

WALLABY QUICKLY WIPED OUT

Australian Pest Didn't Last Long When Its Pelt Became of Value in the Market.

Before the advent of the rabbit and the fox in Australia the rock-wallaby made its home among the cliffs bordering the Snowy river, where it passes through southern Monaro (N. S. W.), literally in thousands. The little red-brown quadruped was then becoming a grass pest, and as his skin was then worth only 4 cents the pelt hunter didn't bother much about him. But an interested mutton merchant some years ago put a premium on the skins, and the writer and a mate started out one winter morning, with about two inches of frost on the ground and every tree powdered with hoar-frost, for the wallaby ground. The artillery consisted of two guns, one a single muzzle-loader. (The breech-loader was then a rarity on Monaro.) By noon the hunters had downed over sixty wallabies. The beasts were so numerous in some quarters that two wallabies occasionally fell to a single shot. Soon after that the pelt trader scented profit, and the work of demolition began. Now these cliffs are silent and deserted, save for Reynard and the eternal rabbit, which crops the wallaby pastures close and from this rough country will never be exterminated.

DULL AND CHRONIC HEADACHE

Affliction, Physician Asserts, May Invariably Be Traced to the Presence of Rheumatism.

Rheumatic headache may be acute, but in most cases it is dull and chronic, lasting for weeks, months or years. It is slightly more common in women than in men, and it occurs very rarely below the age of 20, and most commonly above 40 years of age. The pain is real and may be constant, or fairly steady with intermissions, writes Dr. Hugh T. Patrick in the Journal of American Medical Association. It does not occur in instantaneous shoots or brief excruciating paroxysms, Nausea and vomiting are not present with it. There are good days, bad days, but with more or less pain or soreness always present. The headache is worse after exposure to cold or dampness.

This form of headache is really a rheumatic affection, and evidences of past rheumatism are almost always found. Its exact nature is obscure; bacterial infection of the tissues of the aching region is probable. Treatment consists of prolonged, repeated application of heat and the employment of persistent massage of the area of pain, which is most usually at the back of the head on both sides, and may extend down to neck, shoulders and back. It is tender to deep pressure, but not to surface pressure.

Vastness of Mexico.

It cannot be reiterated too often that Mexico is a vast country.

Mexico extends in length over two thousand miles, or is as long as from Iceland to Africa. It measures a thousand miles across the widest area. It is vast, it contains every climate from tropical to northern; it has huge mountains, some of the greatest volcanoes in the world; and some of the largest rivers are to be found in the south, although water is lacking in the north. The north is flat and hideous, the south beautiful and mountainous. Mexico produces every class of ore and every form of agriculture and some of the most picturesque and beautiful old Spanish towns in the world remain from the days when they were built by Cortes in 1519.

One cannot help being struck with the contrast between the two coasts. On the Pacific shore everything is dry; on the Gulf (Atlantic) everything is wet. A depth of eight or ten feet of soil is common.—From "Mexico," by Mrs. Alec-Tweedle.

Arabian Table Customs.

"Whenever I visit San Francisco I dine with an Arab—a business acquaintance—and the members of his family," said Thomas Hartwell of Mexico City, in an interview at New York. "In their eating they still attempt to follow the customs of their country. At their table I tasted for the first time the most popular Arab dish, which is called plaf. It is made of olive oil and a few nut kernels mixed with rice. My host's wife makes her own bread, which is baked in flat cakes an inch thick and compares very well with the baker's bread which the Americans use. The Arab is a dry eater and does not take his coffee with his repast. I find that my host and his family sip their coffee in small cups and regard it as a luxury. They still hold to the belief, in spite of the fact that they have lived in this country for several years, that those who do not make a noise with their lips in drinking coffee are illbred."

Portugal's Many Holidays.

Christmas day is not so generally observed as New Year's day. It has, moreover, only three different dates. The only country whose holidays reveal little of its political, racial or religious origin is Portugal. This is its calendar: January 1, dedicated to universal brotherhood; January 31, dedicated to the memory of all those who fought and died to establish the republic of Portugal; May 3, in memory of the discovery of Brazil by the Portuguese; June 19, municipal holiday at Oporto; October 5, the date of the establishment of the Portuguese republic; December 1, Flag day, to commemorate the independence of the country; December 25, Family day.

ENGLISH FLAX FOR AIRPLANES

Town Where Old Industry Is Being Revived Has Long Borne an Evil Cognomen.

How strangely ancient and modern meet in the formation of a new government department for the production of English flax, observes the London Chronicle. We find manufactured flax fibers in the lake dwellings of Switzerland; we find it in the tombs of Egyptian greatness, where it wrapped the mummies of kings and queens whose life stories we know. From it we fashion linen and cambric, as well as sails for boats, and dainty lace to deck a ruthless "flapper." But the new department is to raise 10,000 acres of flax largely for airplanes.

Pinchbeck, where the old Lincolnshire flax industry is being revived, bears a bad reputation among metallurgists, and is accused by the unlearned of having originated an opprobrious epithet which has spread from the material to the intellectual and moral worlds. As a fact this is a cruel libel on a charming rural village which has always been more concerned with agriculture than with metals. Our term "pinchbeck," applied to anything that is a sham or unreal, comes not from the village but from Christopher Pinchbeck, a watch and toy maker, who invented an alloy of copper and zinc that ruined his trade rivals at the beginning of the eighteenth century. Pinchbeck's place of business was, alas! situated in Fleet street.

OLIVES PLANTED BY CONVICTS

Magnificent Plantations Result of Work Begun to Furnish Occupation for Malefactors in Jail.

Olives have struck a climate they approve of in South Australia. The trees are the hardiest possible growers, require practically no attention, and seem impervious to the disease that affect fruit-trees. They have been rather in disfavor in the towns, owing to their slowness in coming to maturity, but owners of full-grown trees have found them a great money-producer of late years. The olive doesn't produce berries until its twelfth year. Consequently growers are shy of planting for commercial purposes. There is a movement on foot to get the government to subsidize growers at so much an acre for the first ten years. The oil has almost trebled in price the last few years, and the berries are in demand at \$100 a ton. Fifty-seven years ago the then sheriff of the Adelaide jail, looking for a job for his charges, put them on preparing the ground and planting olive trees, and the result today is a magnificent and profitable plantation in the vicinity of the jail. Hence the term "Gone plakin' olives" when a sport refers to a man who has been sent along for a light sentence.

Early Egyptian Hairdressing.

The hairdressing of early Egyptian times is interesting. Wigs were exceedingly popular, through many dynasties, for both men and women. The women, however, in various instances, were rather more inclined to let their own hair grow long, arranging it with extreme simplicity by hanging a forelock over each shoulder in front and letting the rest hang straight down the back. It appears, from some old statues, that they occasionally interwove beads or some sort of pendant with these front locks, which doubtless helped keep them in place. Then, too, they sometimes wore a sort of fillet, a device perhaps borrowed from the Greeks. More elaborate head-dresses were also indulged in. Some statues show strange, almost conical affairs upon the heads, which archaeologists say contained halls wet with some fragrant oil which trickled slowly through the hair and over the neck and shoulders. Perfumes were said to be extremely popular among these early people.

Painting the Salmon.

Red is the preferred color for salmon flesh. It is the "dog" salmon's misfortune to have meat of a dirty grayish hue, so that it is almost unmarketable.

Recently, however, a fish dealer in Boston made a delightful discovery. It was that some salmon-colored paint (which he happened to be using for painting a truck) would transform a dog salmon offhand into a fish of the most expensive variety.

The way it worked was really remarkable. It appears that the stuff was a coal-tar product, and when freely applied with a brush so saturated the meat with dye as to give it a fine salmon-red tint clear through. Unfortunately, the local health authorities, lacking appreciation of the fine arts, seized the fish and the paint and shut up the studio.

Arctic Cold.

Beards do not freeze except where the moisture from the breath is converted into snow; but the color glands are rendered somewhat torpid by the cold, and dark beards gradually become lighter, until after a while they seem entirely changed in color.

Another curious fact about the cold of the Arctic regions is that when a person stops walking or working in any way whereby the feet get exercise, the sole of the foot loses all sense of feeling.

In all extremely cold lands, the moisture exhaled from the body condenses into small, hard crystals which make quite a bit of noise as one walks about.

SHORT BUT EVENTFUL LIFE

Marie Pauline Bonaparte Crowded Many Adventures Into Her Few Years of Fortune's Smiles.

Marie Pauline Bonaparte was one of the numerous family of brothers and sisters of the great Napoleon. She was quite the most beautiful of the girls and the gayest in nature—two qualities that endeared her to her illustrious brother, but that also brought her more or less into trouble.

Like the rest of them, she was born in Ajaccio and shared the rise of the family fortunes. When she was seventeen she married one of Napoleon's staff officers, General Le Clerc, and went to live at St. Domingo. He died in 1802 and, as a young widow, a mere girl of twenty-two, she came to enjoy the society of Paris. She was exceedingly popular, had her portrait done as Venus reclining on a couch after the artistic fashion of the times, and married the Prince Borghese. She went to Rome with him, but tired of it there and went back to her beloved Paris. Various escapades started gossip about her—especially her rather offhand treatment of Marie Louise, which caused her removal from court.

This sobered her a bit, and she accompanied her brother in his first exile to Elba and begged, after his overthrow, to live with him at St. Helena. But this request was denied her and she died in her favorite city, Paris, of cancer. She was about forty-five and still young looking and exceedingly beautiful.

SETTLED QUESTION OF VOTE

Decision of English Registrar Almost Worthy to Rank With That Made Famous by Solomon.

Not since the days of Solomon, perhaps, has a more perplexing problem confronted a judge than that recently presented to an election registrar in England. A certain voter possessed a house which stood half in one parish and half in another. The question consequently arose as to in which parish, or whether not, indeed, in both, the householder was entitled to vote. After some discussion a ray of light was vouchsafed to Solomon. In which parish, he demanded, was the man's bedroom? Unfortunately, in both. Then was it that Solomon stood fully revealed; the infant, of mature years, should be cut in twain. The parish in which the head of the bed stood should have the honor of the vote. Which is all very well, except that there are many voters whose feet take them to the polling booth, but whose heads are no good when they get there. Does not the Italian proverb say, "If a man has not a head he should have feet."—Christian Science Monitor.

King Victim of His Own Jest.

Probably the greatest admirer of perfumes among the old Asiatic monarchs seems to have been Antiochus Epiphanes the Illustrious, king of Syria, according to Don Martin, who has gone into this perfumery question for the Los Angeles Times. At all Antiochus' feasts, games and processions perfumes held the premier place.

The king was once bathing in the public baths, when some private person attracted by the fragrant odor which he shed around, accosted him, saying: "You are a happy man, O king, you smell in a most costly manner."

Antiochus, being much pleased with the remark, replied: "I will give you as much as you desire of this perfume." The king then ordered a large ewer of thick unguent to be poured on the flatterer's head and a multitude of poor people soon collected around to gather what was spilled. This caused the king infinite amusement but it made the place so greasy that he slipped and fell on his back in a most undignified manner, which put an end to his merriment.

The Tomato in History.

Edward Albes of the Pan-American union, in discussing the matter of the tomato, said a number of years ago that the word "tomato" seems to be of Aztec origin, and given as "tomati" by some authorities and as "tixtomate" by others. The word still persists in some of the older Mexican town names, as, for examples, "Tomatlan" and "Tomatepec." The weight of opinion among historical botanists is that the plant and culture for edible purposes began in Peru, whence it spread to other parts of tropical America. It is known that it was cultivated for its fruit in the warm climate of America centuries before the coming of Columbus to this continent.

The Mule.

To our mind the one breathing thing in creation that has been the most cruelly maligned is the mule. No more hard-working creature walks the earth; none with a more faithful past record; none now more in demand in the world's service. What would we do in this war without the mule? What can we do without him after the war is over? Still he is despised and kicked around worse than though he were a bound dog. It is a shame. In the readjustment of things, let us right this wrong and, if we have anything to say to the mule, let us say it to his face, which is wiser than saying it to his heels.—Los Angeles Times.

A Drawback.

"An automobile has a big advantage over a horse, as it never gets fatigued." "Perhaps not, but its wheels are always tired."

LIVE ON ARTIFICIAL ISLAND

Salt Water Natives Who Wage An Almost Constant War on Solomon Head Hunters.

Built up artificially on reefs or sandy pits, numbers of miniature islands dot the tranquil waters of sheltered coves among the Solomon islands. Gertrude Emerson writes in Asia Magazine. Here live, separate from the head hunters who inhabit the unhealthy mangrove swamps and undulating grasslands of the interior or the lofty spurs running down to the sea, a salt-water people more or less at enmity with the bushmen. Yet these salt water people are as fond of their fruits and vegetables, for which there is no room on their narrow, crowded island, as the junglefolk are of their fish. Truce is declared on regular bi-weekly market days and on neutral territory along the coast the women of both peoples meet and do their bargaining. The dwellers on the artificial islands are skillful in all things pertaining to the sea, especially in the building and handling of canoes. For upon this slender thread their existence hangs. The elaborately carved, crescent-shaped canoes may always be seen plying busily among the islands. Frequently they are the only sign of human habitation in a world of otherwise empty sea and rooted palms. When the interminable circle of the horizon softens and disappears and the fever-laden evening mists creep in, when the pale waters reflect as in a mirror the burnt-out sky of day, the canoes, silhouetted against the luminous water, slide swiftly to the methodical beating of paddles, accompanied by the low barbaric chanting of dark-skinned men.

FROM MINDS' SECRET PLACES

Come the Materials for Dreams Which Sometimes One Finds So Hard to Explain.

You read a book and forget every word of it. Years later a scene from the same book will come into your mind as a dream; you will not recognize it and will marvel where it came from. Or you will see a person casually on the street and be perfectly unconscious of it. But every experience is registered in the mind somewhere, and some day you may see that same person in a dream. Perhaps some of the great store of impressions hidden away in your unconscious mind will come to the surface in a dream in such a way that you will feel that there is something mysterious about it.

An old lady once told the writer of a dream she had, citing it as a complete justification of her belief in spirits. While on a shopping tour she mislaid a valuable umbrella, and for the life of her could not remember what she had done with it. It worried her considerably, and that night she had a dream in which she saw herself go into a restaurant, hang up the umbrella, and after eating her lunch go away, forgetting it.—New York World.

Monarch's Costly Whim.

King Alfonso's ruined palace of San Ildefonso at La Granja is one of the freaks and one of the glories of Spain. It was a Bourbon monarch who invented it—at the beginning of the eighteenth century. Philip V was out hunting one day and rested at a sunny farm called the Grange, occupied by monks. The monks had humored the mountain upon whose slopes the farmhouse was built and had made their beautiful gardens conform to the ways of the giant.

But the king compelled the mountain to obey him. He blasted smooth places on precipitous slopes, carrying away thousands of tons of earth and stones, and from the valley below he brought up miles of fertile earth to form new fields and gardens. By the time he had finished creating a new landscape and filling the new Versailles with the best pictures his taste suggested, Philip was ready to die in debt to the tune of 45,000,000 pesetas. For that is the sum which the monarch spent on San Ildefonso.

Borneo Not Yet Civilized.

Although civilization has made excellent progress in some parts of the East Indies, barbarous practices by the natives on the island of Borneo still continue, according to O. K. Hoey, a merchant of Batavia, Java. He said that traders who visit isolated sections of Borneo found it necessary to remain constantly alert in order to guard against attacks by Dyaks, who, however, are gradually being driven farther inland.

"On the island of Ball the men still load themselves up with many jewels and heavy chains as ornaments," he declared. "The natives make good incomes from their rice fields and traffic in pearls, but until a short time ago the sight of an automobile caused great amazement."

Waging War on the Rabbit.

Australia has spent millions in fighting a pest of rabbits, for which a man who turned loose three pairs of rabbits in New South Wales, in 1850, is responsible, and which has made necessary a woven-wire fence 1,200 miles long, shutting off the fertile agricultural regions from the central and eastern semi-desert areas, where rabbits most abound. We have a few rabbits in our own country west of the Rockies. According to the biological survey of the department of agriculture, fully 200,000,000 wild rabbits are annually killed in this country, yet men touring across the continent invariably speak of the number of rabbits seen.

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