

He Followed His Bent

By F. A. MITCHEL

When I was a boy I remember hearing a conversation between my school-teacher and my mother. He had called to her that she might as well take me out of school and put me to work. Mother was so discouraged at this that the teacher, who was a kind hearted man, undertook to comfort her.

"To tell the truth," he said, "you can never tell what kind of a man a boy is going to make. For my part I believe in following one's bent. What we do well we usually do easily. Has Tommy ever shown especial adaptability for any particular work?"

"No."

"Well, I would advise you to let him do what he likes to do. Perhaps he will some day find out what he is fitted for."

"If I let him do that he will go fishing all the while."

It seemed to me that the teacher gave up trying to be optimistic for me, for he left my mother to console herself as best she could. I consoled myself for my worthlessness by taking my rod and going to the brook. It was full of trout, and I thought that I might as well get some for supper. I could at least do that even if I were a no account boy. I brought home a fine string of fish.

Mother took me out of school and called on me to help her about the house. I was a very poor helper and hated the work. As soon as I could get my chores done I made off with my rod, and mother saw no more of me till I came home, always with a string of fish. That was the only way that I was really useful.

I could catch fish where all others failed. The reason for this was that I noted the habits of the fish and knew just when and where to look for them. I noticed that there was a certain kind of fly that trout would always take. I had no fly in my case that they would take with the same avidity. I caught one of these live flies and, taking it home, made one as near like it as I could. I had a box of paints, which served me very well. My artificial fly would not have pleased an entomologist, but it fooled the fish.

Some boy friends of mine spread the story of my making my own fly, and it got to the ears of the manager of a fishing tackle manufactory in the neighborhood. He came to see me one day and asked me about it. I showed him my artificial fly and how successful I had been with it. He told me that if I would catch one of the live flies of that species for him he would give me \$5 for it. I did so and got the money.

It seemed to me a large sum, and I felt very proud of it.

Several times on the way home I took it out of my pocket to have another good look at it.

When I took the bill to my mother and explained how I had got it she said that it was probably the only \$5 I would ever make.

I used to talk about fish to other fishermen. They never tired of listening to me. One day when I was about nineteen years old one of them asked me to write out for him some points that I had told him. I did so, and he seemed very much pleased with what I gave him. He was an author and told me that if I would write an instruction book on angling he would put it in proper shape for me and submit it to his publisher. I put down a lot of things in a jumble; he arranged them all in good grammatical English, and the book was published with my name on the title page.

A couple of years after this I took a lot of notes I had made on the habits, the breeding and other information about fish, and with a little revision by my literary friend it was issued by the firm which had published my first book.

It was not long after this that a state fishery was established, and the government was looking for a superintendent. The governor had used my books on angling, and one day I was astonished to receive a letter from him asking if I would accept the position of superintendent of the state fishery with a fine salary.

I took the letter to my mother, and when she read it she threw her arms around me and begged me.

"Who'd have thought," she said, "that a boy who wouldn't work and was bound to waste his time all day tied to a fish pole would ever come to any good?"

My position as superintendent of the state fishery at once gave me a wide reputation, and I was constantly called upon for information in matters pertaining to fish culture. A neighboring state offered me a better salary than I was being paid and rather than lose me my own state offered me a large advance, which I accepted and remained where I was.

By this time I was married, but I did not forget my old mother who had told my teacher that if her boy were permitted to do as he pleased he would do nothing but go fishing. She is now an enthusiastic advocate of letting a boy follow his own bent, even if that bent seems illenous.

Indeed, my success has made me a convert to this theory. To be especially successful in a work one must love it. I question if any one ever achieved any notable success in following a calling that was a drudgery to him. Hard work there is in almost any great attainment—work that is drudgery—but when the worker is buoyed up by a love for the main object he is striving to accomplish he can stand the necessary drudgery.

NEGRO LYNCHED IN ARKANSAS
Taken From Constable and Shot to Death—Annoyed White Girls.

England, Ark., Sept. 14.—Sam Cates, negro, 25 years old, was taken from a deputy constable and shot to death by a mob of white men late Wednesday night. Cates was charged with annoying white girls.

FIERCE FIGHT ON GABRIELE

Battle Is Raging Furiously Between Austrians and Italians

ITALIANS ARE HOLDING THEIR OWN

Vienna Says Italian Losses Reach 250,000—20,000 Prisoners Taken

Rome, Sept. 14.—The battle between Austrians and Italians for possession of Monte San Gabriele is raging furiously, according to the official statement issued yesterday by the Italian war department. New Austrian forces Wednesday renewed their attempts to dislodge the Italians from the slopes of the height, but after advancing at a few points they were stopped by the main Italian line of occupation.

The statement reads: "Northeast of Gorizia the enemy, employing units recently sent to our front, yesterday renewed with greater intensity and with a larger number of forces his attempts to dislodge us from Monte San Gabriele. His furious attacks were successful in a few advanced posts but were stopped by our main line of occupation, which was stubbornly defended by the gallant troops of our 11th division and which could not be shaken or penetrated."

"On the Trentino front during actions at advanced posts enemy patrols were put to flight.

"An enemy airplane, brought down by our anti-aircraft fire, fell in the vicinity of Duino."

An earlier report said: "The enemy Wednesday made various attacks, which were at once repulsed, against our lines on the Bainsizza plateau, afterwards carrying out his greatest efforts northeast of Gorizia.

"After having kept under the most violent fire for several hours the positions occupied by us along the crest of Monte San Gabriele and on the western slopes of the mountain descending towards Balcaro, we attacked them from the east and the south. The bitter struggle, which began at dawn, became more pronounced around the western edge of the table land of St. Caterina. Finally, towards midday, the enemy, beaten and repulsed, gave up his fruitless attempts."

VIENNA PLACES ITALIAN LOSSES AT 250,000

Eleventh Isonzo Battle Ended Enormous Casualties—20,000 Prisoners Taken By Austrians.

Vienna (via London), Sept. 14.—British admiralty, per wireless press.—The Italian losses in the eleventh Isonzo battle," says an official statement issued yesterday by the Austrian war office, "have reached almost a quarter of a million, including 20,000 prisoners."

FLOUR MILLS SHUT DOWN; BREAD SHORTAGE FEARED

Light Receipts of Wheat Compel the Large Milling Companies to Close.

Minneapolis, Sept. 14.—Light receipts of wheat compelled the Washburn-Crosby company to shut down its flour mills here yesterday, and other large milling companies expected they would be obliged to follow suit to-day.

Paralysis of the milling industry is threatened, while orders for flour continue to pile up and the country faces a bread famine. The Minneapolis flour mills have never before shut down in the middle of the harvest season.

DRILL MEN AT NIGHT

Drafted Men to Learn Their Duties by Searchlight.

New York, Sept. 14.—Captain A. G. Boyce, in charge of drilling drafted men on Governor's island, yesterday announced an innovation of drilling his men at night. Eight powerful arc lights turn the grounds into a daylight clearing, and from now on every evening the recruits will get their training from a quarter to eight until a quarter to ten.

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Spartanburg, S. C.—"For nine years I suffered from backache, weakness, and irregularities so I could hardly do my work. I tried many remedies but found no permanent relief. After taking Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound I felt a great change for the better and am now well and strong so I have no trouble in doing my work.

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COAL MEN DEFYING U. S. FACE CONSEQUENCES

Refusal of Some to Sell at President Wilson's Prices Causes an Investigation.

Washington, Sept. 14.—Coal operators and dealers "in two or three sections" are violating President Wilson's coal price orders, say reports to the fuel administration. Violations in Ohio are said to be "most serious." Federal investigation is under way.

Home owners in hundreds of cities are unable to lay in their usual winter supply and face great hardship as a result of developments in the coal situation. The first cold spell this week brought thousands of letters to state and federal authorities—complaints by consumers and dealers that they could get no coal.

The violations of the president's order are taking several forms. One is refusal to sell at the government's scale of prices. Another is selling at higher figures after secret "gentlemen's agreements" over the telephone. A third is a claim that there is no coal available not previously contracted for.

It was said yesterday on the highest authority that if these practices are not stopped immediately the full power of the Pomerene coal amendment to the food control law will be used. Punishment by \$5,000 fine and two years' imprisonment for each separate offense is provided.

The government may also take over such a mine owner's plant and operate it during the war.

Ex-Governor Fort of New Jersey, member of the federal trade commission, yesterday warned operators of the seriousness of attempts to violate the government's coal order.

"They don't realize what they're doing," he said. "The law is full of teeth."

He was astonished to hear of evasions particularly by Ohio men whose prices as fixed by the government are higher than other fields in the central territory.

RUSSIANS NEAR RIGA DRIVE GERMANS BACK

Berlin War Office Admits the Retreat of Cavalry From Two Towns.

Berlin (via London), Sept. 14.—"Under strong Russian pressure, German cavalry on the Riga-Venden road withdrew from Moritzberg and Neukalpen," the war office announced yesterday.

Petrograd, Sept. 13.—Russian troops are fighting desperately and successfully against the Germans on the north front, despite the near civil war between General Korniloff and Premier Kerensky.

Wednesday's official report said: "On the north front our advanced parties, in desperate fighting, occupied Matsiof, south of Lake Plauda, and are fortifying on the Schkeroten-Silamuja line."

TRAINING FOR WORK

U. S. Marine Corps Recruits Get Some Hard Practice.

Paris Island, S. C., Sept. 14.—Intensive training, under tutelage of a high ranking officer of the United States marine corps who has been abroad two years learning the methods, is now being given all recruits, at the local training camp for the "soldiers of the navy." Bomb throwing, trench construction, etc., serve to relieve the monotony of "squads right" and the recruits are quickly informed that their training is not for splendor on the parade ground, but on the contrary, is for the highest efficiency in actual warfare. The recruit sea soldiers are also being indoctrinated with the idea that U. S. marines must never fail in a pinch—fer that is the history of their corps, and that they must never yield to any foe, under any circumstances.

STORE POTATOES EARLY

Food Administration Plan to Prevent Shortage.

Washington, Sept. 14.—A more general use of potatoes to curb the consumption of flour and meat will be urged by the food administration in a campaign to be conducted through the grocery trade. Consumers everywhere will be asked to store enough potatoes in their homes during October and November to carry them through the winter.

The plan was proposed by the food administration retail food committee, which comprises a score of representative wholesale and retail grocers, and is intended to avoid a repetition of last winter's unfortunate experience when potatoes reached an abnormal figure, because transportation facilities were not available.

U-BOATS LESS EFFECTIVE

A Lean Week in Reports of German Destructiveness

TWELVE MERCHANT VESSELS ESCAPE

Fifty Lives Lost in the Sinking of the Minnehaha

Boston, Sept. 14.—While the U-boat sinking for the week are held in England to be the lowest mark since the unrestricted campaign began, the problem has not been solved says the Boston Transcript war expert. Transports with American troops and supplies for our army in France are now sprinkled over the ocean, and at any moment one or more of them may fall victim to the U-brute. The only solution of the question is an offensive against the German submarine bases, as repeatedly pointed out. England shies at the cost involved in a campaign against Zebruzze, Ostend, and Helgoland Right, but eventually such a campaign will have to be begun. In proportion to the sailings the number of large British ships sunk by mines and submarines, last week, was smaller than in any other week since the government began to make reports in the present form. This means that fewer ships of above 1000 tons were sunk than during any other week since Feb. 1. Twelve ships above 1000 tons were reported sunk and twelve were reported as having escaped submarine attacks. This is an unusually large proportion. France lost six vessels and Italy none. The one Italian vessel attacked escaped. The ports from sailors who have reached this side of the Atlantic tell of the destruction of various vessels by submarines. One such is the Minnehaha, an Atlantic transport liner which has made twenty-six successful voyages through the war zone, carrying great cargoes. This vessel was sunk off Ireland by a submarine, and fifty of the crew are reported lost from an explosion in the engine room and from drowning. With the destruction of another steamer, the Verdi, loss of six lives is reported. Survivors of the Leyland line steamer Devonian, which was sunk by a German submarine attack while on the way to Boston recently, say the Devonian was one of about twenty-five steamers coming from England conveyed by a British cruiser and other naval craft. Two U-boats attacked them off Tory island, north of Ireland, sinking five of the steamers, also the cruiser.

CONGRESS INVITED TO VISIT BRITISH FRONT

Delegation Would Be Guests of British People, Says House of Commons in Message to Marshall.

Washington, Sept. 14.—An invitation to Congress to send a delegation to visit England and the British fighting front was received yesterday by Vice-President Marshall from Lord Chancellor Finlay and J. W. Lowther, speaker of the House of Commons. It was presented to the Senate.

"We are authorized by the government to say that such visitors would be guests of the British people," said the invitation.

TO PRESERVE GUARD UNITS

They Will Be Broken Up as Little as Possible, War Department Repeats.

Washington, Sept. 14.—Renewed assurances that National Guard units will be broken up as little as possible in the army reorganization was given yesterday by the war department. It was explained, however, that in many cases it will be necessary to change the status or unity of organization, and that the decision rests with the department commanders.

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SWEDEN'S PLEA A BOOMERANG

Plea of Transmitting Notes for United States to and from Turkey

DOES NOT STAND LIGHT OF DAY Riddled by Proof That She Required Text of Messages

Washington, Sept. 14.—The effort of the Swedish government to justify her action in transmitting the Luxburg "spurious versent" messages from Buenos Aires to Berlin was frustrated in sudden and dramatic fashion yesterday.

The department of state announced that a report had been received from Ira Nelson Morris, the American minister at Stockholm, completely contradicting statements made by Admiral Lindman, the Swedish foreign minister.

Admiral Lindman's defense was that neither the Swedish minister at Buenos Aires nor the Swedish foreign office knew the contents of the messages sent by the German minister at Buenos Aires, and consequently could not be charged with a violation of neutrality from the fact that the message undertook to advise the German government how to proceed with the destruction of certain Argentine ships.

The United States government has taken the position that Sweden in her role of a neutral was obliged to know the contents of messages she was carrying for a belligerent, in order to be able to vouch for the fact that the messages were not against the interests of the other side in the war.

It now develops, from the statements of Admiral Lindman on the one hand and Minister Morris on the other, that whereas Sweden was freely and without knowing their contents transmitting all the messages that Germany desired to send, she was requiring the United States whenever it desired to send a message through Swedish channels, to disclose its contents in every case to the Swedish government and to have it sent in the Swedish code.

MANY PACIFISTS TO BE INDICTED

I. W. W. Raids and Arrests of German Editors Are the First Moves.

Washington, Sept. 14.—Seizure of I. W. W. evidence, arrest of German editors and search for anti-war plotting in the People's Peace council are preliminary to wholesale indictments under the espionage act of June 15.

The department of justice yesterday predicted sensational developments when the grand jury at Chicago, special investigators in Philadelphia and other cities and the secret service complete their work.

The postoffice department said that "50 per cent" of the Teutonic foreign language newspapers in the United States are "in the same class with the Philadelphia 'Tagblatt.'" Translation of their disloyal criticisms of the government's war measures "show wilful intent" to interfere with their operation or success. Under the espionage act this is punishable by a fine of \$10,000 and imprisonment for 20 years.

For months the postoffice department has kept a watch on all German, Austrian and Bulgarian newspapers printed in this country, as well as on publications of pacifists, the I. W. W. and the Socialist party. First the Socialist papers were denied use of the mails, which had a wholesome effect on the others. Then the department turned to the Teutonic newspapers, suppressing the Philadelphia 'Tagblatt,' the worst offender. Similar action is contemplated against others. A staff of translators is preparing the material to-day.

Repassage by the House of the trad-

Crawford Ranges

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SOFT MUSIC BEST FOR COWS

Funeral Marches Make 'Em Sad; Rag-time Excites Them.

San Francisco, Sept. 14.—Canned music will increase the production of milk on the prize dairy ranch of Charles W. Ward near Eureka.

"Play the right sort of music when you are milking her, and a cow will give 10 per cent more milk," Ward said yesterday. "I'm going to take the photograph out of my yacht and install it in the dairy barn."

"My head masters, graduates of Cornell and Ames colleges, tell me a funeral march makes cows sad, and bangy, stirring music gets 'em excited so they don't give as much milk. They like something like the 'Blue Danube.'"

BRITISH IMPORTS SHOW REMARKABLE INCREASE

Figures for August Show Gain of \$22,375,000, Largely in Foodstuffs—Exports, Chiefly in Cotton Goods, Are \$10,415,000.

London, Sept. 14.—The British board of trade figures for August show a remarkable increase in imports of \$122,375,000. Of this sum \$50,000,000 was in food, \$35,000,000 in raw materials, including \$15,000,000 in cotton and \$35,000,000 in manufactured articles. Exports showed an increase of \$10,415,000, chiefly in cotton textiles.