

Turning Troublesome Rabbit Pest Into a Commercial Industry

From the official report concerning the destruction of rabbits in the State of Victoria, Consul John F. Jewell, of Melbourne, furnishes the following statistics concerning the exports of frozen rabbits and rabbit skins to England and the exports of skins to the United States.

During the past five years 41,424,000 frozen rabbits have been exported from Victoria, principally to England; also 98,242,000 skins, while 5,000,000 skins went into local consumption, making a total of 103,242,000 skins.

An important aspect of the industry, from an American point of view, is the increasing export of rabbit skins from Victoria to the United States, as shown in the following return, based on invoice values declared at this consulate: 1904, \$2,754; 1905, \$1,697; 1906, \$68,323; 1907, \$168,473; 1908, \$243,382.

Controlling Pest in Victoria.

Rabbits are not indigenous to Australia, but were first introduced fifty or sixty years ago, when two or three pairs were brought into Victoria from England to be bred for hunting purposes, and multiplied so rapidly that as far back as 1880 steps had to be taken by the governments of some of the States in order to keep them within control. They are met with now in practically every part of Australia, and have proved most troublesome to the farming and grazing interest, particularly in the States of Victoria, and New South Wales, in which many valuable ranches have been ruined by their depredations.

In Victoria some mitigation of the evil has been found in the commercial impotence these animals have attained of recent years, and a complete system is established by the government, administered by an officer known as the chief inspector of ermin, by which they are kept

within control by means of wire-netting fences, poisoning, trapping, etc., on the crown lands, and by laws compelling owners of private lands to adopt similar means of checking their increase.

Australian Skins in United States.

According to official returns published at Melbourne, the total exports of rabbit skins from Australia in 1907 were valued at \$1,837,030, of which the exports to the United Kingdom amounted to \$1,372,050 and those to the United States to \$295,347, the remainder going to Italy, Belgium, New Zealand, etc.

The total imports of rabbit skins into the United Kingdom in 1907 according to British statistics, amounted to \$2,743,854, of which \$1,796,206 worth was composed of Australian and \$988,854 worth of New Zealand skins, the remainder being imported from Belgium (\$615,240), France Netherlands, etc.

The exports of foreign and colonial rabbit skins from the United Kingdom in 1907 amounted to \$1,836,000, of which the exports to the United States amounted to \$997,344 and the exports to Belgium to \$697,354. How much of these exports to the United States were Australian skins can not be definitely stated, but it may be assumed that the larger part were the products of these colonies, and that hence the United States is, perhaps, a larger consumer of Australian rabbit skins than even the United Kingdom.—Daily Consular and Trade Reports.

Up Before the Bar.

N. H. Brown, an attorney, of Pittsfield, Vt., writes: "We have used Dr. King's New Life Pills for years and find them such a good family medicine we wouldn't be without them." For Chills, Constipation, Biliousness or Sick Headache they work wonders. 25c. All Druggists.

FINE SILVER SERVICE

To Be Presented to Battleship Mississippi by State.

SHIP GOES UP RIVER TO NATCHEZ

Program Contemplates Cruise Up "The Father of Waters" By Its Great Fighting Namesake—Jefferson Davis' Likeness or Centerpiece.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 24.—More attention has been attracted to the coming presentation of the magnificent silver service to be given by the State of Mississippi to the battleship bearing that name, in which the older ships of the Navy have figured. This unusual notice is generally regarded as being due to the extraordinary interest which the citizens of the state have taken in the event, and to the proposed trip of the Mississippi up the "Father of Waters" to Natchez.

On account of the inability to have the service completed earlier in the Spring the presentation ceremonies have been postponed from time to time. The present arrangement is to have the ceremony occur on June 1. The designers' work on the sixty-two pieces, composing this elaborate service of silver, was finished some time ago, but the manufacturers are working over time at the establishment in Philadelphia, where the service is being made, in order to have it completed in time to accommodate the officials in charge of the presentation.

The sixty-two pieces are to cost \$7,200. The main utensil will be a punch bowl of seven and a half gallons capacity. It will be elaborately decorated and will bear on one side of it an etching of the new Mississippi and on the other an etching of the old Mississippi. The contrast between the wooden ship that did valiant service in her day and her wonderful steel successor that could easily destroy a fleet of vessels like the old Mississippi is brought out in this etching in a striking way.

The design which has caused the most comment, however, is that to be found on the center piece of the set. It is the one which bears a likeness of Jefferson Davis, the famous Mississippian, who was elected President of the Confederate States of America, and served his state in distinguished capacities. On one side of the centerpiece is to be an etching of "Beauvoir," the home of the late Mr. Davis. Beneath this is to be etched a bust in medallion relief of Mr. Davis in citizen's costume. On the opposite side is being etched a representation of the old capital at Jackson, while beneath it will be placed a bust of De Soto, the Spaniard who discovered the Mississippi River.

In the original design the bust of De Soto was placed under the etching of "Beauvoir." Inasmuch there was nothing in the design under the etching of the Capital, its symmetry was imperfect. At the suggestion of Mr. Eunice Miller Lockwood, of Mississippi, the head of the committee of design, a change was made. The picture of Mr. Davis, as he was accustomed to appear at his home during the latter years of his life, was placed under "Beauvoir" and the De Soto medallion was transferred to the opposite side.

The large water in which the punch bowl will be placed will bear an etching representing the first French settlement at Biloxi in 1699. The water in the water pitcher will have an etching representing the advent of the American flag at Natchez in 1797. Another large piece, to be added to the service, will bear the etching of the discovery of the Mississippi. This etching will be a reproduction of the large painting in the corridor of the House of Representatives in the National Capitol, showing De Soto advancing to strike the waters with his sword. The other pieces in the set will be adorned with many minor designs and emblems, some representing historical events.

In presenting a silver service to the Mississippi State is following the precedent established years ago. Only ten states have failed to present the officers of the ships named after them with silver services, although in many instances the state Legislatures have not made appropriations for that purpose, as was the case in Mississippi, but patriotic citizens in the various commonwealths have raised large sums to buy the service. The states which have not given services are Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Idaho, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, Carolina and West Virginia.

The amount spent for this purpose by the various states has varied from \$1,000 to \$25,000. The most costly service was that presented by the state of Pennsylvania, whose legislature spent \$25,000 for the purpose. The Maine is particularly proud of its service because it belonged to the Maine that went down in Havana harbor.

The value of the various services, presented by the states, or its citizens, to the ships in the navy is as follows: Alabama \$3,250; California \$6,000; Colorado \$5,000; Connecticut \$5,000; Illinois \$5,000; Kentucky \$6,000; Louisiana \$15,000; Maine \$1,025; Missouri \$10,000; Montana \$5,500; New York \$10,000; Oregon \$1,285; Ohio \$7,000; Pennsylvania \$25,000; Rhode Island \$7,850; South Dakota \$5,000; Texas \$2,925; Tennessee \$5,000; Vermont \$2,721; Virginia \$5,000; Washington \$5,500; Wisconsin \$5,500.

From this it will be seen that the services which the battleship Mississippi will possess will compare most favorably with those to be found on any vessel in the American Navy.

MEYERS BROTHERS DEPARTMENT STORE

OUR LARGE ASSORTMENT OF Women's Spring Tailored Suits



GO ON SALE AT
25 per cent.
Discount

Here is the opportunity for which most all women have been awaiting ever since the beginning of the spring season. All the new spring styles enter into this sale, including the new smart exclusive creations made from imported worsteds. The saving on every suit is 25 per cent. discount marked from the regular price. The suits are two and three piece empire effect, new directoire, smart tailored and fancy trimmed, made of shadow striped worsteds, serges and fancy novelties; colors, catwba, reeseda, gray, black, blue.



The only suits not included in this sale are the whites, white and black stripes, serges and checks

THE PRICES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

\$12.95 Suits	- - \$ 9.71	\$25.00 Suits	- - \$18.75
\$16.95 Suits	- - \$12.71	\$30.00 Suits	- - \$22.50
\$20.00 Suits	- - \$15.00	\$35.00 Suits	- - \$26.25

Positive No Goods Exchanged or Memo. Extra charges for All Alterations

2707-2709 WASHINGTON AVE. NEWPORT NEWS, VA.

MEYERS BROS

DEPARTMENT STORE.

Mail Orders Promptly and Carefully Filled

Branch Stores Winston, Salem, N. C. Jefferson Avenue Newport News



This is a Picture of the Hoosier Special Kitchen Cabinet

We will give away absolutely free at 10:30 a. m. May 3rd. If you have a chance come in and see who is the lucky party. See us about these Cabinets—See the big display at our store. Special Sale April 26th. to May 1st.—terms to suit you too.

We Will For a Few Days Allow a Discount of 25 Per Cent. 1-4 Off

On all spot cash purchases. Everything marked in plain figures. Come in and look over the goods. See what you can save—we know it means dollars to you, and we never had a nicer stock to show. Now is your chance—save ONE-FOURTH, and remember our price was the smallest before we made the 25 PER CENT. cut. A word to the wise is enough—all we ask is a chance to show you. We only ask you to believe what you see—that's fair.

The Harvey Furniture Co.

226 28th. Street.

"UPLIFT" FOR THE OYSTER PROPOSED

Not only is the Mississippi to receive a silver service, but there will be presented to her officers two handsome silver candelabra by the Daughters of the American Revolution in Mississippi. The service will be accepted on behalf of the officers of the Mississippi by Captain John C. Fremont. Comment has been made that it will be the son and namesake of the first candidate for President of the Republican party who will accept the present of the state of Mississippi on behalf of the battleship.

LAWSON IS "CURSED" EITHER WAY IT GOES

Thomas W. Lawson writes to *Everybody's Magazine*, the president of the System, a letter explaining his position toward the System and the public. The letter appears in the May number of the magazine, and says in part:

"When Lawson scores against the System, the people applauded, for they benefit. When the Syndicate scores against Lawson's punishment both from the profane damning of the people for whom he fights, and this is as it should be for suffering is the fruit of failure. But as Lawson knew before he enlisted that the game was one where the chances were many for his losing, and that any victory of his would be the people's not his own, Lawson should have no kick coming at any outcome.

"If you, my dear Ridgway, suffer chagrin and humiliation because the people have lost upon Lawson's advice, think of how Lawson must suffer when he gets them in wrong. But that which keeps Lawson on the firing line should at such times console Ridgway. Lawson with all his knowledge of the game, all his long life-

"UPLIFT" FOR THE OYSTER PROPOSED

time experience in finance and business, believes from the bottom of his soul that the only way the people can be educated to action against the real evils of the stockgambling game is by actually taking a hand in it personally fingering its cursed profits, and wallowing in the poisoned luxuries which they create, personally suffering the hell which its gambling losses entail. He believes that in no other way can the people exist in their battle with the System long enough to acquire the necessary education to enable them to destroy the evil.

"It should console you, my dear Ridgway, to know that each day the people are nearer the System's throat, that each day we do make headway, even though oftentimes the people temporarily lose money, and that when the final round-up comes, the benefits which the people receive by the destruction of the System will be so great that the losses they have made through Lawson will be as fly specks on God's great blue. For, regardless of what the Tickers of the System say, you should not fall into the error of doubting that those who fight for the people in this battle are making headway. As sure as the great sun will rise over the world tomorrow, so sure is the goal in sight, and that is the doom of the System.

THOMAS W. LAWSON.

PUBLISHER WHO THREW DOWN HALL CAINE

When Hall Caine went up to London to become Rossetti's housemate, he brought with him the MS. of a collection of lectures which he had written while living in Liverpool. Shortly after the poet's death, when ways and means had begun to present serious problems, somebody recommended that he should submit this MS. to certain great publishing house, and he tells of his first experience with a publisher in the March Apollon.

At the door of the office, he writes, I was told to write my own name,

PUBLISHER WHO THREW DOWN HALL CAINE

and the name of the person I wished to see, and to state my business. I did so, and the boy who took my message brought back word that I might leave my manuscript for consideration.

After waiting three torturing weeks for the decision of the publisher, I made bold to call again. At the same little box at the door of the office I had once more to fill up the same little document. The boy took it in, and I was left to sit on his table, to look at the desk which had been whittling away with his pen-knife, to wait, and to tremble. After a while I heard a footstep returning. I thought it might be the publisher or the editor of the house. It was the boy back again. He had a pile of loose sheets of white paper in his hands. They were the sheets of my book.

"The editor's compliments, sir, and—thank you," said the boy, and my manuscript went sprawling over the table. I gathered it up, tucked it as deep as possible into the darkness, under the wings of my lavender cape, and went downstairs, ashamed, humiliated, crushed, and broken-spirited.

I dare say it was right and proper, and in good order. The book was afterwards published and I think I sold well. I hardly know whether I ought to say that the editor should have shown me more courtesy, but the sequel is worth telling. That editor became my personal friend. He is dead, and he was a good, amiable man. Of course he remembered nothing of this incident, and I never poisoned one hour of our intercourse by telling him how when I was young, and a word or cheer would have buoyed me up, he made me drink the waters of Marah.

And three time since that day the publishing firm I speak of has come to me with the request that I should write a book for them. I have never been able to do so, but I have outgrown my bitterness, and, of course, I show no malice. Indeed, I have now the best reasons for wishing the great enterprise well. But if literary confessions are worth anything, the one may perhaps be a seed that will somewhere find grateful soil. Keep a good heart, even if you have to knock in vain on many doors and kick about the back stairs of the house of letters. There is room enough here.