

The Dalles Daily Chronicle.

Entered at the Postoffice at The Dalles, Oregon as second-class matter.

THE DALLES OREGON

HUNTING WILD BEES.

The Ingenious Method of a Connecticut Man.

Tracking the insects to their trees with the Aid of Leaf Sugar - How It is Done - Bees with a "Jag."

Up in Litchfield county lives Bert Beeman, one of the most famous bee hunters of the state, writes a Connecticut correspondent of the New York Sun. Mr. Beeman takes to the business by instinct, and so far this season has found nine bee trees and scooped in a hundred pounds of wild honey, and wild honey, it must be remembered, has a flavor peculiarly its own, which cannot be duplicated in those concoctions of glucose and flavoring extracts manufactured to order. Mr. Beeman has his own method of finding bee trees, and he does not reveal them to every Tom, Dick and Harry who asks him. Bee trees are not so numerous in Connecticut that there are enough to go round, so those few who possess the peculiar nature or instinct which picks out such a hive are keeping their knowledge to themselves.

There is one method which the Litchfield county bee hunter uses in certain cases which he has no objection to being known. When he leaves home for an expedition he takes along with him several lumps of loaf sugar. Arriving in the woods he moistens two or three lumps and places them on the stump of an old tree or on a rock, and sits down to smoke his pipe and wait. Developments come rapidly. A busy bee flies over the spot, scents the sugar, takes a few sips, and flies away. Pretty soon it returns, accompanied by other bees, and these go and bring more, until finally quite a swarm will be hovering over that sugar. Mr. Beeman gets in his work now. Cautiously he catches one of the bees, and with his sharp penknife he slits both wings. This doesn't harm the bee, and makes it distinctive. Keeping his eye on this bee he takes out his watch and notes the time when it flies away and the time when it comes back again, also the direction which it takes. From long experience the hunter knows just how long it will take a bee laden with honey to fly a certain distance and discharge its load of sweets, and how long it requires to return without its load. By making his calculations he knows just about how far the big tree is. Following the direction of the bee's flight to the distance he has calculated, it doesn't take long, with careful watching, to find the tree. As a rule this system works perfectly, though circumstances may make the location of the tree somewhat tedious and laborious. Mr. Beeman's experience has brought him in a good income during the fall of each year, and he has gained quite a reputation as a honey hunter.

A peculiar story of bees on a glorious spree comes from up Bristol way, and shows that "jag," however delightful it may be to the senses, sometimes results fatally to insects as well as individuals. Mrs. Theodore Hyde was making "sweet pickle" pears a few days ago, and sweet pickle, especially after it is spiced, has a very penetrating as well as seductive odor. Mrs. Hyde left the jar of pickle in her kitchen, with the window open, for a little while, until she had time to run into a neighbor's and swap receipts for making pickles. On her return she was greatly put out, not to say alarmed, to find that her new pickle had attracted a swarm of bees, and her kitchen was in possession of the insects, which knew how to defend themselves when attacked. She awaited the return of her husband at dinner time to know what to do. He quietly picked up the jar and set it out on the lawn where, during the afternoon, the bees continued to imbibe the intoxicating concoction until over half the swarm were in a state of inebriety.

The jar remained out of doors all night. The next morning the two quarts of pickle were entirely gone, while in the jar were two quarts of dead bees which had perished from cold while too drunk to fly home. It was the most destructive jag in loss of life ever known in that region of the state.

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MIDWINTER FAIR.

CALIFORNIA MIDWINTER INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION.—DEPARTMENT OF PUBLICITY AND PROMOTION.

(Weekly Circular Letter—No. 6.)

The Exposition management has rejoiced cause for congratulation on each succeeding day in view of the fact that the fame of the Midwinter Fair is spreading so rapidly and so satisfactorily in the East that the number of Eastern visitors who are to be expected during the winter seems sure to succeed their most sanguine expectations. The newspapers of the large Eastern cities, and those of the small towns in that part of the country as well, seem to have tackled as kindly to our Exposition proposition as those who are near by, and who might therefore be expected to reap a more direct benefit from it. But among all the nice things that have been said in the Eastern papers in this connection none has proven more valuable as an advertisement than an editorial utterance in the latest issue of the Review of Reviews, one of the most conservative periodicals in the country. This utterance was as follows:

"The Exposition will help to give definite form to many a man's vague plans for visiting the Pacific Coast, and that perhaps will be its greatest service to its country. Everybody in the East intends sometime to make a trip to California, but the distance is formidable, and old men are dying every day who had meant since 1849 to see the Golden Gate some time or other, but had never got started. The fact of the Midwinter Fair should transform general intentions into specific plans. Patriotism, if nothing else, should impel every American who can possibly afford it to see for himself the wonders that lie upon the western margin of this glorious country."

The above paragraph most assuredly echoes Eastern sentiment and goes a great way towards dispelling the idea which some Californians still cling to that the influx of Eastern visitors will not be large. The railroad people have long ago recognized this fact and are now making elaborate preparations for transportation. Strangers are certainly coming to the Pacific Coast this winter by thousands, and when they get here, thanks to the eleventh-hour railway arrangements, they are going to have an opportunity to visit the entire Coast, so that San Francisco can not justly be said to reap even the lion's share of the advantages at hand. This fact is becoming more widely recognized as the date for the opening of the Fair draws near, and there is a general feeling of pride in the coming Exposition, and of determination that it should be everything that has been promised for it.

An experiment was made on Sunday last in the way of charging admission to the Exposition grounds. The only special attraction offered was a balloon ascension and a parachute jump from the airship when it was at the height of 2,000 feet. Otherwise there were only the buildings to see and the workmen pushing them along toward completion, yet nearly 4,000 people paid 25 cents each to gain admission to the grounds, and several hundreds have paid the same admission on each succeeding day during the week. This is accepted by the management as unmistakable evidence of the fact that the drawing powers of the Exposition have not been overestimated. When once the Fair is started there will be no doubt about liberal patronage.

It is the intention of the management, however, that special features shall be widely advertised during the entire duration of the Exposition, and it is to that end that days have been set apart for special observance under favorable auspices for the entire term. In this way more than half the days of the Exposition have thus been programmed. For the first month the programme is not an elaborate one, inasmuch as the opening days of the Exposition are naturally supposed to take care of themselves. The California Pioneers, however, have their day in January, having selected the 24th. Stanford university will celebrate on the 26th, and Butte county will turn out her entire population on the 29th. In February there will be a grand musical festival on the 8th; the Pacific Coast Association of Fire Chiefs will celebrate on the 9th, North Dakota day the 14th and Idaho the 15th. The Benevolent Order of Elks will conduct a very interesting observance of the 17th of February as their special day. Southern California will turn itself loose on the 19th. The Young Men's institute will have the 20th, Santa Cruz county the 21st and Washington's birthday will probably suffice as the special feature for the rest of the month.

In March there will be another grand musical festival on the 8th, the Teachers' congress on the 13th, a geographical congress on the 16th and a characteristic celebration of St. Patrick's day on the 17th. The state of Michigan and the state of Nevada have the 13th and 22d of March, respectively, and Sierra county will celebrate on the 14th. In the month of April the university of California has its day; so also does the Order of Chosen Friends and the Knights and Ladies of Honor. The Native Sons of the Golden West also hold forth in April, having selected the 20th for their day. The Odd Fellows have selected April 25 and the Grand Army of the Republic the 27th.

The programme for May is the most complete of all so far, beginning on the 1st of the month with California day, and including between that and the 21st a half dozen county days, to say nothing of a grand San Rafael rose festival on the 7th and German May festival on the 9th, Knights of Pythias day on the 19th, a day for the Order of Druids on the 16th, Good Templars' day on the 29th and a characteristic Decoration day observance on the 30th.

The closing month of the Fair includes a Foresters' day on the 9th, United Workmen's day on the 19th and a day to be observed under the auspices of the San Francisco Federation of Women on the 21st. In addition to these the Italians will celebrate the 2d, Santa Clara college the 6th, Santa Clara county the 14th, Sonoma county the 15th and the Bunker Hill association the 18th, the entire enthusiasm of the Exposition to reach its climax in a grand closing celebration on Sunset day, June 30, 1894.

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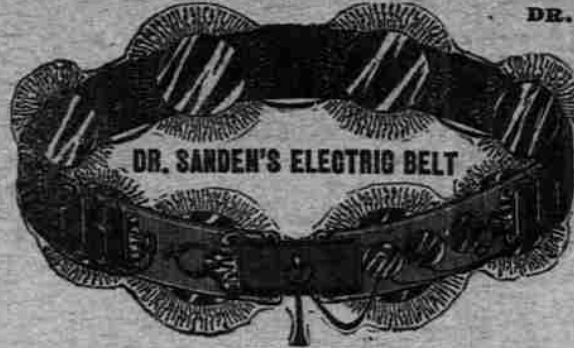
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