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A Bit About Bears

On the days before settlers came into the west in numbers sufficient to have any influence on the wild animal life, the grizzly bear was a great traveler. The "grizzly" I mean also the bears called "silvertip" and cinnamon, as they are all one and the same animal, the difference being simply one of variation in individuals of the same species. The grizzly and black bears are the only bears found in the United States despite wild tales from hunters and others who think there are possibly a dozen kinds.

The black bear is a clown pure and simple, he is like a big, fat, happy and contented child who thinks that everything that isn't made to eat is made to play with. He is an insatiable eater, devouring ants, worms, grasshoppers, green grass, leaves, wild onion, all kind of berries, fresh vegetables, fish, carrion, honey, grubs, insects, and a long list of other things, all with the same happy-go-lucky abandon and disregard for his stomach, and he is always hungry.

He is eternally playing when he is not eating or sleeping, and he has a disposition as any animal I know. I have never heard of a black bear attacking a man, though it will fight back right well and heartily if cornered and attacked. The black bear is just a fat, good natured joke on men who really know the mountains where he lives all over the west, and I do not know of a single old-time mountain man who will kill a black bear wantonly or unless he needs meat or a robe—and he'll have the need either of these pretty badly before he shoots a black bear at that. For he likes the fat fatty, rascals much as he likes a neighbor's dog.

The grizzly is an entirely different

proposition. In the old days—no longer back than 1890, even—grizzlies were rather plentiful pretty much all over the mountainous west from Mexico to the Arctic. They roamed about through all the mountain ranges from the Black Hills to the Pacific and reached their greatest size in Alaska. They used to cross the country regularly from the Rockies to the Black Hills of Dakota, a matter of several hundred miles, and they thought nothing of living for days at a time far out on the "Bad Lands" or almost anywhere in the rougher sections of the plains country where they found food conditions good.

The grizzly ate much the same food as his cousin, the black bear, but he moved on very quickly when any section of the country was "fed-up." Both species "denned up" in the fall about the time of the first cold weather and they hibernated until spring. Decidedly they did not "suck their paws," but lived in a state of suspended animation until the next spring, a wise provision of nature for taking care of her own through bitter weather.

The grizzly was short-tempered and frequently attacked men in the old days. It was only when he learned to fear man as a species that he gave up attacking him and gave up the habit of traveling far and wide by day for the safer and much more conservative program of sticking close to a given "range" among the mountains and hiding during the day. The grizzlies learned through contact with the cattlemen who shot them and even caught many with lassos (called "roping") in the days of the open range.

Because the bears, as a species, could and did work out this idea of a limited "range" and practice living on it they are alive and quite plentiful today, whereas they would have been

exterminated long ago if they had stuck to their original roaming habits. They carry the keenest noses of all the wild animals, I firmly believe, and every man who has lived in the wilds for long, myself included, believes that the whole bear tribe can reason and think things out in a way that is as near human as any animal ever gets.

A short article can only give the merest outline of the habits and ways of these happy wilderness denizens who love life and a good time as well as any of us, and are entitled to it, for they destroy a lot of vermin as they go along every day and yet they do not now harm man in any way and will make friends with him if given a chance, even to the short-tempered grizzly. The grizzlies alive today are in the mountain ranges, mostly the Rockies and outlying spurs,

where they do not injure or even bother people or crops or stock.

The black bear is a timber dweller and more adaptable than the big grizzly, so he still survives to some extent in Maine and the eastern mountains and among the swamps and canebrakes of the South and is quite even as far east as the Rockies of Montana and south to the Oregon line. In the Cascade mountains of the coast he is as plentiful as ever and probably will be for years on account of the rough and very heavily timbered country.

All bears should be protected from killing by law nowadays as they are no longer a menace to humanity and there is no reason why they should be killed for "sport" or any other cause.

The Indians never killed bears unless they had to for self protection or under peculiar religious (called "medicine" and really meaning "magic") conditions. The Blackfoot tribe of Montana called the grizzly Omuk-ukyatu or "Sticky-mouth," and the black bear they called Sik ukyatu. These Indians were very much afraid of the "medicine" power of bears and would not sleep on a bear skin robe or touch a bear if they could help it except as a religious rite connected with their "medicine" beliefs—Our Lumb Animals

RECALLS OLD ROME

Ancient Coin of Surpassing History; Two Thousand Years Since it Came From the Mint

A coin 2,000 years old, which may be a Roman senator, passed from hand to hand in the baths or thrown to a hand in the dice games of members of the Roman imperial guard, been tossed to the rabble by a patrician as he passed through the streets on his way to the baths or thrown to a victorious gladiator by one of the vestal virgins, now is in the possession of Arthur S. Hibler, United States immigrant inspector at New Orleans. On its way to Mexico, where it may have been carried as a keepsake by one of the Spanish conquerors and afford ample time to pass through a few adventures.

The coin is valued by Mr. Hibler, not only for its age, but for the queer history attached to his gaining possession of it. While he claims he is not superstitious, he admits he regards the coin as a good luck talisman. The piece was sold to him by a Mexican, who wished to cross the border at Brownsville, Tex., and had not enough money for his toll. To pay his way across the international bridge he offered the coin with several others to Mr. Hibler, asserting that it had a strange significance and a blessing attached to it. It had been given him,

he said, by the mother of a member of Villa's band, who had been murdered in a cafe brawl. As he lay dying, he had begged the man to take a handkerchief, stained with his life blood, to his mother. The Mexican had sworn to fulfill the trust, and delivered the handkerchief to the old woman. She opened the corner of the handkerchief, which was knotted tightly, and took out several coins. Then she retired into an inner room and, returned, placed a small silver disk in the passenger's hand, saying it was a talisman that would mean much to its possessor.

The coin is small and white, resembling a modern United States dime relief of a Roman emperor, with the in size and color. On its front is an inscription "Dionitian VII, Imp. Caesar," and several other characters which are illegible. On the production of the temple erected in Jerusalem by Solomon. It is worn thin by the touch of the millions of hands in which it must have rested. "I have no doubt that it is genuine," Mr. Hibler said. "But how did it come into the possession of the Villista bandit? Well—quien sabe?"

THE TALE OF THE EGG

Frank Lafferty, a captain of police at Muncie, once answered a call late at night from a restaurant whose owner asked that a drunken man be taken from the place.

"It was the strangest case of intoxication ever dealt with," said Lafferty, relating the experience. "In the restaurant I found sitting on a high stool at the counter an elderly man who was weeping into his plate containing the remains of what evidently had been a hard boiled egg.

"What's the matter?" I asked the soggy individual and he answered between choking sobs 'I weep to think that by this act of cruelty in devouring this egg, I have deprived some poor innocent chicken of the right of being born!'

"And do you know," Lafferty continued, "the only way we could comfort the poor fellow and get him out of there was to tell him it was not that kind of an egg."—Indianapolis News.

And now the British are thinking of amending the treaty because they believe it isn't seaworthy.

The Strong Withstand the Winter Cold Better Than the Weak

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Spirit of Brotherhood Among Russian Farmers

What the Russia of tomorrow will be it is of course too early to say. But certain qualities of Russian character give us much reason for hope.

Certain it is that, though other peoples may talk as much of the brotherhood and comradeship, the Russian peasant has heretofore seemed to lead the world in the actual everyday practice of these principles. Perhaps the fact that the peasants have always had their houses grouped together in a village helps. One writer says, in fact, that this grouping and consequently richer and more intimate social life, friendship and comradeship has been "God's great gift and boon to Russia." At any rate, while our American farmers, where each man lives to himself, are slow to develop co-operation, even in methods of buying, selling, etc., and are too often suspicious of one another, co-operation in all lines of work is common among Russian farmers.

One other little known fact of Russian life gives a great lesson for faith and hope in Russia's future. This fact is that while Russia at the top has

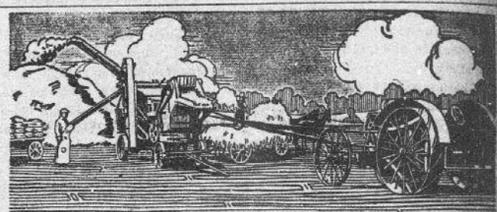
long been the cruel and shameful autocracy already described, yet in nearly all purely local affairs the people have governed themselves with wonderful ability and success.—The Progress Farmer.

Popular Attorney And Soldier Home

Corporal Albert P. Garland, recently returned from the fighting overseas, is back among us apparently none the worse for his experience. He saw much hard fighting in France and was in the thickest of the fray but came back "without a scratch."

Mr. Garland will resume his law practice here. He will have associated with him his brother Gus. Both young men are popular and enjoy the confidence of the general public. The firm will be a strong one and that it will be a successful one goes without saying. Our best wishes.—Village Press-Gazette.

Some of the senators explain the "tea" by saying some one saw a German diploma climbing out from between the fifth and sixth classes armed with an opera glass.



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