

CIRCULAR OF THE GRASS-HOPPER COMMISSIONERS.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office of the U. S.
Entomological Commission.

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CIRCULAR No. 1.

Dear Sir—The Commissioners are desirous of collecting, as soon as possible, all ascertainable facts in reference to the migrations of the Rocky Mountain Locust (*Caloptenus spretus*), and also regarding its appearance, habits, and devastations, in your section.

We present below a series of topics upon which we shall be glad to receive data from your locality. We expect you to dwell only on those topics upon which you have positive information, and shall be glad to receive any facts or views not suggested by this circular. Some of the subjects cannot be reported on till toward the approach of winter, while others can be considered earlier. In responding, therefore, we ask our correspondents to couple their answers with the number of the circular and of the inquiry.

We shall be glad to receive and will determine any of the different species of locusts that occur in your locality, and particularly specimens of their different parasites and natural enemies. These are best forwarded by mail, packed in cotton, moistened with alcohol, and placed in secure tin or wooden boxes.

The inquiries have reference more particularly to the present year, 1877, and when facts are communicated that have reference to other years, correspondents will please be careful to specify the particular year.

The Commissioners will refund whatever expense may be incurred for postage in replying to this circular, or in forwarding specimens, should correspondents so desire.

Copies of documents published by the Commission will be sent to correspondents who forward data in accordance with this request. Communications may be sent to either of the Commissioners by the above addresses.

CHAS. V. RILEY.
A. S. PACKARD, JR.
CYRUS THOMAS.

Topics on Which Data are Requested.

1. Date, and time of day of the arrival of swarms.
 - 1a. Direction and force of the wind at the time.
 - 1b. Temperature and character of the weather at the time, (clear or cloudy.)
 - 1c. Direction of the flight, density, height and extent of the swarms.
2. Date and time of day of the departure of swarms.
 - 2a. Direction and force of the wind at the time.
 - 2b. Temperature and character of the weather at the time.
 - 2c. Direction of the flight, density and extent of the swarms.
3. Date when the first eggs, if any, were deposited the present year.
4. Date when the eggs were most numerous hatching the present year.
5. Date when the eggs were most numerous hatching in previous years.
6. Proportion of egg that failed to hatch the present year, and probable causes of such failure.
7. Nature of the soil and situations in which the eggs were most largely deposited.
8. Nature of the soil and situations in which the young were most numerous hatched.
9. Date at which the first insect acquired full wings.
10. Date when the winged insects first began to migrate.
11. Estimate the injury done in your county and State.
12. Crops which suffered most.
13. Crops most easily protected.
14. Crops which suffered least.
15. The prevailing direction in which the young insects traveled, and any other facts in relation to the marching of the young.
16. The means employed in your section for the destruction of the unfledged insects, or to protect

crops from their ravages, and how far these have proved satisfactory.

17. The means employed in your section for the destruction of the winged insects, or to protect crops from their ravages, and how far these have proved satisfactory.

18. Descriptions and, if possible, figures of such mechanical contrivances as have proved useful in your locality for the destruction of either the young or the winged insects.

19. If your section was not visited in 1876, please state this fact.

20. If visited any previous year, please give the dates.

21. To what extent have birds, domestic fowls, and other animals, domestic or wild, been useful in destroying these insects.

The Wickedest Town in America.

CHEYENNE, April 11.—I have seen wicked cities in my time. I have seen spreeing at the Esler in St. Petersburg, seen fellows "make a night of it" in the Orpheum in Berlin, seen the wickedness at Nijni Novgorod during the September fair, seen the Mabile packed with depravity when the empire was at its meridian, but I never expected to see hell itself. I sauntered out on the streets of Cheyenne at midnight. Fifty saloons and a dozen licensed gambling houses line the principal street, all thronged and gaily illuminated till the morning sun puts out the lights.

What makes Cheyenne the wickedest city in the world?

I. Cheyenne is the metropolis where the rich owners and the buckskin-clad drivers of five million dollars' worth of cattle rendezvous for a weekly spree.

II. It is the nearest point where the Black Hillers can sell their gold dust and nuggets and then gamble and spree away the proceeds so as to go back to the mines.

III. It is the point to which all the Indian-fighting army officers come as a place where they can spree away a hundred dollars in a night and make up for lost time on the Big Horn.

IV. It is the stopping point for all the swell demi-monde from San Francisco, St. Louis and Chicago. In a word, it is the American paradise for licensed drinking, fighting, gambling, &c.

Walk with me into one licensed house on the principal street in Cheyenne at 3 o'clock in the morning. The house is a medley. It is the Parisian Varieties on Sixteenth street, John Morrissey's Saratoga gambling house, the Argyle rooms on Sixth Avenue, and the Alambra, with its fifty waiter girls, in London, all crowded into one. The building is perhaps 50 by 130 feet, and two stories high. On the ground floor is a theatre stage, room for three hundred cow boys, soldiers, ranchmen, and waiter girls, and just out of it are the gambling tables and bars. At the tables every known game is played. Among the dealers are several French women dressed in silks and diamonds. Utterly devoid of delicacy they shuffle and deal the cards and handle the chips for the swearing, drinking crowd which throng around the tables.

On the stage there is a constant variety show going on. Skilful variety actors are employed, and there the tight-rope walkers, the song and dance women in tights, the low-necked ballad singer, the clog dancer, the negro minstrel, the model artists, and the female bathers come out in a continuous stream from ten at night till morning.

On the first floor every drink is 25 cents, and about thirty English, French, and American waiter girls keep the crowd constantly drinking. Above this motley crowd of cow boys, ranch men, Black Hill freighters, miners, and soldiers, is a row of private boxes filled with rich ranch men, officers, tourists, and fellows who have come down with gold dust from the Black Hills. These boxes all communicate with the stage. Twenty or thirty waiter girls supply the boxes with champagne, the price of which is \$5 for pint bottles. All drinks in the boxes are 50 cents. It is a common thing for a rich ranch man, after selling a thousand cattle, to come here and spend \$1,000 on a spree. A colonel in the army, who had been fighting up in the Big Horn country, came in the other evening and spent \$1,000, and finally left his watch on the red, and lost that too. The proprietor of this gambling and variety saloon is a very generous man.

Everybody likes him, and he is considered a good citizen in Cheyenne. Clergymen shake him by the hand, and bankers chum with him like an old schoolmate. The profits in the one building are \$1,000 per day. I suppose there are a dozen houses on one block where gambling goes on day and night with open doors. Sometimes the marshal and the policemen take a hand. The Judge goes out and "bucks the tiger" while the jury are agreeing on a verdict. You will see colonels in the army standing by private soldiers, and see cow boys in "buckskin" dividing the chips with a Cheyenne Indian—all in the most enterprising border town in America and the wickedest city in the world.

ELI PERKINS.

—New York Sun.

So Called Education and Crime.

For a long time it was a favorite theory that ignorance and vice went hand-in-hand, and this theory seemed supported by so many collateral facts that it was accepted as unquestionably true. By degrees, however, as education has become more general, it is beginning to be seen that it does not necessarily involve moral elevation, and that in fact where other conditions conducive to crime exist, the only effect of education will be to render the criminals capable of reading and writing. Here is an illustration, taken from the city of Albany: The total number of arrests during the last year was 6,728. Of these 6,383 could read and write; 72 could read only; and 273 could neither read nor write. A few years ago these figures would have been reversed, and then the moral statistician would have philosophized over the association between ignorance and crime, and would have showed convincingly that these 6,383 were criminals because they lacked education. As, however, they in fact did not lack education, the old inferences cannot be drawn with regard to them. There is nothing surprising in this, for it fully accords with the views we have always maintained, namely, that education which is not moral education is calculated to exercise a very feeble influence upon character, and to prove a very feeble defense against temptation to crime. The education which tells upon human character, and which makes good men and women, is that of the fireside and the mother's knees, and not that of the school-house. —*Sacramento Record-Union*, April 21.

BY TELEGRAPH.

AMERICAN.

NEW YORK, 30.—The New York Gold Exchange, with the close of its business, to-day, ceases to exist. The business of the gold room will, hereafter, be under the charge of the New York Stock Exchange, and will be carried on in all particulars as now. This evening the gold room members dined at Delmonico's. At the time of the dissolution there were \$123,000 in the treasury.

WASHINGTON, 30.—Two hundred and fifty employees, mostly females, in the bureau of engraving and printing, were discharged, to-day. The bureau will be closed for three days, when McPherson will assume the duties of chief.

The resignation of A. L. Clapp, public printer, was tendered to-day. J. D. Defrees was appointed to succeed him, and will take charge of the office in a few days.

The United States Supreme Court, to-day, gave a decision ending the protracted oyster war between Maryland and Virginia. The court holds that Virginia can prohibit citizens of other States from planting oysters in beds of tide waters within her jurisdiction, while protecting her own people.

DOVER, N. H., 30.—Detectives, yesterday, arrested at Farmington, Charles Cook, who confessed to murdering Miss Hanson, of Brookfield, two years since. He says he was hired by Joseph Buzzell to kill her, for which he received \$200. The latter was tried for the murder and acquitted. He will be re-arrested.

CLEVELAND, 30.—The body taken from the shores of Lake Erie, about forty miles from Ashtabula, and supposed to be that of P. P. Bliss, the evangelist singer, is now known not to be such.

MERIDIAN, Miss., 30.—An old feud culminated in a terrible tragedy, yesterday, at Dekalb, Kemper County, Miss. On Thursday last Jno. W. Gully, a prominent democratic citizen, was waylaid and assassinated. Upon the affidavits of two negroes, several alleged conspirators in the assassination were arrested. Yesterday afternoon a large party of men fired upon the prisoners, killing J. P. Gilmer, A. McClellan, John Chisholm, and David Rosser, and mortally wounding Wm. W. Chisholm. They are all white republicans except Rosser, who was a democrat.

COLUMBIA, S. C., 30.—The republican claimants for State offices will, to-morrow, consent to the proceedings before the Supreme Court, which ends the contest and seats all the democratic State officials.

CHICAGO, 30.—The *Times* Bloomington special says reports have been received there, to-night, at the telegraphic headquarters of the Chicago, Alton and St. Louis railroad, which say that a terrible accident happened near Chicago about six this evening. As the switch-engine of the Chicago, Danville and Vincennes was coming out of Chicago, and when at 25th Street, the engine jumped the track from some unknown cause, and was completely overturned. Eight or ten passengers were on the engine, none of whom had time to jump. Five are reported killed and lying under the ponderous locomotive; two escaped with terrible injuries, one of the engineers having both legs broken. One of the killed was the fireman of the engine, and another the Chicago and Alton operator at Danville Crossing, named Fahey.

Up to a late hour, owing to the distance and muddy roads, nothing of this could be learned in Chicago.

CINCINNATI, 30.—A *Commercial* special says 400 coal miners of New Straitsville struck, to-day, against a reduction of the price of mining to thirty cents per ton. The strikers marched to Shawnee, and to-morrow from both those places go to Nelsonville. Trouble is expected.

NEW YORK, 1.—The *Times* Philadelphia special says proceedings are about to be commenced for the recovery of over \$150,000,000 worth of city property by the heirs of Col. Henry Becker, who died in 1801. Quite a sensation is created by the story. The property claimed in Philadelphia includes three churches, a dozen large manufactories, one of them an immense sugar refinery, and five blocks of dwellings, among these are the residences of ex-Mayor Fox, and ex-City Treasurer Pierson. York Avenue is near the business portion of the city, one end being devoted to manufactories and the other to handsome residences.

By the *Adriatic*, which arrived on Sunday, were about a dozen Italian musicians, who have been enlisted in Italy to form a portion of a band for service in the United States Army. They were met at Castle Garden by two sergeants of the regular army, and escorted to Governor's Island.

Sherer, the Turkish consul, in this city, said yesterday, that dealers in all kinds of supplies called daily upon him asking for contracts to supply the Turkish government, but he had as yet received no authority to purchase anything. The arms manufactured at Providence for his government were contracted for at Constantinople. When asked if he thought there was danger of the capture of arms by the Russian men-of-war, Sherer said he had not heard of any Russian cruisers in the Atlantic, and he did not think the Russian fleet now here had any such intentions. The vessels that carried the arms were fast sailers, and at Gibraltar they would be met by the Turkish convoy. Large numbers of Hungarians and Poles, he said, came to his office to be taken into the Turkish army. That the Hungarians should be enemies of Russia, he could understand, but a large number of the Poles who applied were from Austria. He was not authorized to enlist or transport any men. Neither the Turkish minister nor himself had received any instructions to purchase the iron clad Stevens Battery.

Mr. Jones, of Baltimore, a wealthy gentleman, on arriving at the residence of his brother here, a few days since, found that he had been robbed of diamonds and jewelry valued at \$55,000. The police are searching, though Jones has

been anxious to keep the news from the papers.

The *Tribune* says Oakey Hall's family will soon join him in London. His law library has been offered for sale, and it is rumored that his dwelling has also been sold.

The Grand Duke Alexis received on Sunday a dispatch from his father the Emperor, stating that no bombardment of Poli had taken place, not a shot having been fired there, and that nothing more than ordinary skirmishes between the vanguards of the two armies had yet occurred either in Asia or Europe. No intimation has yet been received that the Russian fleet will be ordered hence.

SAN FRANCISCO, 1.—For some time past there have been rumors to the effect that George M. Pinney, the defaulting navy pay inspector's clerk, was on his way back to San Francisco. It is now positively ascertained that he is in the city in disguise and concealment. The report causes considerable fluttering among a certain class of politicians.

ST. LOUIS, 1.—The part of a body which was found in the ruins of the Southern Hotel this morning, is supposed to be that of Charles Keifrich, the head waiter.

CHICAGO, 1.—It is learned this morning that the railroad accident, reported by special last night, was not so bad as was then supposed; only two men were killed, W. C. Fahey, a telegraph operator, and Thomas Halvey, a fireman. Several others were badly bruised, and some may die of their injuries.

Intelligence is received here that on the 29th or 30th ult., the schooner *Velocipede* was capsized near Racine, and broken in two amidships. The crew, consisting of three persons, have not been heard from, and undoubtedly perished with her.

COLUMBIA, 1.—The republican officials' counsel moved, in the Supreme Court, to-day, to withdraw the answers from the file, and consented that judgment be entered for the plaintiffs. The offices will be transferred to-morrow.

NEW YORK, 1.—By the falling of a section of the roof in the northeast corner of the new post office, at two o'clock this afternoon, two men who were working in an unfinished room below the dome, were buried in the concrete and iron work. The roof fell without warning, tearing the iron girders from their sockets, and making a great dust, which seemed like smoke. The fire department was called out, and aided the police in the work of exhumation. Charles A. Robinson, a laborer was the first taken out, dead; John Collister, the next victim, had his arms broken, and was otherwise hurt; Dennis Flemming was rescued in an unconscious state; Max Hensil and Henry Jones, were slightly injured, and Patrick Johnson was, after a long search and much lifting of the prodigious mass of iron, found in a remote corner, lifeless. A brick wall, partially supporting the dome, had been settling for some time and caused a deflex in the ceiling, and a truss had been placed to support it. Oakshott, the supervising inspector, thinks there was a flaw in this truss. Dougherty, the general foreman, thinks the same. The rooms below were also considerably damaged.

The *Times* says a representative of Supervising Architect Mullett ascribes the accident to the fact that the truss was improperly put up; that it was used as a girder, and that the weight was thrown upon the lower side. It was stated by this authority that Mr. Hill, the superintending architect, on Monday examined the truss and pronounced it all right. One person in control said that he was not aware until he saw the pieces of the roof, after the accident, that it was of such immense thickness, and his own judgment would not have approved of such a roof or placed it where it was.

Mr. Oakshott, inspector of materials under Supervising Architect Hill, said to the *Times* reporter, "I am unable to speak with certainty as to the cause of the accident. There was a brick wall directly under where this roof descended, which was cracked. There were slight fissures in it at two points when I took charge of the building, and as its weight was causing a deflection in the ceiling of the district court room underneath, it was decided to remove it and supply its place, as a support to the fireproof roof, with an iron truss of the same carrying capacity as similar trusses carrying like weight in