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Winter Layers of Different Ages

ABOUT WINTER LAYERS—it is thought that farmers keep hens until too old for profitable winter egg production and it is also a common belief that the hatched pullets commence to lay only during the following spring. To throw some light on this subject, it was decided in 1915 to compare early pullets late pullets, yearling hens, and old hens as winter layers, at the Cap Rouge Experimental Station.

THE EXPERIMENT—The experiment began on the first day of November and ended on the last day of February, during five consecutive years. The number of birds in each lot was about twenty-five, and the whole lot occupied the same house. A strict record was kept of all eggs consumed, also of all eggs produced by every pen. At the beginning and at the end of each experiment the birds were weighed so that, in the spring, the gain or loss in weight could be credited or debited to them.

THE RESULTS—If the cost of production of one dozen of eggs, during winter, is taken as 100 for early pullets, that had before May, it would be represented by 249 for yearling hens, by 280 for late pullets, hatched after April, and by 848 for old hens. In other words, when pullets hatched before May produced a certain number of eggs at a cost of \$1.00, yearling hens produced the same number at a cost of \$2.49, pullets hatched after April at a cost of \$2.80 and old hens at a cost of \$8.48.

WEIGHT OF EGGS—It is sometimes objected that, though early pullets lay more eggs than yearling or old hens, the size of the eggs is such that they would bring much less in the market. To settle this question, the figures from the present experiment were taken. It was found that, for the same weight of eggs, when it cost \$1.00 to produce them with early pullets, it cost \$2.35 to produce them with yearling hens, \$2.92 with late pullets, and \$8.10 with old hens. It will be seen that, as expected, the weight of eggs from hens was a little larger than that from early pullets, but the difference does not materially change the figures for the cost per dozen.

SAME BIRDS COMPARED—The birds used for this experiment were not specially bred for egg production, so that the early pullets put in each year were not from better stock than the yearling or older hens. Two seasons, the yearling hens used for this experiment were the same birds, with the exception of a very few which had died, as the ones in the pen of early pullets of the previous year, and in both cases they were, for cost of production, below the new lot of early pullets taken indiscriminately in the farm flock.

EARLY PULLETS BEST—That early pullets are the cheapest producers of winter eggs has been told and written so often that it is like an old story. But a carefully conducted experiment will again remind farmers of a well known fact which they often seem liable to forget.

May Give Up Title Mistress Of Seas

A Star special from Washington says:

Great Britain is willing to surrender her historic position of "mistress of the seas." Under pressure of her own economic and taxation problems, particularly her heavy debt, she is eager for the naval holiday discussion which is attracting so much attention, not only in the United States but in Great Britain and Japan.

Great Britain is not willing, however, for the United States or any other nation to have a navy superior to hers. The rock bottom point of her willingness to concede is that she will agree to limit her own naval programme to a point where her navy will be precisely equal in power to that of the United States.

This intimation that Britain is willing to curtail her building programme so that the United States' navy will equal it on a specified date is regarded by officials here as of the greatest importance. There is the most intense feeling in favor of the naval holiday.

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Four Eclipses In Present Year

The year 1921 will afford American astronomers only a meagre opportunity to increase their knowledge of eclipses by practical observation, unless they pack their cameras and long-named instruments and tie themselves to distant parts. There will be four eclipses during the year, two of the sun and two of the moon, but neither of the solar eclipses will be visible in North America and only one of the lunar eclipses will be possible to get a good view, and this only if the atmospheric conditions are favorable.

The first eclipse of the year will be an annular eclipse of the sun on April 8, which will not be visible in the United States or Canada.

Later in the same month, however, there will be a total eclipse of the moon, which may be observed all over North American continent and a large part of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. The eclipse will begin on April 22, at 1:03 Washington time. Totality will begin at 2:23 a. m. and end at 3:05.

The third and most important eclipse of the year from a scientific viewpoint will be a total eclipse of the sun on October 1. This will not be visible in this part of the globe, but it is likely that some of the big American universities and scientific societies will send expeditions to South America, where the best observations of the astronomical phenomena will be obtained.

The fourth and last eclipse of the year will be a partial eclipse of the moon on October 16. This will be visible throughout Europe, Africa and Asia, but only the end will be visible to the people of North America.

Much Pulp Wood To U. S. From N.B.

Portland, Me., Jan. 5.—The arrival here a few days ago of the steamship Lake Gatum from Dalhousie (N. B.), marked the close of the importation of pulpwood to this port from Canadian ports for the season and brought the total pulpwood im-

A Kidney Remedy

Kidney troubles are frequently caused by badly digested food which overtaxes these organs to eliminate the irritant acids formed. Help your stomach to properly digest the food by taking 15 to 30 drops of Extract of Roots, sold as Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup, and your kidney disorder will promptly disappear. Get the genuine.

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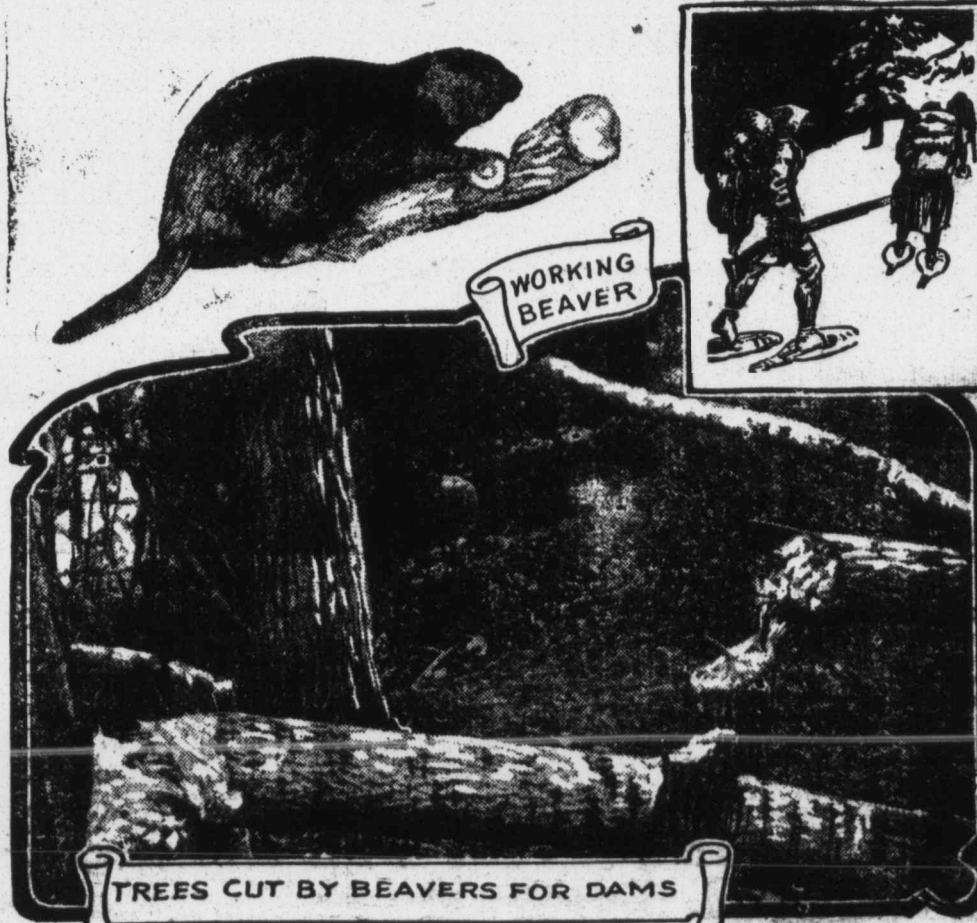
portations up to \$5,000 cords, the largest amount imported at Portland since 1914, when the ships brought 100,000 cords here.

Importation of pulpwood commenced May 24 and since that date seventy-four ships have come here from Canadian ports with pulpwood. Vast quantities of pulpwood were brought here by American ships making their maiden voyages, as ships built on the

Great Lakes that have stopped at New Brunswick, loaded cargo and proceeded here. All the pulpwood brought here has been consigned to the International Paper Co. and the Oxford Paper Co.

Harding Company say that the outlook for heavy shipments of pulpwood to this port this year is very bright and that the high mark of 1920 may be exceeded.

Mr. Beaver—Dam and Empire Builder



Anyone who first gazes on the shield of the Canadian Pacific Railway is struck with the flag-tailed little animal sitting in the foreground. This is no less than Mr. Beaver, the chap who started out to build a dam and built up the Dominion of Canada in addition for good measure.

Columbus did not seek pelts when he discovered America. Others came to find China, but when Cathay did not prove to be around the corner and the fur trade started its his-

torical certificate with the end of his tomahawk the St. Lawrence would probably have been abandoned but for its upper reaches which yammered and screeched with beavers. The French founded Montreal with beaver and beaver skin—the original name of the city was Hochelaga, which means "Beaver Meadow." Mr. Beaver even became the mascot of the Chicago Cubs in the early days of Virginia, and no Indian could buy the coveted gun or the beaver's his Minnehaha longed for the precious pelts. The fur trade received its start as the

land of furs and particularly beaver. Civilization followed the trapper and trader, and as the fur trade worked over northward, the white man went with it, developed new territory and established new outposts in the conquest of the wilderness. Mr. Beaver is still an important personage. Within the last year a company was organized in Montreal with a capital of \$5,000,000 to conduct fur auctions and Canada is becoming a great fur market as well as the world's great fur producer—and beaver is still the staple of the fur trade.