

POOR DOCUMENT

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THE STAR, ST JOHN N. B. TUESDAY, JULY 13 1909

FIVE

July 13, 1909.

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SPONGE FINDING.

The Work on the Florida Coast Controlled by Greeks.

There are two places where sponge fishing can best be studied--Tarpon Springs, on the west coast of Florida, and Batabano, on the south coast of Cuba. In Florida the business is conducted with all the ceremony and science which the money of a New York corporation can control. In Cuba on the contrary, it is pursued with all the primitiveness and leisure associated with sponge fishing since classic times.

In Florida the fishing is mostly done by professional divers. Greeks who have migrated from the Old World to the New to follow their calling. In the Greek quarter at Tarpon you may see Greek houses, Greek costumes and hear the Greek language. Even the boats from which the divers work, boats of immense strength, 40 feet by 16 feet, are brought from Greece. The divers in the Gulf wear diving suits of the most modern and perfect make. The dress is heavily weighted with lead and leaden shoes are worn. The men carry only a large sponge bag.

The sponges are found at about a hundred feet, and the diver walks along, gathering them as he goes. The boat followed him on the surface pumping fresh air to him and hauling up the full and lowering the empty bags. The diver often remains down for two or three hours, continually walking and gathering. The diving suits are so perfect and the water so clear there is little risk except from sharks. These monsters infest the Gulf waters and many are the thrilling encounters the divers report. The divers carry no weapons and a knife would be worse than useless. If one shark was driven off or even killed the first trace of blood would bring

a dozen more circling around. The suits are so heavy it is impossible to move away. The only course when a man-eater appears on the scene is to remain absolutely still, for the shark will not touch anything it thinks dead. This is a counsel of perfection for it requires more than ordinary nerve to remain motionless with a man-eater nosing around.

At Batabano the Cuban fishermen still employ the old sky glass and rake methods which were in vogue in Florida before the latest commercializing methods revolutionized the industry. The Cuban goes out in a small chair, a cross between a river boat and a canoe, carrying his professional instruments. These latter drop a pole 20 to 30 feet long fitted at the end with a three-pronged rake, and a large bucket from which the bottom has been knocked out and substituted by a piece of ordinary window glass. By means of this glass the sponges can be distinctly seen on the bottom of the sea.

With no small skill the rake is brought into play, the sponges harpooned and the catch brought to the surface. The whole process of sponge fishing is a laborious and tedious and requires a patience and a practice beyond belief. To maintain oneself in a shallow skiff without upsetting and at the same time to spy out sponges through the glass bottom of an inverted bucket and further to acquire those sponges on the end of a 50-foot pole is a complication of arts. The sponge being an animal it is necessary to kill it. This is done by exposing it for several hours on the broad decks of the boats. In summer they soon die, but in winter it takes a long time owing to the weaker force of the sun. After death they are brought ashore and put in the cradles. These are enclosures made on the seashore by setting stakes a little apart from each other. The ebb and flow of the tide wash the animal matter from the sponge and the work is completed by manual labor. They are then taken to the packing-house, graded, string and baled. —Florida Times-Journal.

GLASTONBURY, THE VALHALLA OF EMPIRE

Two interesting suggestions have been made with regard to the Empire. One is that Glastonbury Abbey (handed over to the Church of England the other day) shall be made a cemetery for the Empire, and the other is that there shall be a special room in the National Portrait Gallery for the men who have built up the British Empire.

The first suggestion is due to Rev. C. L. Marson, who outlined his project in the Nation.

THE MAKERS OF ENGLAND.

"It was the religious centre in which grew up the work of the makers of England—Alfred, St. Dunstan, Edgar, and Athelstan. It was the burial place of King Arthur, and the home of his romance. Thus English, Irish, Scots and Welsh are equally concerned in it. It is the one shrine in all the Empire where each wave and race of men has worshipped continuously at one altar.

"For over three centuries and a half the sacred acres have been widowed and desolate. Now there is life stirring there once more. Something is to be done.

"What we really want is what some jovial pagans of the Press call a Valhalla, what might be better described as a cemetery for the Empire, where each one of the new nations should have a portion, with power to send the bones of those who die in honor or to life in that holy ground, with as much faith and hope as they can muster.

A REMINDER TO NEW LANDS.

"Imagine what it would be to visit Glastonbury and muse not only of those who have done great things and thought mighty thoughts in a remote past, but on those who have been and known and loved and obeyed—the men who led us, not only in battle and in law, but in song, in color, in witty invention, discovery, exploration, and in any great deed or thought.

"What a fine reminder to the new and naked lands, to breed, not millionaires, wheat kings, corn, beef, oil, or tomato king, but men whom all nations would equally delight to praise and approve. What finer reproof could be given to the inhabitants of any quarter of the Empire than to notice that their share of the plot was empty or filled with braggers and local nobodies?

GIVE US YOUR DEAD.

"This plan would give some real use and future history to the Abbey. There is no need for the old wealth and bigness, for the many attempts at elaborate machinery. These things did not belong to its best period, and in effect caused its downfall and ruin. There is no need for huge collections, magnificent bequests, lands in seven counties.

"All that is needed is to say to each one of our kingdoms, 'Give us your great dead,' or, if they hold these too dear, as is not unlikely, 'Give us your memorial to those whom you hold dear to your heart.' There would be

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ASEPTO SOAP POWDER

As ASEPTO is an anti-septic preparation, it is a germ-killer as well as the best soap powder made. Odorless, harmless to clothes and hands, most economical. ASEPTO makes the best soft soap. Dissolve a package in boiling water, pour in two gallons of water, stir and let stand until cool. This gives two gallons of soft soap for 5c.

Discerning grocers all sell ASEPTO.

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a great response to this, and, perhaps—who knows?—another great Church might naturally arise there, built not by sudden contact, but by slow growth and much love, as it should be. But that matters less.

"The great Abbey Church was one hundred and nineteen years building and was adorned by the work of another two hundred and thirty, so that a good many years are likely to pass before this becomes a finished and embodied thought. In the meantime, there is no other plan proposed, and certainly none that is worthy of so splendid a past, and full of possibility for a splendid future, as this—to make Glastonbury the sleeping ground of our great dead."

IMPERIAL PORTRAIT GALLERY.

"The Empire, in the opinion of the Overseas League, is most inadequately represented in the present collection of portraits," says the Evening Standard. "Some of the greatest of the Empire-builders find places in the Gallery, but there are many missing and the pictures of those who are there are widely scattered.

"One of the proposals is to have an Empire Room. This part of the scheme, it is suggested, might be carried out once, and it is to be before the trustees of the Gallery at an early date. A substantial nucleus is provided by the portraits of Empire-builders already on the walls. The intention of the League is to institute an Overseas Portrait Fund."

MEDICOS LEAVE TODAY TO ATTEND ANNUAL MEETING

Several local physicians leave today for Charlottetown, P. E. I., to attend the 18th annual meeting of the Maritime Medical Association being held July 14th and 15th.

Among those who will attend are Dr. A. Pierce Crockett and wife, Dr. Murray McLaren, Dr. G. G. Corbett and wife, Dr. S. Skinner, Dr. G. G. Melvin and wife, Dr. W. B. McVey and Dr. H. D. Fyfe of St. John, and Dr. Atherton and W. C. Crockett of Fredericton.

The session opens at 10 a. m. Wednesday, and after routine business Mayor Prowse will give an address of welcome to the delegates.

Dr. F. C. Murphy of Timbali will preside. During the convention the following papers will be read by local physicians: "When to Operate in Suppuration of Middle Ear," Dr. A. Pierce Crockett; "Demonstration of Skiagrams with Special Reference to Fractures," Dr. G. G. Corbett; "Etymology of Consumption," Dr. W. B. McVey; "Case of Cerebral Tumor," Dr. Murray McLaren; title to be announced, Dr. S. Skinner.

The treatment of tuberculosis will receive considerable attention, as several well informed men will read treatises, among them being Drs. A. G. Corbett, Sarason, N. Y., J. W. Flinn, Prescott, Arizona, and M. C. Dickson of Londonderry, N. S.

Entertainments for the visitors will include excursions on the river, a visit to the asylum, smokers, concert, etc., which should prove most enjoyable.

GREAT SHAKEUP AT WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 12.—The greatest "shake-up" that ever has occurred in the personnel of the Department of Commerce was a fact today when approximately 100 employees were reduced and the resignations of about ten others were accepted. This action was taken by Secretary Nagle as the result of an investigation into the "efficiency record" of the employees in his department. The reductions were made, it is stated.

THE KETTLEDRUM.

It is an Instrument That is Pretty Difficult to Handle.

The kettledrum has been so far proven that it has a pitch; in fact, it contains the large range of four notes. It is, as its name shows, a copper kettle, or basin, covered over with skin which can be tightened or loosened by screws placed around the edge. Drums of this shape were used by the Romans, and even earlier by the Greeks and Egyptians. But they were not known in western Europe before the crusades.

Although it may appear so, the kettledrum is not at all an easy instrument to manage, for in order to set each of the four notes the player has to tune the whole orchestra by lifting up its voice we realize that he must be no mean musician, that he must possess an exquisitely sensitive and well trained ear and a steady hand and nerve as well—Jesse K. MacDonald in St. Nicholas.

Thursday We Start Our Annual Mid-Summer Sale of Men's and Boys' Clothing and Furnishings

It only needs the mere announcement of this sale to bring to our clothing floor the hundreds of men, youths and boys who have been waiting for the chance to supply their present and future clothing needs at the wonderful savings this sale affords.

Repeated comparisons have proved conclusively that no matter how great the inducement offered at other stores no one can get such worth for his money anywhere as he can at Oak Hall—sale time and all other times.

Many of our customers will come to this sale from out of town—some from great distances—for they know the savings are too big to be missed, no matter how far they have to journey to take advantage of them.

There are sizes to fit all men, young or old—short or tall, stout or slim—and all boys as well.

MEN'S CLOTHING—Really Reduced

\$6.50 Fancy Tweed Suits reduced to \$4.30
7.50 Fancy Tweed Suits reduced to 5.15
10.00 Fancy Tweed Suits reduced to 7.35
12.00 Fancy Worsteds reduced to 8.35
15.00 Fancy Worsteds reduced to 10.65
8.00 Raincoats reduced to 5.95
12.00 Raincoats reduced to 9.45

BOYS' CLOTHING—Really Reduced

2 Piece Suits that were \$3.00 now \$2.45
2 Piece Suits that were 4.50 now 3.60
3 Piece Suits that were 3.50 now 2.85
3 Piece Suits that were 5.00 now 3.95
3 Piece Suits that were 8.00 now 6.40
Reefers and Overcoats at great reductions
Washable Suits reduced one-third and less

Ask to See These Special Bargains

A lot of Men's Tweed and Worsteds Suits sold down to one's and two's of a kind now marked half price.

\$10.00 Suits now \$5.00; \$12.00 Suits now \$6.00; \$15.00 Suits now \$7.50; \$18.00 Suits now \$9.00

A lot of Men's Mackintoshes in broken sizes to be sold at half price.

A lot of Boys' Norfolk Suits, regular prices \$2.50, 2.75, 3.00; Special sale price \$1.89

Closed All Day Wednesday. Sale Starts Thursday Morning.

During this sale all the usual privileges accorded to customers—excepting sending goods on approval—will prevail. We will make all the necessary alterations free of charge. Any garment that proves unsatisfactory can be returned and the money paid for it will be refunded.

GREATER OAK HALL,

SCOVIL BROS. Ltd., St. John, N.B.

NOW A SEA SERPENT.

Python Escaped From Steamer After Fight With Captain and Crew.

(New York Evening Post.)

In the course of the next few weeks watch ships coming from Asiatic ports for sea serpent yarns. The British freighter Indragama, now discharged cargo at the Bush docks, solved the need for a plentiful crop while crossing the Indian Ocean bound from Singapore to New York.

Besides loading a valuable cargo of Oriental goods at Singapore, the Indragama took on board a tapir, a leopard, a young orang-outang, and three pythons, the latter being unusually large. Captain Evans had much experience in handling all manner of jungle folk, and has gone shipmate with every thing from the tamest of monkeys to the fiercest lion. As for snakes, he handles them like so many babies of goods. The biggest and ugliest of the trio shipped at Singapore gave the captain a surprise, however, and taught him a wholesome respect for the entire python family.

The Indragama, loaded down to her gunwale, was plying along at the usual freighter's pace across the Indian Ocean, the tropical sun blistering her decks, and making even the Lascars seek shady spots. The animals cooped up in cages on the main deck fumed and fretted with the heat, and protested at the narrow confines of their quarters. Even the pythons, usually quiescent in a torpor-like sleep, were restless, and when Capt. Evans on a tour of inspection lifted the lid of their box the largest of the trio made a dart at him in a desperate effort to coil itself about his body. The captain has a method of controlling unruly snakes. He caught the python by the neck, and crossing thumb and forefinger at the base of the head, sought to benumb it.

This made no more impression on the python than it would have made on a six-inch fire hose, "alive" with water. The python wriggled free from the box and fought to coil itself around the skipper. With his one free hand the captain held off the huge snake, while the other being riddled with holes, he succeeded in reaching it and hauled the python from him.

For a moment the snake was stunned, and then the skipper took advantage of its helplessness to reach the companion ladder and climb to the upper deck. By the time Capt. Evans had armed himself and returned to the attack, the snake had recovered and was making its way forward to the place where

members of the crew were lying, having also climbed the companion ladder. The first to see the monster was a Malay, resting in the shade of the mainmast. The python was only a few feet away, and with a howl to his companions, the sailor made a leap for the rigging, going up hand-over-hand. The other men scattered in all directions. Some bolted down the forecastle, and stolidly refused to come down to aid the officers in the snake hunt that ensued.

For hours Capt. Evans and the mates tried unsuccessfully to recapture the reptile. Finally, tired of the game of hide and seek, the python wriggled through a hawse pipe and disappeared into the sea, swimming lazily in the ship's wake with head well up in its new role of sea serpent.

Even when the Malays and Lascars who sought safety aloft refused to return to duty, it was time to change tactics, but some of each shift were perched on the crossrees, and others safely battened down in the forecastle. Both disregarded orders until the captain and his mates had hugged the big box containing the other two pythons up on deck and convinced them that the snakes were still in captivity.

This was only one of several exciting incidents logged by the Indragama's captain after leaving New York in December last. While running from Cebu to Singapore, in April, smoke was discovered, about 5 o'clock one morning, coming from the forward hold. All hands were piced, and when the hatches were uncovered flames burst out in the faces of the men. Second Officer Cox and two seamen were scorched and overcome by the fumes. It was found that fire had started in a lot of hemp, and when the hatches were opened, the draft caused it to burn briefly. Finding it impossible to fight the fire with the hatch opened, Captain Evans ordered the covers put on and battened down. This was accomplished with great difficulty in the face of the flames.

Then the crew started to build a false bulkhead athwart decks, while the engineers were ordered to cut the rivet heads in the deck plates over the hold. It was not an easy job, for the deckplates were hot. By the time the bulkheads were connected and made water-tight, to serve as a dam, the engineers had completed their task, the forward hatch being riddled with holes. The pumps were then started and the deck flooded. The improvised bulkhead kept the water from working aft, and it filtered through the bolt holes to the burning cargo below, finally extinguishing the fire.

Snakes and fire were not the only features of the voyage. In the Japan Sea a succession of typhoons struck the vessel, keeping her officers on the bridge for seventy hours, in an effort to carry the ship through to safety. As a fitting climax the steamship ran in-

to a hurricane just south of the Gulf Stream, and a lively twelve hours ensued.

14 OF CREW GO TO THE BOTTOM

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich., July 12.

Three minutes after the steel steamer, Isaac M. Scott and John B. Cowie, had collided in Lake Superior early this morning, about a mile and a half off Whitefish Point Lighthouse, the Cowie had gone to the bottom in 39 fathoms of water, carrying with her 14 members of her crew. The Scott, although barely damaged about the bows, put back to this port, where she arrived this afternoon, with part of the crew of the Cowie. A heavy fog, which had been on her course up through the fog, only a few feet away down-bound with 8,000 tons of iron ore on her hold.

CLOCK MADE OF BICYCLES.

A clever Frenchman named Alphonse Duhamel has constructed a timepiece twelve feet high, composed entirely of bicycles or their component parts. The framework is a huge bicycle wheel, round which are arranged twelve ordinary sized wheels, all fitted with pneumatic tires. A rim with in the large wheels bears the figures for the hours, the figures themselves being constructed of crank rods. The hands are made of steel tubing which is used for the framework of bicycles. The minute strokes on the dial are small nickel-plated pieces. The top of the clock is an arrangement of twelve handle bars. The clock strikes the hours and the quarters, bicycle bells, of course, making the chiming. The pendulum is made of various parts of a bicycle frame. It is said that the clock, besides being a curiosity, is an excellent time piece.

OSTRACIZED DEPUTY.

PARIS, July 9.—M. Bardon, who carried through the law increasing the salaries of himself and his colleagues in the French chamber, has made himself so unpopular that no electorate will have him and he has been obliged to withdraw from politics.

Be Temperate!

Dewar's Whisky and Common Sense

Make a perfect Blend