

The Terrors of Blockade.

(Montreal Daily Star.)

There has been a tendency in certain quarters to poke fun at the League of Nations because it lays such stress upon the blockade as a weapon to be used against a nation which may defy the League. The blockade, it is argued, is a very weak weapon indeed to wield against a recalcitrant power. Yet the truth is that the blockade is a strong weapon as war itself. Germany was subdued in large measure because of the blockade established by the British Navy. Even more recently, China gained a victory against Japan by means of the trade boycott, whereas China would have been hopelessly defeated had she taken up arms against Japan. The same nation once declared a boycott against the United States and forced that wealthy power to come to terms. Let us suppose, for the sake of an example, that Canada defied the League, and that the League instead of making war upon Canada simply declared a blockade. The United States would send us no coal; Britain might refuse to let us have any textiles or other goods; Cuba would ship us no sugar. No nation would buy our wheat, our farm products, our wood or pulp. How long could Canada flourish, under such conditions? The blockade, properly enforced, is a most terrible weapon to wield against any nation, and would secure results with very much less loss of life and stirring up of hatred than our present system of going to war.

A Montreal Opinion.

(Weekly Star.)

Some Canadian yachtsmen have sent a challenge to the United States for the America's Cup. A Canadian would have several advantages over a British challenger, the boat would not have to sail across the Atlantic, and so could be of much lighter construction than was Lipton's Shamrock; furthermore the Canadiana boat would be sailed by Nova Scotia fishermen, who are more familiar with conditions on this side of the Atlantic than were the Shamrock's crew. At the same time it is very difficult to appreciate what great advantage would accrue to Canada, even should we succeed in bringing the cup to Halifax. The Shamrock is being scrapped after a few days' racing; much the same fate would befall the Canadian boat. Horse-racing is of certain benefit in testing the stamina of a horse and in improving the breed, but yacht-racing—such as that which took place for the America's Cup—is of absolutely no value. It would be as if one killed the horse as soon as the race was over. In view of the extreme expense connected with the building and racing of a challenger it would seem that, under the prevailing conditions, the money might very easily be spent to better advantage in other ways.

Lions Are Fierce No More.

African lions have changed habits since Theodore Roosevelt and Edward Stewart White hunted them in their lairs and came back to write of them. Instead of leaping out on unsuspecting hunters and filling the air with tawny hostility, claws, and blood-thirsty fangs, they now slink away like the dispirited specimens in the zoo when the lady who thinks lions eat peanuts insists on interrupting Leo's peaceful nap with a goober bombardment.

At least this is the report brought back from the Nairobi and Uganda jungles by Stewart White, Chicago's mightiest nimrod, who spent more than one year there and brought back two tons of trophies, including thirteen lion skins and the pelts of several tigers, leopards, panthers, and lesser game.

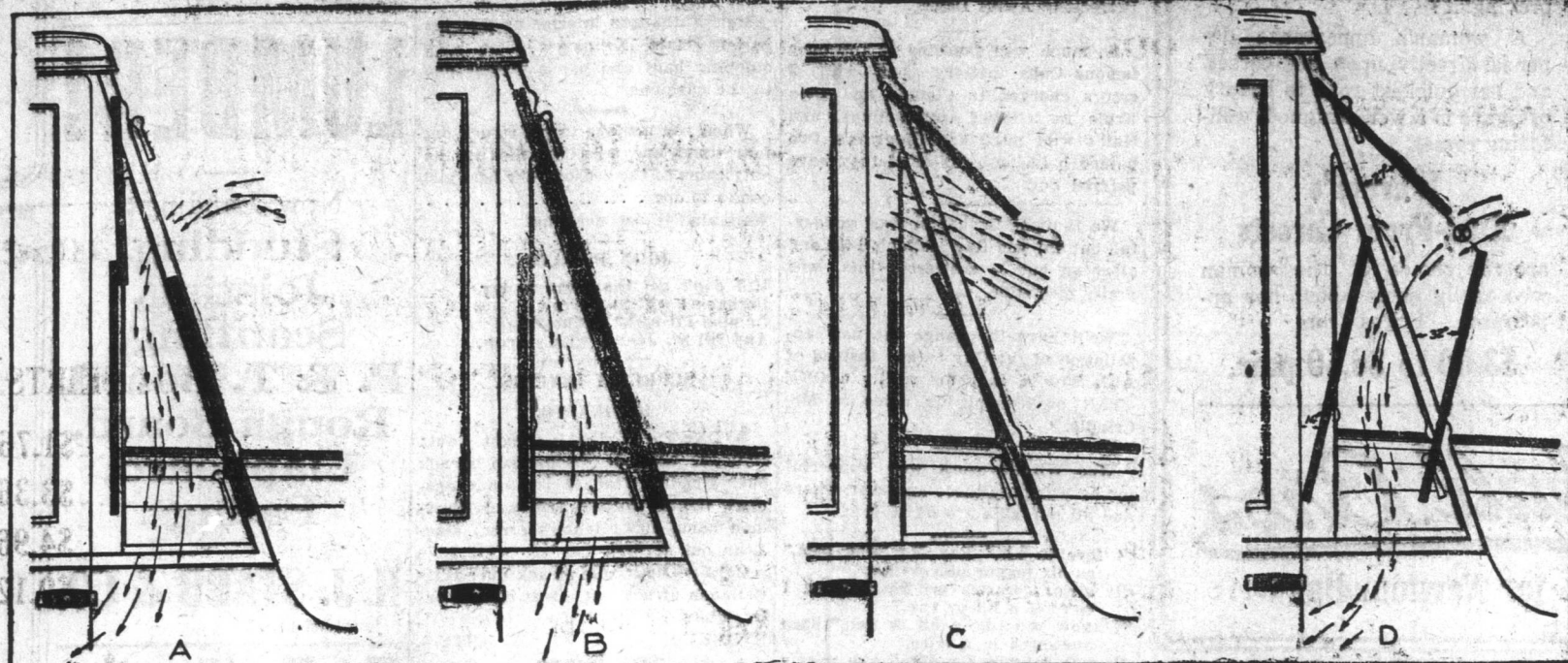
"When Theodore Roosevelt and Edward White hunted in Nairobi the lions jumped out on them without provocation," said White. "I was not so honored. I found that, unless the lion had been wounded, or the lioness had young cubs around, that they are very glad to move away. They have seemed to have learned that they are no match for a man with a gun."

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Sympathy With Husband.

"I pity the poor, hard-working husband who comes home at night, and finds his supper uncooked, his wife away playing poker and his hard-earned money spent over a gambling table."

The speaker was Magistrate Raphael Tobias, in Washington Heights court, New York. Before him was Mrs. Florence Schlesinger, 549 West 143rd street, in whose apartments detectives found a dozen women engaged in an ardent search for a royal flush.

Detectives Foley and Donnelly, testifying at the trial of Mrs. Schlesinger on a charge of keeping a gambling house, said they found the table covered with chips and that the women had told them the value of the chips was: red, a dollar; white, a half-dollar; and blue, a dime. The detectives said the women told them they bought the chips from Mrs. Schlesinger in \$20 lots, they paying her \$20, but receiving \$18 in chips. The \$2 went to the "kitty." Mrs. Schlesinger said the \$2 was used to provide cats. The magistrate decided to hold her on \$500 bail for trial in general session.

"I have no objection," he said, "to the social features of card games. It's a nice way to pass an afternoon or an evening—in a friendly game. But it appears that this was a business proposition; that an income was derived from this game. This sort of thing works a hardship on the husband. Because his wife is foolish and throws his money away he gets dis-

couraged and downhearted and loses interest in life."

Upright Burial.

Burial in an upright position is not unknown. There are the cases of Ben Jonson, who was interred in Westminster Abbey, and of Thomas Cooke, Governor of the Bank of England from 1737 to 1739, who died at Stoke Newington, 12th August, 1753, and by his directions his body was carried to Morden College, Blackheath, of which he was a trustee; it was taken out of the coffin, and buried in a winding sheet upright in the ground, according to the Eastern custom. Mr. C. Spelman, Recorder of Nottingham, was buried in 1679 upright in a pillar in

Narburgh Church, the inscription being directly against his face. Hearne in his "Collection of Antiquarian Discourses" mentions that captains in the army were formerly buried in an upright position. He remarks:—"For them above the ground buried, I have by tradition heard, that when any notable captain died in battle or camp the soldiers used to take his body and to settle him on his feet upright, and put his lance or pike into his hand, and then his fellows would carry him and lay him out as should cover him, and mount up to cover the top of his pike."

Caesar's Purple.

We all know that "purple and fine linen" are spoken of in history in reference to kings, aristocrats, or wealthy people. Nothing but the finest linen or very expensive material was dyed purple, and the cost of purple dye was the cause of this color being used only by the very rich. The rich purple of olden times was made by the Tyrians, and the purple of Tyre is probably still the most expensive dye in the world. The dye is obtained from a small vein in little shell-fish, looking like a periwinkle, and enormous piles of their shells have been found near the ancient cities of the Mediterranean. The dye was rediscovered in the seventeenth century in Ireland, through a woman using it as a marking ink for garments; and recently a dye chemist set out to find what the wonderful purple really was.

After collecting 12,000 of the shell-fish, and extracting enough of the substance to enable him to make an analysis, he discovered that it was a kind of indigo, containing bromine. The fact that any fish or animal contained the element bromine in its body was in itself a discovery, but having determined its composition, the chemist found out how to make the dye itself, and he can now produce from coal tar the actual purple used by Roman senators. He reproduces it, moreover, at a cost of two dollars a pound, whereas the Tyrian purple was worth \$5,000 a pound.

The Pony Race at St. Michael's Garden Party, held yesterday afternoon, was an interesting affair. Gosse's pacer again won the race. This pony since being taken in hands by young Cole, has shown wonderful speed. The lad Cole is only 12 years old, but possesses the true horseman's instinct, his grandfather, in the olden days, being a jockey who won fame in the local horse races of that period.

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