



The Boardman Mirror

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Electricity

What is it? Do you know. The word is derived from the Greek, meaning amber. A chap by the name of Thales in 600 B. C. found by rubbing amber with silk it attracted light and dry bodies. This was as far as the ancients advanced in the science of present day watts and kilowatts. Business was bad up until 1600 A. D. when a gent named Gilbert invented a machine and wrote a book. He constructed a machine which consisted of a glass ball turned by a handle and rubbed by a cloth pressed against it by hand. In 1739 a man by the name of Grey transmitted from one point to the other. In 1733 the conductor and nonconductor were discovered. In 1746 the Leyden Jar was accidentally discovered. And along in 1752 our own beloved Benj. Franklin pulled the "juice" from the Heavenly ether with his famous kite. In 1760 Benjamin made the first lightning conductor and opened an industry for "rod peddlers" that caused American architecture to resemble the turrets of Babylon.

Thus we "step up" as the juice is "stepped" down to the present day Dr. Steinmetz. It might be said that from B. C. to the present day they are all "feeling." One will tell you that electricity is a fluid and that it may be poured as you pour water. Another will tell you that it is due to a peculiar strain or stress of a medium called ether. That when in this condition the ether possesses potential energy or capacity for doing work. That electricity is not a form of matter, it possessing only two physical properties in common with material substances, namely, indestructibility and elasticity. It does not possess weight or extension. Another will tell you that electricity is created by the contact of dissimilar substances—the positive and the negative.

Did you ever notice the friction caused by a positive wife and a negative husband. If this "juice" could have been started from the time Adam gambled with the apple to the present day, the 1925 Fair would be super-lighted. And again follow this gent, who evidently ranks high in the science. Matter, the ultimate atom is a group of electrons, a series of infinitely minute solar systems in a constant reciprocal bombardment. They radiate continually a certain amount of force which passes thru the ether atmosphere as vibrations. Vibrations from 25 to 40,000 per second are known as sound vibrations. Vibrations from one million to two million per second are known as electricity. This unknown quantity seems to be running in an open field, subject to the findings of scientist or layman alike. Permit me to ease myself by telling you what I think it is. It is a "bug." Don't confuse this with the cootie family. In many brains this electric bug is unborn today, but the coming decade will be an electrical one and this bug will a-

waken in all of us the needs and comforts electricity will bring.

Electricity enters all phases of life. The fish, the frog, the animal and the being. You hear it said, "my, but she has personality." It's ohms watts, amperes that she is dispensing. Her wiring is more sensitive than the average sister and her light shines more brilliantly. Electricity developed by water power can do more than any one thing to lower the cost of living and raise the standard. It is the root of agricultural wealth and the key to industrial life of the future. This broad general development will never be attained by private power companies. It must come thru Government and State aid. Are you awake to the needs of the times.

Luke's Consolation.

Whatever else may happen,
Since our country has gone dry,
The sailor still will have his port,
The farmer have his rye;
The cotton still will have its gin,
The seacoast have its beer,
And each of us will have a beer,
No matter where we are.

—Luke McLuke, in Cincinnati Enquirer.

Woodson on Jap Question.

As many on the West Extension expressed surprise that Representative Woodson voted against House Bill No. 101, generally known as the Anti-Japanese bill. I take this opportunity to set the matter before them in its true light. I wrote Mr. Woodson asking him to define his attitude in regard to this bill which carried in the house but was defeated in the senate, reminding him that this locality was interested because it might attract Japanese settlement, as do most irrigated districts.

His reply which fully explains the situation follows, and seems to be a satisfactory explanation of his action in the matter.

Yours Truly,

A. W. COBB,
Pres. Com. Club.

Salem, Oregon,
February 19, 1921.

Mr. A. W. Cobb,
Boardman, Oregon.

Dear Sir:

I have just found time to reply to your letter of the 16th inst. relative to the anti-alien act. I beg to say in this connection that I am absolutely opposed to the Japanese and wish to go much farther in the matter than House Bill No. 102. I hope in the near future to see such treaty arrangement between this country and Japan that Japanese will not be permitted to come here in numbers.

All that House Bill 102 can do is to prevent such people from acquiring land in Oregon. At the time of voting on this matter I had before me a telegram of Senator McNary's as follows:

"With Senator Lodge chairman of Foreign Relations committee I discussed today the Japanese question from Federal standpoint. He gave as his opinion that the government early in the next administration would take care of this question in a way satisfactory to the Western people and that the states concerned should take no action that might lead to governmental embarrassment in the consideration of this important subject. You may quote me."

The Republican party in its platform on which Harding was elected pledged itself to national legislation which would relieve the situation existing in the Western states on account of the presence of the Japanese. I have great faith in the new administration honestly endeavoring to do the things to which it stands pledged, and under the circumstances did not feel that it was best to hamper the Federal government in its efforts to solve this vexed question. Should the national government fail to alleviate the situation now existing in this and other states then I shall gladly support any efforts on the part of the states themselves. I have faith in the party in power and want to see it have every chance to redeem its pledges without hindrance.

Sincerely yours,

E. E. WOODSON.

DO RABBITS WHISTLE AND CAUSE THE WIND?

We print below a communication from one L. L. Bush of Bay Center, Wash., proving that rabbits whistle and in substantiation of Mr. Bush's theory we also publish the expert testimony on this subject by one of our subscribers:

BAY CENTER, WASH., Feb. 23.—(To the Editor.)—Anent John Burroughs' answer to the question whether rabbits make a whistling sound in signaling or in fear, permit me to say:

A number of times, perhaps several dozen altogether, I have heard a near whistling sound which the Indians have always told me is the sound of the rabbit.

The sound is nearly a whistle, but slightly vocalized. A slight approximation to it may be made by a common whistle through the lips, wasting much unused breath through both lips and nose.

It is some years since I heard it last; but as I recall, the sound is made at intervals of perhaps two or three seconds for perhaps a half dozen times, then a wait for a time before the series is repeated. I have never noted it except in the woods, in the early part of the night but well after dark, and always at a distance. The series of sounds have sometimes been repeated at intervals for two or three hours, I think.

My Indian informants were familiar with all the wild life of the region, and would be unlikely to be mistaken as to the bird or mammal making the sound.

L. L. BUSH.

To The Editor:

To further enlighten the John Burroughs surmise and to substantiate the Indian lore given by L. L. Bush that rabbits whistle permit me to pass on to those who live to learn a brer whistle legend of an upper Columbia River Indian, George Winnimuc. The upper reaches of the Columbia River are known for their heavy westerly winds. George imparted to me in a heavy "salmon guttural" that these winds were not brewed by the whims and caprices of whimsical nature, but that all the rabbits of the Columbia River Basin gathered at some point in Wasco county for a potlatch. That in the evening they united for a whistle concert and hence the winds along the upper reaches of the Columbia. At the time I passed it along as a bon mot of a Columbia River Indian. But Mr. Bush's letter has set me to thinking. The past two years the county agents of Umatilla, Morrow, Gilliam and Sherman counties have put on drives to exterminate the rabbit. Thru procedure of poison and combined drives the rabbit has been driven out. I have lived here for twenty years and in all that time I have never known as little wind as we have had the past year. It may be that nature has been kind to us and again that the rabbit has failed to function. Many times in hunting the rabbit, where it had too long a lead for a good shot, I have whistled, causing it to stop and assume a sitting position of attention and alertness. I am not positive of its ever answering back for the excitement of the hunt coursed thru my veins and the finer technique of the rabbit was lost sight of. But the very fact that the rabbit recognizes the whistle is sufficient to support Mr. Bush's theory that rabbits whistle.

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