your campaign of frightening business men and depositors by asserting that Bryan's election would mean a panic. I carry a deposit balance of \$7,500 in your bank. My paper never went to protest. My credit is first class with you. Your cashier seems always to be glad to accept notes bearing the signature of my firm, of which I am the head. I have the right to address you. You and I have a common bond, that of banker and depositor. Like him, and who entrusts to one who accepts the trust."

Angered by Interview.

I was angered by your interview in the Record-Herald, as was my friend who lunched with me today. I was busy and did not think of answering. Haven't we had enough of answering for me in his action prompts me to say a few things to you in a tone equally frank as that employed by my friend and fellow depositor. Like him, and according to his advice, I refrain from appending my name. I don't know, but I fear that you might make it unhealthy for me in a business way were I to do so. This is my statement: You know the utter absurdity of your statement as well as I do. You know that you are fooling with fire, that you are likely to accomplish more than you intended—to scare some, perhaps many, business men into foolish panic and inflame the public mind so as to imperil business if Bryan is elected, as is not improbable. What is the best way to inspire a return of business activity? To publish blatant proclamations of alleged

Instant Relief From Itch

The Itch Gone, the Skin Soothed and Refreshed—Immediately.

Instant Relief from that Itch. A few drops of a soothing liquid. And the itch is gone as if by magic. Can you imagine how it will feel—that itching agony swept away in a moment? Just one drop on the skin and no more of that torturing, endless, nerve-racking itch. You can know the relief if you just try the simple remedy—simplest of external liquid remedies—oil of wintergreen as compounded in D. D. Prescription. We positively know that it alleviates the itch immediately—we vouch for this and guarantee it—for we have seen it used in too many cases; and the cures that follow, as far as we know, are permanent. Siskiere Drug Co., 151 Third St., Woodward, Clarke & Co. These special agents endorse D. D. Prescription. St. Johns Pharmacy, St. Johns; J. C. Wray, Vancouver; Howell & Jones, Oregon City.

Methods of Destruction.

Various methods have been resorted to in order to destroy the English sparrows. They have been trapped, killed and poisoned, but as a species, they, like Balaque's ghost, will not down. In an old report it is urgently advised that sparrows be eaten as food, the statement being that many people eat them daily as rice birds, anyway, when rice birds are not even in shipping distance, and further recommend that in the cities they be caught and coop-fed for awhile on meal and oatmeal, as one does with chickens. In some states sparrows are protected by law. In others bounties have been offered for their removal. The wariness of these clever creatures, their hardihood and the rapidity with which they increase, make their decimation a laborious process. During 1899 the American Society of Bird Restorers inaugurated a crusade against them on Boston Common, where 20 had been carefully released and nurtured in 1868 and another 20 in 1869. A ruthless war was waged on them for nearly 30 days. Six men devoted their entire time to the task, and in that time plugged up 5,000 nesting holes, destroyed 1,151 nests, and broke 1,000 eggs. They destroyed no birds, but where 500 pairs had before been, they saw only 200 or 300 pairs after their crusade. Since this proved so effective, it has been recommended as the best fashion in which to rid the nation of its greatest feathered pest.

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THIS is a fashion event that should attract hundreds of ladies to whom correct TAILORED STYLES are most essential. This week is more than ever crowded with special values, which show conclusively that cleverly and authoritatively designed MANISH TAILORED SUITS may be purchased here at less cost than anywhere else.

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Presenting the newest materials in comprehensive varieties of attractive autumn colors—London Smoke, Catawba, Raven-wing Black, Navy, Myrtle Green, and all the newest shades.

\$27.50 Silk Rain Coats \$16.50

Finest quality, thoroughly waterproof, full length, cut extra wide, nicely finished, suitable for rain, traveling or automobile wear. The latest fashionable styles and shapes, and characterized by moderation in price. \$16.50 Special for Wednesday

Persians Tire of Self Rule

Exercise of Suffrage Does Not Particularly Appeal to Fatalists.

(United Press Leased Wire.)
Tehran, Persia, Oct. 20.—The people of Persia are showing little interest in the preliminary elections authorized by the shah or in the prospect of a Persian parliament, which will convene within a month. The populace show general disappointment with the result of their struggle for suffrage. The shah's proclamation prohibits activity by the adjournment and prescribes that the constitution shall conform with the laws of Islam. In the shah's receipt political autonomy is refused to the inhabitants of Tabriz until order in that city is restored.

TEA

There's plenty of humbug in tea; not one ounce in a ton Schilling's Best.

Your grocer returns your money if you don't like it; we pay him.

Berkeley Nurse Hangs Herself

(United Press Leased Wire.)
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S.S.S. CURES ECZEMA, ACNE, TETTER ETC.

The skin is an index to the quality of the blood. Eczema, Acne, Tetter, pimples, rashes, eruptions, etc., show that some unhealthy humor or acid impurity is diseasing and corrupting the circulation, so that instead of supplying nourishment and strength to the fine, delicate tissues of the skin, it is continually pouring out its acid and unhealthy accumulations. External applications of salves, washes, lotions, etc., may relieve some of the itching and other discomfort caused by skin troubles, and for this reason should be used, but such treatment cannot reach the humor-laden blood, and therefore cannot cure. A thorough cleansing of the blood is the only cure for skin diseases. S. S. S., a purely vegetable preparation, is the best and quickest remedy. It goes down into the circulation and neutralizes and removes the acids, impurities and humors, thoroughly purifies the circulation and permanently cures skin diseases of every kind. When S. S. S. has driven the humors and impurities from the blood, and cooled and cleansed the acid-heated circulation, every symptom passes away, the skin is again nourished with rich, healthful blood and the trouble cured, as the cause has been removed. Book on skin diseases and any medical advice free to all who write. THE SWIFT SPECIFIC CO., ATLANTA, GA.

Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death!

These immortal words were uttered by Patrick Henry at a time when the souls of men were burning with the desire for liberty—freedom from the rule of England.

The liberty so earnestly sought after in those provincial days, and so vigorously fought for afterward, was purely political liberty—national independence.

The liberty that is uppermost in the minds of thinking men today is freedom from the grinding toll of business—financial independence that is as secure as the Nation.

The Roseburg Home Orchard Tracts offer you liberty that was not dreamed of in Patrick Henry's time

What could more thoroughly constitute man's liberty than ownership of a 10 or 20-acre Orchard in the most productive valley in the world—where the soil gives up her products in the greatest abundance and of the highest quality—where the markets of the world come to your door and lay their gold at your feet in return for what mother earth alone produces for you?

The liberty of acres

There is no financial liberty so secure as the liberty of acres. Susceptible to no influence except nature, the rise and fall of nations cannot affect or impair it. Oblivious to stringencies and prosperous times, Mother Earth goes on, year after year, giving up the products of her soil, which constitutes the liberty of acres.

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—Famous for Spitzenberg Apples

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