beasts of the chase. By a succession of changes, as slow and silent, doubtless, as those which ushered in the Age of Ice, that long era begins to draw to a close. The glaciers feel the breath of a warmer clime coming over them, and shrink step by step back into the mountains, leaving, at every pause in their decline, great heaps of earth and rock—memorials, as it were, of their final and fruitless conflict with the adverse elements. But their doom has come, and the last lingering remnant of the old ice-sheet vanishes away. The very plants and animals of that cold period are involved in the same fate. Slowly and reluctantly they are driven from the lower grounds, as species after species makes its appearance from other lands, like the successive hordes of a conquering people. And now at last, on the bleakest and barest of our uplands, from which there is no escape, they carry on the struggle still. But the skirmishers of the invading army are amongst them, and the time will doubtless come when the ancient and Alpine races will disappear from our highest mountain-top, and with them the last living terrestrial relic of the great glacial period.

Since the ice melted away, the sea, rains, streams, springs and frosts have renewed their old work of demolition. The smoothed and flowing outline which the ice left behind it is now undergoing a slow destruction, and the rocks are quietly resuming the rugged outlines which they had of old. The sea-coasts are receding before the onward march of the waves; former ravines are deepened and widened by the rivers, and new ones have been formed. Man too has come upon the scene, and has set his mark upon well nigh every rood of the land from mountain-top to sea-shore. He has helped to demolish the ancient forests; he has drained innumerable fens and mosses, and turned them into fertile fields; he has extirpated the wild beasts of the old woods, thus changing both the aspect of the country and the distribution of its plants and animals. He has engraved the country with thousands of roads and railways, strewn it with villages and hamlets, and dotted it with cities and towns. And thus more has been done by him, in altering the aspect of the island, than has been achieved during the brief period of his sojourn by all the geological agencies put together.

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ZOOLOGY

Animals of Old West Will Get Chance to Stage Comeback

ANIMALS of the old West, the West of the covered wagon, will be given their chance to stage a comeback in territory that was theirs but where no living man has ever seen them. The three hundred mile strip of Mississippi bottom lands, set aside by Congress as a great game refuge, is to be stocked with bison, pronghorn antelope, elk and other hoofed and horned creatures that the redskins and earliest French traders knew a couple of centuries ago.

This promise was held out by Vernon Bailey, of the U. S. Biological Survey, at the meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists in Philadelphia last week. Mr. Bailey spent all of last summer in the region, studying its present life and its possibilities for supporting representatives of its original population of wild things.

But last summer was by no means the first time he saw the area. He went there first in 1869, and on that occasion he travelled in a covered wagon.

Due For Radical Change

The region as it now stands consists of a strip of rich bottom land on either side of the Mississippi, subject to frequent floods, alternated with droughts. It is due for a radical change, said W. C. Henderson, also of the Biological Survey, if the present plans of the War Department are carried out. These plans call for the establishment of a nine-foot channel instead of the present six-foot one. This will mean the building of a series of about twenty dams, converting the river into a long line of stepped-up lakes, doing away with most of the current, establishing a stable water level and flooding some of the land permanently. On the whole, it will be a good thing for the wild life of both land and water, he believes.

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REFRIGERATION

One Chunk of Ice Lasts All Summer

REMINISCENT of the man who met the doctor's orders of "only one cigar a day" by buying stogies two feet long, is a new type of refrigerator recently built at Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa, by L. V. Crum of the physics department, which uses only one chunk of ice in a whole summer. The joker is, that this one chunk of ice is six feet high and six feet in diameter.

The new ice-box is a triumph of economy. Its first cost for materials is only $50 to $65, and its upkeep is nothing. It consists of two tanks, one six feet in diameter inside another one eight feet in diameter and nine feet high. Sawdust or similar material is used as insulation between the walls of the tanks. A cooling compartment is built under the center tank.

Ice is frozen in the winter in the inner tank, which is then covered with about sixteen inches of insulation also. The solid chunk of ice, six feet high and six feet in diameter, lasts from spring until September. In a test during the past year meat was kept during the summer for two weeks and apples were kept from spring to late summer in good condition.

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HEART OF ALL-YEAR ICE BOX

Frozen by spraying water on chicken wire. When completed it will be six feet in diameter.