

Cetaria Boy Goes Whaling

By Herbert Collier

It was most opportune, while at Victoria, B. C., that I met an old friend, now one of the chief men in the Pacific Whaling Company. A very pleasant chat followed. The outcome of it all was a hearty invitation for us to participate in a "whale hunt." At the same time he gave a letter of introduction to the master of the whaling steamer St. Lawrence.

Of course such a prospect of adventure excited me. And well it might, for it proved to be one continuous thrill. "George," said father, "this is rare good fortune for us. Captain Macaulay is to take us with him on his next cruise."

Two days later we took passage for the whaling station at Sechart, on the west coast of Vancouver Island, where we soon found our ship and met its genial captain. He gave us a most cordial welcome, assuring us in his hearty, sincere manner of his desire to make the trip as pleasant as possible; we would share his cabin with his guests, and he would willingly give whatever information he could to help us to understand this strange business and all connected therewith.

The boat was to leave very early next morning, so we decided upon bed at once, in order to be on deck at daylight. Morning found us well out on the ocean, dashing away from land at full speed. Behind us lay the fast-fading outline of Vancouver Island. Ahead the ocean met the sky, curved downward and disappeared. It was interesting to contemplate that great layer of water on the earth. Like a cover to a baseball, one edge is sewed to the continent of America and the other is pulled around with a snug fit to the circular world and fastened to Asia. "As flat as water" may be all very well for an expression, but when you see the great ocean properly you realize the error, for the surface is bent in perfect spherical form.

Breakfast over, Captain Macaulay personally escorted us over his wonderful ship, explaining the reasons for its peculiar shape and special equipment. The steamer was built in Norway by Norwegians who know what such a boat must possess to be efficient and to withstand the severe tests put upon it by such experiences as it was sure to have in this whaling industry. Seaworthy it must be first and last, as the ocean plays some naughty tricks with very little warning, wild storms and great tidal waves coming most unexpectedly. Speed and ability to turn quickly often determine the gain or loss of a valuable cetacean. And finally the boat must be like a bulldog, able to hang on once he has set his teeth upon his victim, for a harpooned whale will sometimes tow the boat around for hours at great speed.

The most interesting feature of the equipment of the whaler is the great harpoon-gun mounted on the bow of the boat. By this means a flanged spear, with exploding shell attached, is thrown with tremendous force into the body of the whale. Fastened to the end of the harpoon is a long, strong rope capable of being run out or wound up quickly by a steam-operated winch below deck. The shell is timed to explode about three seconds after being fired, thus permitting it to penetrate to the vital parts of the whale and perform its duty promptly. If the aim is true, death is almost instantaneous through the effects of a bursting shell. But if a vital spot is not touched, a giant struggle ensues, a fight between man and a monster.

Great skill and rare judgment is necessary to operate this gun. In a rolling sea, with the steamer bobbing up and down, the target also on the move, and the waves themselves obstructing, the gunner must be one clear of eye and quick of thought. And we found Franz Nordard, our gunner, more than ordinarily expert. As we stood about the gun, with Franz and the captain explaining its operation and its peculiarities, I asked Franz if he found a little liquor of any kind helpful to his nerves when he was about to perform his special duties. "Young man," he answered, "let me tell you frankly that even the lightest wine is detrimental. The brain and the whole nervous system is stimulated for a very short period. Then follows a reaction of a most depressing nature, carrying all downward to a point far below normal. No, I dare not touch the slightest amount of alcoholic liquids." Franz Nordard proved himself to be an educated gentleman of culture, and such a declaration by him meant much. And as most sailors smoke, I made bold to ask him further about tobacco. "Tobacco is particularly injurious to the young man under twenty years of age," said he. "Its effect is similar to swing of the pendulum, it carries the nervous system; but, like the other way, and reduces your vitality."

Suddenly a loud voice, from the barrel-shaped lookout-house, perched high on the mast, interrupted our conversation with "Larboard a-loy! Larboard a-loy!" We looked, and far away to our left we faintly discerned a number of objects in the water. The helmsman immediately changed our course, in order to approach them. Of course I at once concluded that we were about to attempt the capture of a whale. But I was not

taken. Yes, beyond a doubt there was a whale, yet not a move was made to secure him. We simply dived. The sight was one of the most unusual recorded. As we came nearer we heard a great barking and bellowing, as a monster infuriated bull plunged about in desperation, seeking to escape from a half-dozen of his most dreaded enemies, orcas, or "killer whales."

In size from fifteen to twenty feet long, these ferocious brutes are the common enemy of all marine animals. Their great jaws equipped with row after row of teeth, long, sharp and powerful, give evidence of their terribly voracious nature. With a vicious snap they close upon their victim and teeth interlocking, the jaws operate as a shredding machine, tearing the flesh into bits. Fish of all kinds are devoured. None are exempt. Even the sea-squid, a species of devil-fish, flies from before this awful monster. Using his eight long, thin arms to flip himself along the surface of the water at great speed, the squid travels. But the orca is the greyhound of the ocean, the swiftest of all, and escape is impossible by flight. They enter bays and lagoons, where they spread terror and death among the dolphins. They pursue with deadly and relentless purpose the seal and the walrus and the sea-lion, and never give up until they secure their prey. Sometimes they will even undertake a dash up the larger coast rivers on a marauding expedition, where they will tear and devour an inconceivable number of large fish and water animals. No wonder this wolfish, ferocious brute creates fear and consternation wherever he goes.

And now before our eyes raged a huge battle, the strangest and bloodiest. Here was a mighty whale, a Goliath of the ocean, on one side. Surely he could easily dispose of these much smaller antagonists? The orca, besides his equipment of teeth, carries a remarkable weapon upon his back, a foot or more in breadth at the base and extending straight upward from three to six feet, tapers to a point. With this huge natural spear the orca proves very skillful. Ofttimes have I seen frolicsome fish throw themselves far out of the water in their games. The athletic orca possesses this power to a remarkable degree.

Like a torpedo in its silent, swift motion, we see one now darting through the water at great speed. His nose almost touches the skin of the whale, when, like an aeroplanist, he flings himself high in the air, quickly turns belly upward, and with all his weight drops upon the back of the big mammal. Such a daring is appalling. His purpose is, beyond a doubt, to force that spearlike dorsal fin, with all his weight behind it, into either of two very vulnerable spots. Leading to the tail of the whale is a great artery, and also a caudal cord controlling this, the most powerful defensive weapon of the animal. A properly directed blow here results in his bleeding to death, or possibly in instant paralysis, and the fight would then be at an end. If the orca, with his lance, should fall upon the spiracles or blow-holes of the whale, it would so interfere with the breathing as to compel the whale to open his mouth for this purpose. Breathe he must, just like a person. If the nostrils be closed the mouth must be used instead. If the whale opens his mouth his time has come, as the killer-whales are ever on the watch for this very moment. With a lightning dash they grab his tongue and tear it to pieces.

As the orca descended, spear downward, a mighty roar followed, and with a terrible churning of the sea the whale "sounded," followed by his tenacious enemies. It was evident that a deep wound had been inflicted. We stood, tense with excitement, anxiously awaiting the next move in this tragedy of the sea. Five minutes passed, ten, fifteen, as with bated breath our eyes searched the sea in every direction for the first indication of their return to the surface. Suddenly the great, dark snout of the whale parted the water not three hundred feet to our right, and as though with one mighty effort to escape his tormentors, he shot high in the air, almost completely exposing his entire body. Strange indeed was the sight which met our gaze. There, upon the middle of his back, was the orca, a self-made prisoner. His weapon had penetrated to such a depth that he could not free himself. He had remained a passenger during the plunge in sub-ocean. Now, however, the whale shakes him loose and he falls back into the sea.

Like exhaust from a mighty mogul engine getting under way, the breath of the whale, mingled with water and blood, hissed forth in fine spray from the spiracles, a double fountain fully thirty feet in height. The "killers" were for a short time thrown into confusion. But seemingly with even greater ferocity than before they renewed the attack. Rushing at the lips, they tore great pieces therefrom. Others bit at the flippers or forward fins, while at every opportunity attempts were made to reach the blow-holes, to close the breathing passages. The great tail lashed the sea furiously, but with little avail. The whale sounded frequently, each time getting farther and farther away from us. For a time we followed, noting the great trail of blood, from a hundred to two hundred feet wide in places. Then we turned away in pity from such a capture of a whale. But I was not

taken. Yes, beyond a doubt there was a whale, yet not a move was made to secure him. We simply dived. The sight was one of the most unusual recorded. As we came nearer we heard a great barking and bellowing, as a monster infuriated bull plunged about in desperation, seeking to escape from a half-dozen of his most dreaded enemies, orcas, or "killer whales."

To me it seemed remarkable that practically no attempt at defence was made by the colossus, the largest of animals in the world today. It evidently only sought to avoid its miserable enemies. I was able later to understand better the reason for this when the structure of a whale was more fully explained to me, and with my own eyes I beheld its anatomy. Only certain species of whales, the sperm or cachalot are known to make any particular defence against their enemies. This is not because of cowardice. Though its disposition does not appear to contain much of the element of combativeness, there is the further reason in that but few of the species have been provided by nature with the necessary weapons. Teeth are entirely absent, or not of a character to prove formidable in a contest.

Night came upon us and darkness fell. Above, an occasional star peered through the veiling of the cloud, but on the surface of the ocean appeared lights, a sky inverted and magnified a thousand powers, myriads of stars crowded into groups. There were "milky ways" everywhere, forming great streaks of pale light. Apparently an oil of silver had been lavishly poured here and there on the water in irregular patches. It was a strangely weird sight. It was uncanny. Seemed like the abode of spooks, those creatures of your remorseful nature. In the wake of our steamer the effect was even more pronounced. The water, violently agitated by contact with the swift moving boat, and particularly with the churning propeller, became aerated to a milky white. This only served to intensify the luminous water. I was puzzled to know the cause of this strange phenomena, and greatly surprised to learn it was all due to the presence of little animals in the water, a species of jelly fish. The light is a phosphorescent glow similar to that of the firefly frequenting our home marshes. The chief characteristic of the jelly fish is that it is mostly all stomach, though it has no definite organism. When the food comes to it—for it possesses no locomotive power of its own kind—the jelly mass embraces it affectionately and clings desperately thereto. It simply wraps itself around its prey and soon has it on the inside. On a similar plan mother secretes a small coin in a loaf of bread. When the dough is soft she places the silver piece anywhere on the mass. Presto, and it is swallowed by the dough! The dough is all mouth, just like the jelly fish. Even though the jelly fish is one of the lowest forms of life, there is an excellent lesson in its life for us. It makes its feeble light shine in the darkest places, and undoubtedly thereby makes the world a more pleasant place of abode.

Throughout the night our boat sped onward, and the day had well advanced when we noticed the ocean changing color. A pinkish hue became apparent. Everyone on board ship, from the captain to the stoker, became interested. Inquiry elicited the fact that we were now entering the feeding grounds of whales, and that the color of the water was due to the food of these animals, shrimps. So vast were the shoals that their pinkish bodies tinted the water in all directions. Everybody appeared eager and expectant. We had not long to wait, for the man in the look-out barrel, by the aid of his powerful glasses, soon announced the good tidings that about a mile away on our starboard bow were whales. Our eyes followed the indicated direction, and sure enough, there were the infallible signs, streams of water shooting up from the surface of the ocean like the play of a great fountain. The whales were "spouting."

Topsy and Bum

I suppose some of your readers think me extreme, or even doubt my assertions. Let me advise such to purchase a little book which they can get in any bookstore for twenty-five cents. It is entitled "Hygiene for Young People," by Knight, a Professor in Queens University, Kingston, and recommended by the Minister of Education. In it will be found much useful information for young and old about the preservation of health, the care of the eyes, ears, teeth and skin, etc. If read and applied, it is "worth many times its price." Please turn to page 177, "Alcohol and Animals." There you will read a very interesting account of how Dr. Hodge, of Clark University, Worcester, Mass., sought to find out whether the moderate use of alcohol is harmful or not.

He took two puppies which he called Topsy and Bum and began mixing a little alcohol with their food. Two other puppies of the same age, which he called Topsy and Nig, were treated in every way the same as the others only that they were given no alcohol. For the first six months they all seemed to grow alike but those to which the alcohol was given were not nearly so attractive nor so strong, and they were much more liable to sickness. By the aid of a pedometer attached to their collars Dr. Hodge found out that for every 100 yards that Nig went, Bum went only 71; and for every hundred yards that Topsy went, Nig went only 57. In fact the drinkers were always lazy and were not able to keep up the running so long. Topsy and Bum were also more timid and nervous than Nig and Topsy. "In short these dogs behaved in exactly the same way as drinkers who work in mines, factories or mills." Employers tell us that drinkers lose much more time than non-drinkers and that they cannot work as hard or as long.

When these dogs were two years old, a disease broke out among the dogs of the town and these four took it. Topsy and Nig, the dogs that had no alcohol, had it very lightly and recovered. Topsy and Bum, the dogs that had the alcohol, took it very severely and died.

This accords with the effect of alcohol on men and women. It weakens the delicate little organisms that defend us against the germs of disease and so renders us more liable to have disease and to have it more severely. Experiments conducted in certain German Schools, by giving certain pupils a small quantity of beer or wine and setting them to work at a similar task with those who did not have any beer or wine, showed that even in small quantities beer and wine weakened the mental powers. (Signed.)

H. ARNOTT, M. B., M.C.P.S.

Electoral Corruption

(Weekly Witness.)

Money wherewith to carry on elections is by far the greatest source of political corruption in Canada. England has striven to overcome the difficulty by limiting the amount of election expenses for each candidate, and also by forcing the candidates to give sworn statements of all their expenses. The United States only adopted these measures partially, but has added to them a third measure which is more effective for good than either of the other two. It is necessary to the United States that every candidate for office file a sworn report of all contributions to his campaign funds, as well as applications by the way in which the money was spent. By the adoption of these three measures, Canada might come fairly close to clean elections, if we had in this country crown prosecutors who would look after the people's interests by prosecuting offences committed against the public in a way that a crown official is supposed to do. Unfortunately we all together lack such officials. We have men called crown prosecutors. They however, only act when prosecution is initiated by aggrieved persons or when asked to by the attorney-general of the province. The aggrieved in the matter of elections are the opposing parties who do not act from principle but purely from party interests. They indulge in saw-offs. The attorney-general is a member of the cabinet, therefore, a politician supporting the party in power, and would not think of asking the crown prosecutor to seek indictment against men whose crime is an over-zeal in the support of his party. Until we have crown prosecutors that are independent of politics and responsible to the people, we will not have impartial and vigorous steps taken to secure the prosecution of all such as commit offences against the people. Here we only have one crown prosecutor for each province. In the United States every city and every county elects its own prosecuting attorney, a man whose business it is to protect the interests of the public from fraudulent, vicious and criminal dealings. The people who elect, watch over the career of the prosecuting attorney and see that he does protect them.

(To be continued.)

WE KNOW RESISTOL WILL HELP YOU

To Regain Your Strength and Energy

Report of the Hotel Physician in a Leading New York Hospital on the Cure of Brain Fatigue and Nervous Exhaustion

"A few years ago we considered that we were doing well if we cured 10 per cent of the cases of Brain Fatigue and Nervous Prostration brought to us, but since the introduction of Resistol into our hospital we cure more than 90 per cent of all the cases in its various forms brought to us. It builds new tissues, gives new energy, new life, new blood and strength to any part of the body attacked by these diseases."

Resistol is a powerful tonic nourishing food medicine composed of valuable tonic stimulants obtained from vegetable drugs. Resistol contains no narcotics or other dangerous drugs which merely deaden pain temporarily but give no permanent relief or cure the cause of disease. Resistol is a powerful body builder and blood maker; it is the best remedy known to the medical profession to enrich thin, watery blood and supply new rich blood to the whole body.

It will be found a most valuable remedy in cases of over stimulation in which the excessive use of liquor causes depression, dullness of the intellect or intoxication; it counteracts the depressing effects and restores the system to its normal condition. FREE—To prove the wonderful merits of RESISTOL, we will mail a large sample bottle for 25c in silver foil stamps for postage, etc. Resistol Chemical Co., Boston, Mass.

WE PRINT

is fully equipped to do all kinds of Commercial and Society Printing

WE have recently added a large quantity of new and popular series of type faces to our plant and are in a better position than ever to do Job Printing in the latest ideas and with neatness and dispatch.

WE PRINT Letterheads Envelopes Billheads Statements Circulars Catalogues Shipping Tags Menus, Programs Wedding Invitations Visiting Cards "At Home" Cards

We keep an unusually large quantity of Paper Stock, of all kinds, on hand in our stock room, and are, therefore, ready to fill your orders at short notice.

Look over your printed forms today and see if you are in need of any printing and send us your order.

We guarantee good workmanship and our prices are right. Remember the money you send away for printing never comes back; that you leave with us does.

Monitor Publishing Co., Ltd Printers and Publishers BRIDGETOWN NOVA SCOTIA

New Spring Stock In Our Men's Department Now opening at J. HARRY HICKS' Men's and Boys' Suits In the largest range ever shown in the Town. Men's Raincoats Our Spring stock of English Raincoats now open. Sizes to fit all sizes of men, from \$6.00 to \$15.00. Fancy Shirts A good assortment of smart, new patterns just put in stock. Felt Hats and Caps Our spring stock is now complete. Peabody's Overalls Guaranteed by us, 10c a button, or 25c a seam rip. Just put in stock. A call at our store will satisfy the Customers that we are doing the right.

J. HARRY HICKS Corner Queen and Granville Streets Phone 48-2

Professional Cards OWEN & OWEN J.M. Owen K.C. Daniel Owen L.L.B. BARRISTERS AT LAW Annapolis Royal Office Over Bank of Nova Scotia Office in Middleton open Thursdays. Office in Bear River open Saturdays. Money to loan on Real Estate Security

THE MONITOR JOB PRINTING DEPARTMENT is fully equipped to do all kinds of Commercial and Society Printing WE have recently added a large quantity of new and popular series of type faces to our plant and are in a better position than ever to do Job Printing in the latest ideas and with neatness and dispatch.

WE PRINT Letterheads Envelopes Billheads Statements Circulars Catalogues Shipping Tags Menus, Programs Wedding Invitations Visiting Cards "At Home" Cards We keep an unusually large quantity of Paper Stock, of all kinds, on hand in our stock room, and are, therefore, ready to fill your orders at short notice.

Monitor Publishing Co., Ltd Printers and Publishers BRIDGETOWN NOVA SCOTIA

New Spring Stock In Our Men's Department Now opening at J. HARRY HICKS' Men's and Boys' Suits In the largest range ever shown in the Town. Men's Raincoats Our Spring stock of English Raincoats now open. Sizes to fit all sizes of men, from \$6.00 to \$15.00. Fancy Shirts A good assortment of smart, new patterns just put in stock. Felt Hats and Caps Our spring stock is now complete. Peabody's Overalls Guaranteed by us, 10c a button, or 25c a seam rip. Just put in stock. A call at our store will satisfy the Customers that we are doing the right.

Professional Cards

OWEN & OWEN J.M. Owen K.C. Daniel Owen L.L.B. BARRISTERS AT LAW Annapolis Royal Office Over Bank of Nova Scotia Office in Middleton open Thursdays. Office in Bear River open Saturdays. Money to loan on Real Estate Security

CHAS. R. CHIPMAN, L.L.B. BARRISTER, SOLICITOR COMMISSIONER ETC. Shafer Building, - Bridgetown AGENT FOR CALEDONIAN INSURANCE CO. Insure your buildings in the largest and strongest company. MONEY TO LOAN Telephone 62.

Roscoe & Roscoe Money to Loan on first-class real estate security W. E. ROSCOE K. C., D. C. L. BARRY W. ROSCOE, LL.B. Barristers, Solicitors, Notaries and Insurance Agents BRIDGETOWN, N. S. Offices in Royal Bank Building

C. F. Armstrong PROVINCIAL LAND SURVEYOR Transit Work, Levelling, Draughting. MIDDLETON, - N. S. Dr. F. S. Anderson DENTAL SURGEON Graduate of the University Maryland Office: Queen Street, Bridgetown. Hours: 8 to 5.

Arthur M. Foster LAND SURVEYOR BRIDGETOWN, NOVA SCOTIA Chas. F. Whitman PROVINCIAL LAND SURVEYOR Draughting and Blue Prints Carleton Corner, Bridgetown. Leslie R. Fairn ARCHITECT Aylesford N. S.

UNDERTAKING We do undertaking in all its branches Hearse sent to any part of the County. J. H. HICKS & SONS Queen St., Bridgetown, Telephone 4 H. B. HICKS Manager

G. E. BANKS PLUMBING Furnace and Stove Repairs Bridgetown, N. S. TELEPHONE, NO 3-2 W. E. REED Funeral Director and Embalmer Latest styles in Caskets, etc. All orders will receive prompt attention. Hearse sent to all parts of the county. Phone 76-4.

The First Week in September Is the beginning of one busy season. Is it better not to wait till then. Get started before the rush begins. Send for our New Catalogue. S. KERR Principal CASH MARKET Prime Beef, Fresh Pork, Lamb, Chicken, Hams and Bacon, Sausages, Headcheese, Pressed Beef, Mince Meat, Corned Beef and Pork, Salt Mackerel, Boneless Cod. Fresh Fish every Thursday

Thomas Mack J. H. MacLEAN Plumber and Tinsmith Furnace work a specialty. Job work promptly attended to Phone 56-4 Bridgetown, N. S.