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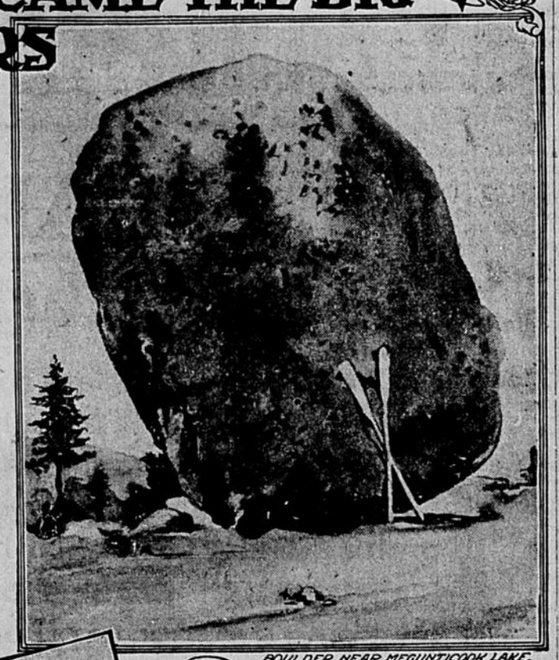
WHENCE CAME THE BIG BOULDERS



BOULDER NEAR MEGUNTICOOK LAKE, MAINE.

WHENEVER your vacation rambles have taken you to one of the northern states of the country, you have no doubt often been struck at the sight of some unusually large bowlders perched on the top of a mountain, or resting, maybe, in such a nicely balanced position by the very edge of the sea that a dashing wave may rock it to and fro, writes G. N. Collins in the National Geographic Magazine.

Examine one of these bowlders more closely and you will find several things to distinguish it from others that you may have noticed in other parts of the country. Should the rock on which the bowlder lies be bare of soil, it will often be found to be of a different kind than that of which the bowlder is composed. Thus the bowlder itself may be of granite and rest on a surface of limestone, shale or sandstone.

You will also often find this bare rock polished to a remarkable degree, or marred by scratches, and even deep grooves running in a more or less parallel direction, known as glacial striae.

To understand how a block of granite as large as a small cabin could be lodged on top of a mountain when there is no similar rock within a hundred miles or more, we must trace its history back to a time at least 200,000 years ago, when the geologic period called the tertiary was drawing to its close.

ONE ERRATIC SUPERIMPOSED ON ANOTHER

The first fact to attract our attention, could we have taken a birdseye view of the northern part of our continent at that time, would be its greater extent than at present. Looking eastward we would see the shoreline extending in places a hundred miles beyond the shoreline of today, and in vain would we scan for the islands, bays and reaches that now lend such enchantment to our picturesque coast.

Northward the land probably stretched unbroken over the present arctic archipelago, and connected on the east by way of Greenland, Iceland and the Scandinavian peninsula with Europe and on the west by closing of Bering strait with Asia.

This circumstance had a very important bearing on the fauna of that day, as it enabled the animals from the one continent to cross to the other. Making a closer inspection of the landscape beneath us, we would be surprised at the total absence of the smaller lakes that now are its most characteristic feature. Even the great lakes were missing, with the possible exception of Lake Superior, while in the valleys in which these latter now lie flowed rivers belonging to one or more systems.

The mountain groups of today we would recognize at once, notwithstanding their somewhat more rugged outline, and the same would be true in the case of the rivers. While we would see a number of them in strange courses, the master streams we would know at first glance. For millions of years these had been cutting their channels undisturbed, until at the close of the tertiary a new impetus was imparted to them, owing to the recent rise of land and the ever-increasing humidity of the climate. So we would probably see them turbulent and swollen and the sides of their water courses often precipitous and jagged, overhung in places by great ledges and loose blocks readily dislodged by the least force.

The climate over the whole continent was semitropical, or at least temperate, and such plants as the big and great red woods of California grew as far north as Greenland and Iceland. And through the almost endless woods of the north roamed herds of mastodon and other herbivore of great size, together with such beasts of prey as the now extinct saber-toothed tiger. But we find no trace of man.

Over this strange and magnificent world the ice swept down so suddenly, as geologic time is reckoned, that most of the then existing animal and plant forms, pushed south before its advance, had not time enough to adapt themselves to their new environment, and therefore became greatly altered or exterminated.

As yet there has been no good reason assigned for a change that in a comparatively short time transformed the semitropical climate into that of Greenland of today. Probably a combination of circumstances brought it about.

Be that as it may, the fact remains that over certain centers—one on the east of Hudson bay, the Labradorian; another on the west of it, the Keewatin, and a third in the Canadian rockies, the Cordilleran—snow, gradually changing into ice, accumulated year after year in such immense thicknesses that finally, impelled by its own weight, motion began, and three giant glaciers crept out over the adjacent country. These finally joined into a continental ice mass that at its greatest extent covered two-thirds of North America—an area of about 4,000,000 square miles.

While there may have been some difference in time at which the various ice centers reached their greatest development, we will be very nearly the truth in saying that from the southern limit, shown on the map, northward the ice lay in one unbroken expanse, with the exception of the so-called driftless area and possibly one of the highest mountain peaks in the east. It is calculated that its thickness at the two eastern centers must have been something like 5,000 to 10,000 feet.

On its way from the north the ice mass gathered to itself immense quantities of soil and loose rock which were carried along with it. Occasionally huge blocks of rock from mountain slopes and stream bottoms were clutched in the firm grip of the ice and carted for hundreds of miles. Frequently the ice would lift great bowlders from the bottom of a valley to the top of a mountain.

Presently the ice began to retreat before a more congenial climate. It was not at first, however, a steady retreat, as not less than four times the ice again advanced after having almost vanished, and each time it was followed by animals and plants adapted to the semifrigid climate at its edge. During one of these interglacial epochs man appeared upon the scene.

But as the ice melted and disappeared the earth and rocks which it carried were dumped, sometimes as an even mantle, but more often in hills and ridges.

Advice to Aspirants

Suppose you become an English peer and are naturally anxious to find out exactly what personal rights and privileges your new station gives, you will have to give your secretary a month or so to hunt through rows of dust-covered volumes. And even then you will not know one-half of them. Lots of them are obsolete indeed. They have not been repealed, however, and, if you wish to take advantage of every privilege that your new rank gives you you will find plenty of opportunities.

If you are unfortunate enough to be condemned to death, for instance, you can demand a noose of silk. If you are bald, and shy of displaying your infirmity, you are at liberty to keep on your hat when in a court of justice, a privilege that not even the prime minister enjoys—except, of course, when he happens to be a peer.

Every time parliament reopens you are allowed by royal charter, if your way to the house leads through one of the royal deer parks, to kill and, if you wish it, carry away one or two deer. When returning home you may do the same again. There is only one condition. You must, when entering the park, give the royal foresters notice of your intention by sounding your hunting horn.

If a commoner so far forgets himself, for reasons of his own, as to punch your head, you have the privilege of hailing him before the criminal courts as one guilty of the crime of showing contempt for the whole house of parliament. And before he leaves the Old Bailey he will be very, very sorry. If, on the other hand, it is you who so far forget yourself as to punch the commoner's head, he can summons you, just as he would any one else, at the police court. But if, when you are there, you breathe out threatenings and slaughter against him, and tell him exactly what you will do to him when you get him outside, you can do so for as long as you please.

The magistrate has no power to bind you over to keep the peace, or commit you for contempt of court, one of which things he would certainly do if your name did not appear on the register of the house of lords.

But these are not the only advantages your rank gives you in the courts. If you are concerned in a chancery case and have to appear in the witness box, your word would, if you wished it, be taken as equivalent to another man's oath. If anyone uses personal violence to your coachman or your footman you can get very heavy penalties against him in the courts.

You cannot be arrested except for an indictable offense. For any offense less serious you can, of course, be summoned to appear. But the policeman is not allowed to use in your case his usual efficient method of making sure that people do actually appear. If the offense is serious, however, you can be arrested in the ordinary way. Then you can claim to be tried by a jury of your fellow peers.

If a society paper gossips about you in a way you do not like, the proprietors are guilty of the crime of "scandalum magnatum," and you should find it easy to make them regret that ever they were born.

Lastly, you need not buy stamps for your letters unless you like. Peers are still entitled to use the old method of "franking" letters. But your friends would not bless you when they received letters with only your private mark instead of a stamp. The postman would probably camp out on the doorstep till he had that two pence. Though the privilege of "franking" still exists, theoretically, for peers, the business-like postoffice would probably refuse to recognize it.—Stray Stories.

Care of Children's Teeth.

The Lancet, in a strong plea for better care of the teeth of English children, which, it says, "is a matter of the first importance to the country," declares that "tooth brush drill is of little value when carried out during school hours; to be of value it must be carried out at the proper times, the most important of all being the last thing before going to rest." This medical authority thinks, also, that "a well organized crusade throughout the country on the importance of the teeth and the technique of their proper care would be followed in a generation by an immense improvement in the health of the nation, and, from the point of view of the combatant services, by an enormous decrease in the percentage of recruits rejected for defective teeth."

Gets Them Running.

"Will the business men of this community subsidize a Marathon meet?"

"How will a Marathon help the business men?"

"In many ways. The telegraph company ought to be interested. Look how it will stimulate the messenger boys."

Church Built By Women

One of the sights of Jersey City, across the river from New York, is a group of women who are laboriously building a church. They are doing the actual work themselves after their day's household duties are over. Men are lending a helping hand, but they are merely carrying the hods, and occasionally give instructions to the women. The building is almost up to the top of the first story. Mrs. Sarah Earle, a thin, grey-haired woman, who is in charge of the construction, states that the new Apostolic church, of which she is the minister, will differ from others inasmuch as the sect will accept the Biblical doctrines and admonitions literally. Therefore, they were building the church on the faith that the Lord would supply the materials, while required workers gave their services.

What He Did.

"What did young Mr. Popinjay do when your father had kicked him down the front steps because he tried to kiss you?"

"Oh, he stood out on the sidewalk and made a few cursory remarks."

Just to Help Along.

Goodwin—What was the watermelon social given at the church last night for the benefit of?

Popkins—For the benefit of the new doctor, I imagine.

This is the Paper Hanger

Never Comes When He Promises, Criticizes Your Taste and Does Just Exactly as He Pleases.

A paper hanger is a man who promises by all that he holds sacred to be at your house on Monday morning at 8 o'clock, and sends word on Wednesday afternoon that he cannot come until Friday.

He brings a bucket of paste and some shears with him, and as soon as he sees the paper you have bought he says it will not do. He criticizes your taste and judgment and shows you why the pattern is utterly unsuited to the room, until he convinces you that you must send the paper back and purchase the proper supply from him, although you know very well that he gets a commission. Then he goes away to order the paper and you continue to sleep on the davenport until the following Tuesday.

You discover ere long that the laws of paper hanging are as immutable as the laws of the Medes and Persians, and that no matter how you want the room papered you are entirely wrong.

If he weren't a paper hanger he would be a plumber. But after this you will welcome the snail-like plumber gladly.

Gabriel will have to blow several encores before he gets the paper-hanging brigade to resurrect.

GOOD CAKE IS RARE

RULES THAT WILL HELP IMPROVE COOK'S WORK.

That Few Families Know What Good Cake Is Is Statement That Will Be Resented, But It Is None the Less True.

Few families know what good cake is. This statement will be resented, but is none the less true. It is equally true that few professional cooks make as good cake as that baked by the mistress of the house or one of her daughters.

As every one should know how to bake delicious cake whether she makes use of it or not, here are a few rules that are essential:

Use the best materials. So-called cooking butter and stored eggs will make poor cake, and let no economical one persuade you otherwise.

What is known as soft A sugar makes a cake of nicer grain than granulated or powdered sugar. In measuring stint rather than heap up the cup or the batter is coarse grained.

Baking powder should be measured by gently rounding, not heaped or flat, teaspoonfuls. With sour milk recipes use baking soda and cream of tartar rather than baking powders.

Never guess at measurements. Most recipes give exact proportions—which a good cook sometimes modifies. A cup, when not defined, usually means the stone china kitchen coffeee cup that holds a little more than half a pint.

The richer the milk the better the cake. More than is called for is often permissible to keep the batter from getting too thick.

Stinting flour is the secret of good cake. Few realize this, as can be told by two persons making up the same recipe with results totally different for the cook who is heavy on flour. It is safe to allow a quarter to half a cup less flour on most recipes.

Judgment is important in cake mixing. Flours differ in heaviness and eggs in size; therefore to keep the batter from being too stiff see that it runs easily from the spoon, yet is not "runny." Thinning must be done before baking powder and whites of eggs are in.

Have all ingredients ready before beginning to mix a cake. Once started it should go into the oven quickly. One mixing bowl and two smaller ones for eggs will be needed; also a wooden paddle and a wire egg beater Sift into batter before measuring and put into batter through sifter.

Get ready pans before starting cake. There is but one sure way to prevent sticking—paper the bottoms of pan and grease it, not the pan, which is only buttered on the edge. Many persons use lard for greasing, but butter never tastes.

Papering is no trouble if ten cents worth of yellow wrapping paper is bought and cut in leisure moments to fit your various shaped pans. Keep in an air-tight box in the kitchen closet.

A good cake baker makes sure that her cake pans are not used for other purposes by keeping them under lock. In the same place have all the utensils needed and there will be no delays. Here also have an extra supply of baking powder, flavoring extracts, chocolate and the special sugar used. Do not get more than five pounds at a time of the latter, and see that it is rolled and sifted before using.

Pickled Oysters.

Two hundred large oysters, one cup vinegar, one cup white wine, four teaspoons salt, six teaspoons whole peppers, one-quarter teaspoon mace. Drain and clean oysters, scald the liquor. Strain and add the above named ingredients. Let boil up at once and pour, while boiling hot, over the oysters. After these have stood ten minutes pour off the liquor, which, as well as the oysters, should then be allowed to get cold. Put in a jar and cover tight.

To Wash Buckskin Gauntlets.

To wash and renovate buckskin driving gauntlets, soak them in lukewarm water for half an hour, and wash in warm, not hot, soapy water. Rinse well, adding two tablespoonfuls of glycerine to each quart of water for the last rinsing. Dry within a folded linen cloth, rubbing them occasionally between the hands while drying. They will be clean and soft as when new.

Butter Cakes.

Sift two cups of flour, with four level teaspoons of baking powder and one level teaspoon of salt. Rub into this two tablespoons of butter. Gradually add three-fourths cup of milk. Roll out one-half inch thick as for biscuits. Bake on a hot griddle on top of stove, leaving room for them to rise. Bake rather slowly and turn but once. They will puff to double the size they were when put on pan.

Lamb Pudding.

The cold meat from yesterday's joint, bread crumbs, one tablespoon of butter, two eggs, a little gravy, pepper, salt and a pinch of nutmeg. Chop the cold lamb fine, season and wet up with a little good gravy. Mix in one-quarter as much crumbs and pour into buttered mold. Set in a pan of hot water, and cook covered in a good oven for one hour. Turn out and pour a little gravy over it.

Lemon Marmalade.

Slice two good-sized lemons and remove the pips; place the sliced fruit in 6 quarts of water and let stand over night, in the morning boil gently for two hours, and after removing from the fire allow it to stand until the following day; then weigh it, and allow pound for pound of sugar; boil together until clear and beginning to set; put in jars and seal while hot.

Curry Sauce.

Melt a tablespoonful of butter in a saucepan, then blend with it a tablespoonful of browned flour and a teaspoonful of curry powder. Add a cupful of boiling water and cook until smooth and thickened. Season with salt, pepper and a teaspoonful of onion juice and serve with broiled meat or fish.

Green Tomato Preserve.

Wash and slice green tomatoes, allow three-quarters of a pound of sugar to each pound of tomato, together with one lemon cut in slices and put between the layers of tomato; cook until thick, add a 25-cent jar of preserved ginger put through the food chopper.

A Cooking Timetable.

Mutton, 15 minutes to the pound.
Beef, 20 minutes.
Veal, 20 minutes.
Ham, 18 to 20 minutes.
Fowls, 25 to 35 minutes.

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Marmaduke—What do you suppose that wretched barber said when he shaved me?

Bertie—I don't know.

Marmaduke—He said it reminded him of a game he used to play when a boy called "Hunt the Hare."

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Rumor is a spark at first, then a fire, then a conflagration, and then ashes.—W. H. Shaw.

It is no use preaching on the fatherhood of God so long as you do not like boys.

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You will be pleased when you buy my shoes because of the fit and appearance, and when it comes time for you to purchase another pair, you will be more than pleased because the last ones wore so well, and gave you so much comfort.

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