

IN NORTH WATERS

Interesting Experiences in the Far Northern Waters

TOLD BY CAPT. A. M. BABER

Explains How the Natives of the Siberian Coast Hunt Whales and Other Thrilling Tales of Navigation in Distant Sea.

As interesting as the tales of early pioneers are the stories of Captain A. M. Baber, of the schooner Sophia Johnson, which left last week for the Siberian Coast, and other far northern points says the Railway and Marine News. The Johnson is a craft of about 25 tons and has been recently purchased by Messrs. Baber and Campbell from a Port Angeles party. She has been fitted out with an Automatic engine from the Hallidie Machinery Company, and installed by C. H. Markey & Co. Captain Baber formerly owned the schooner Evie and has been engaged for a number of years in trading on the northern coast. On this passage out the little schooner will carry everything to delight the heart of the native of the northern land. Among her cargo is much bright colored cloth for the women folks and many guns and ammunition for the men. Speaking of his work, Captain Baber says:

"There is nothing like this life for me. We leave Seattle and go down the straits and out into the broad Pacific. There is that sense of freedom that the folks at home can never feel. We have our hardships and the taste of danger, but at the same time we do not care much whether school keeps or not, and we do not look every morning for the daily paper. From Puget Sound we will go to Pribluff Island. Here I have permission from Secretary Strauss to stop and secure pictures of the seal herds. These are for moving picture concerns and will be the first ever taken. From here we head off in a northwesterly direction and bring up on the Siberian Coast at the Admiral River, where I meet the governor and secure my permit for trading there. Next we work along the coast and probably across to Nome, sometimes in July, and then back to the Siberian Coast again. I hardly thing this coast suitable for the American trapper or hunter, because the natives can sell so much cheaper. The coast here is like that of Nome. For several hundred miles back it is treeless and with sparse vegetation. Then the country gets mountainous and heavily wooded. Here is the home of the cinnamon bear, while along the coast is the fox and many other fur bearing animals. The coast natives go whale hunting, too, and secure the whale as they swim down the narrow channels among the ice floes. They use the whale gun for getting them. This gun is practically thrown at the whale and is arranged so when the whale is struck the charge in the gun is fired by a spring trigger. This is turn sets off the heavy bomb loaded with "tonite." This may be, perhaps, six or eight feet in the body of the whale. If the shot strikes in the back of the neck it means the death of the whale, as the destruction wrought by this bomb is terrific. The whale will turn over and float bottom up and is soon in the hands of his captors. If the shot is not effective a dozen may be fired into him before he is killed. I have seen twelve shots fired into one of them. The bone is a good source of revenue, though last year I lost some money on it. When I reached Seattle I was made an offer for my bone, but as the market was shy I thought I could do better in San Francisco. On the way down on the President I received a wireless message which stated that the whaling fleet had reached San Francisco with a record cargo of whale bone and the price had taken a big drop. As this was just before luncheon I rather took my appetite, but I have laughed about it since.

"We have some heavy weather in the north, and I must say I have seen the wind blow there. I remember one instance when the wind blew so hard that the seas were fairly smashed flat. When the wind died down there was a swell that made one sigh for green fields. In this storm we had to cue and run before the gale and the schooner seemed to jump from one swell to the other, and I thought she would pound herself to pieces. Again we have the ice and sometimes it picks a boat up and we drift along

with it for a time. I remember one time when I was busy trading and the crew were all below I felt the boat grate and upon looking out found that we were surrounded by an ice field which extended as far as I could see. We were carried by this several days.

"Navigation in some of the localities there is extremely difficult. I recall one time in the Kuskowim River there had been a hard wind that had banked the water up and we went sailing along before a gale until we piled up on top of a sand bar. The wind failed; the water went down and left us about five miles from the channel. I thought we were there for a long time, and went up the stream a couple of miles to get a steamer, that was moored there, to help us out. They would not move to our aid for less than two hundred dollars and this I had to pay before they would start. They came down the next day and just as they got a line on and had begun to pull the wind came up again the water also, and we floated off and I was just \$200 in the hole."

Captain Baber can spin yarns by the hour of adventures in this northern country. He is a great believer in the gasoline engine and states they are going in there strong. He has traveled a great many miles as shipmate in the gasoline engine and it has not failed him yet. His schooner carries a crew consisting of two engineers, master, mate and two sailors. He will probably be back on Puget Sound at the close of navigation.

MCLOSKEY'S WOES.

St. Louis Nationals Badly In Need of Seasoned Players.

HAS GOOD PITCHERS GALORE

Willing to Trade Any One of Them For Crack Infielder or Outfielder to Steady His Team—Tried to Get Lobert, the Reds' Infielder.

Manager John McCloskey of the St. Louis Nationals is having his troubles. Many of the Mound City critics are prone to deride Mack, all because his "kid" team is not playing first class ball.

The great trouble with McCloskey has been that his infielders are too young. He is suffering from too many "kids." Mack would give some of his seasoned pitchers if he could get a seasoned man of thirty for his infield. Where will he get the infielders? Echo answers, "Where?" But with a couple of clicking pitchers to trade in the National league a man should be able to do some business. Every team, save Chicago, wants pitchers. McCloskey needs a good shortstop to steady his team. But where can he get a shortstop? How many of them are there in the National league? Pittsburg would not part with Wagner under any consideration. Philadelphia would not let Doolin go. Tinker is not obtainable. The others—Dahlen, Bridwell, Hulswitt, Lewis—would not be of any use to strengthen the team or to run an infield. For a shortstop McCloskey is up against it.

McCloskey also needs an outfielder of the Fielder Jones or Fred Clarke sort. Even a man like Davy Jones of the Detroit, with leading qualities, would be a treasure to McCloskey. He could trade a pitcher for such a man. But where is the man in the National league? Arthur Hoffman of the Chicago Cubs would do in either position. McCloskey can afford to give up a great pitcher like Karger for Hoffman. But, then, the Cubs do not need Karger. They do need Hoffman. So what can you do? For another good man he could give up another good pitcher. But where is the man?

With his great pitching staff, with the weakness of pitchers of all other clubs save Chicago, McCloskey might be able to do something in the way of trade. Yet could he get Arthur Devlin for Karger or Joe Tinker for Raymond or for Karger? McGraw's pitching staff at present is very weak. Yet would he trade Devlin for the best pitcher in the league? Hardly. Devlin is all McGraw has to trade. Pittsburg has not much in the pitching line. Yet would Clarke trade Wagner or Leach for the best of McCloskey's twirlers?

Philadelphia's pitching staff is not very strong. But Murray probably would deride the offer of Karger for Sherwood Magee.

The Bostonians have not any infielders or outfielders to trade that would help Mack any. Hans Lobert of Cincinnati, whom Mack tried to get exchanged for McGlynn and Beebe, would have strengthened the team, but still Mack should have a veteran to steady the out and in field.

Pitchers are said to be 65 per cent of a baseball team's strength. Eighty per cent of a perfect team would win the championship. If McCloskey could add 25 per cent more strength to his team he would probably have nearly a pennant winner. He cannot even get 15 per cent, which would give him a position in the first division.

In other words, outside of his team's pitchers, McCloskey has a weak team. It must be admitted, is hard luck.

THE TANTALUM LAMP

A Great Improvement in Incandescent Lights

MORE LIGHT AT LESS COST

Tantalum Was First Discovered at Finland in 1803 and is Harder Than the Hardest Steel—Makes an Excellent Filament.

Through all the long ages of artificial light man has hungered for the natural sunshine. Every new illuminant from the firebrand to the electric arc has been heralded as approaching nearer the white light of "Old Sol" which is the goal for which the inventors of electric light are striving. The light from an ordinary carbon filament incandescent electric lamp is inclined to be yellow and this fact debars it from such fine work as matching colors or selecting cloths under its rays. If the carbon would stand a higher degree of heat this fault could be easily remedied by raising the temperature of the filament until it was white hot. But to raise the temperature lowers the life of the lamp.

Experiments to improve the incandescent light have been continuous since Thomas A. Edison first produced the lamp twenty-five years ago, but until a few years ago nothing was found to take the place of the carbon filament. The chief fault the carbon filament is that it consumes too much current and cannot be maintained at a sufficiently high temperature. Experiments were carried on for years to find a substitute for the carbon filament which would not only stand higher temperatures but give more light with less current and consequent cost per hour.

All efforts to make a suitable filament out of well-known metals resulted in failures because they melted too easily. It remained for Dr. Werner Von Bolton, of Germany, to discover a pure form of the rare metal tantalum which could be made into lamp filaments. These new filaments made a far better incandescent lamp than was ever known before. The new lamp saved over a third in the amount of current used and gave a beautiful white light of almost the same composition as sunlight.

Tantalum is a rare metal found by the scientist Ekeberg, in 1803, in a material obtained from Finland. It is black in color with a metallic luster and is so hard that it is soluble only in hydrofluoric acid. The ores from which this metal is extracted are found only in a few places on this earth. Pure tantalum is harder than the hardest steel and can barely be scratched with a diamond; it will not rust; its fusing point is exceedingly high; it may be rolled into the thinnest sheets or drawn into the finest wire. At first the metal was very rare and costly. It existed previous to Von Bolton's experiments in a very impure form so brittle that nothing could be done with it. New deposits of tantalum have recently been opened up in North Dakota and Australia which have reduced the cost so it is even planned to use the metal in tools and delicate instruments.

The new tantalum lamp is practically the same size as the ordinary incandescent lamp. The length of the filament is about twenty inches and owing to this fact it has to be stretched on a spider-frame in the interior of the bulb and anchored at both ends. This accounts for the peculiar construction of the interior wiring of the lamp. So fine is this wire that one pound of the metal will supply 20,000 lamps. The lamps can be buried in any position and while they give the longest life and best results on direct current they can be economically used on alternating circuits.

The real argument in favor of the tantalum lamp is a saving of 35 per cent in the illumination of a building now lighted by the ordinary incandescent lamps. This means that the new lamp will give 35 per cent more light at the same expense for current or a 35 per cent reduction in the light bill for the same illumination. There is an increase of a few cents in the first cost of a tantalum lamp but this difference is more than made up in a few weeks by the great saving in current and the increased illumination.

This saving is best understood by the following figures: One 16-candle-

power carbon filament lamp burned six hours a day for 30 days at a 15-cent rate would cost \$1.35. One 22-candlepower tantalum lamp burned for the same length of time would cost but \$1.18 and would give 40 per cent more light.

The incandescent lamp is by far the most popular light of the age. It is used the world over and any research or discovery which will reduce the cost of maintaining and increase the illuminating power of these lamps will be welcomed throughout civilization. The old carbon filament incandescents are nearing the obsolete class of illuminants, although the General Electric Company alone produced nearly thirty millions last year. The day is far distant when they will not be used in this country, although the metal filament lamps are rapidly taking their place.

The future of electric lighting is speculative and transitory. Electrical engineers are constantly experimenting in this field and coming results cannot be even estimated. But the results already attained are truly wonderful.

COBB HAS EYE ON BALL.

Detroit's Great Slugger Banging the Ball as Hard as Ever.

Ty Cobb, champion batsman of last season and right fielder of the Detroit team, is again demonstrating that he is the king pin sphere walloper of the American league. Cobb is now leading the select circle of swatters in Ban Johnson's dominion.

Last year, after the Tigers won the championship of their league, they were defeated in straight games by the Cubs for the world's championship honors. Cobb was a rank failure as a batsman in that series, and his slump was the talk of the baseball world. There has been much speculation as to whether he would round to his last summer's form in this year's race, and that much talked of question has been answered by Cobb himself.

The young right fielder of the Tigers will be even a stronger man this year



TY COBB, CHAMPION BATTER AND RIGHT FIELDER OF DETROIT AMERICANS.

than he was last, according to the wise men in baseball, for his experience last fall will be a good lesson to him, and his experience all through a hard season like the Tigers went through with last year should fit him better for his work and help him make a finer record.

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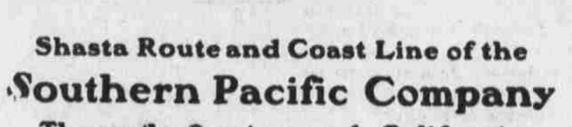
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