

SATURDAY

The Star

SUPPLEMENT.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1906.

THE TRUE ADVENTURES OF AN ESCAPED CONVICT

French Police Find a Powerfully Written Book Telling of
the Experiences of Criminal and His Companions
While at Sea.

PARIS, Dec. 5.—The police have discovered in the room of a convict, named Sporn, a manuscript entitled "The True Account of the Adventures of an Escaped Convict." The book is extremely powerful, and Paris publishers are bidding high for the rights to produce the same.

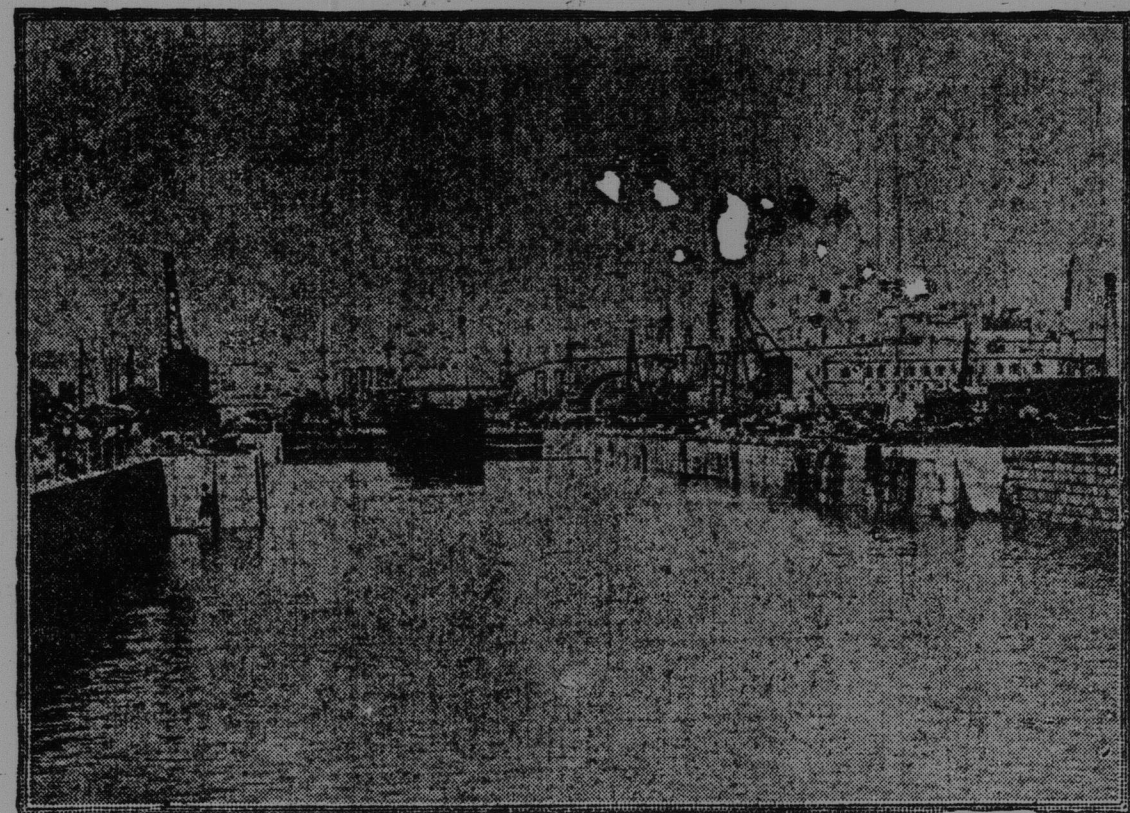
Sporn appears to be something of a philosopher, for the recital of his adventures is interspersed with numerous moral reflections and appreciations on the beauties of nature, written in almost a religious strain.

Sporn as a habitual criminal had been ordered to live for the remainder of his life in French Guiana and he has just finished a sentence of eight years there. But he longed to revisit France and to participate in his escape he selected fourteen followers, "murderers but not thieves." Each paid ten dollars per head towards the expenses.

Under the pretext of wishing to start in business as a fish dealer he obtained a fishing license to navigate in the Maroni River and bought a large fishing boat. This was gradually stored with provisions and all being ready he started off with his fourteen companions.

"My object was to run for Venezuela," he says, "carefully avoiding landing in Dutch or British territory, where all French convicts are immediately handed back to the French authorities, and to reach the Venezuelan Republic. It was necessary to steer right out for the open sea, out of sight of the coast. My companions had all promised to obey me as captain for I had made a special study of navigation and of the charts and maps of the coast. But when the morning broke and they discovered they were already out of sight of land all became alarmed and threatened to kill me if I did not return. Of course I expostulated with them and pointed out that if they killed me they would have no one to navigate the boat and that they would never get back to land. This argument held them down for a time but not being sure of just what they would do and not caring to venture too far from the shore I returned. After two days

NEW DOCK JUST BUILT AT MALTA IS ONE OF THE LARGEST IN THE WORLD



LONDON, Dec. 8.—First photo of the great new dock which the English Government has just finished building at French Creek, Malta. The dock, which is one of the largest in the world, is considered a triumph of modern engineering and will greatly add to the efficiency of the British navy in the Mediterranean in case of war.

SPIRITUALIST DESCRIBED THE EXECUTION OF A VIRGIN WHICH HAPPENED YEARS AGO

LONDON, Dec. 8.—A weird and thrilling scene of 2,000 years ago was reconstructed the other day in matter-of-fact Baywater. It was the death scene of a virgin who was sacrificed by the Druids near Stonehenge to the sun god and whose skeleton has just been removed from the "barrow," in which it has rested since the early middle ages. The bones were discovered at Avebury, near Marlborough. Speaking upon the subject in a modern sitting room Ronald Brailley, the seer, described the events leading up to the discovery, for Mr. Brailley is a psychometrist.

"I see some huts. They are just like the huts of the North American Indians. I can see the poles sticking up quite plainly, and they are covered with the skins of animals. There are quite a number of them.

"In the distance there is a large pile of stones, some square, some oblong, some triangular. I feel that it is about 2,000 years since this scene occurred.

"A number of half clad men and women are squatting about the huts. It is summer time and the sun is shining brightly.

"I see this woman walking about, and with her in a patriarchal man with very long hair and white beard. She is about 5 feet 7 inches tall and twenty to twenty-two years of age. Her features are rather long, her eyes very dark, her under lip rather full, her nose well shaped, her hair brown and long black hair falls over her shoulders.

"The upper part of her body is nude, and around her loins is some kind of fur. There is a roughly made crown of some sort on her brow.

"Now it is night time and I am inside a circle of huge stones. All around a number of people are standing outside the circle in darkness. I can see lights reflected, but I do not think there are any torches; I think bougias of some tree, perhaps pine boughs, are being burnt, but I cannot see them.

"Inside the circle of stones there are one, two, three, four, five priests. The one who seems to be the principal priest has a long white beard. In the center is a flat stone on top of two other stones placed at either end. A great deal of smoke is rising, but I do not see where it comes from.

"Now the woman is being brought into the circle by two more priests. They lift her up and place her on the stone. Some hideous figures like idols are also being brought into the ring. One of them which I see very clearly is colored bright red and yellow, and on its breast is a very crude picture of the sun.

"The woman is lying with her head

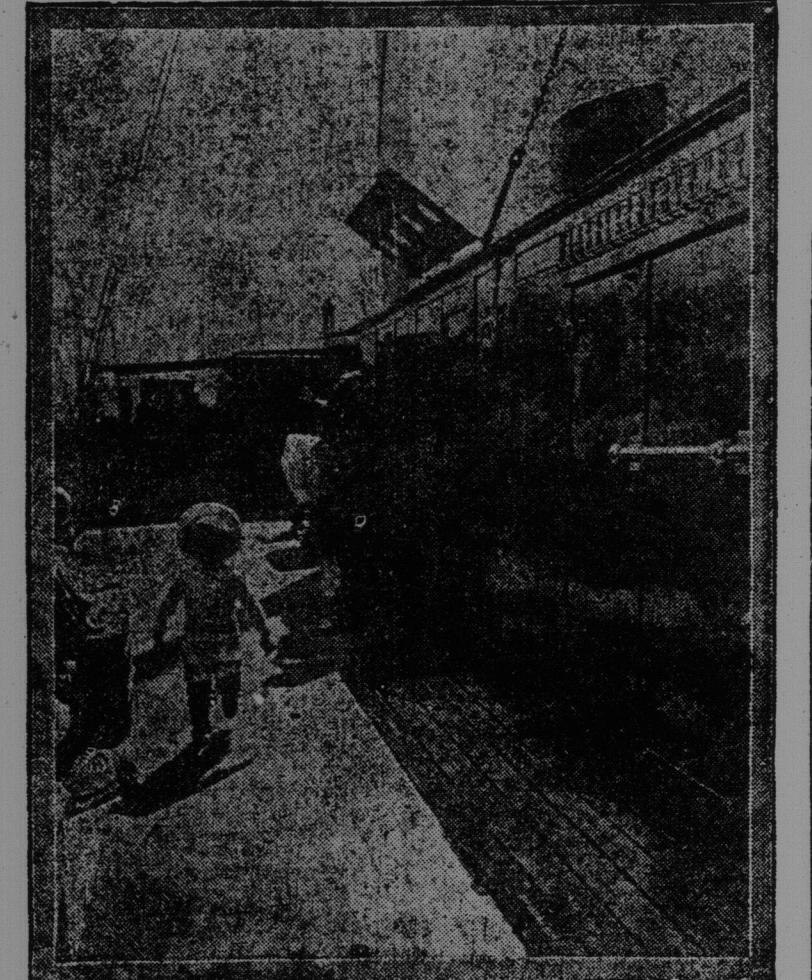
INDIAN CONFIDENCE MEN GIVE POINTERS TO AMERICANS

How an Avaricious Individual Was Persuaded to Sell All
He Had and Give to the Bunco Steerers—
Mystic Rites Drew the Cash.

CALCUTTA, Dec. 5.—American and European confidence men must pale their ineffectual fires before the glories of their fellow professors of the east. Even in the austere atmosphere of a district magistrate's court at Rangoon a recent case of imposture showed up like a fairy tale backed up by sworn evidence. The complainant, a very old man living at Prom, possessed two houses, a wife and a daughter, and these last owned a quantity of jewelry. He was a great believer in the magic powers of the two Kadaw or particularly holy priests, but his religious fervor had in it a large alloy of avarice. When therefore a certain Burman and his wife were introduced to him as persons enjoying such influence with the Kadaws that the holy men would transmute the baser metals into gold at their request it was natural that he should desire to profit by the acquaintance. The old man expressed a wish to see the Kadawas and was taken to a cave in a pagoda in Prom, where he says he saw a miraculous vision of a phoogy or monk standing outside the cave. Several witnesses declared before the district magistrate that they had seen the extraordinary vision and all believed in his supernatural powers.

After some visits to the cave a message was brought from the phoogy to the seeker after wealth that if he brought 5,000 rupees he would get in exchange fifty visas of gold, and further if the sum was doubled he would receive 100 visas in gold. He immediately pledged his wife's jewelry for 5,000 rupees and this money was taken to the phoogy by the Kadaw's alleged friend. A number of villagers accompanied him, and they all worshipped the phoogy. After a brief conversation the mysterious monk disappeared. The complainant was promised 100 visas of gold in forty-nine days from the phoogy, and to convince him of the truth of his supernatural powers several other people were called forward and were presented with apparently large amounts of gold. He thereupon went home fully convinced after being assured that he would receive a village which would drop from the sky and he was asked to do everything which was requested in it, and to burn the phoogy and drink the ashes in water. Shortly

LITTLE PRINCE OLAF ON BOARD SHIP



The Norwegians are proud of the Crown Prince Olaf, who took the heart of Norway by storm on the day of his arrival in his new kingdom. He is here shown playing on the deck of the steamer which brought him from Norway to England.

GRAND HOTEL BUILT FOR THE HELLO GIRLS

PARIS, Dec. 6.—M. Barthou, the minister of public works was the official selected to inaugurate the new hotel for telephone girls and female postal clerks in the Rue de Lille. The hotel was, however, built by private initiative. In spite of this fact, however, it is already regarded as one of the sights of Paris.

The buildings is seven stories high, bright and cheerful in appearance with art nouveau decorations and furniture. On the ground floor is a large, bright restaurant where an excellent meal of bread, wine, fish, meat, vegetables, cheese or dessert can be had for non-alcohol figures. There are 117 bed rooms, all of which are occupied and where everything is also provided at nominal figures.

THE KAISER LIKES TO BE CONFINED TO HIS HOME

For Then He Has a Chance to Become Acquainted With the Family—Too Busy at Other Times.

BERLIN, Dec. 8.—The indomitable energy the Kaiser had become a matter of current history, but it has just been revealed that he even works when ill upon the theory that he has no time to be an invalid. It is related that during his recent indisposition on account of a cold which confined him to his room at Potsdam he received regularly while in bed all his ministers, heard their reports, gave orders, signed documents and generally conducted the affairs of the Empire from beneath the coverlet.

His Majesty is said however to enjoy an enforced "room arrest" upon the theory that it enabled it to spend more time with his family than he would otherwise spend with them. The Empress and the younger children, he says, are thus better able to become acquainted with the husband and the father than would be possible were it not for these periods of indisposition.

HUNGRY HORSE KEPT HIS MASTER ALIVE

Noise Made by the Animal Alarmed Neighbors, Who Came in Time to Prevent Suicide.

PARIS, December 8.—A small coal dealer at Vanves thought he had an original idea for committing suicide and he tried it almost with success. It was to lie on his bed without eating or drinking and wait for death to come. He remained in that position for four days and might have achieved his end had it not been for his poor old horse which he had left in the stable and which has no enthusiasm for his master's scheme. On the fourth day the poor beast not having been fed all that time made such a noise by pawing the ground and gnawing the wood that neighbors came to inquire. They found the coal dealer in a lethargic sleep, and when he was wakened after considerable shaking he turned to them and said: "Can't you let me die in peace?" When told about the horse he replied: "I quite forgot all about the beast or I would have turned him loose." The police gave since disturbed the sleeper and would be suicide, by locking him up in the local jail.

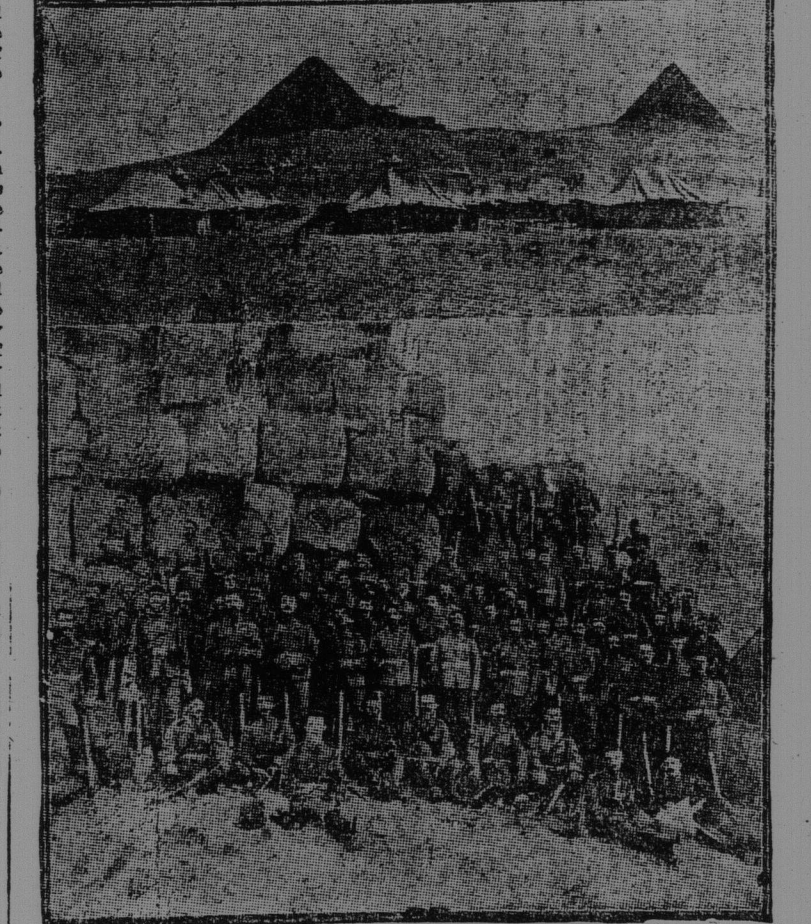
WILL GO ROUND THE WORLD IN A THIRTY FOOT CASK

New Zealand Mariner Has Designed a Craft Which He Says Cannot be Sunk.

AUCKLAND, N. Z., Dec. 8.—A sea captain at Whangarei proposes to circumnavigate the globe in a thirty foot cask shaped like a fat cigar. The cask which is now being completed at Whangarei will accommodate two persons and some six months' supply of water and provisions. The cask will be lashed rigid and will draw less than four feet of water.

The owner claims that it will be impossible to sink his craft and that it will live in any storm.

BRITISH TROOPS ENGAGED IN DRILL AT THE PYRAMIDS



LONDON, Dec. 8.—To be prepared for any emergency the English colony drills part of its army in Egypt all the time. Two companies are stationed at the Pyramids for a month, practicing firing, trench digging and the general work of warfare, and are replaced by two more companies, until the entire battalion has had change of air from the barracks at Kas-el Nil. The photo shows the camp of the second battalion, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, at the Pyramids.

afterwards complainant received a letter from the mysterious phoogy. It contained another request for 4,000 rupees with promises of further wealth in gold. Complainant raised the money by mortgaging one of his houses. When the amount was made over at the pagoda to the same intermediary as in the former transaction the phoogy suddenly appeared floating in space and assured the complainant that he had power to light up all of the pagodas of the earth and after making this assurance disappeared in a cave, and when they all looked round they suddenly beheld a pagoda standing on a hill opposite burst into flames and became beautifully illuminated. After this complainant received a third letter in the same mysterious way requesting the payment of a sum of 5,000 rupees.

TORONTO, Dec. 7.—The Ontario experimental farm station for New Ontario will be established in the township of New Market in the district of Nipissing. The site is one mile square and the land is considered excellent for the purpose. It is good clay loam, well drained and has also the advantage of being intersected by Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railways. The New Market township in the clay belt is north of a height of land and is about 20 miles northwest of North Bay and about thirty-five miles west of Lake Abitibi. Bushmen will be almost immediately engaged to clear the land and do other preparatory work this winter.

Leave out the adjectives and let the nouns do the fighting.—Ralph Waldo Emerson.