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THE PRINCE WHO PREFERRED TO BE A SCIENTIST

(By Science Service) Vashington, April .- His Serene Highness, the Prince of Monaco, is coming to the United States on April 23 to receive the Agassiz medal that has been awarded to him by the National Academy of Sciences for his researches in oceanography and the origin of human life.

The Prince of Monaco is now seventy-three years old and ever since he was eighteen he has made the study of the sea his major interest. In the depths of the ocean he hoped to discover the secret of life and he has equipt four successive yachts for deep-sea dredging and the investigation of ocean currents. These investigations carried on continuously ever since 1886 have thrown great light upon marine forms of plant and animal life and incidentally his mapping of Atlantic currents aided the Allied shipping in avoiding German mines.

From the study of origins of life in the sca the Prince was naturally led to undertake a search for the origins of human life on the land. The abundant revenue that he derives from the Casino of Monte Carlo has been expended in the service of science and the rocky promontory that constitutes his principality has become the center of international conferences for the prosocution of anthropology and the promotion of peace. He established in 1910 a Museum of Oceanography at Monaco in a stately building perched on the side of a cliff overlooking the Mediterranean to house his marine collections. In 1920 he supplemented this by opening a Museum of Human Palcontology at Paris where the sketches and skeletons from prehistoric caves may be exhibited and studied.

The excavation of the caverns of southern France and Spain at the expense of the Prince has brought to light the bones and flint tools of men of the Old Stone Age who occupied these caves some 30,000 years ago. The more primitive of these races the Grimaldi man was of a frail negroid type. This race was displaced by a bigger and more enterprizing type of man, the Cro-Magnon, who came to the front during the glacial period and who adorned the walls of his cave-home with marvellously vivid pictures in rod and black of the roindeer, the bison, the horse, the mammoth and the rhinocoros.

Albert I, the present Prince of Monaco, comes of the ancient Grimaldi family and inherits many historic names: But when he was asked which of his titles he most esteemed he answered: "That of corresponding momber of the Institute of France."

(By Science Service)

Washington, April .- The oldest and stalest bread in North America has been discovered. Some 500 or more years ago, one of the original Americans, a dweller of the cliffs in what is now Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado, forgot to eat his supper, and Dr. J. Walter Fewkes, archeologist of the Smithsonian Institution has found the cereal portion of it. Through all these years, the dry air of that region has preserved this ancient fried corn bread, made into a form similar to the modern American griddle cake or the Mexican tortilla.

This ancient food was found on the plaza of Oak-Tree House, one of the many cliff dweller ruins that Dr. Fewkes has uncarthed and reconstructed. There also was found the slanting stones between which the housewife of the ancient community crushed the corn, and even the straw brush she used in scraping up the corn meal had laid near by through the centuries.

FOSSILS OF PAST IN NATURE'S MUSEUM

(By Science Service)

Creede, Colo. April .- A muscum of nature's building, where she pressed plants, insects, and other forms of life into mud and preserved them for the scientist of today to discover and use in puzzling out the world's past has been discovered near here. This fossil storehouse is 20 miles long and five miles wide, and many hundreds of feet thick, according to Dr. F. H. Knowlton of the U. S. National Museum.

These ancient lake beds were filled up and finally extinguished by volcanic ashes and muds many ages ago, but now they produce thin papery shales in which the plants and animals are preserved with the greatest fidelity.

"Although the newly discovered lake beds have not been thoroughly exploited, they have yielded beautifully preserved plants, a few insects, and many isolated bird feathers," says Dr. Knowlton. Among the plants found were branches and cones of pine and fir, similar to and probably ancestors of trees of the region today.

For fifty years those who have made pictures of the past out of these fossils left in rocks have believed that the Tertiary lake beds at Florissant, Colo., one of the most highly fossiliforous deposits in the world, were unique. But when more intensive geologic investigations were made in the Rocky Mountain region, similar deposits, nearly five times as large were found in the valley of the Grand River, near here.

MOSQUITO-EATING FISH SENT TO ITALY

(By Science Service)

Edenton, N. C. April .- Mosquitoes of Italy will be combated by American fish which the local Bureau of Fisherics station here recently shipped to that country.

Gambusia, or "top minnows", consider mosquito larvae their greatest delicacy, and swimming close to the top of the water they soon clear the rivers of these insects that spread malaria. A school of 350 of these fish are on their way across the ocean, consigned to the League of Red Cross Societics, and the progeny of this brood stock will be distributed in mosquito infested waters throughout Italy. These fish that will enter the Italian public health service are being given special attention as they travel in water across the water. Officials of the New York Aquarium received and cared for them in that city until their sailing date.

Modern science has told us that malaria germs are carried only by certain species of mosquitoes, and that when these are killed off by fish or otherwise the disease disappears.

HOUSE-CLEANING NO BUGBEAR IF PLANNED RIGHT

(By Science Service)

Washington, April - "House-cleaning need not be a bugbear if the work is carefully planned", declares Sarah J. MacLeod, specialist in household management of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

If the kind of furnishings that are easy to keep clean are chosen and handled in the right way, and if provision is made for keeping all the dirt possible out of the house, Uncle Sam's experts say that those housecleaning upheavals that make home uninhabitable for a few days every spring and fall can be avoided.

The weapons of the house-wife have been investigated, and it has been found that long handles for brooms, brushes, mops and dustpans will save time and energy and make the work less disagreeable.

Water of course is by far the most common cleaning material, but soap, ammonia, borax, sal-soda, lye, oxalic acid, gasoline, kerosene, oils, turpentine, absorbent powders, rouge, steel wool, furniture polish, and floor wax are useful household servants in their particular lines.

Here are some of the mottees recommended for the kitchen: "Keep dirt out of the house". "Lessen the number of dust-collecting places". "Remove dirt frequently and systematically". "Clean by taking the dirt away". "Do heavy cleaning a little at a time". "Have a supply of good cleaning tools". "Use water and cleaning agents sparingly". "Be on the lookout for troublesome insects and animals". "Make the family help".

CHEMIST IMITATES MOUNTAIN-FORMING PRESSURES

(By Science Service)

Washington, April .- The physical chemist by spending a few days in his laboratory has been able to duplicate Nature's thousands of years of mountain building. Over 150,000 pounds per square inch pressure has been applied to rocks and minerals by Dr. L. H. Adams of the Geophysical Laboratory of the Carnegie Institute here, and he has found out how they act when squeezed so hard.

"Using the results of these experiments and the data which the geologist obtains in the field, we can explain how mountains were made", declares Dr. Adams. "Geology", he explains, "is largely the study of the warping, folding and deformation of the rock masses which make up the crust of the earth". His work even more exact than that of nature because when he imitates her high pressures he has the great advantage that he can accurately measure and control them.

1.6

(By Science Service)

Washington, April .- Canada and the United States are going to solve one of their big fuel questions together as a result of a special arrangement that has been entered into by Dr. H. Foster Bain, director of the U. S. Burcau of Mines and officials of the Canadian Bureau of Mines. These national agencies will exchange all available information on lignito research work that they have been doing, and in the future the researches will be carried on jointly.

Lignito is ccal in its childhood. A little older than peat and not as old as the bituminous and anthracite coals that now supply the most of our fuel, "brown ccal", as it is sometimes called has long been used in Europe. Deposits of it are found in many parts of this country and Alaska, and experts predict that lignite must be used more and more in this country to relieve the demand on our national fuel supply.

W. W. Odell, American engineer has been sent to Canada to make a detailed study of the situation and watch the investigations in progress. A Canadian engineer will be sent here for the same purpose in the near future.

SPRING FIELD FIRES DESTROY MILLIONS OF FLOWERS

(By Science Service)

Washington, April .- "Millions of flowers that would develop food for insect-destroying birds are killed by the common practice V of burning over fields and woodlands in the spring," declares P. L. Ricker, secretary of the Wild Flower Preservation Society.

The general impression that grass fires and slow ground fires in wooded areas are beneficial on account of the fertilizing value of the ash 'is erronious, and large economic loss results from this practice. Necessary organic matter or the humus of the soil, which would be increased by the decay of the ground cowor, is destroyed. Because of this destroying of the wealth of the soil, he declared that the soil reaction would be changed. Instead of the normal growth of flowers and grasses of the ground cover, rank woods will spring up, flurish and scatter their seeds. This replacement by weeds is characteristic of poor soil.

"Frequent burning will cause the ground cover to disappear ontirely and leave the roots of the trees exposed," Ricker said. "Thus the first stages of deforestation begins. Fire after fire has been the history of the deforestation and erosion of many wooded areas of this country."

UNCLE SAM CONDEMNS ADULTERATED SAUERKRAUT

(By Science Service) Washington, April .- Those who misbrand or adulterato sauerkraut, vinegar, sardines, candy tomato purce, stock food or other foods and drugs will get into trouble with the United States Government.

Among the recent convictions or seizures of illegally labelled foods or drugs under the Federal Food and Drugs Act were a number of patent or proprietary modicines for which false and fraudulent claims of curative powers were made on the labels. Two shipments of nearly 6,000 cases of cannod salmon were soized on the charge that the fish was decomposed. Action was taken against manufacturers who offered foods in packages of short weight. In another instance it cost a shipper (250 in fines to send from state to state golatin which had been adulterated with zinc and glue.

11

(By Science Service)

Washington, April .- How the flame thrower troops of the French army provided large quantities of freshly reasted meat for the poultry of the country and it the same time ridded the fields of cropdestroying grasshoppers or locusts is told by Dr. L. O. Howard chief entomologist of the Department of Agriculture, who recently inspected insect-fighting methods of that country. The hoppers were swept into great heaps by living circles of soldiers and then exterminated by the flame.

DISCOVER WHY ICE CREAM IS SANDY

(By Science Service)

Washington, April .- One of the difficulties encountered in the manufacture of ice cream is the formation of small gritty particles. These are found to consist of tiny crystals of lactose or milk sugar which are quite hard and when present cause the ice cream to be described as "sandy". This subject is now receiving study by the Dairy Division of the Department of Agriculture, which is trying to determine the conditions under which these drystals form so that they can be avoided in the industrial manufacture of ice cream.

SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL RUNS TECHNICAL QUESTION BOX

(By Science Service)

Washington, April .- To operate as a sort of tolephone exchange to connect the man who knows with the man who wants to know, the Research Information Service of the National Research Council was recently established as a first aid to scientists. The inventor whose work is held up by a particular bit of information can now call upon this group of experts for help.

Date on recent experiments to detect "ether-drift" past the earth's surface, information on the character and structure of ice, how to build an inexpensive 100,000 volt, one microfarad capacity condenser, are among the satisfied requests from workers in the mathematical, physical and biological sciences. A trained technical staff consults with the experts of this co-ordinating council of science, and in most cases the rescarch inquiries are handled without charge.

Robert M. Yorkes is chairman and resident director of the service, and the executive committee is composed of: Edwin F. Gay, president, New York Evening Post; Alfred D. Flinn, secretary, Engineering Foundation; Wesley Frost, acting foreign trade advisor, U. S. Department of State; Charence E. Mc Clung, Professor of zoology, University of Pennsylvania; Charles L. Reese, chemical director, E. I. du Pent de Nemeurs and Co.; Augustus Trowbridge, Professor of physics, Princeton University.

18