

# FREAKS OF NATURE

We Know There Are Giants, but We Do Not Know Why.

THEY ARE A SORT OF PUZZLE.

Sometimes These Titans Are the Result of a Somewhat Mysterious Disease Called Gigantism—Og and Goliath and the Giant Races of Gath.

Giants and dwarfs abound in the region of the Caucasus mountains. Now, why are some people big and some little? In families heredity seems to govern the matter. Where races are concerned it is not so easily explained. We are accustomed, by the way, to think of the Chinese as of inferior height; but that is because our Chinese immigrants nearly all come from the south of China. The people of north China are tall and occasionally approach the gigantic.

Circus giants are not uncommonly sufferers from a disease called gigantism, which in the long run is inevitably fatal. It appears to be due to something wrong with a small gland at the base of the brain, which, in a mysterious way, governs growth. A strange thing about this affliction is that the victim may be attacked long after he has become adult and has ceased to grow in a normal way. A man over thirty years of age may suddenly become a giant, the first warning he gets of the fact being the discovery that he needs a larger hat and bigger boots and gloves.

There are, however, occasional giants who are simply people of extraordinary size, in other respects normal. How to account for them nobody knows unless by calling them freaks of nature. Much more remarkable are the giant families which are found in the Caucasus region, though most individuals of such families are not big enough to be worth while for show purposes. For circus exhibition a giant ought not to be less than seven feet six inches tall. With that stature, plus boots with thick soles and a high hat, a man may be safely advertised as touching the eight foot mark.

Such giant families are not unknown in history. Josephus and other profane historians endorse the statements found in many places in the Bible in regard to the giants of Gath, from which locality, it will be remembered, Goliath hailed. The Bible puts the stature of that redoubtable champion at "six cubits and a span"—in other words, about three inches short of ten feet. This would seem to be the altitude record for a human being, even allowing that the measurement was from the ground to the crest of Goliath's helmet.

The most celebrated of all the giant breed, not excepting Goliath, was Og, king of Bashan. At the time when the wanderings of the Israelites in the wilderness were brought to a close he was ruler over no fewer than sixty cities "fenced with high walls, gates and bars." His indeed was a powerful monarchy, and the conquest of his realm by Moses is looked upon to this day as one of the greatest events in Jewish history.

Og, by the way, was accustomed to sleep in a remarkable bedstead—not of wood or metal, but of basalt. Whatever the circumstances under which the giant breed existed in Palestine at the time of the first arrival of the Israelites, it is certain that in later years they were scattered about among other peoples. In a political sense some were Hittites and yet others Amorites.

Coming into contact with other races they became, it would seem, either extinct or subordinate. From what little is said of them in history it is to be inferred that they were mentally inferior, though formidable fighters by reason of their great size and strength in an age when mere bodily prowess counted for much.

If Goliath be supposed to have been eight and one-half feet high (allowing for helmet and crest) his stature did not exceed that of the celebrated Winkelmeier, the tallest man of modern times, who, born in Bavaria, died not so many years ago. The height of many giants has been exaggerated, but Winkelmeier was carefully measured by the anthropologist Doubes.

A man of less than eight and one-half feet could hardly have worn the enormously heavy armor and accoutrements described in the first book of Samuel as composing Goliath's outfit. The staff of his spear, we are told, was "like a weaver's beam," the iron spear-head alone weighing 600 shekels, about twenty pounds.

The giant breed in Palestine apparently died out not very long before the birth of Christ. There have been lesser giant breeds in modern times, but in some instances they have been the result of artificial selection, as, for example, in the case of the wrestlers of Nippon, who, seen in a crowd, stand head and shoulders above the ordinary Japanese.

In the neighborhood of Potsdam there are today many very tall people owing to the fact that King Frederick William's famous regiment of giants was long stationed there. The regiment numbered 2,400 soldiers, and all Europe was searched by the monarch for big men to serve in it.—Philadelphia Record.

Still Dear.  
"You used to tell me that I had the dearest little foot in the world," said she poutingly.  
"That was lover's talk," said he, "but if you don't quit paying \$10 for shoes bless me if I won't believe I spoke the truth."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

Long ailments wear out pain and long hopes joy.—Stanislaus.

## THIRST TAMES WILD BEASTS.

Savage Brutes Respect Each Other's Right to Drinking Water.

Just as one dog will respect another dog's bone so even the fiercest forest beasts have their unwritten laws and their little conventions.

One common idea which has found its way into scores of books of adventure is that the lion and tiger take advantage of the insistent call of thirst to get a supper—that is to say, they go down to the water pool, the only one for miles around, take a good drink themselves and then lie in wait for some gazelle or graffe or ibex coming there for a like purpose in order to spring upon the poor creature while in the act of drinking and make a meal of it.

Yet this is a libelous estimate of wild beast character. The fact is that there is a sort of truce of the water hole in jungle and forest. As far as killing is concerned the drinking place is out of bounds. There is an invisible notice board on its banks which says, "Live and Let Live." and it is implicitly obeyed.

There is an order of precedence. The rhinoceros gets first drink. He is the Drednought of the forest jungle. Then comes that old ironclad the elephant.

When he has lowered the tide mark and made the water more like coffee than anything else the big pussy cats stroll down to quench their ardent tongues—the lions, the leopards in Africa, the tigers in India, the jaguars and pumas in South America.

Meanwhile the shy animals—the graffes, deer, springboks and even the buffaloes, although they are a match for a lion—stand in the background and wait till the carnivora have done. But the latter never prevent their approach to the water or waylay them on their retirement. And that is better manners—aye, and better morals—than many men show.—Pearson's.

## INDIA'S FAMOUS ROAD.

It Was the World's Greatest Highway Before Rome Was Born.

Search where you will, you will find no highway in the whole world so romantic as the Grand Trunk road of India.

A stately avenue of three roads in one—the center of hard metal, the roads on each side ankle deep in silvery dust—fringed by double rows of trees, it runs for 1,400 miles through the vast northern plain which skirts the Himalayas, from Calcutta to far Peshawar, which keeps sentinel at the gate of Afghanistan.

From horizon to horizon it stretches like a broad white ribbon, as seemingly straight as if traced by a gigantic ruler. And dotted along its entire length are hundreds of serais (wayside rest houses), each with its arched and turreted gateway, its spacious inclosure, in which humans share shelter with oxen, camels and goats, and its central well of sparkling water.

For 3,000 years the Himalayas have looked down on this road and seen it as they see it today. It was the world's greatest highway before Rome was cradled, when the aboriginal Indians drove their cattle over the very spot where the motorcar dashes today.

Alexander the Great led his Greeks along it to the conquest of northern India, and Buddha himself took his daily walks along it centuries before Christ was cradled.

It has seen a hundred generations come and go, a score of dynasties rise and fall. And yet today it is to the eye exactly the same as in the long gone years when Nineveh was a proud city.—New York Journal.

## Parrots of Mexico.

What the wild pigeon once was in point of numbers to the United States the parrot, of varying shades of color and all sizes, is to old Mexico. Flights of these birds frequently darken the midday sun in the hot country, and they become so tame around the camps of engineers that the birds are given individual names and soon become regular pets. Whenever the parrots desert the forest and alight on the ground in the open spaces of the jungle the natives recognize their actions as sure warning of an impending earthquake.

## Second Sight.

An Irishman and his English friend were out rabbit shooting. They had been very unsuccessful and were returning, downhearted, when they saw a hare dart out of the hedge.

Mike, in amazement, failed to shoot, and the hare escaped.

"Why didn't you shoot it?" asked the Englishman.

"Shure," said Mike, "I didn't see it till it was out of sight."—London Telegraph.

## Something Easier.

Neither the bride nor the bridegroom knew much about housekeeping. He was helping with the Sunday dinner and had split about a thousand peas with a carving knife. Then he spoke up:

"Darling!"

"Yes, dear?"

"Don't let's have split pea soup. Let's have mashed potatoes."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

## Gladstone's One Pun.

It is not generally known that Gladstone once in his life made a pun. When Blondin appeared at the Crystal Palace he went to see the acrobat and remarked that the performance was very interesting to a chancellor of the exchequer as an example of balancing.—London Standard.

To give awkwardly is churlishness. The most difficult part is to give. Then why not add a smile?—La Bruyere.

## City Council.

August 7th, 1916. Regular meeting city council. Present, Mayor Miller, Aldermen King, Benson, Shumaker, Heneman and Thompson.

Minutes of meetings of June 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, July 3rd and 12th, read and approved.

The following bills were audited and allowed:

Account of Poor.	
J K Switzer, Mrs Batosh, June and July	6 00
R A Branchaud, Mrs Batosh Apr. 7.00, F Colgan July 7.00, F Colgan April 10.00	24 00
Mrs Haldorsdotter, Mrs Olafsciotter July and August	14 00
J Heneman, Mrs Batosh August 7.00, July 7.00, Mrs Hallson July August 14.00, Colgan July 8.00	31 00
J B Parker, F Colgan, August	10 00
Account of City Hall.	
R A Branchaud	2 10
Amenia Elevator Company	4 30
Account of Pontoon.	
E A Newell	9 25
L Thomas	2 40
A L Akers (city)	12 10
Wm Grumbo (Stinson)	3 10
Account of Streets.	
C Bouvette	3 10
A Causley	1 80
J Oliver	40
J Rondo	40
Geo Parker	13 20
P Blondin	1 00
E R Langton (Park)	16 40
" culverts	118 00
A Morin	1 00
Account Salaries.	
J E Ashley, assessor	65 00
Account of Poor, in quarantine. Case of L Bouvette and family.	
J K Switzer, meat	3 90
J Heneman, groceries	7 00
J B Parker, groceries	16 25

A petition signed by Hon. W. J. Kneeshaw and 34 other taxpayers requesting the city and county to provide an artificial leg for Knute Skaro, who has been a county charge since a child, was read and placed on file.

On motion, an order placed by the city auditor for the furnishing of a leg for said Knute Skaro with F. Buchstein & Co., Minneapolis, was duly confirmed, all voting aye.

On motion, Ordinance No. 83, being an Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 82, was called up for its second reading and passed by the following vote: Ayes, Aldermen King, Benson, Shumaker, Heneman and Thompson. Nays, none.

On motion it was resolved to deed a part of the city park to the Historical Society of North Dakota and that the Ordinance Committee have power to fix and arrange the boundaries of such state park and make the desired conditions.

Adjourned. F. A. WARDWELL, City Auditor

## County News

J. G. Green formerly of Hamilton has purchased the Neche drug store.

C. L. Wilson will teach an eight months term of school at Belfield, Montana.

Mr. and Mrs. Alex. Hart have returned to their home in Grafton after spending a month on the Pacific coast.

Miss Hulda Sands who has been answering calls at the Neche Central for four years has resigned her position.

Mr. and Mrs. Benedick Erickson of San Antonio, Texas are visiting their brother-in-law A. J. Ottem, of St. Thomas.

The Methodist S. S. of St. Thomas held their annual picnic in W. B. Stitt's grove last week with a large attendance.

Mrs. James Hughes of New York and Miss Margaret Burns of Winnipeg are

visiting at the Duffy home at St. Thomas.

The Episcopal church of St. Thomas has been raised and a good concrete foundation placed under it, with new concrete walls.

A petition is filed with the superintendent of schools to consolidate school districts No. 64, 69 and 98 in this county and the petition will be heard on September 5th.

Some one entered the hotel at Bathgate one night last week and got away with canned goods and other stuff from the kitchen and a kodak that happened to be in his way. No clue.

Cathra Guinan died at her parental home in Winnipeg last week and the remains were brought to St. Thomas for burial. The Guinans were early residents of St. Thomas.

Mrs. A. M. O'Connor of St. Thomas is visiting friends at Fargo and Detroit Lake, Minnesota. Mrs. J. M. O'Connor and daughter Louise are also at Detroit rusticiating.

S. O. Thorlackson, son of Rev. Thorlackson, who recently was ordained minister at Winnipeg has left, accompanied by his wife, for Japan as missionary. Rev. Mr. Thorlackson, Sr., who occupied pulpits in this county several times is stationed at Selkirk.

It is estimated that the hail storm that swept over the western part of the county last week, from Hallson to St. Thomas, via Hensel destroyed many thousand dollars worth of grain. The loss is estimated from 25 to 80 percent. But a small portion of the destroyed grain was insured. The same storm destroyed a large area in Walhalla, and Cavalier townships.

## Wanted.

Housekeeper wanted at once on a farm. Apply to WM. NOLTE, St. Vincent, Minn.

## Ordinance No. 83.

Being an Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 82.

Be it ordained by the Council of the City of Pembina:—That "Ordinance No. 82 being an Ordinance granting to H. E. Robowski, a franchise for the erection and maintenance of a plant, poles, wires and other necessary apparatus for the furnishing of electric light and power to the City of Pembina and its inhabitants", shall be and is hereby amended and changed as follows, to-wit: In section seven (7) of said Ordinance No. 82 and in the second line of said section of the original copy on file in the office of the City Auditor the words "one year" be changed to "five years" so that said section shall read and be in effect as follows, to-wit: "Section 7".

## OPTION OF PURCHASE BY THE CITY.

"That said City of Pembina and after said plant shall have been in operation for five years, shall have the right and option of the purchase of said plant and business for a consideration that shall take into account the cost of installation, the then present condition and the amount of business, and to be determined by agreement of the contracting parties hereto, or by arbitration."

Approved this 8th day of August 1916.

Attest: M. H. MILLER, Mayor.

F. A. WARDWELL, Auditor.

This Ordinance No. 83, passed on its first reading on July 12th, 1916, by the following vote: Ayes, Aldermen Benson, Heneman, Thompson and Wilkins; nays, none.

This Ordinance No. 83, was passed on its second reading on August 7th, 1916, by the following vote: Ayes, Aldermen King, Benson, Shumaker, Heneman and Thompson. Nays, none.

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Estimates furnished on contracts for building material. Goods delivered on short notice to any parts of the city.

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Pembina, N. D.

## AUTOMOBILES AND SUNDRIES OF ALL KINDS

### Bicycles and Bicycle Sundries

We carry in stock the most complete line of Automobile and Bicycle Tires of any place between Grand Forks and Winnipeg.

We trade for Second Hand Automobiles and Bicycles and thoroughly overhaul them before they are placed on the market.

We will enumerate a few of the articles we carry in stock and here they are:—

- Fisk and Firestone Auto Tires, ranging in size from 28x3 to 36x4½ and inner tubes the same.
- Tire covers of different sizes.
- Spark Plugs for autos, motor cycles and tractors.
- Spark Coils and Batteries.
- Presto Gas tanks of three different sizes.
- Battery and Tire Testers, and flash lights.
- Ford Extras of many kinds.
- Dunlop, G. & J. and Single tube Bicycle Tires, from \$1.25 to \$4.50.
- Vulcanizing Rubber and cements of all Kinds.
- Wrenches and tools.
- Material to stop leaky radiators.
- Valve grinding compound, and cements to stop leaky cylinders.
- All sizes of wire cable.
- All sizes of rubber hose for pumps and lights.
- Carbide and vulcanizers.

In fact there is but little that we don't carry in stock, that is required in the sporting line.

Fishing tackle and plain and spool hooks, and silk lines up to \$1.00, and other fish lines down to 5 cents.

We often have good snaps in used articles taken in exchange for new that are sold at a snap.

Agent for the STUDEBAKER and MAXWELL Automobiles, which can be furnished on short notice, in any size and style made.