

The Pine City Pioneer.

Ed. C. GOTTRY, Proprietor.

DEVOTED TO THE GENERAL INTERESTS OF PINE COUNTY, AND THE WELFARE OF ITS READERS.

TERMS: \$1.50 PER ANNUM

VOL. XII.

PINE CITY, PINE COUNTY, MINNESOTA, FRIDAY, SEPT. 3, 1897.

NO. 38.

SAXON SWITZERLAND.

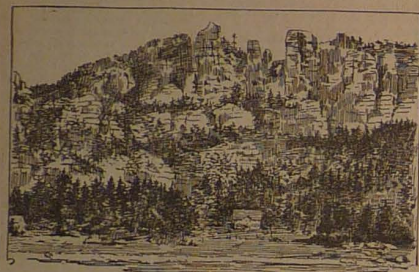
One of the Most Picturesque Districts in the World.

Visitors from America Pronounce it a Veritable Paradise, Superior in Some Respects to the Yosemite Valley.

(Special Berlin Letter.)

Among the picturesque districts until recently neglected by the American tourists in Europe is that region known generally as Saxon Switzerland. This region, however, is now being made up for, as the number of Americans visiting that lovely region is steadily on the increase. I noticed, among the passengers on a river boat plying on the Elbe, several charming American bridal parties, and on the summit of one of the finest peaks I stumbled into a group of Americans who hailed from every part of the United States, but who were here, focused together, as it were, in this tiny paradise.

For Saxon Switzerland is a veritable paradise. It has not the grand air of the real Switzerland, and it lacks glaciers and cloud-piercing monsters of mountains. But its kind is more attractive. There is a mixture of idyllic peace and peculiar picturesque in the landscape that is extremely charming. The people there are not yet so greedy after the dollars of the tourists; in fact, they are for the most part quite naive and hospitable, and their brook trout and fresh fruit and the products of their mountain industries are as yet



ROCK FORMATION IN SAXON SWITZERLAND.

all to be had at a very reasonable rate. In fact, for a holiday of a fortnight or so I know of no more propitious spot on earth than this same Saxon Switzerland, and as such it is recognized by the shrewd Germans, the Berliners especially, who undertake frequently and at small expense brief trips there. The best way to do this is to take the fast train from Berlin to Dresden, stop there over night, and then take one of the pretty Elbe boats to the next morning and make the circuit through the whole region by easy stages, going by boat up the river a few hours, then disembark again, and make a day down one of the numerous pretty side valleys, of which glimpses were caught in hearing it on the way; then making a roundabout way through the rocky formations again, and reach another steamboat station higher up, whence to pass on for another stage to some luxurious, others rather primitive, but all clean, wholesome and providing good fare, are to be met with every-



IN EDMUND'S KLAMM.

where, and pleasant traveling companions are sure to be encountered almost at any stage of the journey. The whole trip, taking in every point of interest, for into the German-speaking part of Bohemia, and lasting, say a fortnight, revolving from the time of leaving Berlin, will fare and hotel expenses may be made for about \$25; but more on the fat of the land, too, on that score.

Saxon Switzerland owes its peculiar charm to several circumstances. It is a region of mountains, but possesses no roads and no rivers (save a single stream from the banks of the Elbe to the summit of the mountain 2,000 to 2,500 feet away through which the river flows) and its very nature is a rock formation, with there often a forest, and being all of limestone, the rock is piled up, so to speak, by the

BIRDS AND THE FARMER.

Why They Should Be the Very Best of Friends.

Relations of Feathered Insect Eaters to Agriculture Discussed by Prof. Beal, of the Biological Survey.

(Special Washington Letter.)

Assistant Ornithologist Beal, of the biological survey, has prepared a bulletin for the department of agriculture about common birds and their relation to agriculture. It is a very interesting official document. Prof. Beal says: "It has long been known that birds play an important part in relation to



KINGBIRD.

agriculture, but there seems to be a tendency to dwell on the harm they do, rather than on the good. Whether a bird is injurious or helpful depends almost entirely upon what it eats; and in the case of unusually abundant species of birds the character of the food becomes a very practical question."

Farmers of experience have long known that the big flocks of blackbirds, woodpeckers and other common birds are not present to commit depredations, but to help the farmer by destroying noxious insects. Nearly all land birds subsist principally on insects, and during the breeding season they rear their young exclusively on this sort of food. When farmers discover an unusually large flock of birds they may well be assured that there is an unusually large crop of insects. They are insectivores, and whoever believes that common birds are not epicures has not studied birds. They not only eat insects, but some of them are very choice of their selections. The common birds discover the presence of insects when human eyes would never even suspect their presence.

Attention is called by Prof. Beal to the fact that during the recent plague of locusts in the western states they were eaten by every common bird of that section, and they formed the principal food of the birds during that dire season. Before the locusts came from the Rocky mountains and deposited their eggs in the prairie the farmers complained of the unusual numbers of common birds. By prophetic instinct the birds knew that the locusts were coming and they were there to receive them. The birds were, in some occult manner, advised of the immediate future, which the farmers were wholly unaware of the plague which was to come. Thus it appears that Providence is all-wise and all-seeing; or as the old hymn hath it: "His moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform."

Insectivorous birds feed upon that which is most accessible and which is most palatable. Some birds pass by certain kinds of insects. They will not touch them, unless the birds are on short rations and ready to take any sort of food which will ward off the pangs of hunger. But the insects which are despised by some birds are sought by other common birds as their chief delicacies.

It is explained by the professor that ground-feeding birds will seek for insects in grass and dead leaves, or about the trunks of trees. Some insects are the most easily accessible, and the birds are like men, in that they are looking always for the easiest method of making their way. They will not fly as long as they can walk or waddle. No wise bird will make any effort to secure prey in the mountain tops where he can live like a prince in the valley. These common birds will not, nor do they spin their webs, but they do come, and live they just take life as it comes, and live in clover if they can. They take no thought of the morrow, believing that sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

The fly-catching birds have an easy time of it. They do not live in holes, and their prey is everywhere. They simply sit and wait for their opportunities. They know that there are lots of flies in the world, millions of them, and that flies constantly fly. They know that by sitting on their limbs, and patiently waiting the course of events, there will be enough flies every day coming their way to meet the requirements of their appetites. They simply open their little bills, give a peck at the passing fly, and swallow him. If it is a common fly, well and good. If it is a fat horse fly, so much the better. The birds know their business. After

reading the professor's story about birds, the writer is convinced that there are plenty of men who have much less sense, and who might well study the common birds and their methods of getting on in the world.

In the scientific study of common birds there has been many a murder committed. Field observation is not sufficient for man, because he cannot discern the details of the workings of the birds. In order to obtain accurate and reliable information, man loads the shot gun, goes out into the field and shoots down a number of these innocent cannibals. For what purpose? Simply to take each dead bird and examine its stomach. The scientist can then learn what food the birds subsist upon, and hence can determine whether or not they are friends or foes of the husbandman. It is generally discovered that the common birds are the friends of the farmers, and are destroying his insectivorous enemies. This discovery having been made in each case, the farmers are informed of the result of the investigation, and thereafter the shotgun is dispensed with. So the killing of a few birds results in saving the lives of thousands of others.

The professor says that cuckoos are much to be pitied, caterpillars, and do not object to their birds, as many birds do. On the contrary cuckoos eat so many hairy caterpillars that the birds are usually large crops of insects. They are insectivores, and whoever believes that common birds are not epicures has not studied birds. They not only eat insects, but some of them are very choice of their selections. The common birds discover the presence of insects when human eyes would never even suspect their presence.

Investigation demonstrates that farmers should do their best to cultivate woodpeckers, farmers of their own on healthy trees. On the contrary they unerringly trail down the wood-boring larva, and annihilate and devour them. The official bulletins are a good deal also for the red-headed woodpecker. It is admitted that this bird is guilty of tapping trees and drinking the sap. It has been discovered, however, that very few trees are seriously injured, although some have died within a year or two, after being tapped by diamond-billed fellows. The professor says, however, that "the bird captures millions of insects which are attracted by the sweet sap, and the tree tapping

HAIRY WOODPECKER. In largely for the purpose of catching insects. It is probable that the red-head fully compensates for the damage done by sap-sucking, in consuming so many insects." The Kingbird comes in for a word of praise. He is distinctly a fly catcher and takes a large portion of his food on the wing. The Kingbird also watches the trees closely, and gathers in all sorts of insects. This bird has been suspected of catching honey bees; but an Iowa farmer says that he shot a dozen Kingbirds near his hives, and found not a single bee in any one of their stomachs. Therefore he concludes that the Kingbird is guiltless of this charge; modified by the fact that in various parts of the country 14 Kingbirds were killed, and 40 drone bees were found in their stomachs. Isn't that wonderful? How in the realm of intelligence could those birds know that the drones were proper prey, while the working bees and queens must be spared?

The meadow lark is complimented because of the fact that it feeds almost wholly upon insects. In 231 stomachs examined, it was discovered that 75 per cent of the food of the birds consisted of insect life. It eats on the ground, and walks about with dainty step, knowing that it is a well-known character and therefore out in fear of human assault. The meadow lark is wholly beneficial, and is not guilty of the common charge of pulling uprooting grain. It lives large and fat, and takes grasshoppers and caterpillars also, whenever they can be found. Even when the ground is covered with snow, this bird finds insects somehow, and does not seek the granaries. It is a very skillful insect hunter. R. M. D. FRY.

The Crown Roller Mills.

Rush City, Minn. New and Improved Machinery. First-Class Flour Guaranteed. FRED HEINRICH, Prop.

Kashik & Hoefler, DEALERS IN FRESH AND SALT MEATS.

We keep constantly on hand the Following Meats: Beef, Veal, Pork, Mutton, Poultry, AND GAME IN SEASON. We also make and have on hand all kinds of sausages. CASHIK & HOEFLER, Pine City, Minn.

Herman Borchers Ladies' and Gent's Fine Boots and Shoes

Ever brought to this village. Also Carries a First-Class Line of Rubbers and Slippers. Boots and Shoes Made to Order. Boot and Shoe Repairing a Specialty. PINE CITY, - MINN.

Gems of the Cycle World

They wear at once a famous name, because they have a "Cushion Frame." KONNARK AND YARNELL. To behold is a pleasure, To ride a positive joy. The "Cushion Frame" is to the wheel what the springs are to the carriage. Manufactured in Minneapolis, by Moore Carving Machine Co., Salesroom, 67 1/2 Ave. South. Send for Catalogue. Call when in town.

J. A. Franta, Manufacturer of Harness

And Dealer in Trunks, Valises, etc. Horse Supplies of all kinds constantly on hand, Repairing a Specialty. Pine City, - Minnesota.

W. F. Glasow

DEALER IN... GENERAL MERCHANDISE. Pine City, Minn.

Dry Goods, Clothing, Hats and Caps, Boots and Shoes, Groceries, Etc.

Special attention paid to the Farmers' trade. When in the city call at the old stand and look over my goods and prices, and see the inducements I can offer.

E. E. Barnum, M. D. Physician and Surgeon. Residence in Ryder House. Office in room north of Drug Store. Pine City, - Minnesota.

Dr. E. L. Stephan, Physician and Surgeon. -Office at Drug Store. Hinckley, - Minnesota.

A. J. Stowe, M. D., Physician and Surgeon. Graduate of the University of New York City 1877. Office in new building first door north of Postoffice. Residence second house north of office. Rush City, - Minnesota.

Robt. C. Saunders, Attorney at Law. Hinckley, - Minnesota.

S. G. L. Roberts, Attorney and Counselor at Law. Pine City, - Minnesota.

Ed. C. Gottry, Attorney at Law. Late Register of S. Land Office. Will practice in all Courts of the State. Ellish Block, Taylors Falls, Minn.

Robertson Bros., DEALERS IN General Merchandise. Best Goods at Lowest Prices. Fintyson, - Minnesota.

PINE CITY LIVERY STABLE

W. P. GOTTRY, Proprietor. First-Class Livery Rigs Furnished at any hour. PINE CITY, - MINN.

Wanted—An Idea

Who can think of an idea which will protect your ideas, they may better your wealth. Write JOHN W. WATSON, 123 Post Office Building, Washington, D. C. for their free plan and offer and list of new inventions wanted.

