

STRANGE BUT TRUE

TRUTH IS STRANGER
THAN FICTION!

The commercial sturgeon fishery of the Atlantic coast of America is almost defunct. The sturgeon is hunted intensively because caviar is made from its roe, but it is now so scarce it does not pay fishermen to set expensive nets at sea.

The diamond has the widest range of colour and lustre, as well as being the hardest of minerals.

A lightning flash discharges electrical current corresponding to an estimated total of over 100,000 amperes.

It has been found by the Canadian Government, that the most effective way of cutting down the mosquito crop in the far north is to sprinkle D.D.T. insect killer on the snow in winter. The insecticide is sprinkled on the frozen tundras by aeroplanes. Then when the mosquitoes come out of their hibernation in the spring and lay their eggs in the melted snow water, the D.D.T. already there soon kills them.

The earliest mention of the game of cricket appears to be a reference in the Guild Merchant Book of Guildford, England, dated 1598. According to the records of Wykeham College, England's oldest school, the game was played there in the days of Elizabeth the First. In 1700, two stumps were used 24 in. apart and 12 in. high, with long bails on top. A middle stump was added in 1775, and the height of the stumps was raised to 22 in., the existing height. The word "cricket" is probably derived from Anglo-Saxon "cric", meaning a staff.

Although it is now a most valuable article of our diet, the origin of butter has never been traced. As is known, it was first used medicinally, as a salve or ointment. Romany gipsies still use the expression, "butter to your body", handed down from the past. In ancient Egypt it was used only as fuel for lamps. Butter comes from several domesticated animals. The Arabs make it from camel's milk and goat's milk; the Tibetans use yak's milk. In parts of Asia, the natives make fine butter from the milk of water buffaloes. The best butter is still made by the age-old method of pouring milk into shallow pans; the cream rises to the top, when it is skimmed off and churned—all by hand. The resulting pure butter is rarely marketed in bulk because it quickly goes rancid.

Of the 27,000 cubic miles of water that fall as rain on land areas each year, only 7,000 cubic miles come from ocean evaporation blown inland. The remainder of 20,000 cubic miles evaporates over land.

A magician sits on top to lighten the load when hollow-log drums are taken from the forests of Bougainville in the Solomon Islands. His presence is protection against evil spirits that might make the logs too heavy to carry!

Taipans v. Toads.

Visitors, or people who have not been to north Queensland for several years, will be surprised to find hordes of giant Mexican toads, hopping around side lanes, back yards and lighted areas. They are slow-moving and cumbersome and are apt to get in the way of one's feet. The deadly north Queensland taipan has met its match in these brown toads. Whenever the reptile tries to swallow one, the toad's poison glands set to work and poison the culprit. Giant snakes and toads have been found dead beside each other, occasionally the toad still firmly clutched in the snake's mouth. The giant Mexican toad was introduced to Queensland to aid the cane-farmer, for they wait in lighted areas and pounce on the cane beetles in hundreds. Prior to this, people were paid so much a pound to catch the pests.

EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES.

NEW BATCH OF ISSUES.

At the May meeting, the Board approved of the issue of Exemption Certificates to the following:—

- George W. R. Bloomfield, Darlington Point.
- Eric James Hilt, Mitchell Street, Brewarrina.
- Ronald Peace Thomas, Princes Highway, Bate-man's Bay.
- Walter Whyman, The Beemunnel, Warren.
- Alexander Solomon, Aborigines Reserve, Gulargambone.

Dawn extends its heartiest congratulations to each and every one of these people.

Most of the castor oil produced is used for industrial purposes, such as a hydraulic fluid and in the manufacture of sulfonated oil. Only about 10 per cent. of the oil is used medicinally.