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WONDERFUL LIFE OF POTATO BUGS IS TOLD IN BULLETIN

Dig Themselves in Early in Autumn and Remain Until Next Spring

Nearly everyone who was born in eastern Canada has picked potato bugs. On the prairies they also are plentiful and are usually destroyed by sprinkling the potato tops with Paris Green. The department of agriculture has just written a bulletin about its habits from which it is gathered that the Colorado beetle, as it is properly known, is a most persistent insect. It starts to hibernate in August, September or early October, and turns up ready for business in the spring. In Ottawa, as told by the Entomological branch in Bulletin 52 of the Dominion Departmen' of Agriculture on "The Colorado Potato Beetle in Canada," tests have been made as to length of life of the creature and under what circumstances it will retain vitality.

In wintering cage tests with beetles in New Brunswick several lots were forced into hibernation at an early date by confining them in wire cages on the soil with only enough food for one day. All had burrowed within three days after the food had gone. From three lots put in the cages August 30 and September 5, 205 beetles out of 600 emerged the following spring. Out of 200 put in September 10 42 emerged and out of 3,320 put in the cages on September 13 and later only 360 emerged in the spring. This would seem to indicate as the bulletin says, that the earlier the pests hibernate in the autumn the better they survive.

The beetles commonly go into the soil immediately below the place where they last fed. In a damp, cold clay loam they have been found within two inches of the surface and none at all below six inches, while in loose sandy soil only a few hundred feet away none were found at less than 14 inches and some at 17 inches. In a dense gravel loam soil only an occasional beetle was turned out when the plough was cutting 5 inches deep, but a number could be found by digging 3 inches more in the bottom of the furrow.

NEW TREATMENT OF PRISONERS

Sir William Joynson-Hicks Says Short Sentence Is of No Value

TELLS OF EFFORTS

British Attitude Toward Men Detained by State Has Changed of Late

Welcoming delegates to the Prison Congress here, Sir William Joynson-Hicks, on behalf of the British government, spoke of the new movement there in regard to the treatment of prisoners.

"The time has passed," Sir William said, "when an executive government considered it had done its duty to society when it had arrested an offender. In depriving a human being of his liberty, an executive government has undertaken a new responsibility of the very gravest kind, that of the treatment and training of the offender during his incarceration. (Applause.) A man does not lose his rights as a human being because he has broken the law. A man must not come out of prison in such a condition of mind and body that he is no longer fit to take his place in society. The State is free to experiment upon prisoners with mental, moral, and physical forces with a view to their restoration to a state of normal citizenship. This is the present object of every one of our prison administrators."

Interesting Experiments

"In the last few years," Sir William continued, "there has been a striking diminution in the number of persons in prison, notwithstanding that there has been an increase of population in the same period. Fifty years ago there were 20,000 people in local prisons; today there are only 8,000. Fifty years ago there were 10,000 people in penal servitude; today there are 1,600. To that must be added 1,100 young persons in Borstal institutions. There were 113 local prisons, and 13 penal servitude prisons in this country 50 years ago; today there are 31 local prisons, and four penal servitude institutions."

The reasons for this decrease were to be found in better education, in improved sobriety, and improvement of the standard and condition of living, and also in the care taken by judges and magistrates to make the greatest possible use of the alternative to detention. Two experiments were being conducted at present in regard to prisons. One was that Wormwood Scrubs had been organized on the basis of the idea of a separate establishment for first offenders.

Separate Prisons

"The prison was set aside entirely about two or three months ago for men committed from the London area, who had never been in prison before," added the Home Secretary, "with the object of training them in an environment free from the prison atmosphere. At Wakefield the prison has been kept for those with sentences long enough to enable them to take advantage of the opportunity of industrial training afforded. No one is admitted to this prison with a sentence of less than six months; and an eleven-hour day—nine hours' work and two hours' education—is enforced."

Sir William said that separate confinement had been almost entirely abolished in our English prisons. Systems of voluntary education in which a voluntary education assistant to the prison governor guided the work of his fellow prisoners, had been inaugurated. The classes took place free from the presence of prison officers and warders, and it was regarded as a point of honor among the prisoners to behave themselves and to do their utmost. At one prison a party of public school teachers took a train journey of 25 miles each way in order voluntarily to give instruction to the prisoners in the evening.

Prison Libraries

Prison libraries had been improved out of all knowledge in the last 50 years. Cell windows were now made to open and prisoners were allowed to see visitors naturally, without bars. The object was to promote self-respect by avoiding unnecessary degradation. Instead of stern repression a new system of strenuous training and education had been adopted.

The Home Secretary declared that he was convinced that the short sentence was absolutely useless. (Hear, hear.) A few weeks' imprisonment did not give the authorities a chance, and was not long enough to make people dread the idea of imprisonment. He hoped that the system of probation and fines would be extended so that first offenders should only be sentenced to detention in very serious cases and that when this was necessary the sentence should be long enough to give the prison authorities an opportunity of influencing the offender while in prison.

"It is stated that we import twenty million artificial teeth annually," says Punch, and comments: "It's horrible to think that the only things we can gnash at our American debt are American teeth."—Daily Mail.

Wife of Keen Angler: "So glad to make your acquaintance—but my husband gave me the impression that you were very tall!"

Jones: "Ah—but you must remember that he once fished me out of the river!"

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