

ENTOMOLOGY

Fruit Fly Vanished So Ban Is Lifted

QUARANTINE restrictions on Florida fruit and vegetable shipments, designed to protect the rest of the nation against the menace of the Mediterranean fruit fly, have been wholly removed, effective November 15. This restores Florida to complete parity with all other states so far as shipment of these products is concerned.

The decision of the U. S. Department of Agriculture to lift the fruit fly ban followed conferences with Florida officials, including Gov. Carlton and members of the State plant board. It marks the end of a war of man against an insect that began in April, 1929, when the dreaded pest was discovered in orchards near Orlando, in the heart of the citrus belt. Since November 16, 1929, no infestation has been found in a commercial orchard, and only two isolated finds have been made elsewhere.

The lifting of the last of the quarantine regulations does not mean that there will be any relaxation of vigilance against the possible survival and recurrence of infestation. Federal and state officials will cooperate in close inspection of orchards for many months to come, and if a new outbreak threatens action will be taken very promptly to secure the eradication of the insects.

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PSYCHOLOGY

Criticize the Boss Without Getting Fired

A CHANCE to criticize the boss without getting fired is being offered some employees in New York City in order to discover just what the worker thinks of his employer.

How the attitudes of employees can be determined without disrupting the organization was explained to the Personnel Research Federation last week by J. David Houser, Raymond Franzen, and H. R. Halsey, New York employment psychologists.

"The first problem, in any study of employee attitude, is to make it impossible for frankness to have any effect upon possible tenure," Mr. Halsey emphasized.

"When employees see that absolute frankness can be expressed without any possibility of that frankness reacting upon them, it is not only possible to expect extreme frankness, but it has been

found that this expectation is justified.

"The method of administration is as follows: Questionnaire blanks whose answers are indicated merely by underlining words are distributed by members of the group immediately after a five or ten minute talk which explains the purpose of the whole procedure. Frankness is asked for and emphasis is laid upon the fact that there is no handwriting upon the papers, that there are no names, no numbers, that collection of the papers can be made in any way desired, exchanging papers, shuffling them, putting them under those on the pile, and that in no case can there be any individual in the company employ at hand to identify papers."

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DIETETICS

South Sea Athletes Chewed Sugar Cane

THE EARLY Polynesians used sugar cane in the same way that glucose is used today by runners of Marathon races—to prevent exhaustion, weakness, shock and other distressing symptoms which often follow prolonged physical effort.

Miss Carey D. Miller of the University of Hawaii, who since 1926 has been making a study of the nutritive value of foods of the early Hawaiians, states that "undoubtedly the food value of sugar cane, even in the primitive diet, lay in its relatively high content of readily assimilable carbohydrate."

The juice of sugar cane was used by the Hawaiians in "apu"—medicinal concoctions made of ordinary foodstuffs combined with herbs or herbs alone, taken internally, Miss Miller has found.

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ENGINEERING

New Testing Equipment To Aid Canadian Engineers

HEAVY testing equipment of at least 3,000,000 pounds capacity for making tensile, compression and bending tests of construction materials will be an important feature of the new engineering laboratory buildings of the National Research Council of Canada, now being built. This will meet a need felt by mining, railway and other industries by providing facilities for necessary tests which cannot now be secured in Canada.

Welding has been rapidly displacing riveting in construction operations and the new testing equipment will test the

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efficiency of welded joints. Other materials which will be tested by the new equipment include: Bridge girders and columns; structural parts of steel buildings; stone pillars and other specimens of stone construction, pit props, pipe lines, wooden beams, mine cables, links of chains, cement blocks and concrete.

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MEDICINE

Infantile Paralysis Virus Not Easily Killed

STUDIES showing that the virus thought to cause infantile paralysis is remarkably stable and resists treatment that would destroy a number of dangerous disease germs, have just been reported by Miss B. F. Howitt, of the University of California Hooper Foundation for Medical Research.

The virus is able to resist treatment with chemicals which kill streptococci, staphylococci and colon bacilli. After being precipitated, whirled around in centrifuges at terrific speed, washed, filtered, mixed with acetic acid, heated to 136 degrees Fahrenheit, placed on ice, and otherwise subjected to chemical purification, the fluid thought to contain the virus and also the material taken out of it in the process were capable of causing infection in some instances.

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PUBLIC HEALTH

Halt in Cancer Fatalities Held Likely For 1930

THAT this year will mark a halt in the yearly increase in deaths from cancer is the hopeful prediction made by statisticians of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. who have been studying the figures so far available for 1930. If a halt does occur, it will be the first in five years. A slight but encouraging decrease in the number of cancer deaths this year has been found in their figures. From January to September, 1930, the cancer death rate among their white policyholders was 76.8 per 100,000 as compared with 77.2 for the same period in 1929.

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ICHTHYOLOGY

American Shore Waters Yield Fantastic Fish

See Front Cover

CITIZENS of the American midlands will soon have an opportunity to become acquainted with one of the world's most fantastic fishes, when a group of long-horned sculpins, captured by staff members of the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, Mass., is placed on exhibition at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago.

Though looking like an Oriental dream-dragon, the long-horned sculpin is a native of home waters, being found along the Atlantic seaboard from Long Island to the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Ordinarily it does not display its full armature of fins and spines, but when disturbed or angry it spreads itself out as wide as possible, grins fiercely at its opponent, and in general comports itself like an old-time Chinese soldier of the "false-face" school. It is not all bluff, either, for the long spines can inflict painful wounds on unwary fingers. The sculpin has a further protection in its chameleon-like ability to change color and fade into its background of rocks, barnacles or seaweed.

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ANTHROPOLOGY

Australian Savages Five Generations Behind

"IT WILL take at least five generations for the Australian aborigine to adjust himself to European cultural conditions," is the belief expressed by Dr. D. S. Davidson, in a communication just received by Horace H. F. Jayne, curator of the Museum of the University of Pennsylvania, from Australia, where Dr. Davidson is making a study of the natives for the Museum.

Dr. Davidson compares the natives of Australia to the North American Indians and points out that just as it has taken the Indian of the United States three hundred years to become psychologically white, so it is unfair to expect the Australians to assimilate European habits and methods in one generation.

In his letter to Mr. Jayne, Dr. Davidson writes, "It is absurd to argue that the aborigine is less intelligent than the white man because his cranial capacity is less, for the size of the brain is no indication of intelligence. Neither is it possible to argue that his mental development is small simply because he would fail miserably in any intelligence test we could apply."

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GENERAL SCIENCE

Offer American Scientists Money For Research

TO AID in research projects that would otherwise be handicapped by lack of equipment, the American Association for the Advancement of Science will distribute a total of about \$3,000 in grants of \$50 to \$500.

Awards will be made during the month of December but all applications for aid must be received by December 1. Recipients of the grants are expected to make a report of their progress of their investigation within a year after the funds are given. The committee consists of Dr. Walter S. Adams, astronomy; Dr. Charles P. Berkey, geology; Prof. Arthur H. Compton, physics; Dr. Karl F. Kellerman, botany; Prof. W. Lash Miller, chemistry; Prof. George H. Parker, zoology; Prof. Oswald Veblen, mathematics, and Dr. William C. White, medicine.

Applications should be addressed to Dr. Burton E. Livingston, permanent secretary, American Association for Advancement of Science, Smithsonian Institution Building, Washington, D. C.

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ARCHAEOLOGY

Santa Claus Older Than St. Nicholas

SANTA CLAUS, as a bearded and benevolent pot-bellied kobold, seems to be much older than St. Nicholas, the Christian bishop whose name he has assumed. Among the hundreds of statuettes of pagan divinities dug up in the great Roman temple district recently discovered at Trier are a number that are very good portraits of the Christmas-tide friend of children. What the pre-Christian name of this mythical personage may have been nobody knows as yet, but that he is a real Santa Claus any child could tell you. With his round cheeks, pudgy nose and long beard there is hardly any mistaking him.

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ELECTRICITY

Vacuum Tube Becomes Night Nurse Maid

NO MORE sleepless nights for E. S. Darlington of Schenectady, N. Y., proud father of lusty young son and vacuum tube engineer with the General Electric Company. Mr. Darlington has made the vacuum tube play nurse maid to Junior all during the night.

Baby, according to the best modern precept, sleeps in a different room from the parents, but when he cries anxious parents are informed immediately. A telephone transmitter used as a microphone at the crib side brings the infant wailings by wire at the speed of 186,000 miles per second to an amplifier and a loud speaker near the ear of the father.

To soothe Junior, Mr. Darlington turns on a phonograph without getting out of bed, and the recorded lullaby sounds through a loud speaker near the crib. If the lullaby fails to calm, then only must weary father get up and give personal attention. Later he expects to carry on two-way conversation with the child, but at present the inability of both to understand the other makes this impossible.

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MEDICINE

Toothpick Caused Pseudo-Appendicitis

HOW a toothpick caused what seemed to be an acute attack of appendicitis was just reported by Dr. Samuel Mc-Lanahan of Baltimore to the American Medical Association.

The patient had no recollection of having swallowed the toothpick. He complained of pain on the right side of the abdomen, and from this and other symptoms, the diagnosis of acute appendicitis was made. At the operation, the toothpick was found in the part of the intestine known as the cecum, to which the appendix is attached. The toothpick had punctured the cecum, causing a small abscess.

From the scientific viewpoint, the interesting aspects of this condition were the acuteness of onset, small size of the abscess and location of the trouble. Ordinarily when a foreign body gets into the intestine and perforates it, thus causing an abscess, the latter develops slowly and is consequently a large one by the time of operation, and usually is located in another part of the intestine.

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