

Canadian National Exhibition

August 27th to
September 12th

Naval Review at
Spithead

Battle between Dread-
nought and Airship

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Grenadier Guards

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Military Tattoo

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Pictures

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WRITE THE PRINCIPAL FOR CALENDAR
REV. J. J. HARE, Ph.D.
Whitby, Ont.

The Tunnel Runners CONCLUDED FROM PAGE 17.

a little below his back door. Some one with an ax was chopping a hole in the ice. The brown mouse swam away down stream again as fast as he could. Hiding himself in a remote air chamber, he waited for the noises to cease. Then, with trepidation, he swam up stream again.

As he neared home, he saw a round beam of light pouring downward to the stream's bed through a hole in the ice. In the midst of this light there hung, moving softly to the slow current, a big lump of fat pork. The brown mouse did not know it was pork; but he knew at once it was something very good to eat. Very cautiously he swam up to investigate it. In fact, he was just going to nibble it, when, just a few feet farther up stream, those terrifying sounds began again. The brown mouse took them as a warning and fled down stream again in a panic.

In a few minutes the noise stopped. The courage of the brown mouse returned. As he swam once more homeward, firmly resolved that he would taste that delectable mystery on his way, a chill in his spine made him remember the great pike and look back.

There was the great pike, a long, dreadful shadow, gliding up behind him!

The brown mouse, as we have said, was a wonderful swimmer. He swam now as he had never swum before; but, with all his speed, the great pike swam faster and was slowly overtaking him. Just as he passed that strange, dangling lump of pork, he realised that this was a race he could not win. The entrance to his burrow was still too far distant. But he remembered a tiny air chamber under the bank close by.

Even as he turned, however, the sense of doom descended on him. Was he not already too late? The long, awful shape of the great fish was close upon him. With a convulsive effort that almost burst his heart he gained the air chamber, scrambled halfway out of the water, and then, in that cramped space, turned at bay, game to the last gasp.

TO his amazement the great pike was not at his tail. Instead, he was still some three or four feet away, out there just in the descending beam of light from the hole in the ice. The mysterious lump of pork had disappeared; but the gasping brown mouse did not notice that. His attention was engrossed in the amazing and terrifying performances of the great pike. The long, grey-green body was darting this way and that, in and out of the beam of light; but never any great space out of it. The great jaws shook savagely from side to side—and then the mouse saw that from between them a slender gleaming cord extended upward through the hole. A moment more, and the pike sprang straight upward, with a great swirl of the water, and vanished above the ice.

It was incomprehensible, and there was something altogether appalling about it. The brown mouse shivered. For several minutes he crouched there quite still, more utterly panic-stricken than he had ever been before in all his precarious little life. At last, with hesitation, he worked his way up along the bank beneath the ice to his own tunnel. Then he scurried in all haste to hide himself in the deepest corner of his burrow. And never thereafter could he comprehend why nothing more was seen, or heard, or rumoured, of the great pike.

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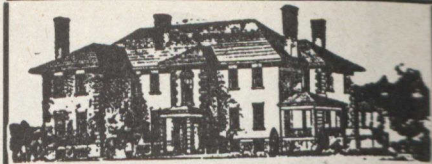
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