

PECK'S BAD BOY WITH THE CIRCUS

WINTER QUARTERS OF THE ONLY CIRCUS, April 20.—Pa has had a hard job today. The boss complained to pa that the fat woman had been taking anti-fat or dieting or something, 'cause she was losing flesh and the living skeleton was beginning to fat up. He wanted pa to call them into the office and have a diplomatic talk with them about their condition, 'cause if this thing continued they would ruin the show.

So pa went to the office and sent for them, and I was there as a witness in case of trouble. The fat woman came in first, and there was no chair big enough for her, so she sat down on a leather lounge, which broke and let her down on the floor and pa tried to help her up, but it was like lifting a load of hay. So he leaned her against the wall and said:

"Madam, the management has detailed me to censure you for losing flesh, and I am instructed to say if you do not manage to take on about fifty pounds more flesh before the show starts on the road you don't go along. What you want to do is to eat more starchy food and sleep more at night. They tell me you go out nights to dances and drink highballs, and this has got to stop. Drink beer and eat cheese sandwiches at night or it is all off. This show can't afford to take along no 400 pound fairy for a fat woman when the contract calls for a 500 pound mountain of flesh, see?" and pa looked just as stern as could be.

The fat woman began to cry and sob so it sounded like an engine blowing off steam, and she told pa that the cause of her losing flesh was that she was in love with the living skeleton, and that he had been paying attention to the bearded woman and she would scratch her eyes out if she could catch her. Just then the living skeleton came in, and when he saw the fat woman sitting on the floor crying and pa talking soothing to her and telling her he could appreciate her condition, 'cause he had been in love some himself, the skeleton pushed pa away and took hold of her fat hand and tried to lift it and said: "What is the matter with myitty tootsy-wootsy and what has the bad old man with spinach on his chin been doing to you?"

Then he turned on pa and his legs began to shake and rattle like a pair of bones in a minstrel show and he said: "I will hold you responsible for this." Pa said he was not going to interfere in the love affairs of any of the freaks, and just then the bearded woman came in, and when she saw the living skeleton holding the hand of the fat woman, who sat on the floor like a balloon blown up, the bearded woman gave a kick at the living skeleton, which sounded like clothes bars falling down in the laundry, and she grabbed the fat woman's blonde wig and pulled it off, and then the bearded woman began to cry and she threw herself into pa's arms and began to sob on his bosom and mingle her whiskers with his.

Pa yelled for help and I thought it was time for me to be doing something, so I went outside the office to the fire alarm box and touched a button, and then I ran like thunder for the police, and the firemen came with extinguishers and began to throw chemically

Pa Reproves the Fat Woman for Losing Flesh—The Bearded Lady Faints In Pa's Arms—The Bad Boy Introduced Into Animal Society—They Pull the Boa Constrictor's Ulcerated Tooth—Pa Goes Into the Elephant Corral, With Disastrous Results.

(Copyright, 1905, by Joseph B. Bowles.)—BY HON. GEORGE W. PECK—Ex-Governor of Wisconsin. (Formerly editor Peck's Sun, author "Peck's Bad Boy," "Peck's Bad Boy Abroad," etc.)

charged water into the room, and the police dragged out the fat woman, who had fainted, and the living skeleton, whom she had pulled down into her lap, and laid them out in the ring, and then they got hold of pa and pulled him out, and the bearded woman had fainted in pa's arms, and the stove was tipped over and was setting fire to the furniture, and they brought the bearded woman and the fat woman to their senses by pouring water on them from a hose. Finally they were sent to their quarters, and the other owner of the show came to pa and said he hoped this would be the last of that kind of business as long as pa remained with the show, that one of the rules was that no man in an executive capacity

down the pike, and I guess this show business is all right, all right.

APRIL 21.—We are getting acquainted with the animals and it is just like going into society.

There is the aristocracy, which consists of the high born animals; the middle class and the low-down, common herd, and when you go among the animals as strangers you are received just as you would be in society. If you are properly introduced to the elephants by the elephant keeper, who vouches for your standing and honor, the elephants take to you all right and extend to you certain courtesies, same as society people would invite you to dinner, but if you wander around and sort

keeper took an iron hook and hooked it into the elephant's skin and said: "Let that man down," and he let pa down easy, and the keeper some way showed the elephant that pa was one of the owners of the show, and that elephant acted just as human as could be, for he fairly toadied to pa, like a society leader that has given the cold shoulder to some one that is as good or better than they, or like an impudent employe who has insulted his employer and is afraid of losing his job. After that whenever pa and I go around the elephants they bow down to us, and I think I could take an iron hook and drive an elephant anywhere.

There are all classes among the animals



"I WILL HOLD YOU RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS!"



THEY HAD TO TURN THE HOSE ON PA

must under any circumstances take any liberties with any of the females connected with the show.

Pa was hot and said when women got crazy in love no man was safe, and the other owner of the show said that was all right this time, but not to let it occur again, and pa tried to explain how the bearded woman came to jump on to him and faint in his arms, but the owner said: "That is all right, but you can't hold 'em in your arms before folks," and then pa offered to whip any man who said he was in love with any bearded woman and he pulled off his coat. Just then I came along and told the whole story, and then the crowd all had a good laugh and pa took them out and treated.

I guess it is all settled now, 'cause the living skeleton and the fat woman have got permission to get married; the bearded lady is sweet on pa, and a girl has just joined the show who walks a wire, and she says I am about the sweetest thing that ever came

of butt in the elephants are on to you in a minute and roll their eyes at you and look upon you as a common "person," and if you attempt any familiarity they look at you as much as to say: "Sir, I am not allowed to associate with any except the 400." Then they turn their backs and act so much like shoddy aristocracy that you would swear they were human.

I remember when pa was first in the elephant corral the keeper forgot to tell the big elephant who pa was, and when the keeper raised up one foot of the elephant and examined a corn pa went up and pinched a bunch on the elephant's leg and said to the keeper: "That looks to me like a spavin," and he nebbed it hard. Well, the elephant groaned like a boy with a stone bruise on his heel, and before pa knew what was coming the elephant wound his trunk under pa and raised pa up on his tusks, and was going to toss him in the air and catch him as he came down and walk on him, when pa yelled murder, and the

in a menagerie the same as human society. The lions are like the leaders of society who are well born and proud, but poor. They are always invited everywhere, but never entertain, though they kick and find fault and ogle everybody and look wise and distinguished.

The sacred cattle are too good to live and pose as the pious animals who do not want to associate with the bad animals, and are constantly wearing an air of "I am holier than any of you," but they will reach through the bars of their cage and steal alfalfa from the yak and the mule deer, and if they kick about it the sacred cattle look hurt and act like it was part of their duty to take up a collection, and they bellow a sort of hymn to drown the kicking.

The different kinds of goats in a menagerie are the butters-in or the new rich, who get in the way of the society leaders and try to outdo them in society stunts, but they smell so that the other animals are made sick, and the goats are only tolerated because animal society is

afraid to offend them for fear the leaders may some time go into bankruptcy and the goats will take their places and never let them get a smell of the good things of life.

The bears are the working people of the show, and the big grizzlies are the walking delegates who control the amalgamated association of working bears, and the occupants of the other cages have got to cater to Uncle Ephraim, the walking delegate, or be placed on the unfair list and relegated.

The hyenas and the jackals and the wolves represent the anarchists, who are down on everybody in the show, who won't do a thing to help along and won't allow any other animal to do anything, and who seem to want to burn and slay, to carry a torch by night and poison by day and want everything in the show to be chaos. Those animals are never so happy as when the wind and lightning strike the tent and blow it down, and kill people and create a panic, and then these anarchists sing and laugh and enjoy their peculiar kind of animal religion.

The zebras and giraffes are the dudes of the show, and you can imagine, if they were human, they would play tennis and golf, drive four-in-hands and pose to be admired, while the royal Bengal tigers, if they were half human, would drive automobiles at the rate of a mile a minute on crowded streets, run over people and never stop to help the wounded, but skip away with a sneer, as much as to say: "What are you going to do about it?"

The hippopotamus is like the lazy fat man that groans from force of habit, sits down as though it was the last act of his life and only gets up when the bell rings for meals, and he sweats blood for fear he will lose his meal ticket and starve to death.

The seals are the clean-cut Baptists of the show, who believe in immersion, and they have more brain than any animals in the show, because they live on a fish diet, though they have a pneumonia cough that makes you feel like sending for a doctor.

Gee, but last night when we thought spring had come and we could start on the road pretty soon the snow fell about a foot deep, and it was so cold that all the animals howled all night and shivered and went on a regular strike. We had to put blankets on them and no one of them seemed to be comfortable except the polar bears, the arctic foxes and the fat woman. The other owners of the show thought it was a good time to take the boa constrictor and pull an ulcerated tooth, 'cause he was sort of dumpish, so pa and I helped hold the snake, which is about twenty feet long.

Pa was up near the snake's head and when the man with the forceps got hold of the tooth and gave it a yank the confounded snake come to and began to stand on his head and thrash around, and pa dropped his hold and started to climb the center pole, but he got caught in a gasoline torch and they had to turn a hose on pa, and he was awful scared, 'cause he always did hate snakes, but they gave the snake chloroform and got him quiet, and pa came down and they gave him a pair of baggy trousers belonging to the clown to go to dinner in, and pa was a sight.

RUINS OF MAYAN METROPOLIS 2000 YEARS OLD DISCOVERED IN CENTRAL AMERICA

CENTRAL AMERICAN cities buried ages ago in forests of rosewood and mahogany have recently been resurrected or located in such numbers by a trio of American archaeologists as to reveal what promises to be the eighth wonder of history—the ruins of Tikal.

Among the amazing discoveries made in the last decade by delvers in what is known as the Usumatintla valley, on the borders of Guatemala, and Mexico, and extending into Yucatan, nothing more astonishing has come to light than the remains of this mysterious Mayan metropolis, which was a crumbling ruin probably five hundred years before Columbus and his Spanish followers set eyes upon America.

Was it a contemporary of Nineveh or Babylon and Troy? What manner of people once flourished there? Exactly when and why was the city abandoned? Science can hardly as yet reply to these questions. Only enough has been discovered to establish the inhabitants as the most progressive and highly civilized of prehistoric peoples in America. Yet comparatively nothing in detail is known of them except as meagrely reported by Professors A. P. Maudslay and Theodore Maler, the latter being now in Guatemala at the head of an expedition sent out six months ago by the Peabody Museum of Harvard.

So remote are the ruins and the means of communication so difficult

that science has for weeks been anxiously awaiting a report from Professor Maler supplementing a brief outline of his progress amid the densely forested tombs and temples of Tikal.

About all that is known of the region and its vanished masters is possessed by Professor Marshall H. Saville, of the American Museum of Natural History, who himself spent several years studying and excavating in the same neighborhood. His own discoveries, with those of Professors Maudslay and Maler, of which he has supplementary reports, are more absorbing than many romances. While a few scientists have for some time been aware of such ruins as those of Tikal existing, nothing has heretofore been made public of the important researches now under way.

A Remarkable Civilization

That the Mayan race, which a thousand or more years ago dominated Central America and was in turn probably dispossessed by the Aztecs, had reached as high a state of civilization, if not higher, than the ancient Egyptians or Assyrians, is believed by Professor Saville. Taking a Graeco-Roman hold on the subject, he added, in discussing the explorations a few days ago, that ample discoveries had been made to bear out his assertion that the ruins of Tikal are by far the most important ever discovered on this continent. Books, scientific appliances of an astronomical nature, games corresponding to tennis and baseball and

magnificent carvings in stone and wood have already been found among other evidences of a superior civilization.

Professor Saville confined his researches while in Mexico and Central America to excavating among the mammoth ruins of Uxmal, with some months spent on the sites of Palenque and Copan. Of Tikal he is acquainted principally through his co-laborers. According to accounts the road to Mandalay, or even to Lhasa, is a smooth highway compared with the tortuous journey to Tikal. Arriving at the coast of British Honduras one must paddle for miles up an unpronounceable river and tramp for days through an almost uninhabitable and impenetrable forest, waylaid by venomous serpents and beset by proboscidian insects, he explained. An idea of the denseness of the jungle which it is necessary to traverse is given in the report that one may frequently be fifty feet from immense masses of masonry without being aware of the fact. The Central American forests are so luxuriant that great tracts may be cleared only to revert to the jungle within fifteen or twenty years.

Tikal, or its ruins, is in the center of what was once a vast limestone plain, but is now a giant forest, some miles northeast of the Lake of Peten, in northern Guatemala, writes the explorer. His report continues with the information that, as far as the investigations have progressed to date, it is

established that the city known as Tikal covered an area of at least a league. Evidently a Mayan capital as well as metropolis, the site must have been an ideal one at the time the city and its people flourished. Just when that was cannot as yet be determined exactly, though it is probable that the place was abandoned hundreds of years before the Spaniards came, according to Professor Saville.

Coming down to modern times, the ruins were first discovered, although their existence was periodically reported by the natives, by Governor Ambrosio Tut and Colonel Mendez, in 1848. In 1877 they were visited by Bernoulli, who, however, died on his way home. His observations, as contained in copious notes, were lost.

Professor Maudslay visited the ruins, without remaining long enough to get more than an approximate idea of their importance, in 1881-2 setting out from Copan and journeying northward for ten days through the unbroken forest. Fourteen miles north of the Rio de la Pasion he found a ferry operated by natives in the village of Seluc, a headquarters of the mahogany cutters. Crossing the river at Seluc he came a day later to Peten Itza Lake and the island town of Flores. From there, as his hitherto unpublished report states, the journey was continued in canoes to the northeast shore of the lake, and on through thirty more miles of forest to the majestic ruins of Tikal.

He found the place inconceivably desolate, the forests being so dense as to render it difficult to locate the position of more than a few buildings besides five great mounds, which rose far above the tallest trees. All around was a trackless waste of forest as far as the eye could reach.

Measurements of the Temples

Professor Maudslay found the outer and inner doorways of the temples covered with magnificently carved lintels of Chico sapote wood, a wood which has withstood ages of sun and storm. Some of the carvings in the wood reveal a knowledge of drawing and boldness of conception which compare favorably with the best Egyptian and Assyrian work.

Professor Maler has already made a clearing in the forest surrounding the five temples, each standing in the center of a small plain at the top of a mammoth pyramid, or mound. The base of the first temple discovered measures 130 feet across the front and slightly less on the sides, the temple, built of beautifully carved stone, being reached by a stone stairway twenty-eight feet broad and projecting nineteen feet from the base of the mound. Measurements taken at the northwest angle from the base of the pyramid to the northwest corner gave 104 feet, the temple itself measuring 41 by 26 feet. It is 50 feet high, with an interior of three rooms of different floor altitudes.

A third temple measures 184 by 168

feet, and is 160 feet high, while a fourth, the largest yet discovered, measures 280 feet across the base and 160 feet on the slope of the pyramid. The temple building on the top of this huge pyramid is 42 by 98 feet, with a doorway guarded by sculptured lions, of themselves seven feet high. The walls are of extraordinary thickness.

Judging from the arrangement of the pyramids and the general plan of the city, the three explorers agree that no other temples in Central America so strongly support the theory that the Mayan metropolis was laid out along astronomical lines. The great height of the mounds was undoubtedly due, explained Professor Saville, to an evident desire to secure a length of axis, and the fact that all the Tikal temples face the cardinal points further supports the theory. One may trace the sequences of the mighty structures by their positions, the second, third and fifth temples facing the rising sun and following one another in order of time, the third one having been built when the erection of the first had impeded the fairway of the second, and so on, in rotation.

Near this giant quintet, which form a plaza, were several crumbled buildings, hardly more than foundations, which were probably the palaces of the priests. Before each building or foundation stands a huge carved altar of stone depicting a Mayan chieftain, elaborately arrayed in a tunic, supple-

mented by a gown and a sort of turban, holding in his hand a mace or scepter. He is standing in an attitude of triumph over a prostrate victim.

Prompted by the utter absence of springs and water in the surrounding country, investigations have revealed immense underground aqueducts and chaltunes, or reservoirs, in which enormous quantities of water were once stored.

Continuing his explorations by cutting and burning a way through the forest enveloping the ruins, Professor Maler has found an immense quadrangular area, which may have been used as a stadium, where athletic games were played and races run, although as yet no evidence has been discovered of the Mayans having horses. Parallel grooves worn in the stone flooring, however, point to the use of wheeled vehicles, possibly a form of chariot, in contests such as were popular in Byzantium and Rome.

Prior to beginning work on the ruins of Tikal the explorer spent considerable time and labor among the majestic ruins of La Reforma, Chinkila, Chancals, Xupa, Feltra and Piedras Negras, in the valley of Usumatintla, besides some months spent on the site of ancient Chichen Itza, in Yucatan, and these once prosperous and progressive cities of prehistoric times are but a few among numberless others which lie hidden among the Central American jungles.