

WHERE JUNE 21 IS NOON OF THE YEAR

Seems Strange, But is True at Poles Novel Facts About Night and Day

We are not to refer to a day or a night and a night to indicate a specific period of time without realizing that these terms have a different meaning in different parts of the world.

The fact is that a day is not a fixed number of hours, but the length of time during which the light of the sun illumines any part of the earth.

In some parts of Norway the day lasts from May 21 to July 32 without interruption. In Spitzbergen the longest day is three and one-half months and the shortest two and a half of actual light.

At Petrograd the longest day is 19 hours and the shortest 5. At Hamburg the longest is 17 and the shortest 7, and in London the longest is 16 1/2 and the shortest 8.

The beginning of the day is not a question of universal agreement. It has been arbitrarily decided by different peoples from time to time.

The ancient Jews fixed the beginning of the day at sunrise; with the Umbrians it began at noon, and the Egyptians and Romans fixed the time at midnight, a custom adopted by Canada, the United States, and most of the European countries.

It is a matter of common knowledge that the longest day of the year is June 21 and the shortest December 21 (sometimes the 22nd). This latter is the time when the sun is farthest south on its annual slant over the tropic of Capricorn, making the maximum declination to the axis of the earth.

All over the world this date marks a turning point in duration of the day although in every case it is not the shortest day. In places south of the equator they are enjoying the longest day. At the South Pole on this date it is high noon of the six-month's day, and at the North Pole it is midnight of the "great night."

Snow's Density Varies

According to the speed of its fall and the temperature the density of snow varies. In frosty weather it comes down light and dry and the bulk is greater than in the moist cold weather when the snow falls in large, partially thawed flakes which pack closely and occupy much less space for a given amount of moisture than when there is a greater degree of cold.

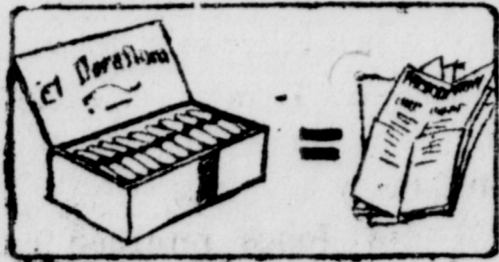
Catfish as a Diet

Recent exhortations to thrift have revived interest in odd articles of diet. Catfish, in some places known as rock salmon, is extensively used in Germany. In the eighties the late Baroness Burdett-Coutts made a valiant attempt to get people to eat catfish, eels, and their like.

They Are Even Now

An enterprising cigar dealer sent a doctor a box of cigars, which had not been ordered, together with a bill for \$5.00. The accompanying letter stated that:

"I have ventured to send these on my own initiative, being convinced



that you will appreciate their exquisite flavor."

In due course the doctor replied: "You have not asked me for a consultation, but I venture to send you five prescriptions, being convinced that you will be quite as satisfied with them as I am with your cigars. As my charge for a prescription is \$1.00, this makes us quits."

GOGGLES FOR DRIVERS

Easily and Cheaply Made For Use on the Road

Goggles are mighty useful things to have when one does much driving, automobilism or riding on motorcycles. They are expensive when the right pair are bought—but the right kind are not costly if made at home.

Two pieces of heavy leather—just a bit lighter than sole leather—form the basis of a pair. Each piece should be cut the shape shown in the sketch (Fig. 1). The line from A to B should be just 1/4 inch less than the circum-



ference of the glass to be used. The glass, properly shaped, can be purchased cheaply from any optician.

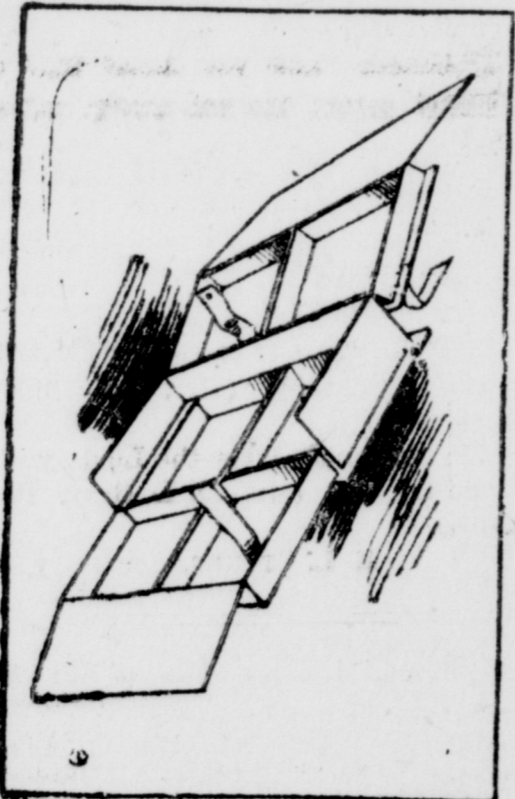
A notch is cut in the leather on the line with the line A to B to receive the glass, and the ends at A and B are then sewed together with the glass caught in the notch so as to be shaped when finished, as in Figure 2.

The two pieces are fastened together with a thong or a piece of wire after being fitted to the eyes. The head piece to hold the goggles in place is made of silk elastic.

HANDY CANDY BOX

Separate Compartments Display Every Piece at Once

An Illinois man has designed a candy box which displays each piece of candy when the box is opened. The receptacle is made in three sections, two of them hinged, and each section is divided into two compartments. The middle section is hinged on the lowest section and folds in upon it, a lid closing it so that the contents are not spilled. The top section is hinged



HINGED PORTIONS FOLD IN.

To the top of the body of the box and folds in upon the middle section. This also has a lid to keep the contents in. For assorted candies such a box provides good display, as the different kinds of confections may be kept separate. Furthermore, with every sweet in view it is possible for a fastidious woman to select which she likes best without having to burrow down to the bottom of three or four layers.

ALBERTA RURAL SCHOOLS

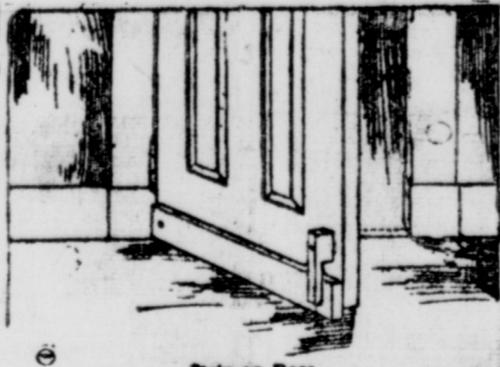
One of the healthiest signs of progress in Alberta is the continual formation of new school districts and building of new schools. All over the Province are these sign posts of civilization to be seen. But neat buildings furnished with an up-to-date equipment are wasted money without the real spirit of education. For many years memory was the only faculty cultivated in a child. Prizes were always awarded for learning by heart long lists of names and facts. The names of the kings of Israel and Judah, the height of Mt. Everest, or a little chapter repeated backwards were considered signs of great intelligence in the poor little learner. But children have come to their own and a glance at the course of studies for our rural schools will show the strides made in the right direction. Nature study plays an important part, and our children are taught by observation the great lessons of nature—the mighty mother of all real wisdom.—S. J. Wigley.

TO STOP DRAFTS

How to Keep the Wind From Blowing Under the Door

When the wind is whistling under the doors there is more or less trouble in keeping drafts out of the house. This is especially true in case of a house where the floor is a little out of plumb through the uneven settling of the house. A strip nailed on the door often projects too far down to allow the door to be opened wide, because the floor rises slightly away from the sill.

This can easily be cured by fastening a strip of wood three-quarters of an inch thick and three inches wide, with one screw to the inner edge of

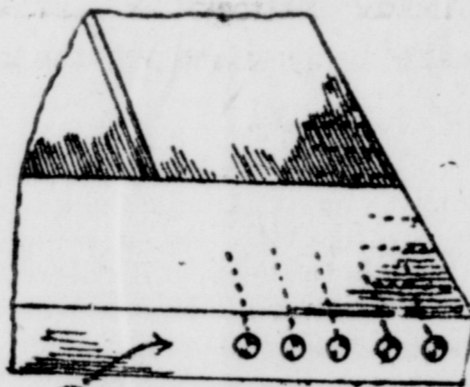


Strip on Door

the door and making a small bracket to go on the outer edge into which the wooden strip is placed. Then when the door is opened the strip simply rises with the unevenness of the floor in the manner shown in the sketch.

ANTI-RAT-NAIL-FENCE WILL KEEP RATS OUT

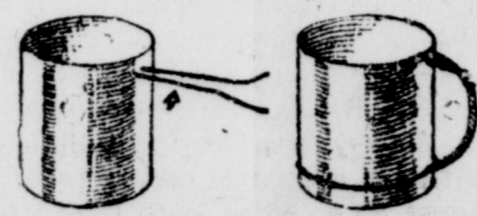
It is a peculiarity of rats that when they gnaw a hole through a door they usually select one of the corners, and most times this is a lower corner. If the owner of the door wants to play a good joke on the rats in his house he can make the door rat proof by simply driving a few wire nails into



BOTTOM OF DOOR

As shown in the sketch. If the rat plague is very bad in his house he can extend the row of nails all the way across the bottom of the door and up the side as far as he thinks he can get. Rats have very sharp teeth but there is no rat yet discovered that can gnaw through a fence of nails. The door will not be marred in the least by this operation.

Campers' Cup



A very serviceable drinking cup can be made from an empty baking powder can. A length of good stout wire is all that is necessary. Two holes are made side by side near the top of the can and the wire passed through them, with an even length on either side. The strands are then brought together and twisted to form the handle and then passed around the bottom of the can on opposite sides, being twisted firmly together when the ends meet. This twist about the bottom of the can should be made as tight as possible to prevent the handle from slipping off.

England has 11,500 ships engaged in foreign trade, Germany over 2,000, Japan nearly 1,000 while the United States has only nine ships so engaged.

In Paris there is a corps of professional dinner-tasters, whose duty it is to test and pass judgment upon all food prepared for banquets and similar occasions of State.

Never feed chicks, turkeys, ducks or geese any more than they will eat as promptly at each feeding time.

FOR SASKATCHEW

Seed Mixtures and Methods in South Half

Superintendent Gibson of the Experimental Farm at Indian Head, Sask., writes as follows of hay crops in Southern Saskatchewan: We got best results here from a mixture of eight pounds of Western rye grass, four pounds alfalfa and four pounds red clover, sown at the rate of 16 pounds per acre on well prepared summerfallow, preferably without a nurse crop. Occasionally, it is desirable to use a nurse crop with the object of getting hay for feed. In this case oats should be used and sown at the rate of a bushel and a half per acre. The oats should be cut early and handled as a hay crop. This allows the young grass to make considerable growth before winter sets in. The above rotation is used exclusively in all our rotation work and gives very good satisfaction as a hay and pasture crop.

Very good results might be obtained by seeding grass mixtures on first year stubble after good summerfallow. Of course, in this case, much will depend on the amount of moisture present in the soil and the preparation of the seed bed. The land intended for seeding down should be handled as follows: Plow six inches deep early fall, pack and harrow to form a mulch. As soon as the rush of spring work is over the land should be surface cultivated and a good seed bed prepared. The seed should be sown as early as possible at the rate of about 16 to 20 pounds per acre. In this case no nurse crop should be used as all the moisture will be required for the young growing grass.

For an annual crop, in some parts of Saskatchewan, millets can be grown with good success. However, at Indian Head we have had very little success with millets. Where they can be grown successfully, we recommend the Hungarian variety. However, for a good sure crop of hay, we recommend a mixture of peas and oats, sown at the rate of two bushels of the former to one of the latter. When cut in the early milk stage, this makes an excellent hay for all classes of live stock.

BETTER EDUCATION IN WESTERN CAN.

Suggestions as to How to Add to the Efficiency of the Educational System

Mr. W. B. Willoughby, leader of the Opposition in Saskatchewan, interviewed by Saskatchewan Public Education League, said in part: There are a few things I would particularly like to see thoroughly discussed from every angle. Firstly: What subjects shall be taught in the schools? Secondly: What steps can or ought to be taken to make the rural school a community centre? Thirdly: How should school districts be formed? With the present areas, or with greatly extended areas? Or should they be abolished altogether and the work undertaken by the municipal councils, or some new body? Fourthly: What instruction should be given in agriculture, gardening, manual training, etc., and what preparation in addition to the present should the teachers have therefore?

I am quite satisfied that from the teaching point of view we shall never have arrived at any satisfactory solution until a much bigger percentage of the teachers engaged in the profession, whether male or female, enter it with the expectation of making it their calling in life, and not making it a stepping-stone to something else. To accomplish this, however, inducements must be held out to them to remain in the profession, such as a fair salary, a pension system, a more developed community life and residences for teachers.

Unfortunately but a very small percentage of the parents get really interested or in touch with the work that the children do in school. By using the school for the various social activities of the school district or locality, I think the parents would become greatly imbued with the work. The grounds would soon be beautified, the teacher would have a residence, the travelling library might be installed, and in many other ways the dry-as-dust work of the present would be made infinitely more attractive.

FOR DUCK HUNTERS

How to Successfully Deceive the Elusive Bird

Every duck hunter requires a blind so that he can go out into the open and wait for the elusive bird. The man who hasn't a blind can easily construct one by using a flat bottomed boat or punt as a basis for his structure. The one shown in the illustration is an excellent shape to follow. It is 15 feet long, 4 feet wide and about 20 inches deep in the centre and can be rowed from either end with the additional advantage of having plenty of room for the hunter to lie down. The sides are made with boards held together with battens on the inside of the boat near the ends and at the middle. Two pins are driven in the top of each side board to be used as row locks. The bottom is made of matched boards 5 inches wide nailed to the side pieces and to a keel strip which runs the length of the boat inside, with galvanized nails. These boards should be placed closely together as possible, with white lead liberally applied to the joints. Before



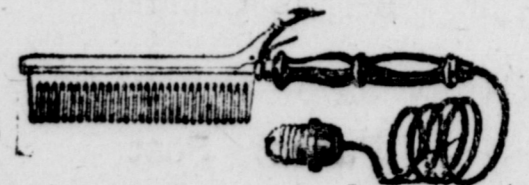
nailing, place strips of lamp wick between them and the side boards.

On the inside of the boat along the tops of the side boards nail a narrow strip of wood, lathing will do, held away from the side with small cleats. A similar strip should be placed near the bottom.

When ready to be placed in commission as a blind, reeds or weeds similar to those growing in the river or pond frequented by the ducks should be stuck under these strips all around the boat so as to form a complete screen. It is well to anchor the blind out in the river and keep it there for some time during the duck season so that the ducks can become accustomed to seeing it.

MAN-MADE LIGHTNING A GOOD HAIR DRIER

"I've just had my hair washed and can't do a thing with it." One of the reasons there can't be a "thing" done with hair that has just been washed is that it has not been dried properly. It is dried before a fan or in the wind it becomes tangled, and in getting out the tangles the owner of the hair fluffs it up so that it is just a flying mass. An electric hair



has studied the matter somewhat has devised a means for removing at least a part of the trouble by designing an electric drier. He has combined with a metal comb an ordinary curling iron that can be used either as an iron or a comb. The tines or teeth of the comb are heated by the electric current and dry the hair thoroughly in combing it out.

A Dual Duct

A subway to carry the mails and serve as a duct for underground wires is planned to relieve London's congested streets.

More than 600,000 men are employed in working the railways of the United Kingdom.