

HOMING INSTINCT OF TOADS

Like Pigeons, They May Yet Be Made Useful Bearers of Messages, Says Naturalist.

Armed may yet use toads as message bearers in place of carrier pigeons if this incident related in a letter to the editor of Every Week is found to have general application:

"Dallas Lore Sharp, the naturalist and writer of nature books, told me that toads possess the homing instinct. 'Take one away from the spot where it has always lived and he will return, even though you have carried him ten miles,' said Mr. Sharp.

"I resolved, then, to try an experiment with Teddy, the big toad who has made his home in my garden in Wakefield for the past five years. Writing my name on a tag, I tied it to Teddy's hind leg and took a train to Boston. Then I transferred to an elevated train which carried me to Charlestown, on the outskirts of the city. At the corner of Perkins and Haverhill streets, Charlestown, near the B. and M. signal tower where I am employed on night duty, I let Teddy out of the box. He blinked at the arc lights a second or so, darted out his tongue and gobbled a few Charlestown mosquitoes, and began straightway to hop along the side of the street to Mystic avenue. When he reached the corner he made a bee line for Wakefield, hopping off in the darkness at a lively pace.

"It was just 11:15 p. m. when I went on duty at the tower and 8:20 when I reached home the next morning. Imagine my surprise and pleasure when, on entering the yard, I discovered Teddy in his accustomed place, under the sill cock, against the side of the house, taking a bath—I presume—after his long, dry and dusty hop of nine miles. The tag with my name was still tied to his leg."

SOMETHING MORE THAN "TOY"

Quaint Old Legend Having to Do With Plow Is Particularly Appropriate Just Now.

There is a quaint old legend of Alsace, recalls the Christian Science Monitor, concerning a family of giants who, once upon a time, lived in a certain castle in the old country. The moral of the story seems appropriate at a time when the French minister of agriculture is making special effort to encourage the cultivation of land.

The giants lived, says the legend, far from the peasants of the plain and one day the daughter of the house, who though quite a child, was already thirty feet high, strolled toward a plain and saw a laborer peacefully plowing his fields. She picked up the peasant, the horse and the plow and put them in her pinafore and returned to the castle to show what she had found to her father.

"What you think is but a toy," said the giant, "is what produces the food which enables us to live. Put back the laborer and his horse where you found them." From that time onward, adds the tale, the peasants were never molested by the giants.

Women Soldiers.

Advertisements of Molly Pitcher of Revolutionary fame as the first feminine soldier in the United States have appeared. Perhaps she was the first, but certainly she wasn't the only one or the last.

There was Nancy Hart of Georgia, who took ten Tories prisoners; Deborah Sampson of Massachusetts, who enlisted in the Continental army, fought in battle after battle, her sex unsuspected, and headed military expeditions; Frances Hook of Illinois, who served in the Union army during the Civil war; Frances Wilson of New Jersey, Mary Owens of Pennsylvania, Major Belle Reynolds of Illinois.

Most famous of our Joans of Arc were Major Pauline Cushman, a Federal scout, and Capt. Belle Boyd, a Confederate spy, who saved Stonewall Jackson's army from destruction.

All the women who won reputations as soldiers proved themselves as brave, efficient and hardy as any man could be. Here's wishing more power to their elbow!—Spokane Spokesman Review.

Medicinal Literature.

The London Lancet departs for a moment from the austere halls of science to adventure into the fields and gardens of literature, though keeping one foot safe within the accustomed medical precincts. The Lancet discusses nothing less worthy than the works, writings, theories, maxims and plessantries of Master Francois Rubelais, the point being that his diversions into letters were simply part of his day's work as a practical medic. He wrote, the Lancet assures us, not for the untold generations of the future, not for the delectation of our own selves, but solely and strictly to amuse, hearten and brace up the spirits of his patients during the tedium of their illness, thereby aiding his cures and adding to his stature as a member of the faculty.

Master Francois was a great believer in the therapeutic value of literature.

The Lady or the Tiger?

"George," she said, "before I give you a final answer you must tell me something. Do you drink anything?" A smile of relief lighted his handsome countenance—was that all she wanted to know? Proudly, triumphantly he clasped her in his arms and whispered in her shell-like ear: "Anything!"—Gargoyle.

FAMOUS "FIELD OF BLOOD"

Said to Be Spot Judas Purchased With the Silver for Which He Sold His Master.

Just outside the walls of Jerusalem, in the Valley of Hinnom, is a rocky plain known as the Aceldama or Field of Blood. It is the potter's field, purchased with the 30 pieces of silver for which Judas sold his master. Here for centuries visitors to the holy city, dying while on their pilgrimage found a resting place.

Gray and barren, it is a desolate spot, solitary but for the chance visitor and a few withered gray-clad monks from a nearby monastery. For a small fee, one of these ancient recluses will show you the sights of the place. Caves and underground passages, honeycombed with tombs, are cut in the rocky field. Your guide leads you down age-worn steps, cut perhaps in the sixth century, into crumbling halls. His torch casts flickering uncanny shadows on the damp gray walls. The place seems to resent your intrusion; it is the "place of sleep," the hall of the dead. On one side is the tomb of some warrior monk who followed the fortunes of Richard Lion Heart of England to the holy land, dying at the very gates of the city his master had hoped to conquer. He must have died penniless, too, as so many of these zealots did, else his bones had not rested in the potter's field.

Near Aceldama is a ruined charnel house, said to have been built by the Crusaders for their dead. It is a tumbling ruin, nearly thirty feet long by twenty wide, with one side of naked rock. Beneath it are two of the largest caverns, their rock sides pierced with tombs and shallow graves. In the roof of the ruin are holes through which the bodies of the dead were lowered.

The Field of Blood is on the northeastern slope of the Hill of Evil Council, where tradition says the villa of Calaphas stood, and where the chief priest and elders plotted the execution of Jesus.

SAVE MONEY FOR FARMERS

Direct Testimony Showing That the Woodpecker Should Be Protected by All Agriculturists.

We are assured on high authority that if birds were as numerous today as they were 60 years ago it would mean a saving of many million dollars to American farmers. The slaughter of migratory birds is surely followed by the increase of destructive insects. Among the farmer's bird friends are the woodpeckers, especially the red-headed members of the species.

In proof there is cited the following instance: A pair of them nested in a dead cottonwood tree near an orchard. One day the observer watched them through a pair of glasses. The young birds were about half grown. The parents made 96 trips in one hour, each time with a worm. It is safe to say that they saved 96 apples in that hour—a box worth, say \$1. If the birds worked ten hours a day they were worth \$10 to the owner of that orchard, or, in the three weeks the birds were in the nest \$210. It is plain, then, that no farmer can afford to kill a woodpecker.

All Wrong, Napoleon.

"The dull, drab years of middle age," is the way a Y. M. C. A. worker classifies the period in a man's life from thirty-five to forty-five. He says that men of this age are frequenters of saloons, that they are mostly married and that they are not as desirable in the way of citizenship as the male individuals of seventeen to twenty-four, who spend much time with their sweethearts, or the male individuals more than forty-six, for that after passing forty-five and presumably surviving the "dull, drab years," a fellow turns his attention to things spiritual, generally to church work, and begins to live again. "The truth is," said a power of the rail, "this Y. M. C. A. gink seems to have lost, as a good many academic students of the saloon lose, the real solution. No better explanation ever has been made or ever will be made than that men go to the saloon because they have no place else to go that gives them the same sort of unconventional welcome. They go there not because their years are dull and drab, but because the gregarious instinct calls them."—New York Sun.

Primitive Submarine.

In the early part of the seventeenth century a submarine was successfully navigated in England from Westminster to Greenwich.

The inventor and navigator—Cornelius Drebel, a Dutchman—enjoyed the patronage of James I, and the credulous king was only prevented from taking part in a submarine trip by the assurance of some of his courtiers that Drebel was "in league with Old Nick."

The boat was so constructed that "a person could see under the surface of the water, and without candle light, as much as he needed to read in the Bible or any other book." It was also propelled by oars.

High Society.

Miss Richen-Friscky—My parents' wedding was very exclusive, doncha know. They were married in the Little Church Around the Corner, in New York. Miss Pooren-Sassy—Pooh, that's nothing. Mine went up in a balloon at the state fair and took the preacher with 'em.

Farm Notes by The Irrigon Boy Takes In State Fair.

Some time ago the county agent was notified to send out blanks to all owners and operators of threshing machines notifying them that they were required to make a report on the acreage and amount of grain threshed. A number have answered promptly while others are apparently not taking this request as applying to them. 91 farmers have reported harvesting 21,991 acres yielding 184,529 bushels or a little better than eight bushels per acre.

With most of the winter wheat averaging from 12 to 20 bushels one can realize the advantage gained by sowing in the fall. Spring wheat in some cases made as much as the winter wheat on the neighboring farm but the average must have been less than half in to lower the average to eight bushels.

The National Council of Defense has notified the county agent to urge the planting of winter wheat for an increase of ten to forty per cent over last year but this urging hardly seems necessary after a glance at the figures given below. The Extension, Division of the state with the Farm Crops department has announced the acreage for winter wheat in Morrow county as follows: Minimum 41,190 acres, maximum 52,700 acres, the season is favorable so let's forget the fellow who is continually saying that the Morrow county farmer must sow spring wheat and do even better than the maximum.

The varieties that have given the best results over a period of years are Turkey Red, FortyFold, and Bluestem and in that order of importance. Hybrid 53 is showing great promise and after another years testing will show how it stands compared to the leader Turkey Red. The farmer who knows his land will have little difficulty in choosing the right variety and now is the time to seed.

NO REASON FOR IT

When Heppner Citizens Show a Way.

There can be no reason why any reader of this who suffers the tortures of an aching back, the annoyance of urinary disorders, the pains and dangers of kidney ills will fail to heed the words of a neighbor who has found relief. Read what a Heppner citizen says:

I. R. Esteb, says: "I am a strong believer in Doan's Kidney Pills and whenever I get a chance I recommend them to others. I don't hesitate to do so, for I know they can't be beat. When I feel in need of a kidney medicine, I get a box of Doan's Kidney Pills from Humphrey's Drug Store, and in a few days the pain in my back is relieved and my kidneys become normal."

Price 60c, at all dealers. Don't simply ask for a kidney remedy—get Doan's Kidney Pills—the same that Mr. Esteb had. Foster-Milburn Co., Mfgs., Buffalo, N. Y.

Irrigon, Oregon, October 3, 1918. Editor Gazette-Times, Heppner, Oregon.

Dear Sir:— Mrs. Shurte asked me to send copy of my story to one of the local papers for publication about my trip to the State Fair, so I will ask you to publish the following:

"I took up the corn growing this summer as I could see a double advantage to it. Having taken up the pig club work, I had to have something to feed and fatten the pigs before could market them but did not think much about getting a free trip to the State Fair until our School Supt. Mrs. Shurte informed me at the County Fair that I had the first prize on my corn and a free trip to the State Fair, not only that but a second prize on my pigs too. My father needed me very bad to help out on the chores as we have six cows and other stock besides 25 pigs but he said I must go and I did and sure enjoyed myself and learned a lot about corn and other things. The speakers at meal times interested me and I tried to get every word they said. The corn judge gave the boys a talk on how to judge corn and how to select good seed. I got fifth prize at the State Fair and am going to try to do better next year.

One afternoon we took in the sights at Salem, the Capitol Building, asylum and the penitentiary. Saturday morning we packed up our things and said goodbye to everybody. I will never forget the good time I had and will do everything I can to get others to take up the club work next year.

Yours truly, LYLE SEAMAN.

Henry Smouse, extensive farmer of the lone section, was a pleasant caller at this office while in town on Thursday last. He has just finished threshing his crop of the M. R. Morgan farm and received a yield from 12 to 18 bushels. Good rains have prevailed during the week in his section and he looks forward to getting his fall sowing done under most favorable conditions.

Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Barlow of Fairview were visitors in Heppner over Friday night. Mr. Barlow states that he has never saw the pasture in the fields better than at present in his neighborhood. The recent abundant rains have put the ground in fine shape for fall work and grain now sown is coming along rapidly.

F. E. Bell, former Blackhorse rancher, but now a resident of the Spokane country, his postoffice being at Soap Lake, Wash., was doing business in this vicinity the past week. He contemplates selling his Blackhorse farm, for which he has been offered a good price.

Large Shipment of Sheep to Seattle. J. W. Beymer disposed of 10 cars of sheep to Frank Pennington of Toppenish, Wash., the past week and the mutton was shipped out to the cattle market on Saturday from the pen yards. Mr. Pennington was taking the sheep to market via Toppenish, where they would be detained for feeding. He was accompanied by Frank Roberts.

FOR SALE—A registered sow and boar, also some pigs ready to wean. 26-4t A. E. PIERCE, Ione, Ore

Wool Consumed in August. Manufacturers used a million and a half more pounds of wool in August than in July, 1918. August figures being 63,900,000 pounds, grease equivalent, compared to 62,300,000 in July. Monthly consumption has averaged about 67,000,000 pounds, grease equivalent, since January 1, 1918.

Stocks of wool consumed in August in pounds, by classes, as given by the Bureau of Markets, were: Grease, 37,769,216; scoured, 11,732,697; and pulled, 2,014,544. The reports show Massachusetts still leading in wool used, followed in order by Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Rhode Island, New York, New Hampshire, Ohio, Connecticut, and Maine. According to the latest available information on wool textile machinery equipment there are 6,377 woolen cards and 2,263 combs in the United States. The three firms whose reports are not included in the consumption figures have a combined capacity of 15 woolen cards and 9 worsted combs. This, it is pointed out, shows that the consumption report includes 99.7 per cent of the woolen machinery in the United States.

How The Forest Service Helps In War.

The Forest Service of the United States Department of Agriculture is mobilizing the country's forest resources for war by helping the War and Navy departments and munitions manufacturers get the kinds and quantities of wood needed for rifles, airplanes, wheels, and other specialties; finding out what kind and grades of wood are suitable for wartime's special requirements; training inspectors of wood materials; improving timber specifications; and investigating and testing material, processes, and products used in manufacture of war supplies derived in whole or in part from wood. It is also stimulating the production of meat, wool, and hides on National Forest ranges; cooperating with

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TUM-A-LUM LUMBER CO RETAIL LUMBER AND FUEL W. L. HOLMES, MGR., LEXINGTON, ORE or small town and build their final mansion, the enjoyment of which scarcely is in keeping with the many years of toil and sacrifice. It is not our intention to discourage home building by retired farmers in the town, for we must have towns since they are the salvation of every farming community. With an idea of helping our customers secure value received for the money they spend in home building, we are now prepared to render prospective home builders a helpful service; one that will eliminate the old idea that you have to build three homes before you get what you want. Real estate men devoting their energies to selling farm property will tell you that a well improved piece of farm property calls for less salesmanship than does the piece of property that has been neglected. Money that you have saved can be put to no better use than to make not only needed, but necessary repairs. No more worthy improvement can be made at this time than to build a modern, up-to-date, convenient, step-and-labor-saving home. Too many farmers put off building through their failure to realize that each year spent in the old home robs them of a year in the new home. Tum-A-Lum Lumber Company RETAIL LUMBER AND FUEL See Lew at Lexington Bill at Ione