

What a N.F. Sailor Performed.

Erected Flag-Pole With "Shears."

By H. F. SHORTIS.

It has always been stated that no man in the world is certain to come across more of the ubiquitous Irishman, but to those of us who have followed the history of our own countrymen the same remark may be applied. It is this to be wondered at, because during the sixties of the past century, and at later dates, hundreds of our Newfoundland sea-faring men have emigrated to the United States, Canada and elsewhere, and entered the Navy and mercantile marine of these countries. They were eagerly sought after and employed, and very many of them attained high positions in the service. They were remarkable for their agility, seamanship, love of adventure and contempt of danger. They were trained from childhood on board our great fleet of ice-hunters, very many of which their fathers were owners and masters, when they prosecuted the seal-fishery in years gone by, inured to all the dangers and storms of the Arctic regions. During the summer months, and from October to February, they manned our mercantile marine, and thus they became the most competent sailors in the world, and their history is written in the annals of our country from our earliest days. By their pluck, perseverance and hardihood they conquered the storms and hurricanes of the ocean, and none but Newfoundland sailors could have withstood the frost, snow and ice as they did in their determination to reach the Coast of Newfoundland during the winter voyages. They were mariners to be proud of, and few of them but could make the sails, rig and spar the ship, and all these qualifications were turned to good account when the depression in trade and the innovation of steam compelled our great sailing fleet to become almost a thing of the past, and give way to modern ideas and improvements. In every emergency the Newfoundland sailor was to the fore, and with his natural ingenuity he conquered all obstacles, and this fact I shall establish in the following little story.

We hear so much these days of what scientists can perform, that I think it only just and proper to relate an episode wherein an old Newfoundland sailor overcame a difficulty that puzzled the scientists and compelled them to take a back seat. Not many years ago when the Canadian Pacific Railway Company had accomplished their task of building their lines to Vancouver, and erected their immense hotel in that city, it occurred to the General Manager that it would be a splendid advertisement for the Lumber Industry of British Columbia if they were to place on the ground a flag pole from one of the wonderfully great Douglas Fir Trees that grew to such extraordinary heights in that Province. These trees grow as straight as an arrow to a height of from 200 to 300 feet, and measure many feet in circumference. It is needless to say that the best tree was selected by the engineers and hove in charge, and it was conveyed to Vancouver, where it was shaped and fashioned into a flag pole. When it was completed what was the consternation of those eminent engineers? And that notwithstanding all their scientific ability, not one of them knew how to get the pole on end. It was a splendid stick, and being such length, and of such a heavy weight, they were completely perplexed. They found themselves in such a pishion

great rope was stretching or giving, and it looked as if the entire arrangement would collapse, which would not alone cause the loss of the monument, but the loss of life also, as the multitude was crowding as near as possible to the scene of operations. The boldest held their breath, when a voice was heard: "Wet your rope, wet your rope." It was the voice of an old sailor who recognized at a glance the true state of affairs. The engineers were in a terrible dilemma, but the suggestion of the old sailor was acted on at once, and the monument went into its place like a charm. In recognition of this old sailor's service the authorities granted him and his descendants the exclusive right to sell palms in St. Peter's Square on Palm Sundays.

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Nicaragua Grants British Demand

On Tuesday, April 30, 1895, a remarkable event occurred in Nicaragua, a republic occupying the largest State of Central America, its 51,660 square miles extending from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic. Of about 210,000 inhabitants, one quarter are American natives, known as the Indians by the first European discoverer of that continent, and others are of a savage race named Mosquitos, while the rest are mostly of mixed descent. It was, therefore, not surprising that they did not then know the sort of treatment which the British Government would require. Mr. Hatch was serving as British pro-Vice-Consul at Bluefield, on its Atlantic coast and he was accused of conspiracy against the Nicaraguan Government and was arrested, along with other British subjects, and expelled. The present Earl of Rosebery was then Prime Minister, and on March 19, 1895, £15,000 were demanded from Nicaragua as reparation for these injuries. Nicaragua, on April 15, proposed that all the questions should be referred to impartial arbitration; but, on the 22nd, three British ships arrived at Corinto, a seaport on its west coast, and on the 24th demanded this compensation to be paid within three days, which was refused on the 26th. Corinto was therefore taken possession of on the 27th by a party of British marines and bluejackets, who landed from H. M. S. "Royal Arthur," without opposition, and Captain Trench was installed as Governor. On April 3, Nicaragua agreed to pay £15,000 within 15 days after the British ships should retire from Corinto, which they did. A commercial treaty between Nicaragua and Britain was signed in April, 1905.

While I am at it I may as well tell the story (although doubtless many have heard it before) of how an old Italian sailor was rewarded on a certain occasion, and it puts us to shame, when we think of the little we do here in Newfoundland to perpetuate the deeds of our countrymen, and I need but mention as an example the heroic action of Joe Robbins, of Lower Island Cove, who was the first man to scale the walls of Sebastopol. The great deed of the Italian took place in the great Square in front of St. Peter's Cathedral, Rome.

A large monument was being erected and placed in position and the Square or Plaza was thronged with people to celebrate the event. The strictest silence was enforced and it meant death to any person who made a remark. Those supervising the work had all arrangements made, and operations commenced. After a time it was found, owing to the tremendous weight of the monument, that the

Giant Reservoir.

With the enormous capacity of 60,000,000 gallons, the British Admiralty's new oil-fuel reservoir has been completed at Rosyth. The reservoir, which is to be used for the storage of fuel for H. M. ships in the Firth of Forth, is built of concrete on a rock foundation, the site being the bed of the sandstone quarry known as Howe's Cove, from which stone was quarried for the purpose of building the new dockyard. The use of concrete as a material of construction for oil reservoirs of large size is a novelty. The amount deposited totalled about 93,500 cubic yards, and the rock excavated was upwards of 800,000 cubic yards. The area occupied by the reservoir and surrounding roadway, pipe track, etc., is 1 1/4 acres, and the roof area 7 1/3 acres. The final testing of the reservoir was carried out by pumping salt water into it from the Firth of Forth at the rate of 4,000 gallons per minute by means of a suction dredger outfit and a temporary pipe line 24 inches in diameter and 2,400 feet in length.

When you want something in a hurry for tea, go to ELLIS'—Head Cheese, Ox Tongue, Boiled Ham, Cooked Corned Beef, Bologna Sausage.

Morning frocks are slightly tailored. Long-coat costumes are of white serge. Japanese embroideries are in evidence.

Well Merited Promotion.

We are pleased to know that Capt. William Haynes, of Catalina, has received a letter from the Minister of Militia, conveying him his congratulations of the splendid conduct of his son Sergt. William Haynes, 1974. The following was taken from a supplement to the London Gazette: "For conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty on the 13th April, 1918, while in command of a platoon, the enemy attacked in strength and forced a gap on the left flank of the battalion. Under very heavy fire he led his platoon to a counter-attack, re-organized the line and held it against further attacks."

Sergt. Haynes went to France in June, 1916, was in the July and October 1916, and was being wounded was with the Regiment all winter in France. On the 14th April drive, 1917, at the Battle of Monchy, he was wounded in the right hand from which the Sergeant suffered severely. Since receiving the D.C.M. Sergt. Haynes has been promoted to Lieutenant, and the people of Catalina feel proud of Lieut. Haynes, 1974, and join with the Minister of Militia in congratulating Captain and Mrs. Wm. Haynes on the honor for conspicuous bravery and devotion bestowed on him. We hope Lieut. Haynes and his brother Adam Haynes, who was wounded with the Canadians in France, will soon be returning home. Lieut. Adam Haynes, well known in St. John's, served as clerk at Ayre & Sons, removed some six years ago to Calgary, Alberta, Canada, where his wife and family at present reside.

Catalina, April 28, 1919.

He Misunderstood Her.

Miss Simpkins was a lady of uncertain appearance and age, and rather frightened De Vere, who was a young assistant in a chemist's shop, by her persistent demonstration of friendship. He flattered himself that every girl and woman fell madly in love with him. He felt sure she meant to hook him. But chance threw them alone one day, and De Vere felt that his hour had come.

"Mr. De Vere," she said, "I can no longer bear this unspeakable anguish. I have at last plucked up courage to ask you a question which concerns my future happiness and comfort. Will—will you be—"

"My dear lady," gasped De Vere, breaking out into a cold perspiration, "it would break my heart to refuse. I have every regard and respect for—"

"Sir! what do you mean?" gasped Miss Simpkins. "Surely you can't object to my asking what corn-cure you can recommend?"

Spanish Flu

Claims Many Victims in Canada and should be guarded against.

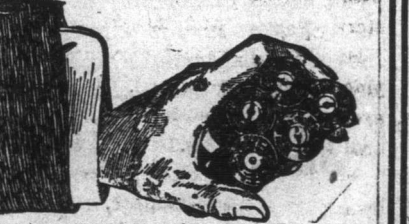
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Winnie Scored.

Once upon a time the War Secretary grew a moustache. "Do you know, Mr. Churchill, that I like your moustache, as little as I like your political views," a frivolous little lady said to him, rather tartly, at a certain reception. "That is of no consequence, madam," was the instant reply, "since you are never likely to come into contact with either."

Bolshevism is about the only thing that now bears the made-in-Germany mark.



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