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THE BREADFRUIT TREE.

Something About This Strange and Useful Asiatic Plant.

The breadfruit tree is a native of southern Asia, the south Pacific islands and the Indian archipelago. In appearance it resembles somewhat the wild chestnut. It grows to the height of 40 or 50 feet and has dark green leaves, many of them two feet in length, which are deeply divided into pointed lobes.

Hidden among the great leaves the breadfruit grows. It is a sorosis, is nearly spherical, often weighs four or more pounds and has a thick, yellow rind. This fruit is the chief food of the south sea islanders. They seldom eat a meal without it. The eatable part lies between the rind and the core and when fully ripe is yellow and juicy. It is better for food before it has matured, and the natives gather it while the pulp is white.

Before it is ready for table use it must be roasted, when it looks like wheat bread, and is both palatable and nutritious. Usually the fruit is cut into three or four slices and roasted or baked in an oven.

Frequently the people of a village join in making a huge oven, in which several hundred breadfruits may be baked at one time. Thus they are all supplied with bread without its costing any of them much labor. Prepared in this way, the bread will keep for weeks.

The breadfruit is in season eight months of the year. When the season finally draws to a close, the last fruits are gathered and made into a sour paste called "mahei." This paste will keep good for months and is made into balls, wrapped in leaves and baked, just as needed.

Bread is not the only product of the breadfruit tree. From it cement, cloth, tinder and lumber are also obtained. A glutinous, milky juice oozes from the trunk of the tree, which makes an excellent cement when boiled with cocoanut oil. From the fibrous inner bark a kind of coarse cloth is made, and the big leaves make good towels. The lumber is used for building houses and many other purposes. Besides all this the dried blossoms are used as tinder when fires are kindled.—Philadelphia Times.

Senate Read. Room

NOTICE

TO DEBTORS

The debtors of "McKay Woollen Company" are hereby notified to make immediate payment of their respective debts at the office of the Company, in Charlottetown; at which place due acquittances can be given. Debtors failing a act on this notice will be sued, without respect to persons, after the expiration of one week from date.

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NOTICE

The property on the corner of King and Pownal Sts, belonging to the estate of the late Catherine McKenna, (subject to a 3 years unexpired lease, from May 1st, 1898), will be sold by Public Auction on Tuesday, May 3rd, 1898, at 12 o'clock, noon.

This property is now known as the Finlay House. Terms Cash.

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TAPPING ROCK FOR WATER.

Baron Nordenskjold's Theory Leads to an Important Discovery.

Baron Nordenskjold's system of boring for fresh water through the granite rocks of Sweden has now been in operation for two years. The Geographical Journal says that 44 wells have been bored. This is not alone a question of finding water, but of the discovery of a new and important principle.

The difficulty in obtaining good drinking water at many of the pilot and light stations on the rocky islets off the Swedish coasts first induced Nordenskjold to consider the subject. He believed from his researches in Spitzbergen that a horizontal crack would generally be found to exist in all solid rocks at an insignificant depth beneath the earth's surface. Consequently in the Swedish rocks he concluded that water would be found by boring to this crack. The only places where there was any prospect of such borings being undertaken were on out of the way rocks and islets, where water was so much needed.

In order to solve the problem Baron Nordenskjold as early as 1885 inquired respecting the saltness of water in wells or mines near the seacoast and collected some important information. He was told that several wells in sedimentary strata near the seacoast yielded water free from salt, although the springs are at depths of 100 to 250 feet below sea level. The information he collected, though far from conclusive, appeared to point to the fact that water obtained by boring on rocky islands would not be salt or brackish, but fresh drinking water.

Nordenskjold therefore proposed to the chief of the pilot stations that he should allow an attempt at boring to be made at some suitable station. The first boring took place in 1891 on the little island of Svangen, south of Kosterfjorden. It was abandoned after reaching a sufficient depth, because a long crack was reached extending from the sea to the boring hole. It was next taken up in May, 1894, by Baron Ruuth, the general director for pilots, who, regardless of the unsuccessful boring at Svangen, caused a second experiment to be tried at Arko. The site selected was a flat place near the pilot station, the rock being composed of hornblende, gneiss and diorite. The results were very satisfactory.

As soon as a depth of about 100 feet was reached they came to excellent water, yielding 600 quarts an hour. At first the water was a little yellow, owing to clay in the cracks of the rock, the stone dust and oil from the boring, but it soon became perfectly clear. Water has always been found at a depth of 90 to 125 feet, and similar borings have since been carried out successfully at 44 different places. At first the water is mixed with the clay from the cracks, the stone dust and the oil from the machine, and it is some time before all the dirty water is pumped away, but soon it becomes as clear as crystal. At Stockholm it has a temperature of about 43 to 45 degrees F.

The boring in hard, close rock would probably have the same results in other countries. Baron Nordenskjold is convinced that wherever hard, close rock exists, with variations in temperature and not permeable, water will be found in the same way as in Sweden, and in the same quantity—that is, from 600 to 2,000 quarts an hour—with moderate pumping. Sites for such borings could be found, for example, on many parts of the north coast of Africa, in Abyssinia, in South Africa, in Spain and other parts of the western Mediterranean, at the foot of Mount Sinai, in Greece and Asia Minor and in the dry watersheds of the canyons of the Colorado. In the tropics, where there are dry seasons, such wells cannot supply water for extensive cultivation, but they will spring forth, free from all bacteria and impurities, and will suffice for household purposes, for small villages and for gardens. The practical importance of Baron Nordenskjold's discovery entitles it to special attention.

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