

HOT PURSUIT OF JERSEY BOMBAT

Weird 'Devil Bird' Crossed State Line and Terrified Spring Valley, New York

BRAVE POSSE HUNTS MONSTER

Described as Having An Immense Head, and a Small but Muscular Body Covered with Hair—Arms Equipped with Web-like Skin.

Spring Valley, N. Y.—An armed posse of fearless men searched hill and dale and invaded swamp lands fearlessly in and around this village, in hot pursuit of the weird Jersey "Bombat," which has made its lair nearby. The alleged capture of the "devil bird" at Atlantic City is not credited here. It wasn't the real "devil bird" that fought Fisherman Dougherty, for the monster is in "the midst" here.

The creature appeared in the heart of the swamp near the business section of Main street. Its uncanny cries at first startled the villagers, and when an exploring party, armed with lanterns, entered the swamp the gleaming eyes of the creature and its wild gyrations threw terror into the hearts of the bravest, and the scouting party, led by Charlie Fisher, who keeps the bowling alleys, fled back to the security of the village streets.

Throughout the night the cries of the whatever-it-is were heard coming from various directions, but always from the neighborhood of the swamp. Chief of Police "Tommy" Walker, who is the entire unformed force, was appealed to, but "guessed as how" his business did not consist of running down Bombats or Jersey Devils, and he reckoned he'd better remain on Main street and do his usual bit.

On their way to school next day children flocked together passing the haunt of the Bombat. Women expressed equal fear and men ventured forth fearful of encountering the creature.

It was described as having an immense head atop of a small but muscular body, covered with hair. Its arms appeared to be equipped with a web-like skin which answered the purpose of wings, giving the creature ability to leap immense distances, while the wings flapped lifting its body clear off the earth.

At night when the awful shrieking and at times mournful cries of the Bombat carried into every home of the village, the negroes living on Chicken Hill ran terrified into the village and many flocked into the Methodist church and prayed hysterically.

Sarah Allston, wife of Omega Allston, a woodchopper, was more hysterical than the rest. She fled from the church down Main street and fell dead in front of the post office. Dr. Smith declared she had died from heart disease, but the villagers exclaimed that the evil hand of the Bombat had been raised against Sarah, and that any one so indicated by the monster would meet the same fate.

An hour later the fright of the villagers was intensified when word was brought in that the body of a dead man was found on the railroad tracks. The body has not yet been identified.

After a night of vigil, during which the Bombat continued to howl and shriek and moan, the men of Spring Valley met in Fisher's bowling alley, but not a ball rolled, not even a high ball. Matters were too desperate, Charley Fisher allowed, to permit any sort of festivity.

"I tell you what we'll do," spoke up Tom Moore, throwing out his chest. "We'll form a hunting party, arm ourselves to the teeth, and every man pledging himself to stand together, we'll sally into the swamp to-morrow and hunt down that pesky critter."

There were several present who declared as how it might be well to call for outside assistance and not go on tempting the devil, but when J. C. Gibbs, Harold Sheldon, Ross Youmans, Roswald Farrington, Walter Foley, Shep Small and Dink Davis volunteered to start the hunt, first thing next morning, the others fell into line.

During the remainder of the night followed a scurrying throughout the village for firearms, and cutlasses, and it came to pass that bright and early the band entered the swamp to hunt the terrifying bombat to the death.

Spring Valley awaited with hushed anxiety the result of the formidable dash of the brave men of the village into the heart of the bombat's chosen fastness. Their search was in vain.

DONKEY BLOWS OUT THE GAS. Owner Sues Express Company to Recover Damages for Loss.

St. Louis, Mo.—William Grothe of Wentville, Mo., through his attorney, is trying to collect from an express company the value of a donkey he had bought and which ended its life while being shipped from Illinois to Missouri. The donkey was crated and placed in the express company's warehouse here Tuesday night. A gas jet was burning near the animal when the employees locked the warehouse. In the morning the light was out and the donkey dead.

Grothe contends the donkey blew out the gas while braying.

DOES PUBLICITY INCREASE CRIME?

Paris has taken a new twist. For a long time it has been urged that the excessive amount of publicity which has been given to the crimes of the Paris Apaches has been responsible for a great proportion of the violence which has prevailed in the capital in recent years. M. Briand, minister of justice, has just issued an order prohibiting the police under penalty of severe punishment from supplying photographs of noted criminals to the press. Nor will M. Bertillon of the anthropometric department be allowed to give photographs, neither will the newspaper reporters be permitted to photograph the bodies of murdered persons or the rooms in which crimes have been committed. A former chief of the detective department smiles, and predicts that the new order will not last three months, for there are times when the police find it extremely difficult to dispense with the aid of the press. But one thing is certain, the class known as Apaches has the upper hand in Paris. They are outlaws who play to the gallery, and are as full of vanity and conceit as of brutality. The Apache adores the center of the stage, and will commit any crime to figure as a hero to his kind.

THE DANGER OF SMOKE.

The pity of it is that the evils which come from smoke are all preventable. Smoke-consumers exist which have proved their worth. Due care in running fires will do much. No more fuel is required under careful management to produce combustion which shall be practically smokeless. Those statements have been proved over and over again. It is a matter of community supervision of laws rightly framed, and fearlessly administered. Fortunately inspection is by no means a difficult matter. One city, for example, handles that problem by means of a chart holding six pictures of a chimney above a factory, the first of which shows the chimney with no smoke, the second with a light smoke issuing, the other four showing greater and blacker volumes. The first conditions are passable. The last are dangerous. The inspector takes a photograph of any questionable chimney and compares it with the standard pictures. The comparison tells the story declares Hollis Godfrey, in Atlantic. The factory is pronounced "passed," or the owner is warned to immediately conform to the regulations under penalty of the law.

LONDON THE DREADFUL.

These statistics published by the County Council of London, are illuminative and, in certain respects, appalling. According to them, London comprises 74,816 acres of land and water. In the city proper live 4,795,789 human beings; in the suburbs around them another 3,000,000. While it is probably the wealthiest city in the world, its property being insured against fire for 1,040,057,845 pounds sterling, nevertheless "one person in every thirty-three is a pauper; twenty persons in every hundred die in a workhouse or a workhouse infirmary." The city annually distributes through its charities 10,066,043 pounds sterling. Over \$50,000,000 yearly in charity and yet one out of every thirty-three a pauper! Where else can be seen such extremes of poverty and suffering, wealth and ostentatious extravagance!

BEST SORT OF CO-OPERATION.

The New England fishermen devised, in the very beginning of their industry, a system of co-operation which lasts until this day. Mr. Andrew Carnegie describes it in a few words in the very valuable paper on Labor which introduces his book on "social Problems." He says: "I never see a fishing fleet sail without hailing it as the finest illustration of the perfect relationship which is one day to prevail between capital and labor generally. Every man in the ship, from the captain down, is a partner, paid by sharing in the profits of the catch according to the value of his labor."

BARCELONA IS PROGRESSIVE.

Barcelona has, perhaps, one of the best and most complete electric street car services in Europe, some 156 miles of line being worked by the different companies within the boundaries of the city and suburbs; none of these concerns, however, are British enterprises, the whole system being controlled by German and Belgian syndicates.

JUST A PREDICTION.

It may be that the tendency to live out of doors and enjoy the fresh air may bring back to us something of that delight in the external world which characterized the writers of some of the books of the old Testament.

REVERSING THE PARABLE.

It frequently happens nowadays that the prodigal son returns to his home for the express purpose of inviting the old man out to a first-class square meal.

Few authors have had a success equal to that of Captain Mahan, whose discussion of the sea power has changed the policy of all the strongest nations of the world.

A HUMAN SEISMOGRAPH

Maud Drake Out with a New Warning of an Impending Cataclysm in This Country.

Boulder Creek, Col.—Maud Lord Drake, who has spiritualistic tendencies and calls herself a human seismograph, predicts that a disaster of dire proportions is imminent somewhere on this continent. She declares that she foretold the Galveston tidal wave and the San Francisco earthquake, and warned the inhabitants of both these cities weeks beforehand that destruction was upon them. She also lays claim to a forewarning of the Slocum disaster, the Collingwood, Ohio, school fire, and the recent series of earthquakes in foreign lands. She said a few days ago:

"These disturbances confuse and distress me beforehand in proportion to their destructiveness and nearness. On Jan. 23 I was greatly affected all day, could with difficulty keep my feet, everything turning in confusion; then came a hurrying of spirits, hither and thither, with all kinds of clothing for men, women, and children. At that time I told of great earthquakes to come, and on that very day, in the Province of Turkestan, in Western Persia, sixty villages and more than 6,000 people were destroyed. Then came the eruption of the Colima volcano in Mexico, and a month later the destruction of Messina.

"But the worst is to come. For many months, at various times, I have been, and I am now, in the shadow of something even more appalling and destructive of human life. I cannot penetrate the gloom as yet, but it seems that it must be in this country, and that I must be in it. In addition to the cataclysm impending in this country there is to be another merciless disaster in Europe; not right soon, perhaps, but still not very far distant.

"But if, as in other cases, I should get the light in time to warn the localities to be affected, what good would it do? People will not heed until too late. They paid no attention in Galveston or San Francisco, nor was any heed given when, in 1882, I foretold from the platform of the coming disaster in the Island of Krakaton, where 25,000 lives were lost."

A KING IN TRADE



Royalty's Greatest Business Man—Leopold of the Belgians.

OUT FOR COD, CATCH SHARK.

Nine-Footer Puts up a Battle That Lasts for Five Hours.

Tacoma, Wash.—Going out for rock cod and putting in a whole afternoon battling with a giant mud shark was the experience of Lewis Jervis and C. de Allen off the Puget Sound Flour Mill. The shark repeatedly jerked two 40-pound sinkers, two buoys and the rowboat containing the two men about, and was only conquered after a struggle that began at 1 o'clock and was finished at 6 o'clock. The fish was docked at the Foss Boat Company's float at 8 o'clock and is now on exhibition.

It all came about by a silver salmon grabbing a piece of meat containing a hook and the shark grabbing the salmon, which at the time of his seizure contained both the meat and hook.

The shark is about 9 feet long and weighs about 800 pounds. These sharks are quite plentiful in the bay, though few as large as this one are ever seen.

"Man With the Golden Nose" Dead.

Lexington, Ky.—Patrick Lamphear, one of the most widely known Bourbon whiskey exporters in America, died here from pneumonia. He was born in Ireland sixty-five years ago. His skill in determining the quality of whiskey by its aroma had gained a large salary for him and had won for him the sobriquet of "the man with the golden nose."

WESTERN CHIVALRY.

We can't understand why a man—a full grown male person—should object to women suffrage—if the woman wants it, exclaims the Rawlins (Wyo.) Republican. We are of the opinion that woman is entitled to just about anything her heart desires. If she wants to vote for mercy's sake give her the ballot. If she wants to run for office the spectators should stand back and give her plenty of elbow room, and if necessary to her success in contests of this character let her costume be such as to interfere as little as possible with her progress. We are for woman first and other things afterward. She is half the population numerically and seven-fifths of it intrinsically. In other words, she is the whole blooming works, plus.

If she is happy the rest of us guys ought to be tickled to death. Therefore we say franchise her if it will please her, if it will make her smile. If it will give us common male mortals a glimpse into heaven through her sweetly curved lips; in the name of all that is good and holy franchise her. Give her the ballot if it will improve her already lovely disposition. Give it to her, and give it to her quick. This world is too commonplace and life too dull and short to deny woman anything that might possibly enhance her many God-given graces.

OFFICE-HOLDING A DUTY.

In many ways the people of the country would be benefited by inducing men who have a practical experience in the management of great industrial, financial and commercial enterprises to become candidates for public office, to declare American industries. They know economic questions better than do the politicians; their trade connections give them a larger concern in such issues, and furnish them with a greater inducement for studying them thoroughly. Moreover, business men in office are less likely than are the nominees of the politicians to be stampeded by demagogues, or to be frightened by the crack of the boss' whip. They would be far less likely to be influenced by the wiles of the hoodler. More than the average man they are conservative. The personal stake which they have in the stability of industry and finance has compelled them to get some acquaintance with the various political panaceas which agitators, from time to time, have urged, and with the different nostrums which ignorant, timid or careless legislatures have, at one time and another, enacted.

MEMORIES OF GENIUS.

Not for a moment should be deprecated the modern tendency to protect so far as possible the memories of men of genius who have given of their best to the world. The world will not forgive those who needlessly soil the names of its benefactors. It is hateful to impute the lower motives, and to exploit the mistakes and failures of those whose ill deeds would never have been bruited had it not been for their nobler accomplishments. But this generous mood, this sympathy with human frailty, this acknowledgment of the law of evolution in the realm of ethics and conduct should not be carried to the point of erecting veils into virtues, of not merely excusing, but preferring, and even honoring those actions which simply demonstrate a lack of moral self-control.

DRESS AND CAPRICE.

In a recent book on "The Evolution of Dress," Mr. W. M. Webb shows that many details of modern dress, generally regarded as products of caprice or accident, or of the invention of tailors and milliners, are traceable to primitive forms, and that fashion in costume is the result of a process of evolution in which early ideas continually crop out. The earliest form of dress seems to have been the shawl, or wrapper, and fringes date back to the first loom. The hatband is traced to the original fastening of the first cloth headdress. Puttees are as old as Mycenae. A mystery yet unexplained is the sewing of the buttons on the right-hand side of a man's coat and the left-hand side of a woman's.

IS GENIUS DEAD?

Lord Northcliffe declares that "there are no first-class writers today in England or America. Genius is dead." If Alfred Harmsworth says so, why so it is. But it will be terrible news to Rudyard Kipling, Richard Harding Davis, Laura Jean Libbey, Winston Churchill and other stars which have heretofore blazed in our literary skies, but which must now go out in darkness.

AN AXIOM IN NATURAL PHYSICS.

It is a mistake to suppose that quiet in the natural world is the result of one force working in one direction. Stillness in the outer world is always the result of at least two contending forces perfectly balanced against each other.

Underfeeding in London has become a fad. There has long been a popular impression with regard to the English metropolis that it was a settled misfortune.

Russia is still sending her thousands monthly to exile in Siberia. The reform that was promised has not come to pass.



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