

# SALT, SALT

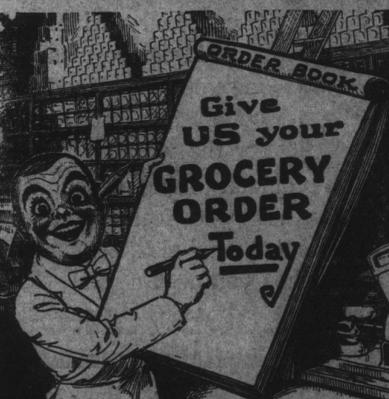
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### Why Salmon Leave the Sea.

(By PROF. J. ARTHUR THOMSON.)  
It is a pity to spoil the word "migration" by applying it to other kinds of mass-movements. True migration is best illustrated among the birds; it is a well established seasonal swing between summer quarters, the nesting and breeding places, and winter quarters, the resting and feeding places. True migration is a regular ebb and flow. But this sort of mass-movement is quite different from a shifting of shoals of fishes from one part of the sea to another during a period of the year when there is no question of breeding. They are following the movements of the animals on which they feed, and these are influenced by changes in the physical conditions of the water, such as temperature.

**Starved by Hunger.**  
Or again when the Scandinavian lemmings have devoured everything edible they go on the march in search of food, and a small band will soon become a great army. But this is not migration. It is comparable to what has often taken place in human history, when the setting in of aridity, or something equally disquieting, forced the people to trek to new countries. In some cases, we admit it is difficult to know what word to use. Thus, a swarm of locusts is often no more than a mass-movement spurred by hunger; the herds have eaten up every green thing and they must press on, first on foot, and afterwards on wing.

**Periodic Mass-Movements.**  
Thus, in Algiers the locusts appear in vast numbers in the early months of the year, coming from the Sahara, and return to near the Equator in winter. In the same way there are several kinds of monkeys in India that ascend the Himalayas in summer to a height sometimes of 10,000 feet, and descend to the low ground in the winter. This is a periodic mass-movement, but it has no close connection with the birth of the young ones. It seems, then, that we may distinguish true migrations, as in birds and fur-seals, which are regular, seasonal, and connected with breeding, from regular movements that have no such connection, and also from irregular irruptions or dispersals, which are due to over-population and lack of food, or to some change for the worse in the physical conditions. Leaving birds by themselves, let us picture some of the different kinds of movements among other creatures.

**Ballooning of Spiders.**  
Very interesting is the mass movement of small spiders, so often seen in autumn, but sometimes occurring at other seasons. Several kinds of small spiders climb on to tall plants on a breezy morning and, standing with their heads to the wind, pay out three or four threads of silk—the gossamer. When these are long enough the wind tugs at them; the spiders let go and are borne through the air, sometimes for miles. The details do not concern us here, but the spiders eventually sink to earth and their ballooning threads, that have served their purpose, are entangled on the surface of the fields and meadows. One point is that the significance of these aerial journeys is to transport the spiders to a new area, from a crowded region. It may be, to one with more elbow-room. It is an exploration rather than a migration.

**Migration of Fishes.**  
When the salmon have become large and lusty in the sea, they make

for the rivers prompted by the urge to breed. They press up against the streams, after surmounting low waterfalls and overcoming strong rapids, and they are fasting all the time, notwithstanding their great exertions. To put it in slightly metaphorical words, they are moved by "love" rather than by "hunger." They continue their journey till they come to suitable gravelly beds, where the female makes a furrow and deposits the eggs, which the male fertilizes with the milt. After a slow development, which does not concern us here, the eggs develop into fry, which become fry, which become parr, which become smelt, which in their second or third year become restless and make for the sea! This again is true migration.

**The Lamprey.**  
The lamprey, which is at a lower level than a fish, is interesting in its movements. There are some kinds—Brook Lampreys—that remain always in fresh water, as many trout do; but the Large Lamprey, which grows to be a yard long and as thick as one's wrist, feeds and grows in the sea, but comes up the rivers to spawn. Plounders are often found far up rivers, a dozen miles or so from the shore, but they have to go down to the sea to spawn and the young plounders must remain for a long time in the salt water—a life-history just the converse of the salmon's.

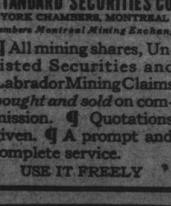
**Freak Laws Multiply.**  
Freak legislation is still going strong. In various States of the American Union it is now a crime to adopt daylight saving. That is to say those who disregard standard time by setting their timepieces an hour ahead are violating the law and may be fined varying sums up to \$500. It is not mentioned whether or not one is fined for getting up an hour earlier than usual, but presumably that also carries its penalties, as would going to bed an hour earlier. And then suppose one's timepiece gets out of kilter and runs fast, what is one to do under such circumstances?

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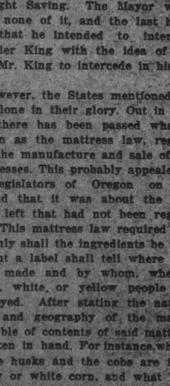
but it is a mass-movement often involving thousands at a time. The fact that the wind may occasionally blow half of them out to sea, raises no difficulty. No arrangements are needed. There are other creatures besides mice and men whose ways go "zigzag."

**The Robber Crab.**  
To sum up: (1) When vast numbers of dragon-flies, butterflies, spiders and so on, up to rats and lemings, suddenly appear, but not regularly, in a region where they are not common, this indicates a dispersal and an incursion prompted by hunger, either due to over-population or to some unpropitious change in the physical conditions. (2) When troops of reindeer or bands of monkeys or schools of octopuses or shoals of fishes regularly come and go from certain places to certain places, at different times of year, this indicates an answer-back to seasonal changes. Such mass-movements might be called periodic wanderings. (3) When the Robber Crab of Christmas Island leave the coco-trees and make for the shore, where they spawn and whence they return, followed long afterwards by the surviving members of their families, this is a true migration, like that of the fur-seals, to their rookeries, like that of the turtles to their sandy islands, like that of the salmon to their rivers, like that of the birds who "change their season in a night, and wait their way from cloud to cloud down the long wind." But we recognize, of course, that the three grades are, as it were, on an inclined plane, fading into one another, and that all the mass-movements are expressions of life's indomitable insurgency.

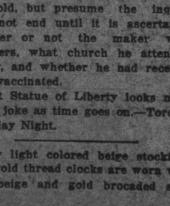
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**Storyettes.**  
**A WAGGISH "TALE."**  
"Now, I wonder," thought Alphonso, "what Arabella is doing at this precise moment?" Arabella and Alphonso were married last January, and Alphonso, being a commercial traveller, is far from home. "I wonder what she is doing," he repeated musingly. "And then a brilliant idea struck him. He resolved to resort to the nearest spiritualistic medium. 'What,' said Alphonso, for the third time, 'is Arabella doing at this moment?'" "She is looking out of the window," replied the medium, "evidently expecting someone." "That is strange," said Alphonso. "What can she be expecting?" "Ah," continued the medium, "someone enters the house, and she crosses him fondly." "It can't be!" almost shouted Alphonso in his excitement. "Now he lays his head on her lap and looks tenderly into her eyes." "Rogue!" roared the jealous husband. "Now she kisses him." "It's false!" yelled Alphonso. "I'll make you pay for this!"

**It's Too Close to be Comfortable Anyhow.**



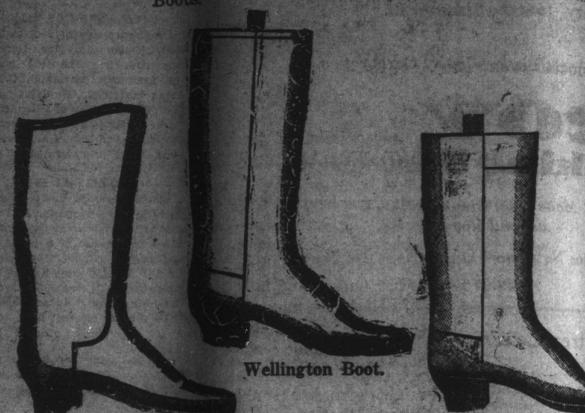
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