

THE SPORTS OF ANIMALS

A NATURALIST TELLS OF FANTASY AND JOY.

Others That Make a Slide From Which to Dive into a River—See Otter's Swim With Her Young—Birds That Have Played Hoops and Held Cakes Waits.

My ideas may be those of an extremist, but I believe that animals of all kinds know very much more than they get credit for. I have been off on a trip for several months collecting, and have paid special attention to what might be called the sports and games of animals, and if they don't play after the manner of children then I am very much mistaken.

I was particularly struck with the otters which I saw, I found in my travels a famous place for them, and so made my plans to study them, which I did by hiding in some brush in the side of a little stream watching them with a glass. It was a most fascinating sight. Nearly all of the half dozen animals which I saw were as playful as kittens, rolling over and over, pretending to fight, and engaging in graceful and enjoyable pastimes. One of the sports which struck me as most interesting was a slide. The descent to the river at this point was perhaps ten feet, and the animals had formed a regular slide at an angle of about forty-five degrees. An otter would start a few feet back and run, twisting himself on his back when he struck the slide, going down the slippery place like an arrow, entering the water head first and disappearing for a second to rise and swim in and try it again. Sometimes two or three would go sliding down at once, with feet up in the air; and once two, by some error in judgment, became entangled and struck the water in a heap, rolling over and over. This entertainment was kept up for nearly an hour and renewed at various times during the day. The slide, which I examined later, was smooth and nicely made.

The sea otter is also very interesting. Some years ago I was travelling along the coast of Washington when I came to a town of shacks occupied by sea otter hunters. On a long point of land which ran out into the sea was a tall pole or mast with an old ship's ladder leaning up on it, and on top a place where the hunters hid. The sea otters lived in the kelp beds, and the men watched for them, and if near enough shot them or signalled a boat. I went out in the latter, a double-ender, which lay behind a point of rocks waiting for an otter to appear. When one came I had an opportunity to see this rare animal free. Its cat-like head showed first, the eyes glancing about in a suspicious manner. Then I saw it swim out where the surf was rolling in just beyond the edge of the kelp. Here it turned on its back and rode the waves like a boat, and I saw that it held between its legs a little one, supporting it as a swimmer would a child. It was a pity to kill such an affectionate creature or break up so perfect a family party, but the ring of the hunter's rifle sounded in a few moments and the old otter rolled over dead.

That birds have games as perfect as those of children is well-known. They not only play but have play-houses. This is particularly true of the bower birds of Australia. I have been fortunate in seeing one in confinement, and the habit was so strongly impressed upon it that even in a cage it took the various things offered and attempted to decorate the floor and walls. In a short time this bird had nearly a bushel of rags of brilliant colors, pieces of shining tin, bones, sticks, colored stones and shells all of which it used in its games. In playing such things are picked up and carried about by the male bird, undoubtedly to attract the attention of the female.

"I have seen one of these play houses in Australia that was five feet long," continued the traveller. "It had nothing to do with the nest of the bird and was just as much a playhouse as any possessed by a child. The bird has been watched in the act of making one. Sticks were first selected, two or three feet in length, and placed in the ground, the large end first, so that they fell over and met other sticks on the opposite side, which thus formed a tent-shaped structure. In it the birds danced up and down, affecting miming airs, hung their toys on the branches and scattered others about on the floor.

"The perfection of this play-house habit is found in one of the great islands south of Malay, where a little bird known as amblopis erects a perfect house, the work showing that in constructive ability it is ahead of some human beings. The first one ever seen by white men was found by Becari, an Italian naturalist who was travelling in the heart of Borneo. He suddenly came upon it in a little clearing, and for some time could not be convinced that it was not the work of native children; but he was taken aside to watch, and finally saw the birds about the playhouse, which

was a perfect hut with a peaked roof. The birds had cleared away a spot about a small tree, which was denuded of verdure on its lower part, and then a fast-growing orchid was selected as timber and leaned against it, the birds being careful to leave a door or opening. The orchids soon grew together, forming a roof, and in front of the house a lawn was made, the birds picking out the desirable weeds. The grass was dotted with flowers, collected from far and near, and at the back of the house was a heap of withered blossoms, fresh ones being provided every day.

"What might be called a cakewalk has been observed several times among the little birds known as cocks of the rock. They resemble pigeons, but are of a blood red hue. The feathers are especially valued, and in the early days of Brazil were used only for the Emperor, his robe of office being entirely composed of the richest plumage. The birds are very rare and their habits little understood, but some years ago a naturalist traversed Brazil with the express purpose of studying them, and it was his good fortune to catch them at their sport. He had a number of native scouts who reported anything of interest, and one day he was called to witness what they called a meeting of birds. He was conducted some distance through the brush, finally coming to a little opening which he reached by crawling through the thick brush on hands and knees. Standing in an almost perfect circle about five feet across, was a flock of cocks with their heads pointed to the centre, all evidently gazing at a bird which it was not going through a cakewalk was at least doing an interesting imitation. It was bowing to the audience, dipping its head to the ground, turning round and round and bobbing this way and that, its every motion being carefully watched by the lookers on. The bird would hop on one leg, lower its wings and strut like a turkey cock, and by its grotesque movements showed that it was undoubtedly giving an exhibition. The dance was continued until the bird was exhausted, when it fell back into the ranks and another took its place, repeating the strange antics. As near as the naturalist could judge each bird was vying with the others in dancier or perhaps making a display of its attractions.

In Africa certain birds have a decided realization of what constitute comfort. A naturalist was travelling through the country when he came upon a flock of storks, each bearing on its back a copper colored bird about the size of a robin. Three storks were hunting for grasshoppers and when they found them the little bird riders would fly down have a feast and then fly back and ride on.

"I have seen fishes repeatedly jump over a stick in a game of leap frog. I once kept a small hawkbill turtle and with it were a number of gar fishes, which amused themselves frequently by playing leap frog with the turtle as it lay on the surface of the water asleep. Sometimes, one would miss and fall on the turtle which would dash away in alarm."

MILLIONS OF DICE.

They are Made of Various Materials and Sold in Large Numbers. The bone dice used in the United States are all imported from France, though it may be that the bone of which they are made came originally from this country. They are made in a manufacturing district not far from Paris in which are produced various articles of bone, and also things partly of bone, as, for instance, tooth brushes. Bone dice are made in eleven sizes from 0 to 10 inclusive, and in each of these sizes they are made both square and round, and are all other kinds of dice. In all kinds of dice there are sold of the square cornered variety ten times, perhaps twenty times, as many as of those made with rounded corners. Round cornered dice are often used in playing backgammon; they wear a board less than square cornered dice would and roll easier. There are made some black bone dice with white spots, but the sale of these is comparatively very limited. The great majority of the very large number of bone dice sold are in the form of the familiar white cubes with black spots.

Celluloid dice, which are made in this country, are of both opaque and transparent material. The transparent dice are made in saffron color, in magenta and in green; the opaque in imitation of ivory. The imitation ivory dice are finished in various ways, as to the color of the spots some being made with black spots and some with spots of blue and some with red spots. The spots on the various transparent dice is made white. These various kinds of celluloid dice are made in seven sizes.

There are made in celluloid two styles of poker dice, one octahedron-shaped and containing on its eight faces representations of the seven, eight, nine, ten, jack, queen, king and ace of ordinary playing cards; the other poker dice is cube-shaped, containing on its faces, instead of the spot numbering from one to six, as seen on common dice, representations of the ordinary playing cards from the nine-spot to the ace. Dice are made in various sizes of vegetable ivory, of ivory, and of pearl; the most costly dice are of pearl, a set of five of medium size would cost at retail about \$7.50.

Some of the bone dice are very cheap, dice of small size selling at retail for a cent apiece, or ten cents a dozen.

A considerable number of dice of one kind and another are sold for use in the household. All cabinets made to hold cards and counters and so on have a compartment for dice, which are part of the equipment, and many dice for such use are sold separately.

Take it altogether, the consumption for dice in this country amounts to millions annually.

How would you define luck? Luck. "How would you define luck?" was asked of the man who has made more money than he knows what to do with. "It is the product of a reasonable amount of ability backed by tenacity."

BORN.

- Truro, Aug. 10, to the wife of J. Pearson, a son.
Canaan, Aug. 12, to the wife of M. Eaton, a son.
Halifax, Aug. 13, to the wife of J. Thomas, a son.
Truro, Aug. 14, to the wife of L. Kennedy, a son.
Lunenburg, Aug. 9, to the wife of E. Hebb, a son.
Lunenburg, Aug. 9, to the wife of T. Knack, a son.
Amherst, Aug. 8, to the wife of David Turner, a son.
Moncton, Aug. 20, to the wife of H. Warner, a son.
Parsons, Aug. 9, to the wife of Dr. Johnson, a son.
Lunenburg, Aug. 9, to the wife of Capt. Miller, a son.
Springhill, Aug. 14, to the wife of J. H. Froggart, a son.
Annapolis, July 18, to the wife of John Hayes, a son.
Annapolis, July 30, to the wife of Wm. Brown, a daughter.
Springhill, Aug. 7, to the wife of John Taylor, a daughter.
Lunenburg, Aug. 9, to the wife of Alex. Yung, a daughter.
LaHave, Aug. 6, to the wife of Capt. Smith, a daughter.
Truro, Aug. 14, to the wife of William Cream, a daughter.
Halifax, July 20, to the wife of John Balser, a daughter.
Springhill, Aug. 15, to the wife of Beverly Ferguson, a son.
Brigewater, Aug. 14, to the wife of Jacob Croise, a daughter.
Lunenburg, Aug. 15, to the wife of Howard Hebb, a daughter.
Lunenburg, Aug. 15, to the wife of Capt. Richard, a daughter.
New Glasgow, Aug. 10, to the wife of Thos. McKay, a daughter.
New Glasgow, Aug. 14, to the wife of John Barrett, a daughter.
Wolville, Aug. 11, to the wife of Frank Webster, a daughter.
Tusket Wedge, Aug. 15, to the wife of Zacharie Cozart, a son.
Ashcroft, Aug. 15, to the wife of John McIntosh, a daughter.
New Glasgow, Aug. 10, to the wife of Thos. McKay, a daughter.

MARRIED.

- Parsons, Aug. 9, by Rev. A. Boyd, Alfred Wilson to Mary Ferguson.
Advocate, Aug. 7, by Rev. L. Cooney, Chas. Field to Marie Cooney.
Springhill, Aug. 10, by Rev. J. Bancroft, Eli Corkin to Mand Coitwell.
Fort Erie, Aug. 12, by Rev. Wm. Dakin, Charles Everett to Francis White.
Everett, Mass., June 28, by Rev. A. Hart, Ethel foot to Emma Ramsay.
Bangor, July 28, by Rev. W. E. Jackson, Mary Jackson to Geo. Bacon.
Washington, June 21, by Rev. Dr. Young, Andrew Cozer to Mabel Crosby.
West Gore, Aug. 9, by Rev. H. Wallace, Wm. McDonald to Rosa Bacon.
Argyle, Aug. 15, by Rev. W. W. Brown, William Crowe to Iva Nickerson.
Fort Medway, Aug. 9, by Rev. F. Bishop, George D. Melrose, Mass., by Rev. Joel Leonard, George D. Stephenson to Jennie Spicer.
Annapolis, Aug. 15, by Rev. Jas. Eddy, Capt. Edward Harty to Stella Parks.
St. Margarets Bay, Aug. 11, by Rev. N. E. Ingram, Hilda Bottler to Fred Ellis.
Guysboro, Aug. 1, by Rev. R. O. Morse, Wm. Besanson, to Mrs. Mary Gammon.
Truro, Aug. 14, by Rev. H. F. Waring, Robie W. Ford to Sarah F. Jamieson.
Hopewell, Aug. 13, by Rev. Wm. McNichol, Geo. Blackwood to Maggie Forsner.
Lorway Mine, C. B., Aug. 9, by Rev. J. McLaughlin, Arthur Woodill to Marie F. Best.
Springhill, Aug. 15, by Rev. Chas. Wilson, Arthur J. Davis to Margaret L. Robertson.
Antigonish, July 19, by Rev. P. S. MacGregor, Mary Ann Macgregor to Elizabeth Hattie.
Digby Aug. 17, by Rev. B. T. Deane, Bernard C. Morhouse to Annie A. Hutchinson.
Sheet Harbor, Aug. 9, by Rev. W. McNatra, Joseph Bolong to Lillian E. Jackson.
Newcastle, England, June 28, by Rev. Wm. Stutter, Cameron MacDonald to Mary E. McKay.
Fort Medway, Aug. 9, by Rev. T. H. Siddall, Mr. Peterson J. Atkins to Mary Desiah Foster.
Fort Medway, C. B., Aug. 16, by Rev. L. A. McLeod, Danca MacDonald to Hannah Laney.
New Westminster, B. C. July 27, by Rev. Thos. Scouler, J. Kaye Henry to Mary McDougall.

DIED.

- Pictou, Aug. 10, Annie Grant, 83.
Pictou, Aug. 10, Hiram Beers, 36.
Halifax, Aug. 16, Amy Rissey, 9.
Lunenburg, Mrs. Frank Demone 78.
Moncton, Aug. 19, Annie Thom, 79.
St. John, Aug. 18, Jane Morrison, 61.
Digby, Aug. 14, Epoch Whitbeck, 77.
Digby, Aug. 15, Wm. H. Dunham, 84.
Annapolis, Aug. 10, John Dimsars, 91.
Halifax, Aug. 16, Wm. H. Saunders, 71.
Wolville, Aug. 16, Harry C. D. Starr, 18.
St. John, Aug. 21, Joseph Willard Breen, 7.
Brookville, Aug. 20, Arthur Percy Brass, 20.
Moncton, Aug. 19, Margaret C. Fleming, 77.
Yarmouth, Aug. 19, Lancel Keith Folger, 13.
Halifax, Aug. 20, Edward Kelly, 73.
Hilberts Settlement, Aug. 20, Edward Kelly, 73.
Apochequi, Aug. 18, Elizabeth Mary Webster, Bedford, N. S., Aug. 17, Laura F. Carman, 24.
Brookfield, Queens, Aug. 14, Willie Wraucht.
Moncton, Aug. 20, Alexander McNaughton, 73.
Lock Lomond, Aug. 20, Melvin W. Stackhouse.
Roxbury, Mass., on Aug. 18, Bernard McGowan, 49.
Halifax, Aug. 15, Ann, widow of Samuel Hardin, 72.
Halifax, Aug. 16, Beatrice A., wife of William White, 36.
Moncton, Aug. 21, James Infant son of Mary and John Daley.
Halifax, Aug. 16, Mary J., infant child of Thos. Dwyer and wife.
Wolville, Aug. 15, Martin Robins, wife of Edward P. Bowler, M. D., 81.

For Hard Use
The SHERWIN-WILLIAMS
WAGON and IMPLEMENT PAINT
Made for nothing but wagons, farm machines, and tools. The makers guarantee it, time and thousands of users have proved its great qualities.

RAILROADS.
CANADIAN PACIFIC
SATURDAY SUBURBAN EXCURSION.
Tickets now on sale at St. John, Saturdays, good to return until Monday following date of sale, at following rates, viz:

DOMINION ATLANTIC RY.
On and after Monday, July 3rd, 1899, the Steamship and Train service of this railway will be as follows:
Royal Mail S. S. Prince Rupert.
ST. JOHN AND DIGBY DAILY SERVICE (Sunday excepted.)

S.S. PRINCE GEORGE.
S. S. PRINCE ARTHUR.
YARMOUTH AND BOSTON SERVICE.
By far the finest and fastest steamers plying out of Boston. Leaves Yarmouth, N. S., Daily (Sunday excepted) immediately on arrival of the Express and Flying Bluebonnet Trains from Halifax arriving in Boston early next morning. Returning leaves Long Wharf, Boston, Daily (Saturday excepted) at 4:00 p.m. Unexcelled cuisine on Dominion Atlantic Railway Steamers and Palace Car Express Trains.

INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY
On and after Monday, the 19th, June 1899, trains will run daily (Sunday excepted).
TRAINS WILL LEAVE ST. JOHN
Suburban Express for Hampton, Moncton, Digby, and Halifax.

MANHATTAN STEAMSHIP COY
New York, Eastport, and St. John, N. B., Line.
Steamers of this line will leave ST. JOHN (New York Wharf, Reed's Point), November 14th, 1898, and December 2nd, and weekly thereafter.

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