

Man Now Finds Use for Eggs of Many Varieties

Hen's Contribution Not Only One Used for Food.

Washington.—"Eggs" in only hens' eggs to the average reader—something to combine with ham in the morning or to stir into cakes or custards for dinner. But in the complex civilization of the twentieth century, man finds use for many and various kinds of eggs.

"A New York museum did a thriving business not long ago in eggs of frogs and salamanders," says the National Geographic society. "Jelly-encased frogs' eggs found floating in great numbers on top of Long Island ponds were shipped by thousands to public schools, where biology pupils put them in tanks and watched them develop into tadpoles.

"The scarcer eggs of salamanders, found in stream bottoms, were shipped to research laboratories where scientists prefer them to other eggs in making certain studies of the embryo.

"Roe, masses of tiny fish eggs, and caviar, the prepared and salted roe of certain fish, are favorite delicacies on our menus. The best caviar was long made from the great white sturgeons of Russia. Present-day caviar, lacking the fine flavor of the original, is often made from roe of spoonbills, buffalo fish, and catfish of lakes and rivers in the southern United States.

Put to Various Uses.

"Fish eggs are put to various uses. In Brittany, fishermen use salted cod eggs mixed with flour as bait to attract sardines. American sugar companies in Mexico have recently imported certain insect eggs from Cuba in their fight to exterminate other insects attacking sugar cane. And in the past the United States Department of Agriculture has made many similar importations.

"Cormorants' eggs from the islands off the coast of Peru form a large item on the diet of Peruvians. Eskimos eat quantities of sea birds' eggs. In Nicaragua, hungry natives dig in the sand for alligator eggs, which contain large yolks, and are said to taste like ducks' eggs. In Mexico, eggs of certain species of flies are used in making a food paste which is considered a piece of resistance. A preference equally difficult to understand is the Chinese predilection for 'ripened' eggs—hens' eggs which have been buried in the earth until they have become decomposed to a decided degree.

"Humans are not the only creatures with a developed taste for eggs. Ants and spiders lick their chops over eggs of butterflies. Fishes gulp minute eggs of other fish borne on ocean currents. Unless Peruvians get there first, they are apt to find rookeries on the bird islands of Peru full of rotted nests and broken eggshells. The small greenish cormorant eggs have been devoured by

gulls and turkey vultures or pierced and sucked by condors.

"Birds with few enemies lay but one or two eggs. Most of the north oceanic birds, such as little auks, and black-and-white gullmots, which breed on Arctic cliff ledges, lay but a single large egg. Pointed at one end, it rolls in a circle and so does not fall from the ledge. The king penguin of the Antarctic takes especial care of its egg by carrying it about on top of its foot, protected by a fold of skin. The male and female relieve each other at this task. Robbed of its egg, a king penguin may sometimes be seen attempting to shuffle about with a stone on its instep.

Mammal Lays Eggs.

"Aside from the echidna, the only mammal that lays eggs is the queer duck-billed platypus which lives in the streams of Australia and Tasmania. It combines beaverlike fur and habits with webbed feet and bill similar to a duck's, and lays two eggs, each three-fourths of an inch long, encased in a flexible white shell.

"Game birds, which are frequently preyed upon, rear large broods. Some quails lay as many as thirty eggs for a setting. However, quails take a back seat compared to marine creatures, which, because of their many enemies, must lay eggs by the millions in order

Town Waits Fifty Years to Erect Sign

Boston.—Although the people of the town of Essex have been fully aware for more than fifty years of where their town hall is located, and have found it without the aid of signs, the building now is to be marked. The townspeople have finally decided that there must be a sign there. Large letters will announce to the passers-by that the old building really is the town hall.

for the race even to hold its own. A cod lays about 5,000,000 eggs, sturgeon about 7,000,000, a turbot about 14,311,000; but so greatly are the young preyed upon, that only a small proportion will survive to maturity.

"Eggs vary as greatly as people in color, size, and shape. Exception to the rule that all domestic fowl lay ovoid, white or brownish eggs, is the Araucana, a strange South American fowl which lays blue eggs. Eggs laid in holes or domed nests are usually white. Colored eggs, invisible in dim light, would be in danger of being broken or rolling out of reach. Although puffins lay their colored eggs in holes, they cover the shells with a chalky incrustation which reflects light. Eggs of many fishes floating at the sea surface, in masses sometimes 30 feet long, are transparent, which probably hinders their being detected and eaten. The shells of kingfisher eggs are translucent, those of some snails' eggs slightly iridescent."

SEEN and HEARD around the National Capital

By CARTER FIELD

Washington.—The most important pending political question in Washington, in the judgment of at least three important figures, is whether Comptroller of the Currency J. F. T. O'Connor takes the \$20,000 job as federal agent at the Federal Reserve bank at San Francisco, which Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau has kept dangling before him for the last month.

The three men who think so are members of the Federal Reserve board, who made that simple statement to the writer, Mr. Morgenthau, and, though, this, of course, is an assumption based on the human tendency not to underestimate one's own importance in the scheme of things, Mr. O'Connor himself.

If O'Connor takes the job, thus permitting the naming of a new comptroller who will be utterly subservient to Morgenthau, absolute domination of the reserve board and comptroller's office—which means absolute domination of the banks of the country—will pass into Morgenthau's hands.

If he sticks, there will be a fight, in which O'Connor will have some powerful support on Capitol Hill among the conservatives, especially those who like the original plan for an independent reserve board, which would run the banks without regard to politics or political tendencies.

The present battle, of course, is not with regard to "political" tendencies in the ordinary sense of the word. It has nothing to do with patronage, or whether those involved are members of this party or that. "Political" in this sense merely means control of the banking system by an administration, which would like to have the banks of the country spring into action whenever the administration wanted a particular line pursued.

Japan's Bad Luck

Japan seems to have had luck in retaining the services of its diplomats who acquire an appreciation and understanding of Americans. The tragic death of former Ambassador Hanhara, who died, according to friends, of a broken heart, is a case in point. When he was a young secretary at his embassy in Washington, Hanhara was a great friend of Richard V. Culahan, then correspondent for the New York Times. Samuel G. Blythe, a great friend of Culahan, mentioned him in a Saturday Evening Post article, but slyly called him "O'Houlahan."

Whereupon Hanhara, who was visiting with his wife down in Texas, sent a postcard to Dick with the words: "The Han O'Haras send their regards to the O'Houlahans."

It was Hanhara's desperate effort to convince Secretary of State Hughes of the seriousness of the immigration restrictions that cut short his political career. Hughes transmitted Hanhara's note to congress to prove that he was not understating the case. Members of a congressional committee, with quite normal disregard of consequences, made it public. Since then he has been Japan's forgotten man. And he died in his early fifties.

Another Japanese diplomat who had learned to understand Americans, Sadao Saburi, feared that he had let his foreign office down in a subsequent assignment to China. He killed himself in his early forties. These Japanese take their mistakes, or their misfortunes, very seriously indeed, though it is difficult to understand their feeling that their honor is so compromised by failure.

May Cut Dollar Again

Further devaluation of the gold value of the dollar to the full one-half authorized by congress is being seriously considered by the administration. At the moment it seems very likely, reluctant as the President is to take a step, which the gold bloc countries of Europe insist would force them to further gold devaluation of their currencies. If it is decided to take the step, it may come before congress gets down to consideration of related subjects, though it may be delayed so as to be a trading point in soldier bonus compromises.

Administration leaders now believe that they can obtain a bonus compromise, which will cost the government \$1,200,000,000. Raising the price of gold to \$41.34 an ounce from the present \$35 would yield the government a profit of approximately \$1,000,000,000. The size of this amount is due to large purchases of gold in addition to nationalization of domestic gold at the old price of \$20.67. So that, if the administration is right in its hopes for a bonus compromise, only \$200,000,000 additional would be needed. And obviously devaluation would shave actual payments on the bonus by nearly 17 per cent.

Japan's attitude on gold plays a part in the considerations. It has been holding gold at approximately \$65 an ounce, thus depreciating its currency so far as to play havoc with American exports to South America and other markets.

Another element, which has played an important part in the situation leading up to this further devaluation of the dollar being given serious consideration, is the fact that the government has not been able to buy anything like the quantity of silver it had hoped. Despite skillful maneuvering, such as the government's suddenly withdrawing its bid for silver on the London market, as though it had abandoned its campaign, and then rushing

in with purchases next day seeking to take advantage of the temporary lowering of price, the silver purchases have been very disappointing.

Need Further Inflation

For naturally the government, pleased over the tremendous profit made in devaluing gold, had been hoping to buy all the silver it wanted at low prices, and repeat the profit. Unfortunately for this hope, China's protests that the American government was ruining her with the silver buying policy, and this government's reply that it was sorry but would have to keep on, served official notice on the world of this government's intention to buy a lot of silver. So holders of the white metal held on, hoping for higher prices.

Entirely aside from this, however, President Roosevelt is convinced that a little further inflation is necessary. He had thought to obtain it by silver purchases. Also to make a big profit out of silver. The conferences now going on look to at least deferring this program, and getting both the inflation and the profit by further devaluing gold.

Several knotty problems are involved. Not the least is the situation of the gold bloc countries. They have informed the President that if there is any further marking down of the gold value of the dollar, every one of them will be forced to devalue. Italy, France and Belgium of course devalued drastically. Italy 75 per cent, France 50 per cent and Belgium slightly more, when they returned to gold after the war. Holland and Switzerland are practically alone in having maintained the gold value of their currencies unchanged since before the war.

One other point being duly considered is that no matter what this government does, Britain is expected to follow suit. Apparently her effort is to maintain the pound at about \$5. It is thought she would continue to keep it pegged at \$5, or a little lower if possible, no matter how much the value of the dollar should be reduced. In fact, it is the virtual certainty of this, rather than what may be done to the dollar, that has caused so much agitation among the gold bloc countries.

Cheaper Electricity

Electric rates are going to be forced down all over the United States, if President Roosevelt can do it, despite all the recent talk about a "truth" between the President and the utilities. And there is no doubt whatever in the President's mind that he can do it.

This idea of a rapprochement between these two bitter enemies, dating back to the pre-convention campaign, in which the utilities, frightened by many of the actions of Roosevelt as governor of New York, fought his nomination, has been considerably exaggerated.

Reporters mistook the President's smile of triumph for a smile of compromise and good feeling. It was good humor, all right, but there was only the good feeling that a victor feels when his adversary has both shoulders to the ground.

What had happened was simple. The President had scared the electric companies to death with his suggestion, made in his Southern speech, of new TVA's all over the country. Immediately various utility magnates began to run to the White House.

Then, when the President was questioned about it, he threw out what appeared at first glance a new and rather benevolent theory about the fixing of rates. The yardstick to determine return on investment, or rather on the investment on which a return should be permitted, was to be "prudent investment" rather than reproduction value. As was explained at the time, reproduction value presented too many difficulties. And applied only—so far as the utilities were concerned—when their properties had enhanced rather than diminished in value.

But actually a more accurate interpretation of the President's mind would be had if instead of "prudent investment" were substituted "prudent investment, or reproduction value, which ever is lower."

For the President and his advisers have no idea whatever of allowing a capitalization on which a fair return can be made if that capitalization is in excess of what the plant could be reproduced for, no matter how "prudent" the original investment may have been.

Fixing the Scale

Actually, the scale of electric rates will be determined pretty much by what an outfit similar to TVA could enter the field and provide service for. If such rates could prove so low that fair returns cannot be earned on a "prudent investment" it will be just too bad for the prudent investors. They will be in just as bad shape as though they had a lot of water in their stock.

For in such a situation, argue the New Dealers, obviously there has been a stupid dissipation of the afore-said prudent investment, and why should the public be expected to pay for that? The President meantime has been trying with some success to drive a wedge in between the holding companies and the operating companies. Some of the operating company officials, quick to sense which way the Presidential wind was blowing, were eager to win favor for themselves by arguing that the management charges the holding companies imposed on them were far too high, and that they could make lower rates if these charges were lightened. In short, if they could throw off the yoke of the holding companies.

Secretary Perkins Gets a Medal



Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins is here shown receiving a gold medal from Mrs. Roosevelt at the White House, which was awarded to her by the Chi Omega sorority as the outstanding woman in the field of civic achievement for 1934.

Crowds Travel to Beau Brummel's Grave

Simple Tombstone Marks Resting Place in France.

Caen, France.—George Bryan ("Beau") Brummel was buried here in 1840, and a simple tombstone marks his final resting place after a gay and spectacular life.

So far this year more than 3,000 British and American tourists have visited his grave in this Protestant cemetery.

Brummel was born in London on June 7, 1778—156 years ago last June. His father was Lord North's private secretary. He attended Eton and Oxford, where he was distinguished for his studiousness as well as his meticulousness in attire. After four years in the army he came into an immense fortune and thereafter devoted himself to the profession of fashion arbiter. In 1813 he quarreled with the prince regent and he had to flee for his life to Calais. Here, for

fourteen years, he struggled along in his reckless, carefree way and from 1830 to 1832 held a sinecure consulate at Caen. He gradually lost his mind and he died an idiot in an asylum in 1840, at sixty-two.

While in prison in Caen for debts, Brummel wrote many begging letters to friends who had been willing enough to spend his money in other days. They turned a deaf ear, however. He read a great deal of Washington Irving and Lord Byron; received the visit of Tom Moore, and prayed that he might not "die, like William the Conqueror, in Normandy."

Even God, his friends said turned a deaf ear to this entreaty as if in punishment for his riotous living. He wanted to be buried on British soil, but those who had abandoned him in life also forsook him in death, and his once proud bones long since have moldered to dust in the Caen cemetery.

Archeologists Declare Mayas Were Not Urban

Washington.—Mayas of pre-Columbian days were farmers and not city folks as popularly believed, Dr. Oliver G. Ricketson, Jr., member of the Carnegie institution's archeological staff, believes.

Doctor Ricketson believes the Maya ruins are not remains of extensive cities but remnants of agricultural communities. He said that even the large, multi-chambered buildings of northern Yucatan would not house facilities for a large population.

He claimed the ruins are civil and religious centers to which surrounding farmers flocked on market and feast days. Proof of this, he added, is evidenced by the fact that low platforms forming ancient house mounds extend through the jungle in every direction and without demarcation between one center and another.

Doctor Ricketson estimated the total Maya population was approximately 48,000.

Coast Convicts Prefer Books on Penal Code

Sacramento, Calif.—California penal and political codes head the list of "best sellers" in Folsom prison, one of the nation's "toughest" penitentiaries.

These books, along with the works of Blackstone, top the list of requests

from prison inmates, according to State Librarian Mabel Gillis. The convicts pore over the volumes in an effort to find loopholes in the law which may win freedom for them.

Results of this avid study occasionally send staid jurists into a huddle when habeas corpus petitions containing queer points of law are presented

Forest Fires Ruined 43 Million Acres in 1933

Washington.—Fires in unprotected forest areas of the United States last year were 20 times as damaging as blazes in protected sections, according to figures compiled by the Agriculture department's forest service.

In all, fire swept 43,880,320 acres of the nation's timberland in 1933. Of this area, 40,166,900 acres was forest land devoid of protection, and 3,722,920 acres was land under protection.

Approximately 20.79 per cent of the country's unprotected forests were burned, while the toll on protected land was 1.09 per cent.

All national forests are under systematic fire protection. The forest service estimated that 533,579,240 acres need protection.

Property damage from forest fires in 1933 was estimated at \$90,274,960, compared with a five-year average of \$62,831,423.

Mississippi, with 22,366 fires, led the states.

Turkish Law Requiring Names Causes Confusion

Istanbul.—Turkey's new law making it compulsory for every one to have a surname has caused much confusion because many Turks do not know how to find suitable and satisfactory cognomens. The fashion of using surnames was dropped in Turkey about 200 years ago, and has been followed only in some rural districts and for commercial purposes. In the towns it has become the habit to give a man a nickname, distinguishing him as well by the name of his father or some adjective characteristic of some peculiarity. The new law insists that shall not be military or comic.

Council Offers Reward

Omaha, Neb.—At the request of the Omaha safety board, the city council voted a reward of \$100 for information leading to the arrest of any hit-run driver where a fatality occurs. The reward will be paid from safety board funds.

BRISBANE

THIS WEEK

A Pretty Good Christmas Germs Travel High We Are Coughing Better Prairie Dogs, Catacombs

It was a satisfactory Christmas, the best since the depression began. The nation at least knows that the depression is here and that attending to it, instead of talking about things "just around the corner," is the program.

The government knows that money was made to be spent in emergencies and that helping the people is cheaper than revolution. The government is spending and helping.

Colonel Lindbergh proves, after transatlantic flights, that bacteria can travel across the ocean by air. The winds of the north Atlantic carry microscopic germs of life through the upper air. Disease germs might travel, thus, across either ocean.

That interests anybody planning to make war more interesting by adding disease germs to poison gas and high explosives.

Scientists already believed that, since life cannot be created on the earth, except supernaturally, life began on this planet probably with germs that had traveled millions, perhaps billions, of miles through space at absolute zero. They started life on the earth when it had sufficiently cooled off, and may have been brought in the wake of flying meteors.

Heat destroys microscopic life, cold does not.

Cheerful optimists, telling you that conditions are getting better, remind you of Meyer Hecht's benevolent friend who told each tuberculosis patient, "You are coughing better this morning."

We all are "coughing" a little better. It has been the best, most freely spending Christmas season since the depression began. Merchants testify to that. The season of grand opera opened in New York with every seat sold and a demand for seats nonexistent.

Mr. Hull, able secretary of state, wants freer trade with foreign countries. Those that shut their markets to the outside world are like "animals which burrow in the ground," says Mr. Hull. That might be true, without proving that protection is unwise.

Animals burrowing in the ground—prairie dogs, etc.—would regret it if they came to the surface and sat around inviting coyotes to eat them. Early Christians burrowing in the catacombs were better off than they would have been on the surface, thrown to the lions.

It is better for this country to burrow under protection than be thrown to the lions of free competition of labor and manufacturing.

Occasionally you hear what Mr. Field calls "a sour note" in the hopeful chorus of "Happy Days Are Here Again." Senator Dickinson of Iowa—Republican, of course—says NRA plans have collapsed. He finds that "monopoly" is being encouraged, private initiative is being depressed and the small business man driven to the wall—"The rich are becoming richer and the poor poorer."

That will be news for some of the rich—they had not heard it. You may hear many of them say now, "If I can get together and keep enough to take care of my family, that is all I ask," and they mean it.

Projects thus far proposed by congressmen and executives in Washington would cost Uncle Sam, in addition to money already spent, \$30,000,000,000, and would double the national debt. If the money were wisely created, wisely spent, the country would be better off, with many employed in useful work. But if it is found necessary to inflate with interest-bearing bonds, instead of simply printing the money and later retiring it as bonds would be retired, the \$30,000,000,000 would cost the country \$60,000,000,000.

Is it really necessary to force on taxpayers that extra load of \$30,000,000,000 for interest, when interest bonds are just so much "inflation money," in no respect different from greenbacks?

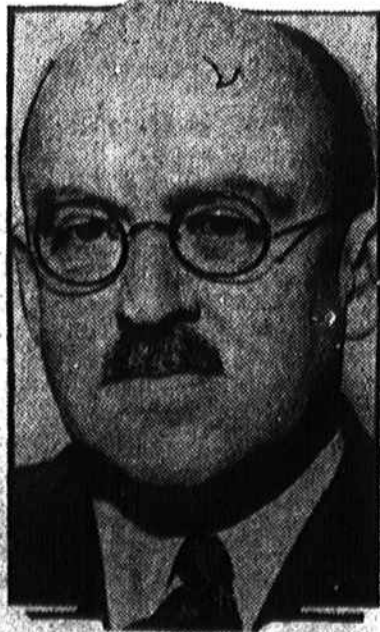
According to dispatches from Nanking, China's killing methods make the efforts of Stalin or Hitler seem feeble. Gen. Kiang Kai-Shek gives proof in Kiangsi province. Six million people have been driven from their homes and 1,000,000 killed in cold blood by "Red Communist" troops.

The killing championship is now with China, naturally one of the most peaceful countries on earth.

Mr. Irene du Pont, munitions manufacturer, who knows about war, since he produces "the goods," tells the munitions committee "the only way to wage a war is to have an absolute monarch at the head of the government"; also "we shall have a h—l of a time in case of war."

No question about the last statement.

Mr. Baruch, entering wholeheartedly into the President's campaign to prevent profits for munitions makers in wartime, wisely urges preparation, says the country should buy and store thousands of tons of tin for use in the event of war. "I think we ought to buy tin just as we would invest in a battleship, and keep it in storage."



Ralph E. Flanders is the new president of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. He is a manufacturer and economist of Springfield, Vt., and also a member of the business advisory and planning council appointed by Secretary of Commerce Roper.