

LIKE A HUMAN ON TRAIL**WORLD'S OLDEST INDUSTRY.**

Manufacture of Gun Flints—Still Used in Africa and Asia.

Probably the oldest established business in the world is at Brandon, in Suffolk, where the manufacture of gun flints has been carried on as the successor to the prehistoric manufacture of arrow heads from the same material. It is estimated that for more than ten thousand years flint working has been carried on at that spot; the only change made since those early days being in the introduction of metal tools for working the flints in place of the stone and horn of the average.

"Talk of the intelligence and tact that wild animals manifest in stalking prey," said A. W. Stevens of McKean County, Pa., "I never heard or read of a more striking instance of it than one that came under the observation of Leroy Lyman, a noted woodsman of northern Pennsylvania."

"After a fall of snow he was going into the woods to set a trap, when he came to tracks in the snow, in an old wood road, which he recognized as those of a wildcat. The trail kept along in the road for some distance, when it turned off at a sharp angle and entered the woods."

"The tracks led straight as a chalk line in the direction of one of the big hemlocks. Lyman followed it, and was surprised to find that it ended at the tree, with the impression of one of the wildcat's feet in the snow, a foot or so off the trail, near the tree trunk."

"The wildcat had not climbed the tree. There was no other growth into or upon which it could have leaped. What had become of it was a mystery."

"After studying the situation awhile, Lyman believed that in that single footprint apart from the trail, at the tree trunk, he saw the solution of the puzzle. When he examined the trail closely, he was sure of it, for he discovered that each track bore the marks of two of the wildcat's feet. The animal had returned to the road by taking its trail back—and that without turning in its tracks. Then Lyman knew that the wildcat was on the scent of game, and to secure it had been obliged to resort to careful tactics."

"Following the trail back to the road, he found that the wildcat had continued along it for about twenty yards, to a spot where the ground at the side of the road was two feet or so above the road's level, and there it had turned and climbed back into the woods, behind another hemlock tree. Beyond this tree and in line with it, at a distance of a few yards, was another hemlock, and about the same distance apart, straight in line, were two more. A rod or so beyond the last tree in the line lay a big log, against which the snow had drifted to the top."

"The wildcat's trail led from the first tree of the row of hemlocks to the second, around which it followed, close to the trunk, and so on to the second, third and fourth. From the fourth, as the trail indubitably showed in the snow, the wildcat had crept low to the bottom of the drift against the log, and then along it and around to one end. There the scattered snow told the unmistakable story of a leap from that point of vantage, gained by tactics startlingly human in the calculation and judgment with which they were executed."

"The snow on the opposite side of the log was torn up and scattered about and covered with deer hair and blood. It is rare for a wildcat to attack prey as big as deer, but this one was evidently made desperate by hunger. A mound of snow a few feet away showed that the wildcat had won in the attack, for under it Lyman knew the beast had buried such of the deer as was left after it had satisfied its hunger."

"When he uncovered the mound he found the remains of a doe. The ground was bare on the lee side of the log, and there the deer had been lying when surprised and overcome."

"To the woodsman it was plain that the wildcat had scented the deer from the road, and laid plans for its capture. Stealing in as far as the hemlock tree to which its trail first led, the animal had kept the trunk of the tree between it and possible discovery by its intended prey. Getting to the tree, and still careful not to expose its body, the wildcat had found it necessary to reconnoitre to discover the position and location of its game, so as to decide on the safest tactics to adopt in getting within capturing distance of it."

"To do this the wildcat had peered around the tree trunk, during which inspection it had put one paw out in the snow to steady itself, making the separate track near the tree. This stealthy glance had evidently satisfied the wildcat that further advance in that direction was out of the question, for beyond the hemlock there was no protection against discovery. So the wily animal had backed cautiously over its trail to and along the road, backing in order that it might keep its eyes in the direction of the spot where it had located its prey, thus to detect any suspicious movement it might make, and note the result."

"Its plan was to seek the row of hemlock trees that offered it such strategic advantage.

Longest Submarine Tunnel.

The longest submarine tunnel in the world runs beneath the River Severn. The total length of it is four miles six hundred and twenty-four yards, and of this two and a quarter miles lie from forty-five feet to one hundred feet below the estuary of the river already named.

A Shark's Human Prey.

On cutting open a shark, 16 feet long, caught in the Bay of Naples, some fishermen the other day found inside the monster's stomach the body of a boy of 8 years who had been missing from his home for some days.—London Chronicle.

BUCKETFUL OF DIAMONDS

Supposed to Have Been Hidden by a Kaffir Chieftain.

SEEN BY CECIL RHODES.

Many Attempts Made to Recover Them, but Indunas Who Buried Them Cannot be Made to Tell. Diamonds Filled a Bucket. Were of Finest Color.

A bucketful of diamonds worth \$20,000,000, and hidden by old Chief Magato, who long years ago ruled the Kaffir tribes of Rhodesia, has put all of South Africa in a turmoil of feverish excitement. In every part of Cape Colony and the Transvaal, in Cape Town and Kimberley, Pretoria, Mafeking, Johannesburg, Swartman's kop, Ladysmith and Pocheftroom venturesome men are making up expeditions to search Rhodesia and the mysterious wilderness lying far north of the Limpopo river to the Zambezi for these diamonds. Newspapers in South Africa are full of the excitement. Nothing else is talked of in that end of the world but Chief Magato and his bucketful of diamonds.

Chief Magato is not a myth. Neither is the bucketful of diamonds. Cecil Rhodes saw the big bucket filled to the brim with diamonds of the finest color and perfect luster. With Cecil Rhodes at the time were Sir John Willoughby, Justice Lange and D. C. Waal. But with all his craftsmanship, Cecil Rhodes was unable to make a bargain with the old chief, who was willing to give away his kingdom, larger than the state of Texas, but who clung tenaciously to his bucketful of diamonds.

The story of the now famous meeting between Cecil Rhodes and old Chief Magato, of Rhodesia, dates back to 1890, when Rhodes, accompanied by Sir John Willoughby, Justice Lange and D. C. Waal, M. L. A., came to the Transvaal from the newly-acquired territory now called Rhodesia.

Magato long was the terror of the venturesome Boer pioneers. To set foot in his realm was to court death. Across Rhodesia his fearless black warriors, a living hedge with Bristling spears, barred the way to the Zambezi river. But if Magato was fearless, so was Cecil Rhodes. The empire builder who had not feared to go alone to the heart of Lobengula's country and make a treaty with that black scourge of the dark continent, did not hesitate to pay a visit to Magato.

During the conversation, Magato, who knew all the great men of South Africa by reputation, and who was dazzled by the fame of the great white chief from Kimberley, became confidential, and as the story has it, asked Mr. Rhodes if he had ever seen a bucketful of diamonds.

Magato therupon spoke to an Indiana, and within a few minutes two natives arrived on the scene carrying a bucket filled to the brim with precious stones of the finest color.

It is stated that after an intimacy from Mr. Rhodes as to the diamonds having been stolen, and the response of the chief that would require more than the Transvaal police to recover them, Mr. Rhodes again carefully regarded the diamonds and estimated their value at from \$15,000,000 to \$20,000,000.

The story was noised abroad and several private syndicates were afterwards formed to try and obtain the diamonds or a portion of them, from Magato, but notwithstanding a large outlay of money, none of these syndicates could get Magato to sell the stones, if he had them, which he invariably denied, or find out what had become of them.

As a matter of fact, the narrative itself began to be regarded as a myth, but it was resuscitated when, just before Magato's death, a large and valuable diamond was sold by the chief himself to a local trader. Renewed efforts were then made to get hold of the diamonds, but Magato himself denied having them or ever having had any. There are traders in the Spelken who have stated more than once that though they never saw these diamonds themselves, they had often been told about them by Magato's Indians.

So far the theory has merely demonstrated the possession of the diamonds. As to the date of their being hidden, of how they were hidden, and possibly where—here is the connection with the hidden treasure which has started the various expeditions on their earnest search.

Just before his death Magato, who hated his nephew, Mpefu, the heir to the chieftainship, and who hoped to see one of his indunas installed instead, determined, at any rate, not to leave him any riches. So when he felt that his death was near he sent for four of his indunas, and, addressing them solemnly on their duty and loyalty to himself, requested them to divide the diamonds into parcels and take them far away and bury them in some wilderness. This they promised to do, and the diamonds having been distributed among them, two indunas set out for the Matabeleland and the other two trekked toward the Selati, in the direction in which the remains of the murdered man, Van Niekerk, were subsequently found.

The facts leaked out in one way or another after Magato's death, and there must be many of Magato's people, as well as a few persons who know these details—perhaps even there are some traders in Zoutpansberg to-day who may remember two of Magato's indunas going on a special mission toward the location of Majiji, the mysterious "she king," as the Kaffirs termed her.

TEMPERANCE IN ENGLAND.

Americans Setting the Fashion with Iced Drinks.

The remarkable wave of temperance which is at present spreading all over the country is said to be due in the first place to economic conditions, and, secondly, to the great change in public taste, says London Express.

"One of the chief reasons of the decrease in the national drink bill," said John T. Rae, secretary of the National Temperance League, "is the striking condemnation of the use of alcohol by some of the most influential medical authorities."

"Another important factor in the decreased consumption of wines and spirits is the fashion set by the large number of American visitors, who show a remarkable preference for iced temperature drinks."

"The total abstinence of the majority of the labor leaders is also beginning to tell on the laboring classes and members of trade unions, many of whom are now beginning to realize that teetotalism is an important stepping stone to their future progress."

"There is no doubt," the manager of one of the largest firms of wine merchants told an Express representative, "that the decrease in wine and spirit drinking is due to the present tightness of money and the high rate of the income tax. In consequence of this the public are only spending about half as much on wines as they were formerly in the habit of doing."

Childless Nobility.

Since 1840 thirty British peers or eldest sons of peers have married in the United States. Of these thirteen have no children at all, five have no sons and five have only one son. The total number of peers' children with American mothers is thirty-nine, of whom eighteen are sons.

During the same period twenty-three peers or eldest sons of peers have married in the colonies. Four have no children, seven have one son, eight have two sons and two have three sons.

That is to say, though the number of colonial peeresses is seven less than the number of American peeresses, they have nearly twice as many children, and, while six of them have neglected to present their husbands with heirs, nineteen Americans are guilty of the same neglect.

In the lower ranks of the aristocracy the figures are even more startling. Of Americans who are the wives of Englishmen with a courtesy title or baronetcy, there are forty-four. Of these seventeen, or nearly half, have no children and eight have only one child.

It therefore comes to this, that since 1840 the number of titled Americans, exclusive of knights' wives, has risen to seventy-four, of whom thirty are childless and fourteen have but one child.

In face of these figures, the contention that by means of American brides fresh vigor may be imported into the British aristocracy is merely ridiculous.—New York Tribune.

Talents and Confidence.

A single-talent man, supported by great self-confidence, will achieve more than a ten-talent man who does not believe in himself. The mind cannot act with vigor in the presence of doubt. A wavering mind makes a wavering execution. There must be certainty, confidence and assurance, or there can be no efficiency. An uneducated man who believes in himself, and who has faith that he can do the thing he undertakes, often puts to shame the average college bred man, whose over-culture and wider outlook have sometimes bred increased sensitiveness and a lessening of self-confidence, whose decision has been weakened by constant weighing of conflicting theories and whose prejudices are always open to conviction.—Success.

A New Submarine.

John P. Holland, the inventor of the Holland submarine boat, has made and satisfactorily tested the model of a new submarine, which is intended to attain a speed of between 25 and 30 knots an hour, submerged. The model prepared by Mr. Holland has been put to the test at Washington, D. C., by the methods provided by the navy department, and has met all the requirements.

Odd Utility of Wives.

In a recent case in London a detective testified that it was common for counterfeitors to marry women solely for the purpose of passing bad coins on the public. These marriages are not contracted from any feelings of mutual attraction or even trade partnership, but in the belief that juries have a reluctance in convicting wives.

French Army Discipline.

In the French army an officer whose duty it is to report on a junior is obliged to show him the original report and obtain his signature to it, as proof that he has made himself master of the contents. The general officer is not permitted to express any opinion on the matter until he obtains from the one accused a written defense.

Germany's Railway Tickets.

On the state railways in Germany the colors of the carriages are the same as the tickets of their respective classes; thus first class carriages are yellow, second class slate green and third class white.

Physicians in Russia.

Russia, with a population of 127,000,000, has only 18,334 physicians. In the United States, with a population of about 75,000,000, there are 120,000 physicians.

While grass will not grow in certain parts of Africa, these localities are the richest in flowering plants.

What's in McClure's.

The October *McClure's* is devoted peculiarly to American life and activities. Not a story in it, nor a special article, but concerns the real and immediate things that move this country at large. Pastor Charles Wagner, the French clergyman-author of "The Simple Life," writes of his visit at the White House, and with simple directness tells of the children and the household life of the President as he saw them. He writes an interesting and important estimate of President Roosevelt as a man.

"What Kansas Did to Standard Oil" concludes Miss Tarbell's story of the oil war in Kansas, and tells excitingly of how the Kansans rushed in and won.

"Pioneer Transportation in America" is the truthful romance of traffic, an absorbingly interesting story full of curious information. In this first paper Charles F. Lumis, foremost authority on the subject, carries traffic through America's heroic age up to the beginnings of the great days on the plains.

Eugene Wood contributes "The County Fair," the best of his reminiscent stories of "Back Home."

Mrs. Mary Stewart Cutting appears again with another "little story of married life." Lloyd Osborne, Jean Webster, Guy Wetmore Carryl, Henry C. Rowland, Albert Kinross and F. H. Lancaster are among the other contributors of fiction.

Not the least interesting feature of the magazine is the editorial announcement of a great historical series, to begin in November, Carl Schurz's "Reminiscences of a Long Life" and Ray Stannard Baker's investigation of the Railroad Problem, of which publication will begin before Congress meets.

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