

# SHRAP-NEL

### ADVENTURES OF HEMLOCK TITTEBAT.

(Continued.)

"And who are you?" demanded Tittlebat.

"I'm a reporter, and that's my dinner. Don't you dare eat it!"

I had done time myself, and I knew how the poor fellow felt. You know reporters only draw down ten dollars a day, and colym conductors twenty-five, so its hard-in these times. So we gave him his frankfur, and he hungrily ate it.

Tittlebat modestly introduced himself, and the handsome young reporter promised to introduce him to the most select Spy club in the city. Tittlebat explained the spy hunt in detail and the reporter jotted down notes on his cuffs. When the cuffs were filled he unbuttoned his coat and wrote several columns on his shirt. Then he tattooed a few lines on his arm and was off to the office to turn in his story.

Now what?" inquired Tittlebat.

"Take a street car uptown," said I.

"There's no German spies in the Fourth ward."

After a short wait of three hours and twenty-seven minutes a street car wobbled across the tracks and Tittlebat fell up the steps. I stood off the conductor until pay day while Tittlebat was looking out the window in search of pro-Germans.

When we got downtown we searched for the police department. We found him peacefully slumbering on top of the radiator in the interurban station. Tittlebat kicked the police department in the shins.

"I'll take the same" muttered the police department, and slumbered on.

Just then a large lady hurriedly left the room. Tittlebat's eagle eye detected her at once, and he also detected a piece of paper that she had dropped from her handbag.

He picked it up and exclaimed: "Discovered! A German cipher message—listen—"

And he read aloud:

"Set up 60, k2 plain and two purf for 35 rows 36th row k4 plain, repeat to end."

"I must unravel this mystery. It is a German plot—see! 'Set us 60' probably means blow up sixty buildings; 'k4' probably means kill four people—oh, this is terrible!"

"Why not wake up the cop?" I inquired.

"Young man, there are limits, even to my mighty powers—besides, I can work best alone."

We attempted to pursue the large lady, but she had disappeared. However, we met our friend, the reporter coming out of—well we met him, and Tittlebat told him all his troubles. He showed us the evening paper, with a beautiful write-up of the great detective. Tittlebat, like all great men, hated publicity, but he promised to give the reporter his photo for the next edition. Then he went on pursuing the large lady.

"Was she a large lady with a purple hat and pink shopping bag?" inquired the reporter.

"Yes," replied Tittlebat.

"I just saw her go in the ten-cent store. There eighty-seven ladies with big bags in there."

"A female spy club?" muttered Tittlebat.

"No they're only doing their Christmas shopping."

When we got to the ten-cent store we saw our large lady. Tittlebat waited gracefully up to her.

"Madam," demanded he, "please explain this cipher message."

"Why the idea! That's my knitting directions. 'Set up 60 stitches, knit 4 plain—"

Tittlebat had fainted. I left him there.

## DUNDEE BEATS JOHN RITCHIE AT TOLUCA

Toluca, Ill., Dec. 19.—"Peanuts" Dundee, Rock Island Italian, beat Johnny Ritchie, of Chicago, in nine rounds of their ten-round bout here last night. However, Referee Ed Purdy, of Chicago, declared the bout a draw, much to the disapproval of the fans.

Exhibiting a fashionable left jab and a pretty right cross, Dundee battered Emil Thiry's protege round after round. In the tenth Ritchie was a tired boy and had a lot of trouble in keeping his equilibrium under the rain of rights and lets his amateurish showered to his face and body. "Peanuts" left the ring unmarked while Ritchie was considerably messed around the face.

The "Wop's" reliable left jab carried away the honors in the opening round. He beat Johnny to the punch every time and had him missing badly. The second was even. This was the only round that the Chicagoan had a chance to claim. The third again saw Dundee's left stop Thiry's man. A right cross puffed Ritchie's eyes and nose in the fourth.

From the fourth until the eighth the Rock Island youngster kept up his long lead by his left jab and right cross. During the ninth and tenth stanzas "Peanuts" gave Ritchie a bad battering at infighting with a terrific uppercut that generally found a landing place on some part of the latter's anatomy. Johnny appeared to the perceptibly. He could hardly get his arms up to defend himself. And the little Italian was working on him from bell to bell, only to be rewarded with a draw.

The boys fought at catchweights.

Neither boxer entered the ring weighing over 122 pounds.

In the semi-windup Sammy Robenaw, of La Salle, stopped Kid Bailey, of Streator, in the first round with a right to the jaw. Before the fight was a minute old he tackled a right on the Streatorite's jaw and sent him down in a heap. A second swing and Bailey dropped again for the count. They are a couple of welterweights.

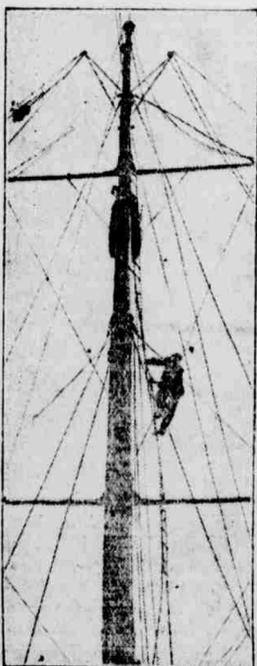
Young Grisher, of La Salle, proved too much for Young Meiser, of Spring Valley, in the preliminary. Ed Purdy stopped the go in the second round. Meiser was outwheeled by Grisher but put up a snare fight. The youngsters fought at 126 pounds.

The bouts were witnessed by a fair-sized crowd. A number of Streator and Ottawa fans were at the ring-side.

## ATHLETIC MEETING AT UNION HALL TONIGHT

A meeting will be held tonight of the Soldiers' Benefit Athletic association in Union hall, over Vogt & Boyle's, at which time final arrangements will be made for the big contest to be staged New Year's afternoon at the Gayety theater. It is urged by Director of Athletics Frank Switzer that there be a large attendance.

## WATCHING FOR U-BOATS



The Germans have placed their hopes of victory in submarine warfare but owing to the measures taken by the allied governments the hope has not materialized. All merchant ships have been armored and every hour of day and night finds a man on watch for periscopes while standing high up in the crew's nest of the ship.

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## THINGS THAT NEVER HAPPEN

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## Passing Christmas Eve Outdoors

W H all slept under the stars, as usual, on Christmas eve. To shut oneself up in a room from the delicious South African night is simply to miss one of the joys of living. "No one knows the stars who has not slept, as the French happily put it, in a belle etoile. He may know all their names and distances and magnitudes and yet be ignorant of what alone concerns mankind—their serene and gladsome influence on the mind. Stevenson surely would have loved Rhodesia for its nights alone.

One great advantage of the long drought from which we had been suffering—in Rhodesia one must needs be an optimist or die—is that there were practically no mosquitoes and very few flies, so that the stiffness of a mosquito curtain was unnecessary.

The night was cool and silent, except for the distant howl of a jackal and the occasional hoot of an owl. About five o'clock the life of day began to stir, and the sun gradually turned the mopani and mimosa trees to a golden green and bathed us in the scent of mimosa blossom. The go away bird called impertinently from a bush close by, and two green parakeets flew over our heads.

Then one little sleeper after another rubbed his eyes and crept to the foot of the bed to fathom the treasures of the Christmas stocking. As the sun rose higher tongues were loosened, and soon crackers cracked, and trumpets, six of them, were heralding the morn, if not exactly in the manner of the angels.

## NOTE OF HOPE AND HAPPINESS

Celebration of Saviour's Birth Commands Attention of All Nations Regardless of Ravages of War.

On the great feast of the Nativity, Christmas, as it is popularly known, there is always a note of hope and cheer, even when many lands are drenched in blood. It was 1917 years ago that Christ was born, but the message he brought is as fresh and compelling as it was in the years long ago. Over the little town of Bethlehem the heavenly choir sang "Gloria in Excelsis Deo"—"Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace to men of good will," or, as some renderings of the Latin text have it, "and on earth peace and good will towards men." That blessed proclamation will go sounding down the centuries to come until time shall be no more.

Professing Christmas welcome today as one of peculiar joy and gladness. The liturgical churches celebrate it with impressive services but all God-fearing people, whether they be connected with the Christian body or that, can but find a thrill and a lifting up of the soul in meditating upon the birth of Jesus and the mighty work the redeemer came to accomplish.

Christmas comes to us with its hallowed greeting and with an inspiration for higher purposes and true Christian charity. May this be truly a happy Christmas for one and all.

The noise worried no one. But when we had had enough we dispersed to seek baths, and some of us were even energetic enough to have a round of golf before breakfast.—"The Heart of the Veld," by Madeline Alston.

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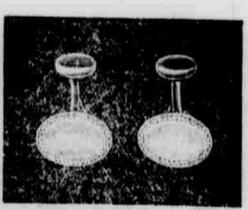
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I realize there are only a few more shopping days left, and I will sell these articles rather than carry them over next year, and I would rather you have the benefit of saving a few dollars and get your future patronage.

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Solid Gold Cuff Buttons	\$2.00 to \$5.00	Baby Lockets and Chains	\$1.00 to \$ 3.00
Scarf Pins	50c to \$5.00	Baby Bib Holders	\$1.00 to \$ 2.00
Vest chains	\$1.00 to \$4.00	Hat Pins	50c to \$ 2.00
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