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Erieau in the Fall

A Story of Duck Shooting on the Popular Bar and Other Stories Incident to the Narrative—The one-eyed red head decoy.

The following is a true account, (that is, it is true in places,) of a trip which two Chathamites took to Erieau last fall:—

I met Stammers last week and he was full of accounts he had heard of the great number of wild ducks at the Eau, and wished me to accompany him and have a good old time. The bringing home of a few dozen brace as eye-openers to friends and relatives was to be by no means the least important undertaking in connection with our outing. I was not quite so enthusiastic as my friend, I had had some experience in duck shooting, or rather, hunting. It is true, the hunting, and plenty of it, was to be had, but a full game bag of something I was not personally acquainted with. However, I decided to accept the invitation and go.

We first had to consider the most important, the food and other supplies, namely, the bait. Bait is as good for duck hunting as it is for fishing. So I'm told. All these things no experienced duck hunter ever neglects, especially the selection of several brands of choice—cigars, I guess. Well, anyway, you know the Eau water is a little too strong to drink barefooted, so we thought it advisable from a sanitary point of view, and from private reasons of our own, to use certain brands of microbe killer for diluting purposes and for bait.

The most important part of the food supply being settled, we left the eatables to chance. We started to drive from Blenheim about 7 a. m. The wind was blowing a gale from the north. We arrived at the summer house at the Eau in due time, unloaded the rig and arranged our provisions so as to have them handy.

After dinner we sauntered along the beach to gather information from the many hunters camping there. As yet, we had seen no signs of ducks and as we were quite ignorant of their time schedule, we ventured to question some of the most reliable looking of the bunch of shooters. An old, grizzled veteran of the gun informed us that the ducks were at present attending a reunion of old boys near the Government Park dock at the foot of the Eau, and they would probably return in force when the wind changed to the south-west. At this time it was blowing about 60 miles an hour from the north-west, and tearing the Eau into rags and tatters. I asked when he thought that the wind would fall enough to change and break up the re-union. He didn't answer at once, but after some hard thinking remarked that it might be a week. He explained that he had been waiting over three weeks and noticed that it took a wind about a week to make up his mind as to the direction it would jolly blow. You know there is a deal of backing and filling out the wind, especially when you are waiting for it to blow from a favorable quarter. In my experience, however, I found that you must always pretend not to care a jiffy how the wind blows, and above things don't show that you are tired at the non-arrival of the ducks. Just go on telling your stories around the camp-fire, smoking and enjoying yourself generally. Don't make any notice of your handkerchief which you hold up your handkerchief in which you are blowing. Follow these instructions and the blow thing you know the wind is right and the ducks plentiful. Then get in your work and you return to camp, in the evening, feeling well satisfied with your day's bag and port in general.

After thanking the veteran of the gun for his really sensible advice, we strolled along the Eau beach toward the coal hoist. We found several recently stranded bottles bearing familiar legends, giving a clue to the several tastes of the many hunters. There being no ducks to shoot, we examined the tower of the new hoist, now being constructed. It stands at the east end of the site of the Pavilion. The tower form than the old hoist. It somewhat resembles the Eiffel Tower. An air compressor is used to do the riveting and clipping incidental to the construction of the tower.

After seeing all the sights at this end of the bar, we strolled toward about a mile and a half to our camp. Towards sundown we went through the form of waiting for the ducks to come. The wind was freezing cold and it was freezing sharply. We were thoroughly chilled through when we returned to camp. I may not be a very enthusiastic hunter, but it struck me that it takes very strong and persistent faith to sit quietly with the wind blowing in a wet punt, with the temperature being freezing, and your gun freezing to your wet gloves, all for a chance shot and slim chances of even that. Above all, when duck hunting lay in a plentiful supply of patience. You

will need it. To be a duck hunter requires plenty of time, patience and provisions, a pack of cards, a bit of tobacco, (either kind,) a wee drop of cold cure and a chum or two.

There were two young men camping some distance to the westward of us. They shot at anything and everything with wings that came in sight, so Stammers decided to give them some sport free of charge. In shooting along the beach we had picked up a stray, one-eyed, red-head decoy. Stam proposed to find a bit of iron for an anchor, to which he could attach a small iron pulley block, and through the block he put a trolley line. His plan was to fasten the line to the breast of the decoy, take the anchor and decoy about 50 yards out in the Eau and in plain view of our neighbors' camp, and then run the free end of the line to our camp. This we did after dark.

Next morning, early, our neighbors were up looking for ducks on drakes. We were up, too, but we were up to, didn't know what the boys spied the lone duck, and we saw him drop to earth and crawl through the long grass till he judged that he was near enough to shoot. At this juncture we pulled the string and the duck dived as naturally as could be. The young man, being an enthusiast, the shot pretty well and merely dived. The duck again dived. The young man now stood up at the ready and he must have felt sure of the duck when he should have a chance to give it the other barrel. The duck, however, only disappeared under the water for a moment, to reappear again. Then the young man let the duck have both barrels, but the tough old chunk of wood stood the shot pretty well and merely dived. The hunter looked as if his faith in his gun had received a jolt, but, wiping his eyes, and re-loading his gun, he once more prepared to fire. The duck bobbed up as serenely as ever. He fired and the duck disappeared, only to come up again. His chum now came out with his gun and the two tried to shoot at the duck. The boys began to think there was something wrong with this particular duck, besides all the hunters on the bar were coming our way to share in the flight shooting which they thought we must be enjoying. We saw the game was about up, so Stammers put in an appearance and asked the boys what all the shooting was about. Just then I let the duck appear. They pointed to it and both fired.

"You idiots," yelled Stammers, "that's my live decoy you are shooting at, and if he don't come up again I'll have to ask you to pay for my duck. I anchored him there."

His explanation that he had been waiting over three weeks and noticed that it took a wind about a week to make up his mind as to the direction it would jolly blow. You know there is a deal of backing and filling out the wind, especially when you are waiting for it to blow from a favorable quarter. In my experience, however, I found that you must always pretend not to care a jiffy how the wind blows, and above things don't show that you are tired at the non-arrival of the ducks. Just go on telling your stories around the camp-fire, smoking and enjoying yourself generally. Don't make any notice of your handkerchief which you hold up your handkerchief in which you are blowing. Follow these instructions and the blow thing you know the wind is right and the ducks plentiful. Then get in your work and you return to camp, in the evening, feeling well satisfied with your day's bag and port in general.

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escaped death in his wonderful flying trip I know not." (N. B.—This is only one of Stammers' wonderful lies.) We finally got all the duck hunting we needed, and came home. We

had eight bags filled with hay and ballasted with stones. Unfortunately, the baggageman was curious and wanted to look at our game. He saw our game and gave us the laugh, but we didn't care."

...A SIGNIFICANT CENTENARY...

The centenary of the British and Foreign Bible Society, to be celebrated on the 18th of March next by a "Universal Bible Sunday," calls to mind what a humble event led to the founding of an institution which, in one respect, has had a greater influence on the spread of Christianity in the last hundred years than, perhaps, all other branches of the church's work. The longing of a poor Welsh girl to have a Bible of her own, and her delight at being the possessor of a copy, after years of toil and self-sacrifice—for pennies were as hard to earn a hundred years ago as dollars are to-day—came home with such force to the Rev. Thomas Charles, of Bala, in Wales, that he urged upon London to urge the publication of the Bible in the Welsh language. He was received at the office of the Tract Society, and it happened that a committee of the society

the United States, which afterwards became the American Bible Society, organized and maintained on similar lines—that is for the publication of the Word of God, and that alone "without note or comment." Other Bible societies have been formed since then, but the British and Foreign has remained the premier of them all, having circulated more copies of Christian Scriptures than all the others combined, and having spent, since its inception, about four million pounds sterling in the work. It and like institutions have the means of reducing the Bible to such a low price that the poorest may now have a copy. For some years the society has had on the market a legible edition of the New Testament at a penny, and of this edition 7,500,000 copies have been sold. When the society was established the price of an octavo English Bible in small pica type was twelve shillings—



A special linen makes a good medium for hand embroideries, and in the illustration is shown with hemstitching and veining. It is made with solid embroidery. The shape is plain, the fronts being plaited into the long shoulder seam and fastening with hand-sewn pearl buttons. The sleeves have a full wrist puff, and cuff and collar are worked to match.

was in session at the time. On stating the case to the ministers, they agreed that a Welsh edition of the Bible ought to be published, and the idea of a separate society organized to give the Bible to every nation in its own tongue, took shape from the remark of one of the members that a society should be formed for publishing an edition of the Bible for Wales, "and if for Wales, why not for the world?"

Thus the "immortal longing" of an obscure little girl was the immediate cause of the establishment of a society which has circulated, up to the present year, over 180,000,000 copies of the Bible, and has translated those Scriptures, in whole or in part, in 367 different languages and dialects, while, at the present moment, it is promoting translations and revisions in over 100 languages. The labor and research involved in these translations and revisions are without parallel in the history of literature, and the records of the work contain incidents and special providences as strange and romantic as anything to be found in the realm of professional fiction.

The British and Foreign Bible Society came into existence in the year before Trafalgar, in the very gloomiest crisis of Britain's awful struggle with Napoleon and his continental allies, while the poor were starving, trade was depressed and crippled by the war, and the dread of French invasion weighed upon all, from the King on his throne to the laborer in his hut. Yet the new society not only won generous support from all classes in Great Britain, but the enthusiasm of its workers became a contagion which spread into Europe, and it was the direct inspiration to the formation of a Bible Society in

a sum equivalent to not less than five dollars in Canada at the present time. A century ago the Bible was a sealed book, and unknown to four out of five of the world's inhabitants; now it is open more or less completely, in languages representing seven-tenths of the human race, and this year the British and Foreign Bible Society has issued over 6,000,000 copies. It is remarkable that in connection with its spread in new languages, that in many cases the tongue into which it was rendered had never been reduced to writing before, so that the Bible was the beginning and creation of the literature, as well as the instrument of recreating the religion of the people affected.

There are in Canada twelve auxiliary societies, formed for the purpose of aiding the British parent Society in its work in this country and abroad, and some of these societies are over 70 years old. These auxiliaries combined contribute more largely to the funds of the parent society in London than those of any other group of British colonies or foreign branches, although the society receives substantial aid from many foreign sources, a recognition of catholicity to which it has every claim, for the British and Foreign Bible Society embraces every race, nation, creed and prospective operations. The Canadian auxiliaries have always operated as separate units, but the approaching centenary brought them together for the first time in their history at a conference in Montreal last year, when some closer form of union was discussed, and it was decided, in the meantime, to unite in a celebration of the centenary.

The parent society had already de-

The G. T. P. Deposit

The Provisions of the Act have not been Complied with and the Contract thus Becomes Null and Void. A Striking Illustration.

The Family Herald and Weekly Star has, from the first, taken a decided stand against the Grand Trunk Pacific scheme on the ground that the construction of such a road through unexplored regions was not in the best interests of the country; that the cost was excessive, and that the terms of the contract between the government and the company were not definite enough, nor sufficiently binding on the company to ensure the proper carrying out of the scheme.

Striking proof of this latter contention is afforded by an examination of the facts in connection with the deposit which, it was provided, should be made by the company as a guarantee of good faith and ability to carry out its obligations. The time within which the deposit was to be made and the nature of the security to be put up were clearly set forth in the contract between the government and the company. This provided that within thirty days after the passing of the Act, ratifying the contract, the company should deposit with the government "five million dollars in cash or approved Government securities, or partly in cash and partly in securities." Moreover, Mr. Fielding, the Minister of Finance in a speech in parliament on August 12, represented the company as ready with the money. "The amount pledged," he said, "will be in the Treasury of Canada within a month of the passing of the Act," and in answer to a question he stated definitely that if bonds were deposited "they must be government bonds, approved by this government, bonds of some recognized government, and not of private corporations."

Despite these statements and promises, however, neither of the two essential conditions of the contract respecting the deposit has been complied with. In the first place, the deposit was not made within the thirty days specified in the Act, and as a consequence the contract becomes null and void, and can only be renewed by another act of parliament. Moreover, when the deposit was made it did not consist of cash or Government securities, as provided for by the contract, but of guaranteed stock of the Grand Trunk Pacific Company. This is illegal. This is so not only because the terms of the Grand Trunk Pacific Act have not been complied with, but also because the Grand Trunk stock is used for a purpose not provided for in the act authorizing its issue. This provided that the stock was to be used for expenditure or improvements to the roadbed, additions to rolling stock, etc., and its use as a security for the benefit of the Grand Trunk Pacific Company is thus a direct contravention of the law.

It is thus doubly sure that the contract between the government and the Grand Trunk Pacific Company has lapsed, and that the powers and privileges conferred on the latter by the Act no longer exist and cannot be exercised until Parliament renews the authority. The acceptance by the government of the bogus deposit is difficult to understand, and can be explained only by the supposition that it is intended to throw dust in the eyes of the people and make them believe that the terms of the contract have been complied with. This is hoped by the government, and tend to assuage the indignation that would be sure to be aroused if the truth were known, and so give the government a better chance at the next election.

Apart altogether from the above features of the case, the cost of the scheme is an insurmountable objection to it. Hon. Mr. Blair, the only practical railway man in the Cabinet, figured out the total cost at \$139,000,000, and Mr. Blair is regarded as such a good railway man that the government has made him chairman of the railway commission. This estimate of Mr. Blair is enormous, so enormous, in fact, that the ordinary mind almost fails to appreciate how much it means. A true idea of the actual amount of wealth it represents is best obtained by comparison. The population of the Dominion at the last census was 5,371,315, and dividing this into \$139,000,000, we find that the per capita cost of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway is \$25.87, that is, every man, woman, and child in Canada will have to contribute this amount directly or indirectly for the carrying out of the scheme. It is interesting, too, and highly instructive to note what will be the contribution of the various constituencies throughout the Dominion. Taking the per capita cost at the round figure of \$25, which is 87 cents less than the actual fact, we find that the cost of this gigantic scheme to each constituency will be as follows:—

Constituency.

Cost.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Burrard \$1,051,500

New Westminster 595,530

Vancouver 679,950

Victoria 592,200

Yale and Cariboo 1,547,225

MANITOBA.

Brandon 982,625

Lisgar 1,123,860

Macdonald 925,776

Manitowish 851,775

Provenceur 621,550

Saskatoon 815,150

Winnipeg 1,058,500

NEW BRUNSWICK.

Albion 273,125

Carleton 540,525

Charlotte 568,375

Gloucester 698,400

Kent 598,950

Kings 541,375

Northumberland 713,575

Restigouche 264,650

St. John, City and County 1,293,975

Summers and Queens 422,500

Westmorland 1,051,500

Victor 528,400

York 790,500

NOVA SCOTIA.

Annapolis 471,050

Antigonish 340,425

Cape Breton 1,229,150

Colchester 622,500

Cornwall 504,200

Cumberland 508,050

Digby 458,000

Gustafson 1,866,500

Halifax, City and County 501,400

Hants 608,825

Inverness 548,425

Kings 809,725

Lunenburg 836,475

Pictou 579,475

Richmond 610,700

Sherbrooke and Queens 264,275

Yarmouth 571,725

ONTARIO.

Addington 612,520

Algoma 1,596,250

Bothwell 630,575

Brant-South 667,675

Brockville 397,525

Bruce-East 482,825

Bruce-North 532,425

Bruce-West 469,350

Cardwell 326,500

Carleton 484,425

Cornwall and Stormont 676,050

Dundas 493,925

Durham-East 361,600

Durham-West 327,650

Elgin-East 681,200

Elgin-West 335,525

Essex-North 835,450

Essex-South 631,150

Frontenac 300,200

Glengarry 553,275

Glennville-South 320,775

Grey-East 634,675

Grey-North 676,275

Grey-South 501,300

Haldimand and Monck 498,825

Halton 1,315,850

Hastings-East 436,150

Hastings-North 601,825

Hastings-West 444,300

Huron-East 431,675

Huron-South 436,200

Huron-West 469,350

Kent 796,500

Kings 449,025

Kingston-East 576,125

Lambton-East 559,950

Lambton-West 454,500

Lanark-North 487,175

Lanark-South 487,175

Leeds and Grenville-North 528,925

Leeds-South 528,925

Lennox 689,150

Lincoln and Niagara 601,375

London-East 665,225

Middlesex-East 436,375

Middlesex-North 470,075

Middlesex-South 396,075

Muskoka and Parry Sound 841,850

Nipissing 468,425

Norfolk-North 522,475

Norfolk-South 512,375

Northumberland-East 326,375

Northumberland-West 517,225

Ontario-North 419,825

Ontario-South 417,875

Ottawa 1,441,000

Ottawa-East 544,925

Oxford-North 342,175

Oxford-South 678,500

Perth-North 446,525

Perth-South 557,250

Peterboro-East 425,125

Peterboro-West 675,875

Prince Edward 446,600

Renfrew-North 619,900

Renfrew-South 679,150

Russell 981,925

Simcoe-East 674,100

Simcoe-North 481,775

Simcoe-South 719,125

Toronto-Centre 1,140,525

Toronto-East 2,042,600

Toronto-West 408,450

Victoria-North 498,825

Victoria-South 678,100

Waterloo-North 636,750

Waterloo-South 652,250

Welland 514,250

Wellington-Centre 595,025

Wellington-North 594,175

Wellington-South 467,925

Wentworth-North 610,800

Wentworth-South 1,010,025

York-East 469,450

York-North 1,343,525

York-West 495,650

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Kings 495,650

Prince-East 497,850

Prince-West 501,875

Queen-East 535,700

Queen-West 548,400

QUEBEC.

Argenteuil 410,175

Bagot 497,275

Beauce 1,078,225

Beauharnois 543,300

Bellechase 467,650

Berthier 474,550