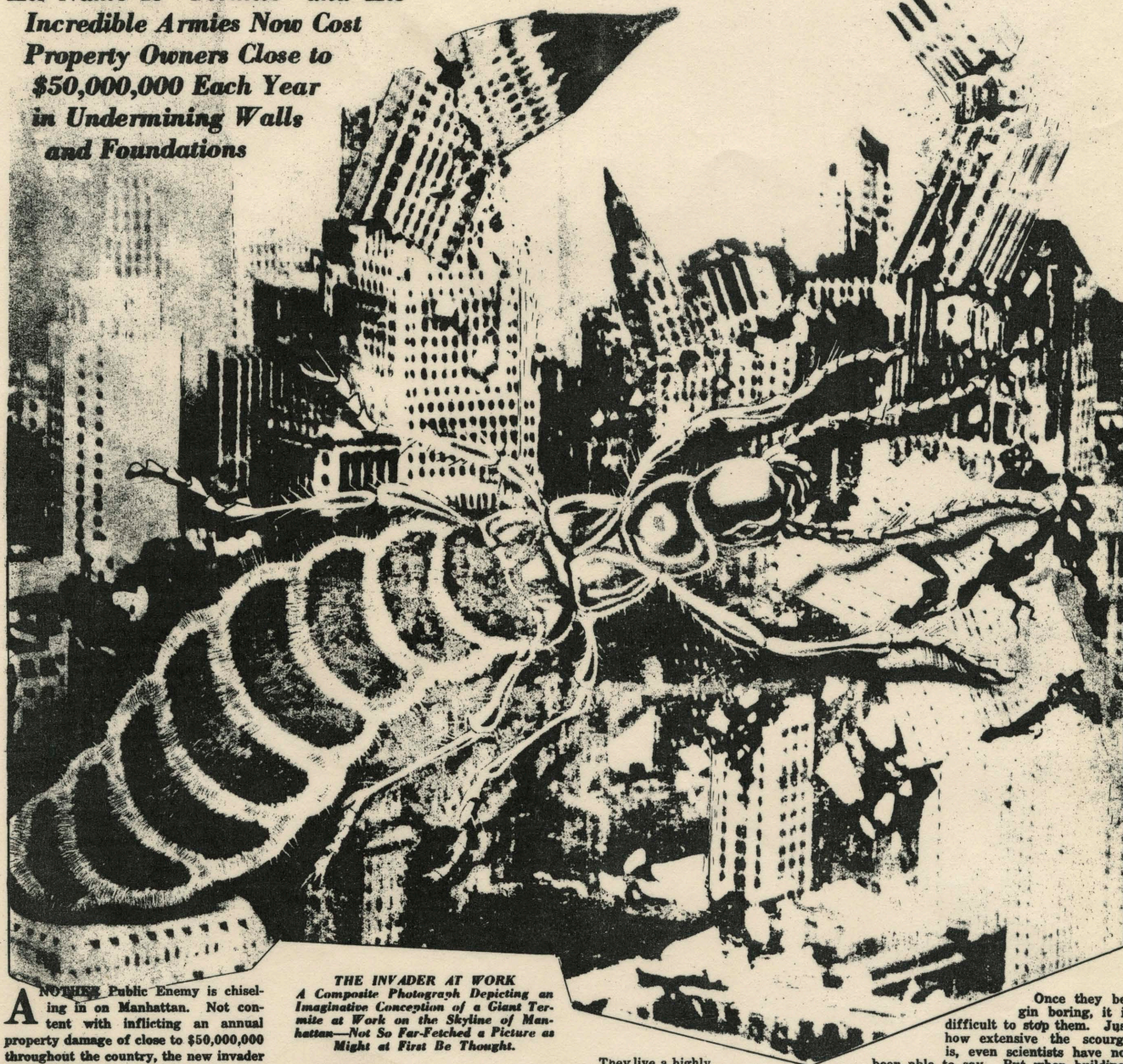


A New "Public Enemy" Invades New York!

His Name Is "Termite" and His Incredible Armies Now Cost Property Owners Close to \$50,000,000 Each Year in Undermining Walls and Foundations



A **NOTHING** Public Enemy is chiseling in on Manhattan. Not content with inflicting an annual property damage of close to \$50,000,000 throughout the country, the new invader has added the metropolis to its territory, thereby adding millions to its loot.

This destructive force is an insect called the termite. You've probably seen it and called it a white ant, but that is a misnomer.

The termite is the greatest enemy of what man builds out of wood. It attacks the cellulose of wood and paper, eating its way through foundations, telephone poles, public records, furniture.

Not long ago, home dwellers and property owners were both puzzled and dismayed when they found their buildings overrun with this pest. Some were white; others brown, reddish or black.

Born in the tropics, they have gradually made themselves at home in the temperate zone. They are most abundant in the South and the West, but within the last five years they have established themselves in this region. And the damage they do is plenty.

Left to their own devices, without exterminating precautions, it is said that termites could undermine the foundation of any building, if there is wood in it, within five years.

Following the alarming spread of their activities, George E. Sanders, noted New York entomologist, undertook a comprehensive survey of the habits of the wood-eating insect.

THE INVADER AT WORK
A Composite Photograph Depicting an Imagination Conception of a Giant Termite at Work on the Skyline of Manhattan—Not So Far-Fetched a Picture as Might at First Be Thought.

A scientific counter-attack has been launched against its depredations. Infected doors, sills and timbers are being replaced.

New buildings are being erected designed to insure against termite attack. Concrete and sheet metal are being employed to discourage the spread of the destruction.

Hot creosote, fumigation and other methods are being used as exterminators.

But it's not going to be an easy job. Termites were on this planet 50,000,000 years before man, according to the estimate of scientists, and their subterranean operations are hard to stop. Fossil termites, of the same species as that now operating in the New York region, have been found in deposits millions of years old.

A **LTHOUGH** the termite looks like the ant, the two creatures are deadly enemies. When they wage war, the ants usually win. Termites are cannibals; they eat one another when they run short of wood.

Their nearest relative in the insect world is the cockroach, which fact won't increase their popularity.

Like bees, the termites are divided into castes. There are workers, drones, queens, soldiers—each with their duties.

They live a highly complex social life. All types except soldiers have mandibles for eating wood. The soldiers have "large fighting jaws."

The average termite is no larger than a pencil point, but the queens become as large as a boy's fist. The queen lays 30,000 or more eggs at a time.

Entomologist Sanders has been studying the little cusses for more than 30 years, seeking to put an end to their dirty work. He was formerly professor of entomology at the University of Illinois, and in charge of the Insecticide Investigation for the Dominion of Canada for many years. He is an expert on the social and domestic life of the termite.

Only recently, he says, have termites opened for business in this region. Homes at Riverhead, L. I., some of the finer estates both on Long Island and in Westchester County, dwellings on Staten Island and in northern New Jersey have been invaded.

More than half the world, he estimates, is engaged in the battle of extermination.

It was once thought that colder climates were immune from the ravages, but the insects are remarkably successful in acclimatizing themselves. They now seem to breed just as profusely in the temperate zones as in the tropics.

Once they begin boring, it is difficult to stop them. Just how extensive the scourge is, even scientists have not been able to say. But when buildings are improperly constructed, when some portion of the foundation rests on wood or is honey-combed with small openings in the cement, the termite moves in. The insect eats the wood from inside, leaving but the outer shell, and the first thing you know the building sags, or a corner of the foundation gives way.

T **HE** termite inflicting damage in this region is known as the subterranean termite. They nest and colonize in the ground, and make their way up from there. Five stories is not too much of a climb for them—even if it's a walk-up. All they require is wood to chew.

Recently exterminators were called to the Westchester County courthouse where termites had feasted on record books stored in the basement, and—for dessert—had nibbled the flooring.

Termites did such a thorough job in a church in Los Angeles in 1926 that the structure collapsed. The recent collapse of a wing of the Vatican Library was attributed to the same cause.

One of the most thrilling fends in the insect world is that between termite and ant. A motion picture produced by Nathan, Woodward and Fairbanks and recently distributed by Educational Film Exchange shows how this warfare is waged. It's a survival of the fittest that would have handed Darwin a thrill

