

Strange But True

By F. H. MacArthur

Do you know that since 1936 the Social Credit Government of Alberta has not borrowed a single penny?

There never was nor ever will be identical twins, for the simple reason that no two persons are exactly alike.

"Gone With The Wind" was not the first and last piece of writing done by Margaret Mitchell, as her critics declare. Margaret Mitchell was a newspaper correspondent before she wrote her famous book.

Double yolked eggs nearly always hatch Siamese birds, or birds which have either the legs or wings attached.

The song of the cricket was not heard in Prince Edward Island, in the harvest of 1950. Perhaps some of our agricultural experts may be able to account for the cricket's absence from our harvest fields during that time.

There are few, if any full-blooded Micmacs in the Maritime Provinces. This is accounted for by the fact that early French settlers intermarried with the Indians.

John Hayes of British Columbia, is the champion fruit picker between his province and California. Hayes works but six months out of each year and still earns a yearly income that would make the earnings of most medical men look like small potatoes.

Hayes has a wife and two children who travel about with him in a trailer. He is 32 years old, and had been picking fruit for the past 22 years.

We of the Western world, refer to wheat as "the staff of life." This is not entirely correct, as wheat takes second place in cereals eaten by man. Rice sustains a greater part of the human race than any other crop, so it would be more correct to say that rice and not wheat, is the staff of life.

The silly superstition that pigs disturbed infants' sleep was once common all over Europe. The following verse taken from the poetical works of Henick bears this out:

"Bring the holy crust of bread, Lay it underneath the head; 'Tis a certain charm to keep, Hogs away while infants sleep."

One of the most amazing instances which I have heard of the sagacity and personal attachment of a dog, occurred almost a century ago at North River.

One day a farmer on a visit to his sheep pasture, took along his three-year-old son. They were accompanied by the family dog, Buster. Suddenly a bear put in his appearance and the farmer took after it with his musket, leaving the boy under a giant cedar. By the time the farmer dispatched the bear a heavy fog enfolded the landscape and fearing his son might get lost he immediately retraced his steps but in the end got lost himself in the forest.

After wandering about all night he found himself within a short distance of his home.

A group of neighbors joined in the search for the missing child but without success.

On returning to his home, his wife informed him that Buster had carried off into the woods some scraps of meat. Amazed at the dog's behavior he decided to follow the animal the next time it carried its meals away, and find out what it was about.

In the evening the faithful dog came home, received his supper—in this case a meaty bone—and then slunk off into the forest. The farmer followed. The dog led the way to a large swamp, turning

BULLETINS FROM BIRDLAND

By WINIFRED E. WILSON



NEIGHBOURS

Although birds of the same species will not tolerate each other, those of different kinds are quite willing to share a territory. Naturally, much depends upon how much variety there is in any special area, and its suitability for nesting sites, but the number of pairs occupying a small space is sometimes surprising. Many a summer cottage on a 2 1-2 acre plot beside a little lake offers homes for shore birds, semi-domestic, lovers of partly cleared land, and forest dwellers. More than 40 species and several hundred birds may live within our own boundary.

A quiet bay brings stately Great Blue Herons, small Spotted Sandpipers, and American Mergansers. Should a sand bank be handy, rattling Kingfishers are apt to dig themselves a cosy bedroom at the end of a long tunnel. Marshy ground entices the gregarious Red-winged Blackbirds; moist woods are ideal breeding spots for shy Veerys.

There are chummy birds too, attracted by our presence. Our home soon becomes the home of Barn Swallows also. A bird house such an entrance cut to fit Tree Swallows may be a cause of conflict. The pugilistic House Wrens usually win out, stuffing the doorway to suit their own dimensions. Neglect our country house at nesting season, and Swifts may

every now and then to bark at his master. Suddenly Buster stopped, and then left the main trail, via a tiny path that led to a sheltered nook where stood an old disused shanty. Into this dilapidated building the dog led the farmer and I seated on the floor was his little boy bravely gnawing at a meat bone. Buster moved to the child's side and viewed his charge gleefully.

The dog, by means of his keen scent, had followed the child to its place of hiding and then kept it from hunger by giving up his own meals. What was more, he had guarded it day and night except for the brief time it took him to run home and get the food.

True stories like the above would be a welcome addition to this column, so if you happen to know of any kindly send them to me at my Cornwall address or in care of the Charlottetown Guardian. I'll acknowledge all those that are sent and use them in my column providing they have merit and a factual background.

The milk of the fig is the first food given to new born infants in Greece. Sometimes the mother mixes this with honey. This custom follows an old superstition that milk like fluids of plants are supposed to give the infant a healthy start in its journey through life.

Soothing syrups used to be given to children to lull 'em off to sleep during noisy periods in the home. These so called soothing syrups contained a bit of opium.

When an Eskimo child gets a pain in its tummy or is a bit off color, the mother lets it puff contentedly on her cigarette until the period of distress ends.

In British Columbia, the native Indians dig up the roots of certain plants, stew them, and gives the plant broth to their ailing babies.

All these customs have their origin in mythology, and we read of milk-giving-plants being fed to mother goddesses.

take possession of our chimney, compelling us to do without a fire for fear of smoking out a young family. Catbirds often build their untidy nests in small trees or bushes close to our verandahs, yet are easily frightened away, as are the handsome Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. Robins that make much fuss at our comings and goings usually persist in claiming a corner on some beam; and unless a squirrel or a feathered enemy interferes, Chipping and Song Sparrows, Myrtle and Chestnut-sided Warblers, Redstarts, and Purple Finches nest a stone's throw from our front steps.

Supplied with a flower garden, Hummingbirds make their inconspicuous headquarters on a nearby limb, while the Red-eyed Vireo sings his eternal song not many yards distant. And when we imagine that all the nestlings will soon be grown enough to fly, along comes a pair of gay Goldfinches, or sleek Cedar Waxwings, who are only just beginning to think of housekeeping. Meanwhile a Kingbird, policeman of Birdland, guards his own, and incidentally his neighbours' homes.

Angry Demands To Have "Red" Dean Dismissed

By LEONARD LEDDINGTON LONDON, July 11 — (AP)—The "Red" Dean of Canterbury's findings on germ warfare has brought an angry demand in Parliament for his immediate dismissal.

Known as the Red Dean because of his leftist views. The Dean called a press conference Tuesday to present what he described as irrefutable evidence that the United States has used bacteriological weapons in the Orient — a long scroll written in Chinese and a story of children fighting germs with chopsticks.

Indignant demands for his dismissal. "What used to be Dr. Johnson's comic act has now taken a sinister turn," the Star said. "He cannot be allowed to get away with it."

Minister of State Selwyn Lloyd told the Commons that the Dean's press conference only substantiated the Government's previous statements that the germ warfare charges were lies. "From what has appeared in the newspapers today," Lloyd said, "it is clear that the Very Reverend Gentleman has no valid evidence at all."

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