

Long Tramps

Written for The Western Home Monthly, by E. L. Chicanot

RECENTLY two young men—O. R. Ford, of Chicago, and W. S. Kilner, of Boston—arrived in Harerstown, Maryland, finishing the first lap of a 3,400-mile tramp across the American continent. They are walking from Washington to San Francisco on a wager, their time limit being one hundred days. They are making the trip under the restrictions of never eating or sleeping in a house, and have consequently to spend their nights out of doors or in barns. They had but little money to start with, but expect to earn their living by advertising schemes along the route.

This is but one of the many pedestrian feats undertaken for wagers, and but recently a young man named Julius Rath landed in New York having performed the enormous feat of journeying twenty times around the earth. He

Ralph Tomkins, of Poughkeepsie. Tomkins, who is nineteen years old, left New York under a wager of \$500, and returned in twenty-four hours under his time-limit. It is a notable fact that he gained thirty-seven pounds on his New York-Chicago expedition.

A walk of 8,000 miles was lately accomplished by Mrs. Stella Woolf, the champion woman long-distance walker of the world, and her husband, Dwight H. Woolf. The trip started in San Antonio, Texas, and finished up at their home town, Kansas City, Kansas. A little more than thirteen months was taken, and in all this time the couple ate and slept in the open. Previously they made two other walking tours, covering 10,300 miles entirely on foot.

To test the efficiency of a vegetarian diet, Warren T. Buffum and his brother Jesse, both Harvard students, set out to

Riding on horseback twice across the American continent is the way a young rancher in Wyoming proved he had "grit." One of the old-time ranchers gave it as his opinion that "boys have no grit nowadays." This angered Tom Brubaker, who at once set about looking for some method to prove his pluck and spirit. Somebody suggested a trip on horseback across the continent, and the young fellow immediately took it up. He started out for New York, whence he rode to San Francisco, and then home to Wyoming. At the start of the ride his brothers promised him, if successful, to pay his way through college.

A tremendous task was undertaken by J. Scott, of the Sutherland Highlanders, who made a journey on foot around the Union of South Africa. He started from Durban, his journey including Zululand and Swaziland. When the wildness and loneliness of large sections of this country are taken into consideration, the inconveniences and perils of such a journey are more fully realized.

Perhaps the most unique way of touring the world was undertaken by two Italians who journeyed in a barrel. The barrel bore a huge label declaring its weight as 230 lbs. and its contents as two Italians named Dianello and Zenarchie.

A Canadian Prayer

Oh God! we thank Thee for this beautiful land
Fashioned and moulded by a Will Divine;
Thine was the word that brought it forth from nought,
All that within it lies of good is Thine.

Rugged and stern Thou had'st her mountains rise
Pointing with snow-clad summits to the skies,
Out of their bosoms, at Thy voice
Burst forth the wellsprings, bidding plains rejoice.

Wide-spreading forest plants was Thy dower,
Verdure Thou gav'st for prairie—aye, and flower
Beauteous and fragrant; smiling toward the dome
All this Thou didst to make for man a home.

God of the moor and the mountain, God of the valley and hill,
God of the wood and the prairie, God of the river and rill;
This is the prayer of Thy children, as bowed in Thy presence we stand,
Make us a race of people worthy of this great land.

Let us be men like her mountains—steadfast and firm for the right,
Broad as her rolling prairies—nothing to hide from the light,
Strong as her mighty rivers—active and bright as her rills,
Pure as the snows eternal that cover her sky-kissed hills.

—W. H. Kelly, in Victoria Colonist.

Conserving Vast Resources by Killing Gophers and other Pests

One of the largest and most unnecessary sources of farm waste is the damage wrought by gophers. These little nuisances destroy millions of dollars' worth of grain, etc., each year, and every dollar of the amount could be saved by the general use of a few cents' worth of something like Kill-Em-Quick Gopher Poison, made by the Mickelson-Shapiro Co. of Minneapolis and Winnipeg. For town use such a preparation is also valuable in doing away with rats, mice, etc. The continued depredations of such creatures seem to show one weakness that the "conservation of resources" movement has not corrected, but a great part of the loss is being cut off annually by farmers and townspeople who are learning that the removal of the pest means nothing more than a visit to the drug store and the purchase and use of something that will do the work.

A Remarkable Happening

An elderly gentleman of rural appearance had hardly seated himself in the crosstown street car when a young lady, who had followed him in approached him.

"Sir, did you lose a five-dollar bill?" she asked.

For a moment the farmer observed her with a surprised, curious look, then said convincingly, "Yes, ma'am, I did."

"Then here it is," said she, handing the bill to him. "I picked it up behind you from the car floor."

"Thank ye very much, young lady, for your honesty. This is a most remarkable happening!"

"Oh, I don't think so, sir! I believe every one should return the money in such a case as this. What is there so remarkable about it?"

"Why, I lost my five-dollar bill two years ago!"



When President Wilson's letter, recognizing the new Republic of China, was read to President Yuanshihki

was twenty-nine years old and had begun his long tramp in 1897 on a contract with the Lotus Club of St. Louis to walk 500,000 miles in eighteen years.

He had to start without any money and to finish with one thousand dollars in hand. He expected to end his journey in 1915 at the San Francisco Exposition when he also expects to have considerably added to the \$450 he had already collected. He cannot beg, borrow, or steal money, and the sale of his own photographs had so far been the principal source of his income. When he has completed his walk according to specifications he will receive \$30,000 from the Loftus Club.

Looking much younger than his given age of sixty-two, H. Chapman, a rancher of Cheyenne, Wyoming, walked into Annapolis and thereby marked the end of a tramp of more than 5,000 miles. When he started he was accompanied by six companions, but all of these gave up before they had reached the Colorado border. At each of the cities he visited he stopped to get a certificate bearing the municipal seal and signature of either the mayor or town clerk as a means of showing the various places at which he stopped.

The difficult feat of making a complete round trip afoot between New York and Chicago was successfully accomplished by a one-legged bootblack,

walk across the American continent. Warren lived solely on a vegetable diet, whilst Jesse lived on a meat diet, but seven days before the end of the journey Jesse was forced to give up, and finished the journey by train. The tramp in all took five months and was a triumph for the vegetable diet. The walk was arranged under the direction of Professor Sargent, of Harvard, where both young men are students.

Recently Henry William Wellington, who, for a wager of £500, walked round the world, finished his long trip. He started in February, 1903, and was allowed ten years to complete his journey. He traversed most of the globe and met with many adventures. In Canton he witnessed public executions, and in Old Mexico was attacked by a native with a knife and received an ugly wound in his forearm. His credentials are contained in a large volume, the pages of which are covered with the seals of the consulates of the countries he has visited.

A curious method of travelling the world is being undertaken by Mr. William Brown, of St. John's, Newfoundland, who, under a wager of \$10,000, started on his long voyage with a team of five dogs and a wolf. He has been heard from on several points of his route and it looks as if he will successfully complete his long journey.

An arduous foot journey was recently undertaken by two Europeans who tramped all the way from Johannesburg, South Africa, to Cairo in Egypt—a journey, at the lowest estimate, of some 5,000 miles.

The feats of Alexander Livesay, the wheelbarrow man, are well known, and recently he made a journey from Ayr to John o' Groats, from there to Land's End, and thence back again to the Ayrshire capital. Throughout this 2,000-mile journey he tramped daily, except on Sundays when he rested, all the time pushing in front of him a large barrow, and no matter what kind of weather prevailed he stuck to his programme daily.

Two students of the University of Cambridge recently journeyed to Montenegro and Turkey, and then to Persia, in a donkey-cart. They had numerous adventures, and in Austria were arrested and imprisoned on suspicion of espionage.

To walk from Spokane, Washington, to San Francisco, on crutches is no slight feat, and this was performed by a former high-school athlete, Charles Galbraith. Several years ago he lost a leg in an accident, but, nevertheless, managed to maintain an average of thirty miles a day.