

AUSTRALIAN ODDITIES

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INSECT MEMORIAL.

Have you ever heard of a memorial to an insect? This may seem an odd question, to say the least, until it is realised that the subject of the memorial is the Cactoblastic Cactorum, the tiny caterpillar which was imported to Australia from the Argentine. This little fellow can well be proud of his deeds, for he is responsible for practically ridding this country of the Prickly Pear, which deed gave us back 65 million acres of land which had previously been abandoned due to the pest. Grateful settlers at Boonarga, in the Chinchilla district, erected a Cactoblastic Hall to perpetuate the memory of their insect benefactor.

IRRIGATION IN THE BURDEKIN DELTA.

The towns of Ayr and Home Hill, astride the mouth of the Burdekin, Australia's second largest river system obtain fresh water for domestic purposes and farm irrigation through the use of spear and pump. The area has practised this method of irrigation for at least fifty years. A large mass of waterbearing sand has been deposited near the river mouth after years of flow and erosion from its 50,000 square mile basin. This formation is like a huge sandwich—a bottom layer of rock or clay, a 70 ft. thick sand filling and a top crust of silt, 10 ft. to 50 ft. thick. Water is pumped from the sand through the top crust to provide a continuous supply; despite increasing use, there has been no lessening of the supply, nor is it much affected by the seasons. However, the water does run in streams, resulting in spots without sand drifts and water. Plentiful water, together with rich soils and sunshine, makes the district a major sugar producer.

THE AVOCADO PEAR.

Of all the fruit grown in Queensland, few have greater nutritive value than the Avocado, sometimes called the Avocado Pear. This fruit originated in Latin America and the West Indies, and has become very popular in the United States within the last fifty years. It came to Australia about twenty-five years ago from California, where it is grown commercially. The coastal strip from Nambour to the New South Wales border is the main area of production in Queensland. Scientific analysis has disclosed concentrated food values inside the thin, shell-like skin of the fruit. Good specimens have an energy value of 400 calories per pound, compared with 175 for most other fruit. The taste of the fruit is a combination of several flavours, including egg, nut, cheese, lettuce and asparagus. It can be used as a savoury in omelettes and cocktails, as a basis for a good salad, and as a sweet.

SPOTLIGHT ON BOGGABILLA!



Neville Binge, Priscilla Hippi and Albert Dennison with Mrs. Harrison.



Boggabilla's favourite spot in summer-time is the nearby McIntyre River.



Boggabilla children waiting outside the station recreation hall for their party to commence.