GOT SAILORS' "GOATS"

REMARKABLE EXPERIENCE UNNERVED BRITISH SEAMEN.

Men Refused to Stay on Ship That in Their Opinion Had "Seen the Bottom of the Sea"—Vessel Held in Thick Mud.

Not so very long ago the appearance of a new island off the coast of Alaska brought to mind other rapid uprisings of land on the ocean.

An island suddenly came to light off the coast of Sicily, remained for two months and as quickly disappeared. Sabrina, near the Azores, retired from public life before it had been fairly charted. The Gulf of Mexico has witnessed the advent and subsidence of small islands. These upheavals of the bed of the ocean suggests all sorts of mysteries connected with the unknown depths. A British vessel once had an uncanny experience in this connection.

The vessel was out twenty-three days from Manila to the Hawaiian islands. It was a silent, dead-black night. The lead showed a deep sea. Suddenly those on board felt as though they had grounded.

Daybreak revealed a low and misty sky. The Britisher lay as if becalmed in the midst of an oily sea strangely discolored in patches. Suddenly the water, to use the words of the master, "trembled." The ship rolled, and in the distance rose a huge balloon-shaped mass of vapor, steam or smoke. There was not the slightest sound, but a long line of chafing water stretched across the streaky calmness. Then the vapor settled over all, and the ship's company could hear but not see the seething and pouring water all about them. The captain ordered a bucketful to be drawn up. It was hot and smelled like the product of a gasworks. Whereupon the captain remarked that "a new continent was being poked up," adding that he wished himself well out of the way.

The air grew more oppressive every moment. The vessel gave a gentle side roll and word went round that the ship was aground. Over went the lead and came up covered with blue, oozy mud. The Britisher was wallowing in sludge, the darkness was pall-like and the atmosphere suffocatingly close. Then the air was rent with reports dreadful to hear in that darkness. There were three of these blasts and all was still again.

When the light came, red and unnatural, a strange sight met the eyes of those on board. It was as if the bottom of the Pacific had been laid bare. They were helpless in a sea of thick mud. The sulphur fumes were choking and all had to take refuge below. Hour after hour they gasped, facing the probability of a death by suffocation. Suddenly they felt that they were afloat. The bank of mud that held them had disappeared and after a time the Britisher made her way out of the gruesome spot.

When Honolulu was reached the crew deserted, for they held that there was no luck in a ship that had "seen the bottom of the sea."

Cape Cod Canal a Success.

[illegible] test of the Cape Cod canal has been declared a success. Two submarines made the trip from Boston to Newport at the rate of eleven miles an hour, and at a great saving of time, as compared with the outside route. The eight-mile trip through the canal was made in forty-five minutes, and by using this passage the submarines saved six miles of distance and avoided much rough weather. The Kiel canal was built by the Germans at a cost approaching $100,000,000, mainly for strategic purposes; yet it is a fact that the reduction of distance between the German base in the Baltic and the North sea by this canal is little greater than the gain to the American fleet, which would result from the enlargement of Cape Cod canal to accommodate our battleships between those two important stategic centers, Newport and Boston.

Shocked by T. R.'s Informality.

Harry A. Franck, famous as a world wanderer, who has just returned from a four years' hike in South America, tells the following about the impression left by Colonel Roosevelt with the natives of Paraguay:

"I got near the trail of Colonel Roosevelt, though not nearer than a couple of hundred miles. He was on his trip to the River of Doubt and I heard much about him from the natives, and from two men who had been with him, Father Zahm and Mr. Sipp. I heard many yarns about Roosevelt. At one village, in the wildest part of Central South America, hundreds of miles from civilization and peopled only by a few Indians, the inhabitants, I was told, had been greatly shocked because the colonel walked about their streets without his coat on!"—New York Times.

Chinese Minister Long a Diplomat.

Dr. Wellington Koo, who has been appointed Chinese minister to this country, in succession to Kai Fu-Shah, was until his appointment, minister to Mexico, Peru and Cuba. Doctor Koo was an undersecretary in the Chinese foreign office until recently, and as such was a member of a diplomatic commission which conducted the negotiations in Peking with the Japanese minister. He speaks English perfectly, and is a graduate of Columbia university, where he received his doctorate.

Christened With Human Blood.

Not always was a bottle of wine used in christening a ship. In the days of sacrifice to the gods, it is said, it was customary to sacrifice a human being when a boat was being launched and to cut his throat over the prow, so that his blood baptized it.

To the Man in the Trench.

For only in the mass is war vast. To the man in the trench it reduces itself to the man on his right, the man on his left, the man across, beyond the barbed wire, and a woman.—Mary Roberts Rinehart in Saturday Evening Post.

Just About.

A witty schoolmaster used to relate the story of a governess who tried to give her pupils some idea of the relative size of distant countries by saying: "Cambodia is about as large as Siam," but when this information was reproduced in a written exercise, one of the girls put it in the words: "She says Cambodia is about as large as she is."

HORSE NOT YET OBSOLETE

Will Remain, It May Be Safely Asserted, Long After Some Prophets Have Been Forgotten.

Some prophets and sons of prophets who predict that horses on the farms will soon be only a memory will have passed away, and pleasing epitaphs will be carved into the stones which mark their resting place long before their prophecies become fact. The introduction of the farm tractor will not, as some believe, remove the horses from the fields and from their pastures, Farm Machinery asserts. The advent of the street cars did not have that effect upon horses, neither did the bicycle nor automobile. Today there are more horses in this country than there were ten years ago, and prices are considerably higher. The one thing that the farm tractor will do is to supply the need of power on the farms which horses cannot give. Take away the farm tractors which are in use today and several hundred thousand horses would be required to replace them, or if horses could not be had the lands would have to go unplowed and untilled. The number of tractors now in use will be multiplied many times within the next ten years, but there will be as many horses in this country as there are today, and prices will be even higher than now.

Farm tractors are becoming a necessity, just as electric street cars have become—the same as telephones have supplanted the telegraph in a way and have taken the place of messenger boys and quick delivery of mail. No one will agree that there are not more miles of telegraph wire in use today than ten years ago, nor can it be said that there are fewer messenger boys, yet the telephone is in almost every business house and in many households, doing work for which there was little demand a few years ago.

The farm tractors will simply fit into the greater needs of the country and will do the heavier chores and drudgery which horses are little fit for. They will not replace the horses, but will simply assist them and make life easier for them. They will also enable farmers to breed better horses because their mothers will be kept for that purpose instead of spending half or more of their time in doing heavy work. Let us not dream too long upon the practicability of the horseless farm. It is a long way off, as yet.

"Bowl of Death."

The latest thriller for amusement parks and similar institutions is a so-called "bowl of death," which turns from a horizontal to a vertical position and then back again as the rider drives his motorcycle at high speed around the rim. A picture of this device appears in the Popular Mechanics Magazine. The bowl is made up of segments of perforated steel, is 15 feet in diameter and is hemispherical in shape except for a flat section at the center and a sharp inward curve at the rim designed to furnish the rider some degree of protection against the danger of running off the edge. When the motorcyclist begins his ride the bowl is horizontal, with the open side up. As soon as the machine attains sufficient speed to ride on the vertical edge the bowl is slowly swung to a position in which the open side is vertical.

Farming on a Precipice.

On mountain slopes so steep as to appear quite worthless for agriculture, the rice growers of the Philippine islands are producing crops upon made-to-order farms. These famous terraces of the mountain province extend as far as the eye can reach, a work of patience rivaling the pyramids. Imagine a whole mountain laid out in ledge above ledge, the walls almost perpendicular, the strip of field graded just enough to allow the water to flow from one terrace to another without violence, so that every acre is irrigated but not washed out by the current.

The work appears too vast to be the work of human beings. In fact it might better represent some great upheaval of the earth's crust.—Popular Science Monthly.

Growth of Rubber Industry.

The world's production of crude rubber last year amounted to 142,000 tons. This is a substantial increase over 1914. Of this amount of rubber 75,000 tons is used in the United States, and of that amount more than one-half finds its way into Akron, O., the home of the tire industry. It is a matter of record that in 1905 75,000 acres of land were devoted to rubber culture, and in 1915 there were 1,330,000 acres devoted to this industry.

More Noise Than Harmony.

It is said that a din will be produced in a new Richard Strauss symphony by the following instruments: Eight horns, four trumpets, four trombones, two bass tubas, two harps, an organ and celesta, bass drums, kettledrums, bells, cymbals, triangles, tom-tom and a shepherd's bell, also eighten first violins, sixteen second violins, twelve violas, ten violoncellos, eight double basses, two large flutes, oboes and clarinets.

Prophets of Self-Sacrifice.

The bishop of Hereford is in the field again, this time with a beautifully-worded demand that we should all be self-sacrificing and give up smoking. The appeal, I confess, arrested the after-breakfast match on its way to my after-breakfast pipe—till I discovered that the bishop is not himself a smoker. How grateful we ought to be to our vicarious prophets of self-sacrifice!—London Evening Standard.

Removing Stains.

Corn starch will remove stains from the dinner frock or party gown. One woman dropped grease on a delicate colored silk frock and put corn starch thickly on the under side, hung up the frock and in a few hours not a trace of grease remained. When the same woman forgot her shields and came home with perspiration stains she treated them to a liberal bath of corn starch while moist and not a stain showed when the goods dried.

Electric Restaurants.

A large mining company has installed an electric restaurant 150 yards in from the foot of the shaft in one of its mines. Here food is cooked or heated electrically, and hot coffee is prepared by the same means. Since most of the important coal mines already use electric power underground for power purposes, there should be little difficulty in establishing subterranean electric restaurants in any of them.

SUPERIOR ROTATIONS FOR THE CORN BELT

Wheat Field in Michigan.

(By CARL VROOMAN, Assistant Secretary of Department of Agriculture.)

In a bulletin of the United States department of agriculture writen to suggest to the corn belt farmer of the middle West some ways of "cashing in" the scientific advice offered him in hundreds of bulletins already published, Carl Vrooman, assistant secretary of the department, devotes a section to the discussion of the best rotations. "Not until you get clover or some other legume into your scheme of farming," he says, "do you have a rotation that pays dividends in bigger crops. Many farmers think they are keeping up to date and farming scientifically if they have five or ten acres in alfalfa and get a stand of clover on a twenty or thirty-acre field once in two or three years. This is a serious mistake. The productivity of a farm is not being kept up on a permanent basis unless annually at least one-fourth of that farm is made to grow legumes, which are either plowed under as stable manure or green manure."

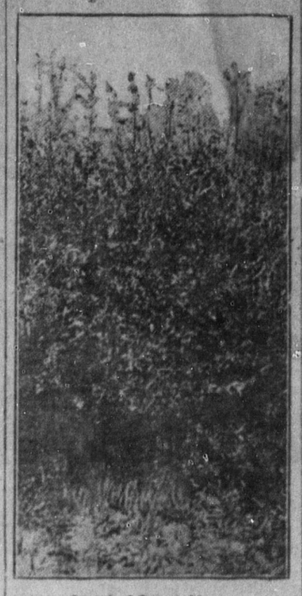
The corn-oats system becomes effective when a year of clover is added and the rotation runs corn, oats, clover. In sections where oats do not produce good yields wheat may be substituted.

The importance of including clover in the rotation, however, has been definitely established by a long series of experiments carried on in Illinois. As far back as 1879 two rotations were started, one being corn and oats and the other corn, oats and clover. These rotations were continued without change. During the years from 1901 to 1911 the average yield of corn in the

Excellent Field of Corn.

former was only 38.1 bushels per acre, while in the latter it was 57.2.

What is known as "standard Illinois rotation" is the following: Corn, oats with clover seeding, clover, wheat. In this rotation one of the chief advantages is that wheat follows the legume and there is thus plenty of time to prepare the ground for it. It is becoming also a general practice in some parts of the corn belt to seed sweet clover in



Stand of Sweet Clover.

wheat. After the wheat is harvested the clover makes a rank growth and may be plowed under in the fall or following spring. In this way in each four-year rotation there are two legume crops to plow under and at the same time three grain crops to harvest. The rotation may be changed to a five-year one by adding an extra year of corn if this is desired.

If the farm is badly run down and much organic matter and nitrogen must be added to the soil before the corn can be raised profitably, sweet clover seeded in the wheat may be allowed to stand over for a crop the following year. The rotation will then be as follows: Corn, oats with clover seeding, clover, wheat with sweet clover seeding, sweet clover.

If a short rotation is desired, one that will be effective in building up a run-down farm is the following: Corn, rye with clover and timothy seeding, clover and timothy. The rye is seeded in the standing corn and the clover and timothy seeded in the rye early in the following spring. The rye is hogged off and, as the clover matures, part of it is used for hog pasture and part for hay. The clover-timothy sod is then turned under for corn. Under this plan all the rye grown is left where it is produced and all the cornstalks cut up and worked into the soil. Furthermore, all the manure made by the hogs in gathering the rye and corn is left in the field.

TREATMENT OF POTATO SEED

Solution of Commercial Formalin and Water Will Destroy Disease Spores of Tubers.

Potato diseases such as fusarium, stem rot and scab, live over winter on the seed and in the soil. Planting infected seed in diseased soil simply perpetuates the disease. The way to prevent scab is to disinfect seed potatoes and plant them in clean soil upon which the crop has not been grown for several years preceding. Thorough treatment with a solution of one pint commercial formalin to 40 gallons water will destroy disease spores. Corrosive sublimate also can be used. Dissolve four ounces in five gallons hot water and after it cools add 25 gallons water. Soak the tubers for one and a half hours in this solution, when they may be cut and planted.

Leg Bands Are Cheap.

Leg bands are very cheap. When you sort out your pullets, band the right leg; next year band the left leg and the third year do not band. The fourth year dispose of hens with band on right leg and begin over by banding right leg. Or get celluloid bands, using different colors for each year. This is better than toe marking young chicks.

Working Ahead.

If the manure is hauled out during the winter a hard job is completed when spring opens up, and the team is ready for plowing rather than hauling manure for a week or two.

PROFITS FROM A DAIRY HERD

Cow, to Be Most Productive Must Have Care and Consideration Due to Animal Mother.

(By H. M. COTTRELL.)

The man to make the most profits from a dairy herd must be a gentleman—kind, considerate, progressive, intelligent. Milk is the product of motherhood. The cow is a mother and gives milk to develop the life of her baby, the calf. The dairy cow, to be made most productive, must have the care and consideration due to every animal mother. She must have milk producing feed and feed that will develop fully her unborn calf while she is milking. She must have bodily comfort—shelter, water, salt, shade in hot weather, and pure air all the time. She must be petted. When a man takes her calf away from the cow and milks her, he becomes for the time to her a secondhand calf. The cow loves her calf and is happy when she is giving milk to it. The more the dairyman can pet his cows, make them comfortable and make them like him as they do their calves, the more milk they will give and the richer will be the milk. This sounds like "gush" but is cold business truth that closely followed will bring profits.

Winter-Killed Peach Tree.

A peach tree, after it has been winter-killed, may be cut back to stubs a foot or two long, and if the ends are painted and if the roots are in good condition, a new top will grow to take the place of the one that was killed.

It Might Be Tried.

Sonny, six, is very much averse to anything that is "sissified." One day while watching me dress his younger brother in a much befrilled little suit he suddenly blurted out: "Mamma, it's a wonder you wouldn't put a corset on Archie."

Latest Diving Suit.

A diving suit made of aluminum alloy is one of the latest inventions. It is claimed that by means of this suit divers can do salvage work at extraordinary depths. They have, for example, already used the new armor at a depth of 212 feet, and there are possibilities of deeper descents.

Desert by No Means All Sand.

The French, who have been the greatest explorers of the Sahara desert, have corrected many false ideas about the desert. The most conspicuous and persistent of these errors has been the notion that the desert is a vast area of sand. The French have proved that this is not so. In fact, only about a fifth of the Sahara is covered with sand.

Florence Nightingale's Gift.

On her return from the Crimea Florence Nightingale was given $250,000, which she devoted to founding the Nightingale Home for Training Nurses.

Descended From Crusaders.

The Touaregs, a Sahara desert tribe, whose members wear veils so continually that near relatives are said not to recognize each other if the garment in question happens to be removed, are direct descendants of a party of crusaders who were lost on the way to conquer Jerusalem and Mecca.

Plant Study.

The study of plant forms opens to us a world of grace, harmony and beauty that is not without influence upon the esthetic feelings, and the appreciation of art. Intimately involved as is the vegetable kingdom with the ever-changing aspects of nature, it is well fitted to attract the mind to the fine features of scenery and the grand effects of the natural world.

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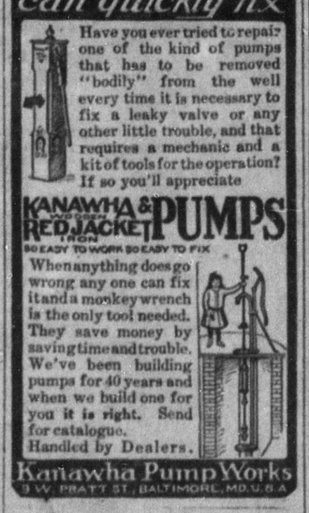

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