

Wild West Days in Siberia

Geography-History

BASSETT DIGBY, in *Tigers, Gold and Witch-Doctors* (Harcourt, Brace):

At Albazin a strong fort was established by a gang under the leadership of a Polish freebooter named Tchernigovski. He was a pious man who felt that the place ought to have a resident chaplain. Business was quite good enough to stand that slight addition to the overhead expenses. As prospective applicants for the post could not be obtained, an armed gang was sent westward, with instructions to kidnap a priest. It did.

The Chinese fur traders had their eye on Albazin, for all the best sables from the Amur forests were finding their way thither. They besieged it several times but managed to capture it only once after a sporting attempt to bluff them into relinquishing the attempt had been made by Tchernigovski. When the fort's food had almost disappeared and things looked desperate, he sent out to the Chinese leader, with his compliments, a sumptuous savoury dog pie. The pie weighed fifty pounds and needed three men to carry it. The inference, of

course, was that a little old fifty-pound pie more or less made no difference whatsoever to *that* garrison. The commander of the besiegers took delivery of it with marked courtesy. The following day he sent back the dish and a flowery message of thanks. So highly appreciated, he declared, had been the pie that many of his officers and men had not been able to obtain even the smallest piece. It would be a source of rankling regret to them to the end of their days, if they could not summon up a memory of the unparalleled pie-making prowess of Mr. Tchernigovski's chef, and thus be in a position personally to bear testimony to his skill. In the circumstances, would not Mr. Tchernigovski favour them with *another* pie, rather larger than otherwise, to enable *every one* to taste a delicious morsel!

That called poor Tchernigovski's bluff—the very last little coterie of assorted mongrels in the precincts of the fort had gone into that fifty-pound pie. And he knew that if another good-sized pie was not handed over, the besiegers would know that his

gang was at the end of its resources. He temporized by sending back a flowery message, conveying his keen gratification at the gastronomical zest with which his chef's *pièce de résistance* had been consumed and the pleasure that it would now give him to have another big pie prepared. But two or three days went by and no pie—big, small, or medium—appeared. Thus heartened, the Chinese besiegers stood their ground, and obtained the bloodless surrender of the fort, allowing the garrison to retain their arms and march off into the forest in return for giving up all the furs instead of burning them.

Science News-Letter, June 2, 1928

A fortress in Palestine which figured in Bible history has been excavated and many traces of Israelite life have been found, bearing out the descriptions given by Hebrew prophets.

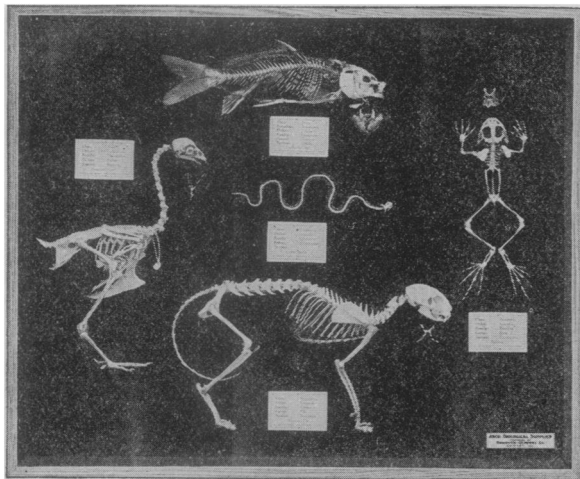
The ancient Etruscans, who lived long before the Roman civilization, had many curious ideas about lightning, and their chief god had at his disposal three lightnings, other gods having only one.

The effect of the World War on the German population is shown in recent census figures: Children under 10 years made up 23 per cent. of the population in 1910, as compared with less than 16 per cent. in 1925.

Staff of Science Service—Director, Edwin E. Slosson; Managing Editor, Watson Davis; Staff Writers, Frank Thone, James Stokley, Emily C. Davis, Marjorie MacDill; Sales and Advertising Manager, Hallie Jenkins.

Board of Trustees of Science Service—Honorary President, William E. Ritter, University of California. Representing the American Association for the Advancement of Science, J. McKeen Cattell, President, Editor, Science, Garrison, N. Y.; D. T. MacDougal, Director, Desert Laboratory, Tucson, Ariz.; M. I. Pupin, Professor of Electromechanics, Columbia University, New York City. Representing the National Academy of Sciences, John C. Merriam, President, Carnegie Institution of Washington; R. A. Millikan, Director, Norman Bridge Laboratory of Physics, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, Calif.; Dr. David White, Senior Geologist, U. S. Geological Survey. Representing National Research Council, Vernon Kellogg, Vice-President and Chairman of Executive Committee, Permanent Secretary, National Research Council, Washington, D. C.; C. G. Abbot, Secretary, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.; Harrison E. Howe, editor of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry. Representing Journalistic Profession, John H. Finley, Associate Editor, New York Times; Mark Sullivan, Writer, Washington, D. C.; Marlen E. Pew, Editor of Editor and Publisher, New York City. Representing E. W. Scripps Estate, Harry L. Smitton, Treasurer, Cincinnati, Ohio; Robert P. Scripps, Scripps-Howard Newspapers, West Chester, Ohio; Thomas L. Sidlo, Cleveland, Ohio.

High Grade Prepared Skeletons



At Favorable Prices
Satisfaction Guaranteed

Of the extensive line that we prepare and carry in stock, the following select items are favorites with High School and College instructors:

Z015 Squalus, cartilaginous, in museum jar	\$25.00
Z050 Necturus on base	11.00
Z061 Bull Frog in glass	12.00
Z066 Grass Frog in glass	6.50
Z0105 Turtle, 8" to 10"	12.50
Z0116 Alligator on base	25.00
Z0130 Chicken on base	16.00
Z0155 Cat on base	18.00
Z0195 Monkey on base	25.00

We have frequent calls from High Schools for a set of vertebrate skeletons mounted in a hardwood glass-covered wall case, size 24x32". This set includes the Perch, Pigeon, Turtle, Rat and Grass Frog, price \$53.00.

The larger set with specimens as illustrated above costs \$75.00.

Our skeletons are excellent for class use as well as for building up the permanent school museum.

Write for complete list and for biology catalog No. 5B.

DENOYER-GEPPERT COMPANY

Makers and Importers of Anatomical Models, Charts, Skeletons, Specimens and Slides

5235-57 Ravenswood Avenue

Chicago, Ill.