

**LOCUST PLAGUE IN SYRIA.**

**Methods of Government Commission to Prevent Recurrence This Year.**

Consul Jesse B. Jackson, writing from Aleppo, describes the Turkish plans for preventing a recurrence this year of the scourge of locusts in northern Syria:

During the months of June and July, 1908, this province was visited by great swarms of locusts, permeating every locality to such an extent that the crops then standing, as well as the vegetables in their early state, were entirely destroyed. As this is purely an agricultural country, the hardship caused thereby to the peasantry amounted to almost a calamity. In partially irrigated districts the second crop was planted, the product of which was sold to local inhabitants at exorbitant prices.

It appears that the locust lays an enormous quantity of eggs soon after a long flight, depositing them in a protecting sack in a hole it makes in the ground. These eggs hatch out in the following spring, and unless the climate is exceedingly cold during the winter season the increase therefrom is enormous.

Accordingly, considerable activity has recently been manifest in official circles in this vicinity toward preventing a recurrence of the deplorable devastation of last year. With this idea in view a commission was lately appointed by the government, and designated as the "locust commission," empowered to exercise such means as appeared most effective toward exterminating the insects. The commission therefore requires, that every rural inhabitant collect and deliver to the government at least 20 okes (oke equals 2 3/4 pounds), equal to about 55 pounds of locust eggs, under penalty of a fine. This has resulted in the gathering of various quantities from the different localities, as follows: Killis 35,335 okes; imperial domains, 99,385 okes; Aleppo, 19,285 okes; Rakka, 1,970 okes; Biredjik, 8,680 okes; Ourfa, 2,542 okes; Bah, 61,851 okes; total, 299,048 okes, equal to 629,882 pounds.

In addition, the surface of certain territories was plowed over as follows, viz.: Munbouth, 5,525 doonums (doonum equals one-fourth acre); Maara, 5,275 doonums; Idlib, 4,080 doonums; Aleppo, 274 doonums; imperial domains, 1,000 doonums, total, 16,154 doonums, equivalent to 4,038 1/2 acres.

It is assumed by those in authority that these measures, while not likely to entirely prevent the reappearance of the locusts during the coming spring and summer months, will tend greatly to reduce them in numbers, at least sufficiently so to enable a more successful combat and destruction of them through the use of chemicals and by other processes.—Daily Consular and Trade Reports.

**An Inventive Genius.**

Nikola Tesla, the man who harnessed Niagara, was talking to an interviewer about inventors.

"The successful inventor," said Mr. Tesla, smiling, "has an odd, quaint mind, a mind full of surprises. Thus Smethurst, I am convinced, was an inventor at heart, though circumstances had made a grocer of him."

"Smethurst, during his seaside holiday, was seen upon the boardwalk with a large bottle under his arm."

"Smethurst," said an acquaintance, "what have you got in that bottle that I see you carrying about with you day and night?"

"Chloroform," said Smethurst.

"What the deuce are you doing with chloroform here on the boardwalk?"

"That big dub of a Jones," said Smethurst, "has threatened to give me a sound thrashing the first time he meets me, and as soon as I see him coming I'm going to take a good dose. I don't propose to suffer if I can help it."—Philadelphia Record.

Some tropical daisies measure a foot in circumference.

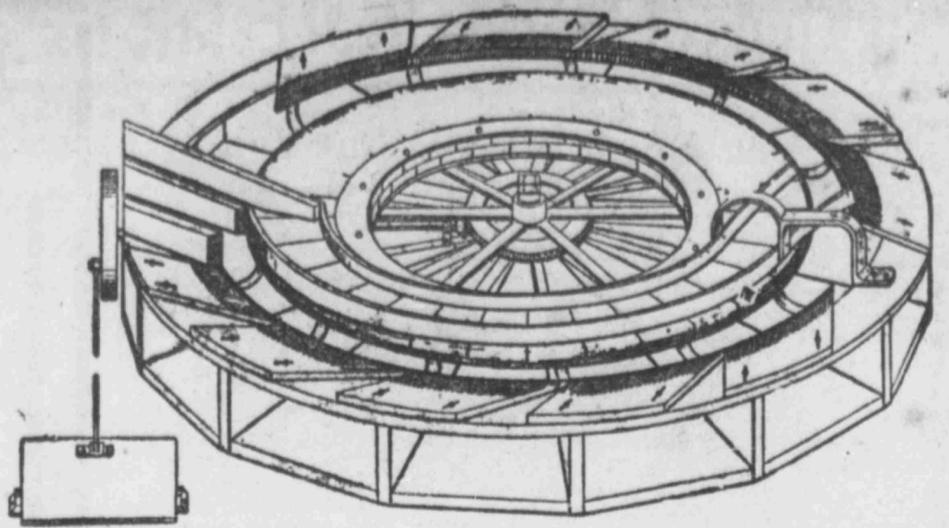
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