

Big Game at Sea—Sport With Leviathans

If, indeed, things are as bad as some thoughtful men maintain; if anglers are too many, trout too few, or, at any rate, too knowledgeable; if we must bow our heads to the necessity of water abstraction and shrieking streams, to the inevitability of pollution and blighted valleys; if in a word everything is amiss for the sons of Izaak, then of a surety the new dispensation came none too soon. Who was actually the first of the brotherhood to rediscover the great truth that rivers flow down to the sea, to deduce from it the thought that the angler might well follow them rod in hand, and finally to put the idea into practice, will probably never be known. Very likely the movement towards ocean was the result of a stirring in many minds rather than the invention of one; it may well be that the restlessness of the age infected even the contemplative recreation and caused its devotees to aim at conquering new worlds. In any case sea angling with rod and line, and the application of fresh water methods to salt water needs are things of recent birth. The modern sea angler, though of honorable and ancient lineage, is himself a being of little more than a decade or so.

This is not a reproach to him; far from it when one considers his extraordinary completeness and the science of his proceedings one can only marvel that he should have done it all in so short a time. Though previous experience in fresh water, was, of course, of great value when he came to the sea, still there was a vast deal for him to learn, and even yet he is learning. It is safe to say that the lessons will not be done with during our time, or at the time of our children, for the sea has many secrets and yields them grudgingly. Moreover the same impulse which has driven the angler from the river to the nearer sea will, surely, urge him on to the further ocean, there to try unplumbed depths

and seek strange monsters such as our forefathers believed in. If there is in truth such a thing as a sea-serpent no doubt in the fullness of time the sea angler will let us know all about it, its habits, seasons and favorite baits.

One is impelled to this, thought by the perusal of Mr. Holder's impressive volume on the big game fishes of American seas. Here we have a picture of sport such as English anglers can only dream of. Our own game fishes, bass, mullet, pollack, coal fish, and the rest are small deer in comparison with the mighty ones which occupy Mr. Holder's exciting pages. Even the skate, which sometimes rewards our more strenuous sportsmen, is a poor thing beside most of these. A fish, which, for all its 200 lb. of weight, comes up in response to sheer pulling like a reluctant billiard ball (such is the report of it) cannot be named in the same breath with the tuna or tarpon, monsters which really fight for their lives and behave somewhat as one would expect a sea trout to behave could he be magnified fifty or a hundred times without loss of activity.

How far contests with sea monsters of this kind and worse belong to the sport of which Walton was the placid apostle may be a matter of opinion; but that they must be wildly fascinating will be conceded by any one who has a trace of the elemental man in him. Mr. Holder, Nimrod of the sea, has found them so fascinating that his book is in places almost as exciting as the real thing; the man who realizes acutely can write of his experiences and convey realization to others. The first chapter contains this passage: "On such a night, when the only sound to break the stillness was the distant roar of the surf, there came out of the darkness, near at hand, a rushing, swishing noise; then a clap as of thunder, which seemed to go roaring and reverberating away over the reef, like the dis-

charge of a cannon." This disturbing noise was due to a fish, nothing more! The lion of Africa himself has made less imposing entry in some pages we have read. There is, indeed, much in common between big game of land and sea; danger and toil attend the pursuit of both. The particular fish in question was a giant ray (devil fish, sea bat, vampire), and Mr. Holder harpooned it or its brother, and, after a prodigious fight, in which his boat was towed for miles, succeeded in landing it; a monster, "thirteen feet from tip to tip, ten feet long from its mouth to the base of its tail, which was about seven feet in length," and with an estimated weight of over a ton. Another of these fish was taken off Aransas Pass, Texas, after it had towed thirteen boats about for a long time.

No less formidable is the sword fish, "an ocean swash buckler," as Mr. Holder calls him. He describes a tremendous battle which an acquaintance had with it in the Indian ocean, "improbable the first large sword fish ever taken with a rod and reel," but he doubts such sport ever becoming popular in the waters of Southern California; the sword fish has the disconcerting habit of ramming its opponents, and the ability to do so effectually. Still, several have been caught at Catalina, and the Tuna club offers a cup for the largest specimen taken during the season. The orca, or killer, is another dangerous opponent, which appears to be a possibility rather than a custom; the one instance of its being hooked, which Mr. Holder records, ended without result. But it would seem unwise to fish for it.

There is an interesting chapter on squids and octopuses, the hideous creatures which undoubtedly gave rise to the legends of the Kraken. Some excellent photographs give a good idea of their appearance. The largest squid handled by the author was about fifty feet in length, including the long arms, but

they grow to a greater size than that, the bodies of large specimens weighing a ton or more. The octopus on the Pacific coast also attains formidable dimensions, examples having been found with a radial spread of twenty-five or thirty feet. It is, perhaps, fortunate that anglers have as yet not turned their attention to either of these monstrosities. Turtles give the author a topic and us a chapter. Their capture on land affords good sport for an able-bodied man who is dexterous with his hands, and in water it must be more than sport. The account of a fight which began by Mr. Holder's diving down in eight feet of water, seizing his turtle there, and then riding it half under and half on top of the water until it was tired, is epic. Another by-way of this new angling world is the game of shooting flying fishes. They behave, we are told somewhat like clay pigeons. Retrieving them must be a difficulty, as they sink at once. The big California flying fish can "fly," Mr. Holder tells us, an eighth of a mile or more.

Angling proper is more nearly approached when we get to Catalina and the wealth of really sporting fish which that island and its neighbors have to offer. The leaping tuna, of course, the chief among them, or rather has been, for during the past two years it has been conspicuously absent. Various reasons have been given for this, gasoline launches for example. Mr. Holder explains it by the fish's wandering propensities, and also suggests that a school of orcas, or killers, has driven them away, a theory which we do not remember to have seen before. Some compensation, doubtless, has been the advent of a new tuna from Japan, a smaller kind known as "yellow-finned tuna," and the other riches of the locality remain as they were. The yellow-tail, for instance, is probably weight for weight as game a fish as the world possesses. White sea-bass, albacore, black sea-bass (a monster which reaches 400 lb. or more), and

others make up a list of fishes which it would be difficult to match elsewhere.

The tarpon, of course, has a chapter to himself, and the author has written it with the proper enthusiasm; there is a thrilling account of shark-fishing, and there are many pages devoted to odd, but interesting matters, such as sea going crocodiles, or the great river fish of South America, the arapaima, a monster whose better acquaintance should be worth making. Indeed, one might dwell on this book indefinitely, for it is crowded with incident and fact, and adequately illustrated with photographs of merit. It is written vigorously and with humor, and its author has a style which is rare in sporting literature. One could wish he (like other American writers) were not so fond of stigmatizing fish as "gamy"; the word has, by tradition over here at least, a significance somewhat other than is intended. One could also wish, perhaps, for more insularity of spelling. But, objections done with, it is a capital book and to be commended to all who love the sea and the open air.—London Times.

Another cause of the splendid entertainments of the season has been the success of the opera at Covent Garden. Tetrassini, I am told, has brought more money to the opera than any single singer in the whole history of the institution. And her success was the merest accident. Engaged by the syndicate at a time when things were not going very well when London was cold, and poor, and deaf to the attractions of music, Tetrassini was regarded as something of a white elephant, and attempts were even made to dissuade her from coming to London in the midst of conditions so inauspicious. But she stuck to her contract, and but only half welcomed she arrived. She sang one night, and the next morning she woke, like Byron, to find herself famous and ever since has been raking in money.

The Fascination of Peru

PERU has long exercised a fascination upon men's minds; it does so still. Two volumes upon this interesting country were recently reviewed in these pages, two others—both of them important works—have now to be noticed—one English, the other French, says the London Times. Mr. Reginald Enock's work is the second of a series on South America edited by Major Martin Hume. This same writer's earlier publication, "The Andes and the Amazon," was very favorably received, and showed him to have a large acquaintance through personal observation with the physical features, the material resources, and the economical and political condition of the country. He had traveled in every part of Peru, and had made good use of his opportunities. He possesses a quick eye and a keen intelligence, is many-sided in his interests, and on certain subjects, as a mining engineer, he speaks as an expert. The present volume is to a considerable extent a reproduction in a slightly altered form of material already used in "The Andes and the Amazon" with the travel incidents and adventures left out. It deals, however, much more fully with the history and historical development of the country, and is written in the same facile and graphic style as before; but, as befits a more serious effort, with greater restraint and soberness even in the descriptive passages.

Nearly one half of "Peru" is strictly historical; but, though the history is pleasantly told, it is not of the same value as the really admirable account given of the nature of the country, of its natural products, industries, and commerce. The history is not based on original research, but is a summary of the material found in such works as Markham's "History of Peru," and the same author's narrative of the war between Peru and Chile, 1879-81. In the case of this war the bias against Chile is transparently evident. The only portion of the historical section of the work to which a student would go for information is that dealing with the events of the last two decades, and especially of that peaceful and progressive period which has followed the defeat of Cañeros and the end of the long military regime in 1895. Here Mr. Enock speaks from personal knowledge, and what he has to tell has a direct bearing upon the main purpose of his book—the giving of such a description of Modern Peru and its government and resources as will encourage European capitalists to invest their capital in the opening out of the country, and so enable European immigrants to settle there. The cost strip is uninviting, being a desert in which rain never falls. The rich agricultural and pastoral valleys and plateaus of the lofty Sierra enclosed between the parallel chains of the eastern and western Cordilleras of the Andes are practically without means of communication. Two magnificent mountain railways carried over passes higher than the summit of Mont Blanc connect the Sierra, indeed, but these transversal lines are of little avail until a longitudinal line binds them together and affords the means of transit from one part of the Sierra to another. The vast area of the Montana on the eastern slope of the Andes is the part of Peru which has peculiar attractions for Mr. Enock; and he has described its mag-

nificent forests and its thousands of miles of navigable rivers to point out that it is at present almost uninhabited save by half-savage, wandering Indian tribes, and is waiting for exploitation. A few caucheros, or Indian rubber gatherers, are the only white men who at present venture into these solitudes at the risk of hardships and climate; but Mr. Enock always insists that the climatic conditions are better than they are painted, and not impossible for European immigration. Probably the Amazonian montana was better known to the intrepid missionaries and explorers of the seventeenth than it is now. Mr. Enock does not do them justice. He briefly refers to the voyage of Pedro Teixeira from Para to Quito, and to that of Padre Samuel Fritz from Para to the Huallaga. He seems to be unaware of the magnitude of Teixeira's great feat. Teixeira conducted an expedition of about 2,000 men by boat up stream to Quito from Para, some 3,200 miles, and he brought them back by the same route. The circumstantial narrative of this return journey by the Spanish Jesuit Christoval d'Acuna is the text book for our knowledge of the Amazon and its inhabitants at this early date. The voyage lasted for more than two years, from October, 1637, to December, 1639. Mr. Enock's statement that Padre Fritz ascended from Para to Huallaga in 1701 is not correct. Fritz, who was a Jesuit missionary from Quito, after five years' most successful work in that part of the Upper Amazon which lies between the mouths of the Napo and the Japura, descended on account of severe illness to Para in 1689. Here he was detained by the Portuguese for two years, but was allowed in 1691 to return to the scene of his former labors. The Yurimaguas, amongst whom he fixed his chief mission station at that time, lived in the main Amazon river near the mouth of the Jurua; but the repeated attacks of Portuguese slave raiders forced them to abandon their habitations, and accompanied by Padre Fritz, they in 1700 sought refuge in the Huallaga and settled at the spot still called in their name. To Fritz we owe the first maps of the Amazon, and he has left a valuable journal, a manuscript copy of which is in the reviewer's possession, giving a more or less continuous record of his missionary labors during thirty years spent among the Indians of the Upper Amazon and its affluents. The chapter on Mineral Wealth is, from the practical and scientific point of view, one of the best in the book. Major Martin Hume contributes a characteristic introduction. The work is illustrated by a large number of excellent reproductions of photographs. There is a good map, a bibliography, and a concise index which is supplemented by a very complete table of the contents of the several chapters.

The volume from the pen of M. Paul Walle is also one of a series upon the American continent published by the Librairie Orientale et Americaine, under the editorship of M. E. Guillemot. In his preface M. Paul Walle, secrétaire-général de la société de Géographie Commerciale, tells us that "M. Paul Walle has seen the country, he has lived on intimate terms with the various races who are found there; better than all, he has known, by sharing in them, the needs, the tastes and even the sufferings of the inhabitants." During six years he has visited the Argentine Republic, Paraguay, the littoral of Brazil, Amaz-

onia, Tierra del Fuego, Peru. He has never been a passing tourist; he has made himself acquainted with commerce; he has worked in the mines; he has been a buyer of caoutchouc. The things of which he speaks have been things lived. A practical man like M. Paul Walle cannot, and has no wish to, write other than a practical book. This is exactly what he has done. "Peru économique," is thoroughly practical. It is also extremely well written and very complete, and its contents fully confirm the statements made by M. Paul Walle as to the high qualifications possessed by the author for the task he has undertaken.

The references to history in this French work are meagre, and high-flown descriptions of scenery are avoided; though there are plenty of passages, such, for instance, as the account of the journey from Lima to Oroya by the Great Transandine Railway, which show that M. Walle has no lack of descriptive powers, but deliberately restrains them. The statistics that are given concerning the political, commercial and economical condition of modern Peru are derived from personal knowledge and careful research, and may be said to cover the whole ground. It is interesting to find, after reading through both volumes, that between Mr. Enock and M. Paul Walle there are practically no points of disagreement in the views that they express, whether upon the present state or upon the future prospects of the country. Both, for instance, have devoted considerable sections to an account of the Montana with its vast untrodden forests and splendid navigable waterways. This district has a fascination for both writers, but the judgment of M. Walle as to the possibilities of the colonization of the lower Amazonian zone is less favorable than that of Mr. Enock.

FISHING IN ARTESIAN LAKES

About the time that the work of building the railroad through the border territories of Texas was begun, the discovery was made that the region was underlain with a basin of artesian water. Major Armstrong and other ranchmen began to develop this underground water resource, and there are now hundreds of flowing wells scattered over a territory of about 100 miles long by 75 miles wide.

Water is always a cheering sight to a ranchman in this semi-arid region, and upon the ranches where the artesian wells were put down chains of beautiful lakes have been formed. Around their edges trees and other vegetation have sprung up, and a wonderful transformation of the country is taking place.

Fresh-water fishing was an unknown pleasure in the pocket of Texas before the artesian water basin was tapped. One of the first ranches upon which the artesian water supply was developed was that of Mrs. H. M. King. Her ranch embraces 1,380,000 acres, and every part of the domain is now well watered from these wells.

It occurred to her son-in-law, Robert J. Kieberg, the manager of the ranch, that it would be a good idea to stock the lakes with bass. A supply of these fish were obtained from the United States Government hatcheries, and placed in the newly created fresh bodies of water.

It is five or six years since some of these lakes were stocked with bass. The fish have thrived, and in no part of the country is better bass fishing afforded than this remote territory, where not many years ago there was not enough water to prevent cattle from perishing by thousands in time of drought.

Britain's Reply to Germany

A WELL-INFORMED correspondent of the Daily Telegraph writes:—It is understood that the Government have under consideration a proposal to raise a large loan in view of the renewed competition in naval armaments abroad. Proposals to this end have been put forward by financiers of the highest standing, who, it is stated, have undertaken to find £100,000,000, on nominal terms, so as to meet the necessities of the fleet in the next few years without disorganizing the annual Budgets or casting a heavy burden on the present generation.

There is no idea of a Naval Defence Act on the lines of that introduced by Lord George Hamilton in the spring of 1889. This measure was brought forward to overtake arrears of shipbuilding which had accumulated during a period of unprecedented activity abroad. It specified the sum which was to be spent in a limited number of years, and the manner in which it should be used. The requirements of the navy were known, because its deficiencies were apparent, and it was common knowledge that the Admiralty regarded the then existing situation with the gravest concern.

In the present circumstances the conditions are different in all essentials. It is admitted that the navy is now well up to a two-Power standard. In the present international situation no greater margin of strength is considered necessary. But that superiority is seriously challenged by the programmes which have been adopted by other Powers, and specifically by the amended German Navy Act passed this spring. Under this scheme Germany has laid down or ordered ten vessels of the Dreadnought type, and next year proposes to begin the construction of four more. In other countries renewed activity in shipbuilding has occurred, the exact scope of which has not been finally settled. In these conditions a naval defence Act, framed on the lines of the measure of 1889, specifying the number of men-of-war to be built and their types, cannot be brought forward. The future requirements of the navy cannot be stated until foreign programmes have crystallised. It is consequently impossible to foresee exactly how many men-of-war—battleships, cruisers, and torpedo craft—will have to be ordered for the British navy in 1910, much less in 1912, or 1913. On the other hand, it is already evident that unless this rivalry can be checked the expenditure on the British navy must be largely increased.

The proposal now under consideration is a simple one. It would be a declaration, translated into terms of cash, of the country's intention to maintain the two-Power standard at all costs. There is no leeway to make up, but there is a future to be safeguarded. Not only in this country, but throughout the world, there has been a deeply-seated impression that the Government are not sincerely attached to the two-power standard, and that for party ends they may whittle it down. By setting aside £100,000,000 for the fleet they would advertise their policy in every newspaper in the world and in all the deliberative assemblies until it became world-notorious.

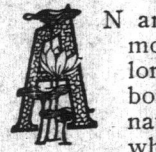
Such a loan would not be hypothecated in advance, as in the case of the Naval Defence Act. It would form a fund which would be drawn upon as required by the Government of

the day. There is no idea of fixing the expenditure year by year for a long period in advance. Navy estimates would be introduced each spring as usual, making provision for only one year's shipbuilding programme. But any outlay above the normal sum which might be required would be taken from the loan fund. The whole of the expenditure would come under review by the House of Commons as at present, but only the normal expenditure would be met out of revenue, and the remainder would be available from the loan fund.

Since the two-Power standard is an automatic barometer, registering the activity of rival Powers, if they accepted the warning and refrained from exaggerated programmes of shipbuilding, the British naval fund would remain intact. It would be a standing reminder to all and sundry that, whatever the financial embarrassments of the moment, the money was available instantly for meeting rivalry. It may be added that those who favor this scheme of what may be termed "high finance" do not admit that the Government is in such straitened circumstances that it could not provide the next year's necessarily high expenditure out of revenue. The scheme is put forward in no spirit of financial despair, but in the hope that it would check by its sheer financial boldness the renewed competition in naval power. It would banish all possibility of misunderstanding as to the intentions of the British people. In these circumstances it would be known throughout the world that the more was devoted to her fleet by this or that country the more would be spent in maintaining the British fleet.

The Daily Telegraph further remarks:—"The constant comparison of forces and the constant appearance of rivalry which this process must involve cannot make for friendship, and may easily sharpen antagonism. It seems to us time to consider whether next year we should not wind up the whole affair by one programme, financed, if need be, by a loan, which will save us at least from the annual recurrence of this controversy for the subsequent three years. We know the objections to a loan—the wastefulness and the absurdity of raising debt with one hand while we are paying it off with the other—nor do we forget the perfectly valid pleas which have been entered against rigid programmes. But political considerations enter into this matter which may outweigh these objections. . . . The loan which we are contemplating would not necessarily relieve the Government from financing the four years' programme out of the revenue of the four years; but it would, we hope, put an end to the mischievous and possibly dangerous controversy, and make clear to all parties what, if the situation remains unchanged on the other side, will be our course of action during the period covered."

Doubt may be expressed whether our contemporary, in its reference to a four years' programme, to be introduced in the spring, is not advocating a departure from naval policy which would be stoutly opposed, however favorably a naval loan may be regarded. Such a quadrennial might lead to an abandonment of the two-Power standard, if during its course other nations expanded their programmes, whereas a naval loan, unappropriated in advance, would not interfere with the flexibility of the British arrangements to meet instantly any such menace.



N ar
mo
lor
bor
nat
wh
agitation of the far been bas
dent of the L
tions of this
The Times o
man naval po
at its service
Germany only
number of ba
to her presen
or, at least, s
a struggle, if
less. It was
asts that Eng
would, in vie
policy, refrain
of ships and
calculated tha
ed to office
tained a lead
England to r
As recent
have shown,
country are
that the seem
has been set
ed by well-de
by these utte
turns to the s
Tag, and poi
ary session in
determination
to maintain
Navy. In his
ignore self-ev
her eyes to th
towards this
Herr vom
tention to th
critics in this
purely defens
policy profess
served by the
ship program
velopment of
of the service
branch of def
that in present
ship program
is the case of
sion abroad
intentions of
German Gove
with England
other hand, h
rivalry in bat
people in Eng
picion that,
surances to t
gramme impl
Nevertheless
of the British
friendly to G
England is r
by the suspic
day be made
tacks upon E
Weltpolitik v
pounded in t
quite apart f
and strategi
those who at
policy for co
warfare, but
with England
of the battle
Herr vom
with Count
the German
on naval qu
to arrive at
as "sentimen
maintenance
gramme. C
certain quart
rent of feelin
Government,
dency has fai
portant secti
Rath for his
this oppositi
preciable is
of any conse
room to this
pression of h
attempts to
extremes has

It remain
be created b
the case aga
gramme for
of Herr vom
excuse for v
the part of
Press. Upo
tics are likel
contention t
to maintain
increase in t
will not, as
argued, mea
Germany's
England.
These di
with interest
the German
the German
with the at
British peo
taining the
fish Navy.