

LOCUST PLAGUE ON THE RAND

PLACE VISITED BY MILLIONS OF
BIG BROWN INSECTS.

Fanned Carpet Inches Thick, Caused
Trains to Stall, and Brought
Ruin to Farmers.

Shortly after midday on Friday the dark cloud which had been seen away beyond the mines on the south of Johannesburg drew nearer, covering the entire skyline, writes a Johannesburg correspondent of the London Daily Mail. "The usual storm," was the general comment, for the Rand this summer has had more than an ordinary supply of afternoon thunderstorms. And a storm it was. But it was a storm of locusts—and one which even the oldest Rand pioneer searched his memory in vain to parallel.

Hardly had the detached spires of the advance guard fallen in the streets than the town experienced the dim religious light of a London fog. The term "darkened the sky" was literally true. The sun was hidden by an enormous, almost solid, mass of flying brown locusts—the most destructive kind. They passed in millions—billions—myriads. Upward, as far as the eye could see, locusts shut out the blue sky. Eastward to Germiston, westward toward Krugersdorp, the swarm seemed numberless, limitless. The whole world appeared to be filled with locusts.

FORMED CARPET INCHES THICK.

They descended like flakes of snow. Millions crawled and jumped in the streets, millions ravaged the gardens in the suburbs. But those which fell formed an infinitesimal section of the main body passing overhead. They were as a handful of sand taken from the seashore.

In Commissioner street they formed a carpet inches thick, mangled by vehicles, cut up by cycles and motor cars. Women fought them vigorously, parading in one hand, the other clutching frantically at their skirts. Men beat down the invaders with books and papers and sticks. The most active dogs soon gave up the struggle in despair and slunk away to quiet corners. The telephone service was interrupted by the weight of the insects clinging to the wires. The houses had a living roof of crawling locusts.

CAUSED TRAINS TO STALL.

On the Reef trains were brought to a standstill. The locusts crushed on the rails made them so slippery the wheels would not grip, and all the sand available was useless. Down Hospital Hill three tramway cars ran away for the same reason. So thick

DOCTORS DON'T KNOW ALL.

When they say asthma is incurable they only think so. Every day bad cases are cured by Catarrhoxone; this scientific treatment is a perfect success. Try Catarrhoxone.

was the swarm on the Reef that the chauffeur of a large motor car drove into a post and was overturned and had to be removed to a hospital. In the suburbs gardens were eaten bare and the unfortunate owners fought in vain with sticks and tennis racquets against the millions of invaders. The great falling dumps, the "Aips of the Rand," were no longer white as snow. They were all brown—brown with a covering of locusts. In town they penetrated everywhere. Tea rooms and bars, houses and offices, all contained locusts. It was useless to close doors and windows. They crawled by pipes and chimneys, crept through crevices or ventilators or arrived in the clothing of visitors. Johannesburg was flooded—with locusts.

RUIN BROUGHT UPON FARMERS.

The main army crossed the town in four or five hours and disappeared in the north, but millions which fell by the way are still with us. As I write I have twice had to get up and destroy stragglers, rustling about under newspapers or attempting to jump into the inkpot. On the roof outside there are thousands upon thousands of locusts. Reports from all over South Africa tell of the crushed bodies as the sand on the shore, and the Kaffirs are tired of eating them. At night the smell of decomposing locusts pervades the town.

But the inconvenience and damage in the town are nothing contrasted with the ruin brought upon the farmers. South Africa is indeed a land of plagues. Disease kills the stock, locusts eat the crops. Last week it was reported that the insects did damage to the extent of £100,000 on Transvaal farms alone. In the Crocodile River valley, near Pretoria, the damage was set down at £7,000, and many individual farmers estimated their loss at £500. This year the locust plague appears to be worse than ever, and reports from all over South Africa tell the same story.

SMALL DATA ABOUT INVASIONS.

It is curious how small are the data available regarding locusts in South Africa. These invasions seem to come in cycles, but why they come and whence, and the conditions under which they breed, are largely matters of controversy.

Moffat, the missionary, recorded a tremendous invasion about Kurnuan in 1826, which he said had been paralleled for twenty years and had not been equaled since (he wrote in 1840). In Natal there was no locust trouble between 1851 and 1893, but in the latter year the scourge was awful. One swarm took ten days to cross the farm of the Hon. Joseph Baynes, and another took 21 days flying over.

Maurice Campbell recently returned from a hasty trip to Europe, bringing with him the manuscript of a play called "Beauty." It is expected that he will star Henrietta Crossman in the place before the season ends. A report comes from New York that Miss Ethel Conroy of David Warfield's company was married last week in Chicago to DeWitt C. Jennings, a member of the stock company playing at the Chicago Opera House. The ceremony took place in the apartments of Miss Antoinette Perry, Mr. Warfield's leading woman.

CARELESSNESS WITH DYNAMITE

ACCIDENTS ATTRIBUTED TO THE
RECKLESS HANDLING BY
WORKMEN.

Nitroglycerine Is Queer Stuff—Curious
Stories of Its Effects and Behavior.

The carelessness of men who handle dynamite is proverbial. "As careless as a powder monkey" is a phrase that describes a well established condition. The experience of a certain Jersey City inspector is not at all unusual.

On entering a small shanty where this inspector thought dynamite was being kept he found a negro stretched out sound asleep on a bench, with a dozen men and boys shooting craps around a table. Right beside them on a hot radiator were a dozen sticks of dynamite, thawing, while over their heads were stored 400 pounds more.

Another inspector came out a gun breaking open a box of gelatine compound even more powerful than dynamite with his boot heel. Had his heel gone a fraction of an inch too far into the box there would have been an explosion which would have killed him and left a hole in the ground big enough to hold a house.

A third inspector, at Kimberley, South Africa, saw one of the Kaffir watchmen sitting in the shade of the corrugated iron magazine smoking a pipe. He had been repeatedly warned that smoking was contrary to orders, and the officer beckoned to him. Before the Kaffir could rise there was an explosion of 75,000 pounds of high explosives and 16,000 pounds of gunpowder. A spark from the pipe had ignited some powder which had leaked out through a crack in the boxes.

In European countries rules governing the manufacture, transportation and storage of the dangerous products are made by the different governments, and an employee who violates these laws is not only discharged, but fined and often imprisoned as well. Methods of handling dynamite and other nitroglycerine explosives are specified by law and infractions are punished by the courts.

Magazines for storage are examined by government inspectors and licenses issued before they can be used. Even the keys to magazines must be given to responsible persons, whose sole duty is to look after explosives. In Great Britain the law even specifies that an employee of a factory making explosives must be provided with clothing made of non-inflammable material, and having no pockets.

While a fire which destroyed a pier in Hoboken, N. Y., in May, 1904, was in progress a carload of dynamite was pulled out, a mass of flames. It was rushed, blazing fiercely, back into the yards, water was turned on, and the flames were extinguished. There was no explosion. Yet a spark from a passing locomotive falling into a brush heap against a magazine at the Laguna Dam, Arizona, caused an explosion in which 1,000 pounds of powder and dynamite were exploded, causing great damage to property and serious injury to many persons.

A powder wagon containing 3,000 pounds of dynamite was struck by a passenger train at a crossing near St. Louis, Mo. The wagon was demolished, the mule attached to it was killed and dynamite was scattered all over the right of way; but there was no explosion.

At Jellico, Tenn., fifteen persons were killed and many injured by the explosion of a car of dynamite. An investigation showed that the car had been shot into by a person using one of the powder cards as a target. Shooting into dynamite seems to be one of the sure and certain ways of causing an explosion. The records are full of accounts of catastrophes caused by ignorant people shooting at the magazines.

The explosion of three cars of dynamite at Johannesburg, South Africa, in which a score of people were killed, was laid to a stray bullet. Boys shooting into old buildings that were formerly used for storing explosives have on several occasions been credited with lessening the tramp population.

The desire of all experimenters in high explosives is to make one that shall have great power and also be safe for those who must handle it. Some compounds of nitroglycerine have been found to withstand even the shooting test and also the test of having a red hot iron pushed through.

"Winter is the open season for dynamite explosions," said one of the men who had charge of a thawing house at the Pennsylvania tunnel excavation in New York. "Dynamite freezes at 55 degrees Fahrenheit, and if you want to do anything with it you must get it back to its summer temperature."

"This is not as easy as it sounds, for it is no small matter to get the tricky stuff just warm enough and not too warm. It must be just warm enough in order to gain its full efficiency, while if it gets too warm it will become efficient too soon."

"We read in the papers that somewhere out in the coal mining districts of Pennsylvania a miner's hut has been blown up. It is ten to one that that fellow had put a stick of dynamite on the kitchen stove to thaw it out, and had gone away and forgotten it. Or else he had left it underneath the stove and the baby had got it and made a plaything of it."

Out in the west in constructing roads and building tunnels the workmen often put a stick of dynamite along a roadside to dry in the sun. The method is good enough if the sticks do not fall against each other, or if some one does not fire off a gun near by. If either of these things should happen the chances are there will be a big hole in the ground and an opening for another powder monkey.

"If the sun is not hot enough they generally build a fire near by and expect the warmth of the flames to put life into the dynamite. But if a spark happens to shoot over into the bunch it not infrequently has a sudden and startling result."

"I remember one case where an Ital-

RED ROSE TEA "IS GOOD TEA"

The Expert Tea Taster is the one who knows the real value of Red Rose Tea and uses it as a standard to judge other teas by.

Wouldn't you like to judge it for yourself? It is the tea that has that rich, fruity flavor—just what pleases the expert tea taster.

Ask your grocer to send you a package to-day.



Corticelli

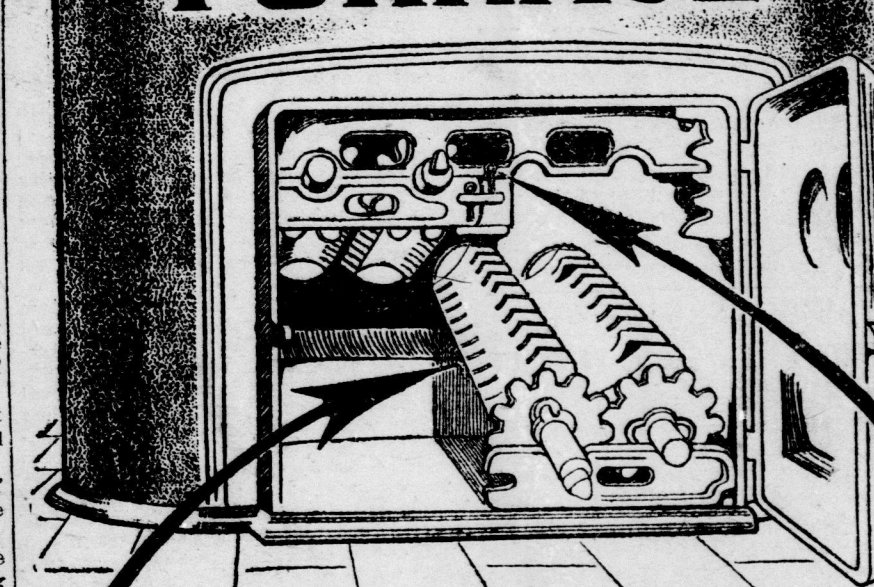
Too Strong to Break

Spool Silk

The Dressmakers Favourite Spool Silk

has held the World's record for Superiority for over sixty years.—Think what that means!

SUNSHINE FURNACE



EASY MATTER TO REMOVE GRATES

If necessity requires, it is an easy matter to remove the grates from the Sunshine.

Just loosen the cotter pin (see the top arrow pointing at it) and the grates on the right can be lifted out. Repeat the operation on the left, and you can do the same with the remaining grates.

Could any operation be easier or simpler?

These four grates are made of heavy cast-iron with the strongest kind of bull dog teeth. Heavy and strong enough to grind up the biggest clinker into particles small enough to sift through the narrow openings between the teeth.

What's left in the ash-pan is not worth sifting.

If your local dealer does not handle the "Sunshine," write direct to us for FREE BOOKLET.

McClary's

London, Toronto, Montreal, Winnipeg, Vancouver, St. John, N.B.
J. A. BROWNLEE, 385 Talbot Street.
J. O. PARK, 663 Dundas Street, London East.

Better Underwear

Keeps your body warm, yet lets your skin breathe—knit, not woven.—It fits—does PEN-ANGLE Underwear.

Guaranteed Against Shrinkage

Trade-marked in red. In a variety of styles, fabrics and prices, for women, men and children, and guaranteed.

"I never knew until this winter," said the superintendent of a dog and cat hospital, "how thoroughly most animals detect the smell of kerosene. Several times the steam heating apparatus in this place went on a strike, and we tried to raise the temperature by means of an oil stove. The smell of the oil produced a regular mutiny among the animals. Cats are particularly sensitive to the odor of kerosene. Next door to my house is a stationery store which has been heated all winter by an oil stove. In the beginning of the season the proprietor owned a fine cat that seemed well satisfied with his comfortable quarters. No sooner, however, was that stove lighted than the cat deserted the stationer and sought a home for the winter in a steam-heated flat farther down the street. He comes back once in a while on a visit, but the smell of the oil prevents his becoming a regular inhabitant of that store."

—New York Sun.

Calling a water "pure" does not certify it safe for you to drink. Water can be pure and yet be harmful. Boiled water is pure, in one sense, because heat destroyed the bacteria it contained, but heat does not remove harmful salts from water, nor the organic matter. Distilled water, used so much on shipboard, is chemically pure; but seafaring men will warn you against drinking too much "condenser" (distilled) water. It brings on bowel trouble, because the salts it should contain have been distilled out of it. Some spring water is fairly pure; but even the purest spring water contains dissolved mineral matter—sulphate of lime, carbonate of lime, magnesia, common salt, potash, iron. Even pure water, if it contains too much of some of these salts, does you harm. So what are you to do? You shouldn't drink boiled water because the salts are not boiled out of it. You mustn't drink distilled water because the salts are boiled out of it. Most spring waters have too much of the wrong kind of salts. What are you to drink? Why not drink a water that is not only ideally pure, but in which are naturally present exactly the salts that are good for anybody, in exactly the proportion that is right for everybody? Why not drink a water that is zestful, sparkling, limpid, with no excess of mineral, no trace of harmful salts? That is

York Springs Water

Wholesome — Limpid — Refreshing
Bottled at the Springs for surety of purity and sold in your neighborhood by merchants who discriminate.

Ideally Pure York Springs Water is the basis of these beverages: York Springs Water (natural), York Springs (York Springs Water charged with purified carbonic gas), York Ginger Ale, York Sarsaparilla, York Soda, York Potash Water, York Aperientia (the perfect laxative)

The Mineral Springs Limited Toronto
For Sale By SCANDRETT BROS.,
E. B. SMITH, Esq. T. A. ROWAT & Co.