

CLEAR CALL TO AMERICANS

Year 1920 Should Be Remembered by All as Anniversary of Establishment of Free Institutions.

Distinguished Americans, including William H. Taft, Charles Hughes and Cardinal Gibbons, have appealed to their fellow countrymen to remember and honor by local celebrations at any suitable time beginning June 4 the establishment of free institutions in America. A great year is 1920. Three hundred years ago, beginning the 30th of last July, there was being held in Jamestown, colony of Virginia, the first American legislative assembly called by free men of lawful age and understanding. And during this time, with self-government at its birth hour, the Pilgrims from England after a twelve years' sojourn in Holland were making ready to establish in the new world a home of religious freedom. One year after the Virginians met, this Pilgrim band set sail for America, departing from Leyden, Holland, July 30, 1620. Furthermore let it not be forgotten that Nov. 11 is not only the anniversary day of signing of the Mayflower compact, second assumption by English colonies in America of the unalienable right of self-government, but it is also of the signing of the armistice closing the great war in which, as the above representative spokesmen point out, the descendants of the Pilgrims of New England and the cavaliers of Virginia and their kindred crossed the sea and won liberty together. A year with an imperative challenge to renew policies of Americanization and patriotic consecration is 1920, and no community should be without its religious and civic expression in acknowledgment of the past and in dedication to the future.

Landmark to Be Preserved.

The Mullan trail, landmark of the old Mullan trail, the first highway connecting Montana and Idaho with the coast, will be preserved to posterity through the creation of a national monument area by the president. On July 4, 1861, Captain John Mullan, leader of the party having in charge the survey and construction of the Mullan trail from Walla Walla, Wash., to Ft. Benton, Mont., closed his work at the connecting point of the roads from the east and west, at the head of the Fourth of July canyon, between Wallace, Idaho, and Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. There he marked appropriately a huge white pine tree, which since that time has been known as the Mullan tree. Tourists seeking souvenirs of their jaunt along the Yellowstone trail have damaged the ancient tree so much that forest service officers have found it necessary to take steps to protect it, and to accomplish this have submitted a petition proposing that a national monument area be created, which has been approved. —Kansas City Journal.

The Family Knew.

A certain thrifty young man often tells on a certain young woman, but never yet has he ever taken her to a picture show or out riding in his automobile or even to the corner drug store for ice cream. The family has noticed and often commented on what they term his "stinginess," and all before the young woman's ten-year-old brother.

Now, the other night the ten-year-old youngster was in the living room while the young man was calling. The caller, who was sitting close to the fireplace and stretching forth his hands to the cheerful blaze, suddenly said, "Oh, how I do love to sit before your fireplace and think, think—" Like a flash came a quick interruption from the ten-year-old. "Think—think of how you are saving money by sitting here," he said. —Indianapolis News.

Wireless Experiments.

Valuable experiments in wireless telegraphy are being conducted by the French war sloop Aldebaran, which has been cruising in the Pacific near the Chatham and Bounty Islands. Lieutenant Guiterre, wireless expert, will probably submit the result of his experiments to the international wireless conference in Washington shortly. He states that the wireless "reception" in New Zealand from French instruments is of special interest to continental experts, as New Zealand is practically the antipode of France. It is claimed that the Aldebaran is carrying out for the first time a truly comprehensive system of measuring the strength of "receptions," although an American had pioneered the way in this respect.

Philippine Sugar Industry.

Five modern sugar mills are projected in Negros, P. I., with a total capacity of 5,000 tons of cane daily. Ten mills with a capacity of 3,000 tons of cane daily are already in operation in this district. The movement for better equipment and organization in sugar centrals is likely to continue until every sugar district capable of supporting a central is supplied with modern mills. The general rate of payment made by the centrals to the farmers for their cane is 55 per cent of the value of the sugar obtained.

The Doughnut Band.

Twenty young Salvation army ladies who cooked doughnuts for the soldiers in France have organized a brass band in Philadelphia.

In the Game of Life.

Who a man plays the deuce it is frequently his last card. —Boston Transcript.

HALF SAVAGES FOUND

Family of Seventeen Wild Whites Live in Georgia Swamp.

Okefenokee Swamp, is a 40-mile morass of dense vegetation as closely resembling the impenetrable tropic jungles as anything in America. Located in Southern Georgia and Northern Florida, it is remote from all settlements, turpentine stills being the only sign of life about its desolate borders. Natives had a superstitious fear of its mysterious depths and it was said even criminals dared not make their way into it. Stories were told that it was inhabited by a witch who devoured men, and that a famous Seminole Indian chief, Billy Bowlegs, had made his last stand against the whites in its interior. So far as was known, no man had ever explored it, but one who had made the attempt was reported to have been brought back by his native guide after a half day's struggle to penetrate its barriers refusing any explanation.

When a party of scientists from Cornell University turned their attention to the swamp in their search for new fauna and flora and sought to determine the expediency of having made into a national park by the government, no native could be found who would attempt to guide them. In a recent lecture at the University of Kentucky, Dr. W. R. Funkhouser, who was one of the party, described how this only intensified their curiosity and they pushed in the true spirit of the early explorers to make discoveries that amply repaid them.

"We five started in alone, carrying 50-pound packs, with a compass as our guide," Dr. Funkhouser said. "The water was from waist to shoulder deep full of giant cypress trees, and so closely overgrown with underbrush and entangling vines that we literally had to cut our way with axes at every step, and could only advance a mile a day on the bottom was a thick growth of moss, which would support the weight of a man while moving, but which would begin to sink with us as soon as we stopped or stood still to begin cutting the brush.

"We soon had to discard cameras, provisions and other paraphernalia because of the difficulty of travel, and we ate bear meat and alligator tails. The swamp was full of game of every kind, and the water abounded with fish and alligators. We drank the swamp water which was coffee-colored but had nothing to pollute it, as no human inhabitants were near.

"At night we piled brush as high as we could around the cypress trees to make beds. Of course the brush soon sank below the water, which would wake us, and we then cut more brush and made more beds indefinitely until morning. There were myriads of mosquitoes and other insects, but as there were no other people for them to bite they could not give us malaria. We were wet all the time and everything that could be spoiled by water was ruined.

"Sometimes we came to a big gator tunnel through the underbrush, where a large alligator had crashed his way through and we could crawl through it to save some cutting. The difficulties were that the sides were usually supplied with wasps nests and there was always a chance of meeting the alligator coming back.

"At the end of the twentieth day we came in sight of a low island covered with pine trees. Here we found a family of persons who in many ways can be compared only to animals. It consisted of an old woman, her three sons and two daughters, who had intermarried and their eleven children. All of them were degenerate weaklings, undernourished, and had hook-worm and bad blood, as the tests we made showed. They had a large graveyard which was about full.

"The family had no shelter except a rude lean-to built against a tree, and wore no covering to speak of, the children being entirely naked. While they spoke English, we had much difficulty in understanding them, as their vocabulary was Chaucerian, Spenserian and Shakespearean. We did not know this at the time, and their speech was very strange to us, but we made a dictionary of it during our summer stay on the island, and when we came out we learned that many of the words they used are known to the world only through Chaucer, while more are of the time of Shakespeare and Spenser.

"They had never heard of reading, writing or any of the things we take for granted, and on learning that we were from New York inquired if it were another island or a turpentine still. Only one of them had ever been off the island. He had found the head waters of the Suwannee river, which rises in the swamp, and twice a year he floated down it in a flat bottomed boat to the edge of the swamp, where there was a turpentine still and a small store. He had a suit of overalls which he wore at these times and kept concealed with the boat in the brush

in the meantime.

"On these semi-annual trips he traded bear and alligator skins for salt and corn meal at the store, but he didn't talk to anyone there, and they supposed him to be one of the Georgia crackers of the vicinity. Although he didn't talk he listened, and the classic speech of the family was peculiarly mixed with the Georgia cracker dialect. On one of his trips he took back a small acetylene lamp, which was the most wonderful thing his brothers and sisters, who had never heard of candles, had ever seen. They contended that water would burn as he had managed to save some carbide, and would pour water from the swamp into the container and light it.

"In spite of their entire ignorance of the world and total inability to understand anything outside of their island, these people were very religious and one of them asked me if I believed in the living God.

"The development of their senses and their acute powers of observation can be compared only to animals. They could trail by smell like dogs. They could describe birds, insects or animals so accurately that the scientists in the party could recognize them. They also knew more about nature than anyone in our party.

"We could never learn how long the family had been inhabiting the island, although we were convinced that the old woman knew. She refused to talk about it at all. Our theory was that a convict or some fugitive from justice made his way into the swamp generations ago with one or more companions and that it had been impressed on the old woman that she must never reveal the facts.

"As to one other tradition we learned more. On opening an Indian mound on the island we disinterred the skeleton of an Indian, undoubtedly bowlegged, with a tomahawk hole in his skull and his dogs and wives buried in concentric circles around him. There were also in the mound other articles usually found in Indian burial places.

"After learning about the outlet by way of the Suwannee we floated down it, got provisions cameras and other scientific equipment for obtaining and preserving specimens, which we shipped north by the same route. We found many, many species new to science; adult specimens, eggs and nests of the ivory-billed woodpecker, supposed to have been extinct half a century; new and rare insects, animals and plants;

and much evidence that crocodiles, supposed never to have lived in the United States are to be found in the waters of the swamp.

"The people were very helpful in obtaining specimens, and when they once saw what we wanted, could get as many more than we could, and tell us facts about them which were unknown to science. They had trails from the island out into the swamp, going by way of fallen logs, shallow pools of water and tufts of moss which made it much easier for us. There were several other small islands, or small pieces of land two or three inches under water, in the vicinity. The people had named all other islands but the one which they lived on. One of these, which they called Many-Lake Island, we had much difficulty in reaching, as they refused for a long time to guide us there, because they said 'there belonged to the merry wings there.'

"They would not tell us what 'merry wings' were, but I found out. When we were finally taken to the island, where we spent one night, some insect which we never saw, stung us so that my eyes were swollen almost shut and my fingers so that they stood stiffly from my palms for several days. What ever the insect was, it was entirely unknown to science.

"To the islanders we were as some higher being, and they stood around us, watching our every action, as long as we were there. As beings higher than they it was not fitting that they question any of our actions. The first thing we saw in the morning was that ring of 17 persons standing about us, and it was our last sight at night.

"The women on the island did not ask one question about women in the outside world, and none of the family had any conception of life off the island. Their family name was Lee and their Christian names were all Biblical."

FACTS FOR YOU.

Some Things You Know and Some You Don't Know.

Dr. Grayson, the president's physician, has signed an order for a bicycle for the president, but denies that it will be used by the president.

Sixteen miles of pipe were required to convert the ocean liner Aquitania into an oil burner.

Japanese fishermen are said to be steadily depleting the fish supply on the California coast by the use of gill nets having a capacity of forty tons of fish.

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