

Lassoing an Alligator

"Speaking about sharks," said the stout gentleman from Colorado, "a party of us went out last week to catch one. We caught two. I've roped steers in Kansas, and I'll say this, gentlemen, if you want something that will pull on your lariat, hook a ten-foot shark."

The stout gentleman took a pull at his cigar, blew the smoke out in a fragrant stream, crossed one leg over the other, and assumed a retrospective air. His companions, who were sitting with him on the broad veranda of the Royal Palm, looked expectant.

"Yes, we caught two," he continued, after a pause.

"Tell us all about it," exclaimed the tall gentleman from New York. "What kind of a hook and line did you have?" "Where did you catch them?" were some of the questions fired in quick succession at the speaker.

"One at a time," said the stout gentleman, smiling. "We had a big hook, probably a foot long. Attached to this was a stout chain, about six feet long. Then there was about 150 feet of rope—five-eighths rope—strong enough to hold a runaway horse. We went out in our sloop through Bears cut. Right place for big game eh?"

The stout gentleman chuckled as he passed this witticism, and his companions laughed heartily to encourage him.

"We caught a few kingfish for bait. We cut some of them to make them bleed and threw them overboard. A shark can smell blood like a wolf. A shark is a very well-behaved fish until he gets a taste of blood; then he is as fierce as a tiger in the jungle."

"Man-eating sharks? Pshaw! There ain't auy such species. When a shark is hungry and gets a taste of blood he is a man-eating shark. Look out for him. Ordinarily a shark is as cowardly as a Colorado coyote."

"Well, we baited our hook with half a kingfish, and paid out our cable. We saw huge forms darting about, and pretty soon we got a signal. A big fellow had the hook, and started to run like a wild bronco. We snubbed the line around a cleat, and let him pull slowly. When we got a chance we gathered in slack. It took four of us and gave us all we wanted to do. We got this fellow within fifteen or twenty feet of the boat, when suddenly he gave a tremendous leap, and off he went. The hook had not become firmly fixed in his mouth."

"We baited up again and threw out our line. The sloop flew through the water, at times heeling over almost on her beam ends. Kingfish were jumping all around us. It was a fine sight, gentlemen—a fine sight," and the stout gentleman took a few pulls at his cigar.

"We were then about two miles north of Norris Cut," he resumed. "Several boats were on the kingfish grounds, having fine sport. But we were after big game. Well, pretty soon we hooked another one, and this time for keeps. You ought to have seen the fight that fellow made."

"Oh, no, we didn't tow him any. We simply hove to, and attended strictly to the line. After a while we tuckered him out, and got him along side. The captain got his shotgun and watched his chance. When the shark lay still the captain put the muzzle of the gun within a few inches of the shark's head, and blazed away. It took two shots to kill him, and even then he wasn't dead, as we discovered afterward. You can never tell when a shark is dead by feeling his pulse or watching his respiration. When you are sure he's dead, wait twenty-four hours before posting your bulletin."

"Well, we got a line around this fellow and took him in tow. Pretty soon we hooked another one. He made a good fight and got away. Hook slipped out of his mouth. Next time the hook stayed. We got a twelve-footer that time, and we thought he was going to take us home with him. Yes, sir, he just took us in tow, like a harbor tug. But he couldn't keep it up. His steam went down. We snubbed him, and played him—if you can call such hard work play—and finally we got him alongside. Two charges from the shotgun put him to sleep. Just then we heard a commotion astern. That other shark had come to, as they say, and was beginning to feel quite like his old self. The captain slipped another shell into his gun and gave him a third charge. That seemed to discourage him, and he never recovered his spirits."

"We brought 'em both in, towing 'em behind the sloop. We had 'em strung up and photographed."

"Yes, tarpon fishing is great sport, but you just try shark fishing if you want to know that you're living."

Why, our very sloop seemed, as the poet says, to feel the thrill of life along her keel."

"Have you ever tried alligators?" asked an old gentleman from St. Louis, who was a pioneer in the field of Florida sports before the day of the East Coast railroad.

"Alligators? But I was talking of fishing."

"Well, so, am I," replied the St. Louis man. "An alligator at the far end of your line is very like a shark, and when you were speaking of the shark's reluctance to part with life, it reminded me of an experience I had one winter. My guide and I started out, in our skiff one morning with a harpoon and fifty feet of rope. He had promised me some rare sport, and I got it. As we rowed along near the bank of the river we saw numerous alligators lying in the sun. They always vanished just before we got to them. An alligator can disappear in the most mysterious manner—like a ghost. He's there, and suddenly he isn't there. You may see a faint ripple, and you may catch a glimpse of a black snout skimming along on the water, but that's all."

"But my guide knew a thing or two about alligators. We caught up with one, and the guide cast the harpoon, striking the gator in the back of the neck. Then there was a commotion. The gator started off like a steam launch, dragging our boat after him. He made the water boil. He tacked to port, and then to starboard. He backed water, and we hauled in the slack. Then he went ahead, full speed, all steam on, and the safety valve blowing off. For three-quarters of an hour he kept us going, from one side of the river to the other. It was a special excursion, reduced rates for the round trip, and no risks on baggage. Sometimes he would shut off steam, and we thought he was through, but when we got within a few feet of him off he went, like a wild steer, throwing up his tail and dragging us after him."

"But even an alligator can get tired. We noticed when we rang the bell for full speed he went ahead slow, and it was plain that his steam pressure was going down."

"At last we got him ashore and dragged him up on the bank. We had no shotgun, no knife. We got some pieces of plank and hammered on the head until we thought he was in prime condition for the coroner's jury."

"Then we left him. We went on up the river and fished all day. We came back before dark, and whether you believe it or not, gentlemen, that alligator was gone. He had come to life and made off into the river, and I shouldn't wonder if he were alive yet. I shouldn't be surprised any day, if I were up that river again, to see his familiar countenance, with a broad grin and a few scars on it, and perhaps a few teeth missing, but still cheerful and hopeful, defying the fell hand of the destroyer."

"Talk about a cat having nine lives! If a cat has nine, an alligator must have a hundred. I've shot a dozen 44 bullets into an alligator, and only stirred him up a little. That was before I knew how to shoot, though. One bullet through the brain will do him up, but you can perforate the rest of his body like a colander without putting him to sleep. But shooting alligators is very poor sport. If you want fun, go after them with a harpoon and line."

—Florida Times-Union.

Voyage of Launch.

New York, July 20. — The Abiel Abbot Low, the 38-foot launch in which Capt. Henry Newman, a New England boatman, accompanied by his 16-year-old son, sailed from College Point, L. I., on July 9th, on a voyage to Falmouth, England, was reported spoken by two vessels which reached this port today. Capt. Ivan F. French, barque Tourville, from Nantes, reports having sighted the craft July 13th, in latitude 40.33 degrees north and longitude 31.32 degrees west, but it was so far away that he could not communicate with its occupants. The American liner St. Louis, from Southampton and Cherbourg, also reported having sighted the Low. The little boat exchanged colors with the big liner on July 18th, in latitude 41.34 degrees north, longitude 55.35 degrees west. The two occupants appeared to be in the best of spirits and waved their caps to the officers and passengers of the St. Louis. Capt. Newman expected to reach England in less than 30 days.

Montallon and Felizardo, the Ladrones chiefs, have broken through the constabulary cordon in Cavite province, P. I., and have escaped to the mountains.

Doesn't Need Help

New York, July 24.—Harry Tracy the western outlaw, has been deprived of valuable help. Nine-year-old Lewis Wolfford of New York was speeding across the continent to join him, but he has been intercepted.

Lewis is a son of Arnold Wolfford, the theatrical manager, who has an office at 1358 Broadway. The boy has manifested great sympathy for Tracy. Friday afternoon the opportunity came for him to go to Tracy's aid. He got possession of \$20 of his father's money and disappeared. The police of New York and neighboring cities were notified, but no trace of Lewis could be found.

In the midst of all this alarm, and while Wolfford was at police headquarters at 9 o'clock Saturday evening, a telegram came from Mrs. Daniel O'Leary of 789 Fulton street, Chicago, saying: "Lewis is here on his way to join Tracy. Don't worry."

Mrs. O'Leary is the boy's grandmother. He had stopped off there to solicit additional funds for his enterprise, and she will see that he is safely returned to his home.

Col. Thomas Ward, chief of staff to Gen. Miles, has been appointed a brigadier general in the regular army vice Jacob Smith, retired.

Job Printing at Nugget office.

REVENUE RECEIVED

Over \$5,000 From Sale of Licenses

City Treasury is Handsomely Increased Since the Passage of the License Bylaw.

The license bylaw passed by the city council has been in effect scarcely three weeks yet the revenue derived by the city from such source already exceeds \$5000 with a great deal more still to come. To date there have been between thirty and forty licenses issued confined principally to cigar and cigarette shops, scavengers, drays, milk vendors, water carts, second hand dealers and auctioneers. There has so far been no license issued for a transient trader on account of the constitutionality of the law having been attacked and the test cases that have been tried. The first to be brought was dismissed by Inspector Wroughton, before whom it was heard, upon the ground that the defendant was occupying premises. Another similar case is now being prosecuted and is being bitterly contested by both sides. On Friday last some points having come up that were not anticipated an enlargement was secured until next Thursday when the matter will probably be settled as far as the lower court is concerned. No matter which side wins the other will doubtless appeal to the territorial court. Should it be held that the law is good it will have the effect of largely increasing the revenues derived from licenses as the fee for transient traders is \$500 and there are a number who are liable for the payment of such sum.

All licenses issued will expire at the end of the fiscal year, December 31, and must be renewed immediately thereafter if the holder of such desires to continue in business. No license is issued for any proportion of the year and to those who object to paying a year's fee for a few months it is pointed out that they have already had the benefit of an exemption from paying a license for many months. License Inspector Worlock in speaking of the applications he is receiving says there are a few who kick at the payment, those who would find fault if the fee were but one dollar a year, but the majority realize the protection they receive and pay with little grumbling. Not a few of the cigar stores conducted by women have applied for a license but in no instance is one issued to such if it is known their establishments are used for immoral purposes.

The license bylaw was passed and signed July 14, going into effect immediately. No time was specified by which those subject to a license should procure one, it being presumed that all applications would be made immediately. Those who are conducting businesses which should be licensed and have neglected to take out such are liable to arrest and the payment of a fine by their failure to conform with the provisions of the bylaw.

Balfour's First Council

London, July 18.—Mr. Balfour yesterday presided at his first cabinet council, and thus formally assumed his place at the head of the supreme executive of the British empire. Contrary to general expectations, Mr. Chamberlain was well enough to be present. The colonial secretary seemed to be little the worse for his recent accident, and in conversation with some personal friends he declared that he was feeling almost well again. Mr. Balfour was anxious for Mr. Chamberlain's advice, and the two statesmen remained in consultation for some time after the council broke up.

Earl Cadogan did not attend the council, and the official announcement of his resignation occasions no surprise, as it had long been understood that he was anxious to be relieved of the burden of the lord-lieutenancy of Ireland. Fully one dozen candidates are mentioned for the vacant office, and the Duke of Marlborough, the Marquis of Londonderry and Earl Pembroke are well in the running. It is probable, however, that the new viceroy will not have a seat in the cabinet. Mr. Balfour has not yet given a hint of his intentions but it may almost be taken for granted that in any ministerial rearrangement places will be found in

the cabinet for Mr. Austen Chamberlain and Mr. George Wyndham.

The strange case of General Buller and his heliogram is apparently never coming to an end. It should have been disposed of when General Buller was given permission to publish the exact text of his famous message to Sir George White in Ladysmith, but yesterday in the house of commons Sir Edward Grey brought the case forward again, with the object of proving that General Buller was not fairly treated by the government. Mr. Brodrick had no difficulty in showing that the government actually shielded General Buller by appointing him to the command of the First Army Corps at Aldershot. The war secretary, in excusing himself for making the appointment, said that General Buller was, after all, a good peace commander.

The colonial premiers left London yesterday in motor cars for Clarendon Park, Guildford, where they are the guests of Earl Onslow. Viscount Kitchener will spend the week end at Wilton Park, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, the residence of Mr. Henry White.

Capt. Titus, of the New York detective bureau, said several detectives had been looking for former Capt. Putnam Bradlee Strong, against whom a warrant charging theft was sworn out by May Yohe, but had found no trace of him.

LIGHT YIELD THIS YEAR

So Far Does Not Equal Six Million

Records Show the Amount Upon Which the Export Tax Has Been Paid.

The indications are that the output of gold this year will be the smallest in the past five years, judging from the books in the office of the comptroller which show the dust upon which the export tax has been paid and which may be taken as a criterion of the yield. Smuggling dust across the border in order to escape the tax is practically out of the question and since the reduction in the value of commercial dust to \$15 an ounce the result has been that almost all dust has been forced out of circulation. Where formerly in making an estimate an allowance of probably a million dollars was made for the dust in circulation and that held in reserve, \$100,000 will now more than cover the amount. The export tax went into effect May 1, but as there was little traffic that month, the river not opening until May 14, there was not much gold presented for the purpose of paying the tax on it. The next month was a large one but last month the shipments fell off over a million dollars. This month it is thought will run about the same as July but September being the last month upon which navigation can be depended upon will doubtless excel them all. The following shows the amounts upon which the export tax was paid during the past three months:

May \$ 19,890.75
June 3,550,324.55
July 2,313,130.70

Total to August 1 \$5,883,346.00

In addition to the foregoing the following gold has passed through the territory as shown by the free certificates issued, the dust coming from the American camps:

May 686.75 ounces
June 1,284.36 ounces
July 1,562.83 ounces

When miners from the American territory desire to pass through the Yukon and avoid having their gold made subject to the tax it is necessary that they receive a certificate from the officer at the boundary to the effect that the gold was taken from creeks outside the British possessions. With such certificate in their possession upon their arrival in Dawson they immediately repair to the office of the comptroller where the certificate is surrendered, the gold is weighed, boxed and sealed and a new certificate is issued which permits them to pass out of the territory with their dust exempt from taxation.

As compared with previous years the showing made so far this season is very poor indeed and those in a position to judge do not estimate that the total output for the year will exceed \$12,000,000. Last year the yield was \$17,000,000; the year before, \$20,000,000; and the year 1899, which is considered to have been the banner year since the discovery was first made, \$25,000,000.

OTTAWA NEWS.

Ottawa, July 22.—There will be no public holiday in Canada for coronation day, August 9th, but royal salutes will be fired at Victoria and other saluting stations throughout the Dominion.

A provisional school of instruction for infantry officers and non-commissioned officers opens at Vancouver on September 15th, to last two months. It will be under the supervision of the D.O.C. An officer of the Royal Garrison Artillery will have charge, assisted by the sergeant instructor of the same force.

The revenue for Chinese immigration to Canada for the year ending June 30th amounts to \$364,972, compared with \$178,704 during the previous year. The poll tax last year was increased from \$50 to \$100. The number who paid the tax was 2,525, compared with 2,518 in 1901.

Canadian Agent Tripp, in Trinidad, West Indies, has reported to the trade and commerce department this afternoon that there has been a large and promising discovery of coal on the island, and also of petroleum. This will, he thinks, greatly amend for the deficiency in the sugar cane revenue. The petroleum was discovered by Canadians and is to be developed by them.

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