

TURTLE FISHING off the FLORIDA COAST

Key West, Fla., was for many years the center of a prosperous fishery for sea turtles, but recently the business has been rapidly dwindling owing to the improvident methods employed, the young and the old and even the eggs being gathered in without thought of the future.

Three species of turtle, the green, the loggerhead and the hawksbill, are caught and handled by the Key West fishermen and dealers, according to an article in the Montreal Star. The green turtle is the most highly prized for food. This turtle is found on the Atlantic seaboard from Long Island to Brazil, and at one time was especially common on the keys along the Florida coast.

The female turtle lays from 300 to 600 eggs in a season, burying them in the sand and leaving them to hatch without further attention. Owing to their many enemies it is probable that but few of the young turtles survive. The loggerhead turtle occurs along the Atlantic coast from Virginia to Brazil and is common on both the east and the west coast of Florida. It is more common than the green turtle, which is undoubtedly owing to the fact that it is the least valuable of the marine turtles and there is little demand for its flesh. More eggs of this species are taken for food, however, than of any other.

Grows to Enormous Size.

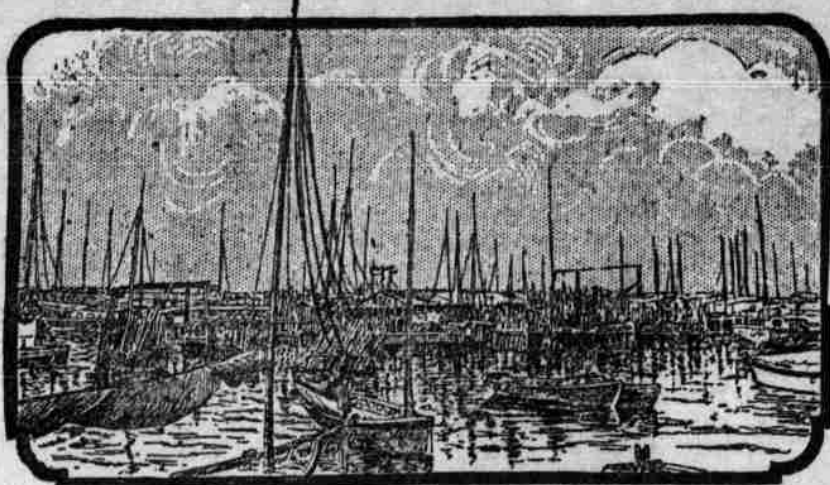
It attains an enormous size, far surpassing the green turtle. Examples weighing 1,600 pounds have been captured, but the average now is probably about 200 pounds.

The female of this species breeds during the summer, the first eggs being laid generally during the night of full moon in June. A peculiar feature of the laying process is that nothing apparently disturbs the creature or is sufficient to drive her away. Striking her with a stick or jumping up and down on her back produces no effect. After finishing, however, she is very timid and flees for the water at the slightest noise.

The hawksbill or tortoise shell turtle is found on the southern coast of Florida, and thence to the West Indies, the Bermudas and South America. The flesh is rarely eaten, although the eggs are gathered for food and for the manufacture of oil. The great value of this species is in its horny covering, which is the tortoise shell of commerce.

The hawksbill does not grow very large, the maximum weight not exceeding 400 pounds. Those with a greater weight than 100 pounds are not now common on the Florida coast. The shell of the smaller turtle is thin and of little use; it increases in thickness and value with the size of the animal.

In tortling gill nets and cast nets are generally used. The former are about 100 yards in length with a



stretch mesh of from 24 to 26 inches. They are either anchored or drifted at night, and the turtles swimming along get tangled up in them and fall an easy prey.

As the hawksbill turtles spend most of their time at the bottom in deep water, different apparatus must be used to catch them. The turtle first discovers their location by means of a water telescope, which is an ordinary water bucket with a wooden bottom removed and a pane of glass substituted. By putting this on the surface bottom down and placing the head in the upper part the bottom is clearly visible.

When found a round iron hoop with a bag of coarse twine is lowered over the animal and as he struggles upward he becomes entangled in it and is brought to the surface and drawn into the boat. A three tooth grapnel is also used at times. This is lowered and the animal is caught by the shoulder.

Keeping Turtles Alive After Capture.

Turtles generally have special spots in shallow water close to shore to which they return every night, and each animal has its own wallow or burrow, where it remains when not eating or traveling. It is in these places that they are generally sought. In pegging the aim is to drive the peg in the chimes of the carapace of the turtle, as this offers the best holding part and does the least damage to the animal. When a turtle is seen the pegger stands erect on the forward thwart with his miniature harpoon poised for a prompt throw at the right moment.

As soon as the animal is hit it dives and drags the boat forward at a rapid rate. It is very soon compelled to come to the surface to breathe and is then easily secured by means of a rope, if too large to be taken into the boat.

When landed at Key West the turtles which have been kept alive—all that die are thrown away as worthless—are placed in small, square pens of watted stakes, called kraals, built in the water, close to shore and in staked compartments under wharves, and

there kept until sale days or until they have recovered from the voyage. Here they are fed on a marine plant known as turtle grass, sweet potato vines, morning glory vines, mangrove leaves, etc. When a sufficient number of turtles have accumulated an auction sale is held.

The upper shell of the hawksbill is covered with thirteen plates, called collectively in the trade the head. The plates vary in thickness from an eighth to a quarter of an inch, according to the age and size of the animal, and weigh collectively from four to six pounds. These plates form the tortoise shell of commerce and bring about \$3 a pound.

In securing the plates the animal must be handled while still alive. The shell is first cut loose from the turtle with a knife. It is then put into a boiler of boiling water, and in about five minutes the plates can be ripped off with a knife. If allowed to remain a little longer in the water the plates would drop off of their own accord, but they would be injured by too long submersion in the hot water.

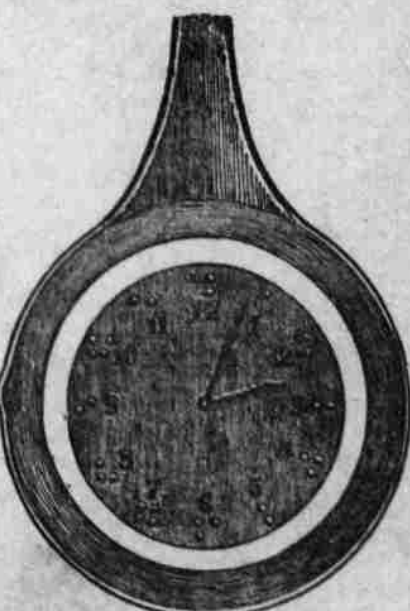
The Cubans use a knife heated almost white and with this tear off the plates and let the still living animal go. Formerly the plates were detached from the bony framework by laying the animal while alive on a hot fire or sometimes by soaking it while alive in boiling water. Fortunately these inhuman methods are rarely practised now.

The under shell of the hawksbill, called in the trade yellow belly and by the fishermen calpee, is also saved. After being dissolved by means of chemicals it is used in the manufacture of meerschaum pipes. The upper shell of the loggerhead is employed in the manufacture of cheap combs, glue, etc.

The proverbial nine lives of the cat are well known, but the cat is not in it with a turtle when it comes to hanging onto life. Signor Rodi of Italy, once cut a turtle's head off and noted that it lived for twenty-three days without a head, and another whose brain he removed lived for six months, apparently unconscious that it had suffered any loss.

seemed to his eye to possess certain qualities of size and shape which marked her for experiment. She was crossed with the Seebright bantam. This gave the rose comb and the laced feathers. A further cross with the partridge cochin fixed the color and increased the size, while an admixture of Plymouth Rock helped in the establishment of the general type and heightened the laying qualities. The fowls thus produced were golden Wyandottes, with rose comb, clean legs and feathers laced with black on a gold ground; but they had not one drop of Wyandotte blood. They were subsequently crossed with the white Wyandottes to increase the stability of the type.

A CLOCK FOR THE BLIND.



The clock shown in this illustration is a rather ingenious assembling of an ordinary alarm clock minus its case, a discarded frying pan, and a circular sheet of copper, to form a timepiece by which the blind can tell

the exact time. The copper sheet is the dial, and upon it are stamped the dots which form the numbers of the Braille system of letters and figures. It was made in the Missouri School for the Blind.—Popular Mechanica.

A King's Old Clothes.

The posthumous sale of the wardrobe of King George IV. of England realized \$75,000. Greville, who attended the sale, says that the king "hardly ever gave anything away except his linen, which was distributed every year. There are all the coats he has ever had for fifty years, 200 whips, canes without number, every sort of uniform, the costumes of all the orders in Europe, splendid furs, pelisses, hunting coats and breeches. His profusion in these articles was unbounded because he never paid for them, and his memory was so accurate that one of his pages told me he recollected every article of dress, no matter how old, and that they were always liable to be called on to produce some particular coat or other article of apparel of years gone by."

A Discouraging Theory.

"Why do those critics say such disagreeable things?" asked the unhappy actress.

"You mustn't blame them," answered the manager. "Probably they want to avoid being overlooked in the struggle for attention."

"But can't they attract attention by saying pleasant things?"

"Not so much. When I was out west I learned that the man who pulls a gun on you is remembered twice as long as the one who offers you a cigar."—Washington Star.

We don't care whether people like music or not, but we object to people calling 'coon songs music.

Nearly every father says of his children: "They are bad because their mother spoils them."

THE WEEKLY HISTORIAN



1639—The first written constitution known to history adopted at Hartford, Conn.

1706—Benjamin Franklin, statesman and scientist, born in Boston. Died in Philadelphia, April 17, 1790.

1730—Gov. Montgomery granted the city of New York a new charter.

1777—Vermont passed a declaration of independence.

1781—Americans under Gen. Morgan defeated the British at Compens, S. C.

1794—Commodore James Armstrong, distinguished naval officer, born in Shelbyville, Ky. Died August 25, 1868.

1806—John Breckinridge of Kentucky became attorney general of the United States.

1814—Thanksgiving in Great Britain for successes over Bonaparte.... Pomerania and Rugen annexed to Denmark.

1830—The charter of Randolph-Macon College granted.

1838—Canadian rebels forced to evacuate Navy Island.

1842—Sir Charles Bagot arrived in Canada to take office as governor general.

1846—Fifty lives lost in a theater fire in the city of Quebec.

1849—Vancouver Island ceded to the Hudson's Bay Company.

1856—First State election held in Kansas.

1857—The Kansas territorial Legislature met at Leecompton.

1858—Attempted assassination of Napoleon III. by Orsini.

1861—Confederates seized the forts and barracks at Pensacola.

1862—Confederates defeated in battle at Middle Creek, Ky.... John Tyler, tenth President of the United States, died at Richmond, Va. Born at Greenway, Va., March 20, 1790.

1863—Engagement between Federal and Confederate forces at Bayou Teche, Louisiana.... Federal forces captured Arkansas Post, Arkansas.

1864—Sir John Lawrence made viceroy of India. Society for promoting aerial navigation formed in Paris.

1865—Bombardment and assault of Fort Fisher.... The Federals took Fort Fisher, North Carolina.

1866—Lyman Trumbull of Illinois introduced the civil rights bill in the United States Senate.

1868—Gov. Jenkins of Georgia removed from office by Gen. Meade.

1875—Gladstone resigned the leadership of the Liberal party.

1876—Memorable debate in the House of Representatives between James G. Blaine and Benjamin H. Hill of Georgia on the subject of "Amnesty."

1879—Sir William Johnston Ritchie appointed chief justice of Canada.

1880—Albert Institute, Windsor, opened by the Prince of Wales.

1884—The new Iowa State capital at Des Moines dedicated.

1887—The huge upper table rock at Niagara Falls fell, due to weight of accumulated ice.

1891—Indian war in the Northwest ended by the submission of the hostile Sioux.

1893—Mural tablet placed in Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, in memory of Henry Ward Beecher.... F. B. Stockbridge re-elected United States Senator from Michigan.... William McKinley inaugurated Governor of Ohio.

1895—Toronto visited by a million-dollar fire, the second within a week.... Casimir-Perier resigned the presidency of the French republic.

1897—Anglo-American arbitration treaty signed at Washington.... Alva Adams began his second term at Governor of Colorado.

1900—Disastrous fire at Dawson City.

1901—Kingdom of Prussia celebrated its bi-centenary.

1903—National Board of Trade of the United States passed a resolution favoring reciprocity with Canada.

1904—Extreme cold in Eastern Canada, breaking the record for many years.

1907—Governor Cummins of Iowa in inaugural address urged reform of United States constitution to provide for election of President, Vice President and Senators by the people.... Grand jury at Findley, Ohio, returned 939 indictments against the Standard Oil Company and its high officials.

1908—American battleship fleet welcomed at Rio de Janeiro.

1909—King Victor Emmanuel of Italy received the officers of the American battleship fleet.... Banquet in Atlanta in honor of President-elect Taft.... A. Lawrence Lowell elected president of Harvard University.

Col. Michael Shaughnessy, Civil War veteran and former United States Marshal in the South, is dead at Salt Lake, Utah. He is said to have fought a bloodless duel during his term of office with Senator Lamar of Mississippi.

FARM NOTES

Profit in Crop Rotation.

Farmers in lower Delaware are greatly interested in an experiment just concluded by Capt. William E. Lank, who has thoroughly proven the advantage of the rotation of crops on a four-acre field. Last spring he manured the four acres, which had been in corn the previous year. The manure was plowed under, the ground well harrowed and peas drilled in. The crop grew well, and in June the peas were sold at a net profit of \$92.

As soon as the peas were removed, plows again turned the soil over and it was again with corn. From this a fine crop of fodder was saved, yielding a net profit of \$65. The ground now has a fine set of scarlet clover on it, the seed having been sown at the last harrowing of the corn, with every indication of \$40 worth of clover hay in the spring and a constant improvement to the land.

Construction of Colony House.

During the dull season our local lumber dealer and his assistant built some portable colony poultry-houses as follows, writes an Indiana correspondent of Orange Judd Farmer: The frame is securely bolted to the sills, which are made sled-runner style. The walls are made from closely-fitted tongue and groove drop-siding. The floors are tight, and the ventilators covered with screen wire to keep out rats, weasels, etc.; the cover is roofing felt. Each house is painted. The size is 6 by 8 feet; 6 feet high in front and 4 at the back. They cost me \$15 each for all material and work. Very likely they could be built for less in places where lumber is cheaper.

First Imported Horses.

It is said that the first horses imported into New England were brought over in 1629, or nine years after the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers. One stallion and seven mares survived the voyage. From this it will be seen that the first nine years of our history was a horseless "age" in New England. The colonists in Virginia differed from the sober-minded Puritans of New England in being fond of sport, loving fast horses and trying their speed on the race track. The horses imported were English hunters and racers. Fearnought, brought over in 1784, left his mark on a numerous progeny of uncommon beauty, size and speed.

Keeping Up Spraying Fight.

The fight against insect, scale and fungus diseases in our orchards must not be dropped with the harvesting of the fruit crops. It cannot be hoped that you have, by your spraying operations during the summer season, killed all the scale insects and fungi, and doubtless during the press of work on the farm during the midsummer season the matter will have been neglected, or very little done, since the fruit was formed, and it can be depended upon that there will now be on your orchard trees a fine collection of all sorts ready to hibernate and come forth in the spring stronger than ever.

How West Has Developed.

Five years ago it was freely predicted that land values in the West had reached their height, but they are 20 to 40 per cent higher now than then. The families of the first comers are grown. The second generation has come to the fore and is taking part in the business of the communities. They have grown up with the country and know what it can produce and just how valuable it is for the purpose of production and for a home.—C. M. Harger in the Atlantic Magazine.

Good Roads of Sawdust.

Making good roads with sawdust is being practiced in a number of localities in the South. Two ridges of earth are thrown up (a road machine being required to do the work) at a certain width from each other, the space between being filled with a six-inch bed of sawdust. Dirt is then mixed with the sawdust, and it is claimed that heavily loaded vehicles in passing over this kind of a road make no impression upon it. It is estimated that the cost of building is about \$250 per mile.

Feeding Calves by Hand.

It is always best to feed the calves by hand, because one knows just what they are getting and how much. It is really not such a terrible task to feed a dozen calves, but is quite a nuisance to go through the motion just for one or two. Perhaps a great many dairy-men who object to raising calves or their own herds would change their minds if they should practice it in a wholesale way.

Light in Cow Stables.

The light in a cow stable should come from the rear of the cows, so the milkers can see to clean the cows properly for milking. This arrangement is accomplished in modern stables by building them thirty-four to thirty-six feet wide and having two rows of cows facing toward a feeding alley in the center.

Public Troughs Dangerous.

Be careful about letting your horses drink from public watering troughs when there are any contagious diseases in the country. The trough is a fine distributing center for infection.

World's Wheat Crop, 1909.

Broomhall's final estimate of the 1909 wheat crop of the world places the total wheat production of the wheat acreage of the world at 3,347,000,000 bushels, an increase of 285,000,000 bushels over the production in 1908, a 427,000,000 bushel increase over the crop of 1907. The production in Europe aggregated 1,872,000,000 bushels, being 160,000,000 bushels over the 1908 crop. The crops of North and South America reaches 1,500,000,000 bushels, or 80,000,000 bushels over last year. It is likely that this great production will not be more than enough to supply the demands of the world's population.

Conservative Corn Policy.

It is, after all, but evidence of a desire to speculate when the corn belt farmer, particularly the one located in the northern part, plants a type of corn which is too big to mature in the season lying between the limits of killing frosts in spring and fall.

Where an exceptionally favorable season makes possible the proper maturity of such corn one year, there will be a half dozen seasons when it will get hit with the frost before it is ripe and sour and mold in the crib. It is better to play safe and grow a smaller and earlier maturing type.

Feeding Substitute for Corn.

In these days of high priced corn there is a lesson in the experience of Boyden Pearce of Hancock County, Me., who says: "I have been forced to depend upon my farm for my pork and have learned that plenty of rutabaga turnips, clover and one bag of corn will put a hog through the winter; then to pasture till fall. It makes good pork and at a low price. There is money in it and no need to depend upon the West for pork."

Salt for Milking Cows.

Your cows will get enough salt by simply putting a lump of rock salt in the manger. A cow giving a good flow of milk, well fed, ought to have two ounces of salt a day, an ounce in the morning and an ounce at night. Some advise giving this to them on their ensilage, when you feed ensilage and grain. You can take a small piece of salt in your fingers and weigh it, and will soon be able to judge the amount in an ounce.

Cleanliness in Dairy Counts.

Cleanliness in all lines of dairying counts for quality of products. After milk vessels have been washed with soap and hot water they must be finally rinsed with scalding water. When scalding water is used no drying with rags will be necessary, as the heat from the water will dry the vessels without aid. Sunning after cleaning is to be commended.

Animal and Bird Farm Aids.

According to the Department of Agriculture of France a toad is worth \$9; a lizard, \$9; a swallow, \$20; a titmouse, \$8; the robin, \$4; a mat, \$30; an owl, \$12; a screech owl, \$16; a fern owl, \$30. That looks bad when some of us come to think it over and call to mind how many of our friends we have killed.

Providing Salt for Pigeons.

On one of the largest squab plants in this country salt is furnished the breeders by dipping the small chicks in water and then allowed to dry until they become hard and firm. These are then placed in the lofts and the pigeons pick out the salt through the sacks. Never give common granulated salt loose.

Whitewashing the Houses.

Nothing is better for poultry buildings from a sanitary point of view than a good coat of whitewash. Especially is this true when getting the poultry houses ready for the winter. All may not be aware there is quite a science in whitewashing. There are different kinds, and each is adapted for a different use.

Working for Top of Ladder.

Do not hesitate to work on the top rounds of a ladder in the poultry business. The higher you get the less crowded it is, and therefore the better the business pays, says a writer in an exchange. You may feel a little lonesome at times, but it is the kind of loneliness that is right easy to bear.

The Power in Gasoline.

The power of gasoline is really marvelous. The man who has used gasoline power for years does not marvel at it as does the recent purchaser. A gallon of this liquid will easily carry five passengers ten or fifteen miles, or it will grind feed cheaper than the man with horses that need the exercise can do it. Great is gasoline.

Innoculation of Alfalfa.

The results from more than 100 cooperative experiments in growing alfalfa, located in over one-half of the counties of New York State, indicate that where neither the lime nor inoculation is applied the chance of a successful crop is not more than 20 per cent, or one chance in five.