

SPENT 18 MONTHS IN AMAZON WILDS

Leo Miller's Explorations For Natural History Museum.

HE GOT 2,300 SPECIMENS.

Among Them Are Nests and Eggs of the Cock of the Rock, a Rare Bird. Hunt Took Him Into Unexplored 4,000 Mile Jungle at Amazon Source.

After eighteen months spent in the jungles of Colombia, during which he made explorations in the country surrounding the headwaters of the Amazon, where no white men had ever been before, Leo E. Miller has brought his specimens to the American Museum of Natural History, which was responsible for the expedition. Its principal object was to obtain specimens of the nests and eggs of the cock of the rock, a rare bird, of which a few stuffed specimens exist in the museum.

No nests or eggs of this bird, however, had ever been seen, and the nesting and feeding habits were unknown in spite of the fact that many expeditions have attempted to get specimens. Mr. Miller brought back six nests, several old birds, several young birds and a number of eggs. He discovered that the nests are made of mud and roots and attached to cliffs, that the parents feed on berries and that the cream colored eggs, mottled with brown spots, are about half the size of a hen's egg. He worked, however, from February, 1911, to June, 1912, before he discovered any of these things. Then one day in the midst of a rapidly flowing stream, attached to the side of a bowlder, he spied a nest over which hovered one of the birds in question, with reddish orange plumage. In the nest was a young bird. On either side of the bowlder was a waterfall, and below the bowlder was a whirlpool. Yet the nest had to be obtained.

With the aid of the Indians who were with him Miller managed to make a raft. On this they ventured into the stream. Fortunately they had taken the precaution to attach the raft to a strand of grapevine, because they were no sooner in the whirlpool than they capsized. They managed to reach land again by means of the grapevine.

Attempts to Get Nest.

In a second attempt to get the nest a tree was cut down. It was hoped by Mr. Miller that the tree would fall across the bowlder and so make a natural bridge by which one of the Indians could cross and get the nest. This, however, it failed to do.

The third attempt succeeded. Mr. Miller and two of his Indians waded into the stream up to their necks and waited with outstretched hands while the third Indian from the shore poked the nest of the bowlder with a long stick. The nest fell into the river, and as it fell one of the Indians dived into the whirlpool after it and caught it in his teeth, as he was forced to use his hands and arms to swim with.

These adventures and further ones in which this bird participated took place along the Rio Naranjos. The other nests were found plastered on cliffs, and entailed some dangerous climbing. Miller says that he might have foregone the first nest if he had known that he would discover others. As a matter of fact, however, he brought back as many nests as he could, as absolutely none had been discovered before.

In his search for these nests he went to the headwaters of the Amazon in the Caqueta district. This is one of the least known parts of the world, absolutely unexplored. It is a thick jungle 4,000 miles from the coast and 6,000 feet above the sea level. From the tops of the trees there is one level of dense green as far as the eye can reach. It extends, in fact, a large part of the 4,000 miles.

Other Specimens.

These nests and birds are not the only part of the collection which Mr. Miller has obtained. He has brought back 2,300 specimens of birds and animals, including ant eaters, deer, agouti and eight kinds of monkeys. The agouti is a spotted rodent which often weighs as much as fifty pounds. Previous explorers have brought to the museum 8,000 specimens from Colombia, but Mr. Miller thinks many of his specimens are entirely new varieties.

"The country is very rough, and a jungle is always difficult to explore," said Mr. Miller. "Then there were jaguars and poisonous reptiles to fear. In one part of the country boa constrictors abound. But they are not dangerous. They will harm no one unless molested. They feed on the water rodents, some of which weigh as much as ninety pounds. I saw ten constrictors which were at least twenty feet in length.

"The people of the country are mostly half breeds, with negro, Indian and Spanish blood. There are very few pure Spaniards, and, in fact, very few of the inhabitants have any Spanish blood.

"The people are all kindly and courteous, however, and what is theirs is yours. One can find food in any house. There were times in the jungle when we were hard put to it for food. We often took a sheep along to kill for meat. And we carried other provisions, such as corn."

NEW YORK MAN IS WALKING 1,070 MILES.

Kiernan Hopes to Make Trip From Chicago in Twenty Days.

John J. Kiernan, an assistant district superintendent of the New York street cleaning department, is walking from Chicago to New York, 1,070 miles, and expects to make the trip in twenty days.

Kiernan weighs 200 pounds and is nearly six feet tall. He is forty-two years old and the father of eleven children.

To make the distance in twenty days Kiernan will have to walk an average of fifty-three and one-twentieth miles a day for twenty consecutive days. Kiernan says he can do this without much effort, and some of his past performances bear him out.

He is a Spanish war veteran and has been fourteen years in the national guard of New York, serving in the Sixty-ninth regiment during the Spanish-American war and later in the Twelfth regiment. In 1900 Kiernan walked from New York to the state camp at Peekskill, N. Y., a distance of forty-five miles, in fourteen hours and five minutes. He carried his full army equipment. In 1904 he walked from New York to Manassas, Va., 250 miles, in five days and four hours.

Medals have been given to Kiernan for his foot prowess.

PLAN FIRST INDIAN FAIR.

Sioux of Fort Peck Reservation Will Hold Agricultural Show.

The opening of Fort Peck Indian reservation in Montana next spring will mark the last big opening of agricultural land in the United States, and six new towns will be started on the land area. The total acreage of reservation is 2,068,936 acres, of which 723,663 acres are allotted to the Indians. The land now under cultivation is 3,800 acres, while last year only 1,500 acres were tilled and the year before practically none.

The Indians are highly elated over the progress they have already made in agriculture, and the entire tribe is arranging with great enthusiasm for the first Indian county fair ever held. It will open at Poplar, Mont., Oct. 1, and last for five days. A feature of the fair will be a football game between teams of the Peigan tribe of the Rocky mountains, on the Blackfoot reservation, and the Mandan tribe of the Fort Peck reservation.

In connection with the agricultural fair there will be a big Indian gathering just outside the agency town, where the Sioux will hold their tribal dances and go through their picturesque ceremonies for several days.

19 KNIVES IN HIS STOMACH.

Some Blades Rusty When Recovered After Eighteen Years.

When physicians operated upon John Martiner at the Chicago County hospital to learn what had caused "terrible pains in his stomach" they found nineteen pocketknives, seventeen nails, five knife blades, a dozen screws and a silver dollar.

For eighteen years Martiner, who has been known as "the human tool chest," had been swallowing the articles on wagers.

"Eating knives and all that stuff never hurt me," said Martiner before the operation, "but sometimes I'd get terrible pains in my stomach."

The hardware which was removed from Martiner's stomach was mounted on cardboard by Superintendent D. P. Peters of the hospital and placed on exhibition at the institution.

Ten of the knives had had bone handles, which had been dissolved by the gastric juices. The wooden handled knives were intact, but some of the blades were rusty.

ONLY ONE VETERAN LEFT NOW

Colonel John L. Clem Last of Civil War Officers on Army's Active List.

With the recent retirement of Major Daniel W. Arnold but one officer who had seen service in the civil war will be left on the active list of the United States army. This officer is Colonel John L. Clem of the quartermaster's department, now serving as chief quartermaster of the central division, with headquarters at Chicago.

Colonel Clem served as musician of Company C, Twenty-second Michigan Infantry, from May 1, 1863, to Sept. 19, 1864. He entered the regular army as a second lieutenant of the Twenty-fourth Infantry in December, 1871. He is a native of Ohio. He was born on Aug. 13, 1851, and may serve three years more on the active list if he wishes to.

Major Arnold, who retired because he had reached the age of sixty-four years, got his civil war service as a private in Company B, One Hundred and Thirty-fourth Illinois Infantry, from May 14, 1864, to Oct. 25, the same year.

CLARK WRECKED HIS DESK.

Pounded Away One Entire Section in Nine Months, Repair Men Find.

Repair men in examining the furniture of the house discovered that Speaker Clark had used his gavel with such effect that virtually the entire top of the desk was wrecked.

One entire section had been pounded away, leaving a large hole concealed by the green felt that covers the desk.

The speaker throughout the session made vigorous use of the gavel on all occasions. According to old members, no speaker since Thomas B. Reed had employed the mallet with such freedom.

WILL LAUNCH THE NEW YORK OCT. 30

With Sister Ship, the Texas, She Will Be Largest in Navy.

WILL HAVE COST \$10,000,000

Daughter of Congressman Calder Will Christen the Battleship and State Officials Will Be Present—New York Navy Yard Proud of Record.

Official announcement is made that the Dreadnought New York, which is now on the ways at the New York navy yard, will be launched Wednesday, Oct. 30. The New York, with her sister ship, the Texas, which was launched several months ago at the yards of a private concern, will be Uncle Sam's two largest fighting ships.

The minor details of the program have not been worked out as yet. The young woman who will christen the battleship is Miss Elsie F. Calder of Brooklyn, a daughter of Representative William M. Calder. Invitations to be present at the launching will be sent to Governor Dix, Secretary of State Edward L. Dineen and other state officials as well as all of the prominent inhabitants of the Empire State in civilian, military and naval life.

Her Dimensions.

The newest of the Dreadnoughts, which when completed will have cost in the neighborhood of \$10,000,000, has been under construction since September, 1911. On the eleventh day of that month the keel was laid. The length of the new ship is 573 feet and she has a breadth of 95 feet 2 1/2 inches. She has a displacement of 27,000 tons and a mean depth of 28 feet 6 inches.

The machinery for the new vessel is practically complete. All of it has been built at the New York navy yard. When the New York leaves the ways she will have some of her machinery, such as her boilers and condensers. It will take less than a year to complete her after she is in the water.

Rivalry Between Builders.

The keen rivalry between the construction department at the New York navy yard and the private shipbuilding concern which has charge of the building of the Texas, has spurred the yard officials to greater effort in order that the New York may be finished ahead of her sister ship. The work on the Texas was started five months before the keel of the New York was laid, and already the New York constructors have picked up about three months of the lead.

One of the proudest boasts of the New York navy yard officials is that they have made all the large castings without losing one. Outside concerns always count on losing one or more, but figures show that, while the officials at the yard spend more money per casting in order that the work may be done very carefully, the ultimate cost is less than that of the less careful methods employed by private concerns.

TO SIBERIA FOR PLANTS.

Agricultural Department Plans to Develop Plains Region.

Siberia and other northern countries will be searched for plants for a new experimental station which the department of agriculture will soon establish at Mandan, N. D., to work out horticultural and agricultural problems of the great plains region of the west.

Official announcement soon will be made of the assignment of the staff for the station. Frank Meyer, one of the experts under B. T. Galloway, chief of the bureau of plant industry, will undertake the search for new plants. He has just returned from an agricultural exploration of China, Manchuria, Siberia, Turkestan, Tibet and other countries, where he gathered valuable material for this country.

An investigation of potato blight that has baffled farmers in irrigated sections will soon be made in Idaho by the department.

Foreign grown sugar beet seed, upon which the entire beet sugar industry of the country now is dependent, may be abandoned before very long for a domestic product. The bureau of plant industry is planning extensive experiments to determine whether or not high grade seed can be raised in the United States.

WOMAN AS "CHAINMAN."

Passes Examination For Appointment in State Engineering Service.

For the first time in the history of New York state a woman is an applicant for the position of chainman in the state's engineering service. With 371 other candidates, Mrs. Lucretia F. Donnelly of Brockport took the recent state civil service examination for appointment to that position, and she is among the 170 successful candidates. As she is the only female eligible for appointment, her name can be certified among the first three successful candidates, although she ranks No. 100 in the list.

Mrs. Donnelly is the wife of a civil engineer and in her application papers says she has studied engineering with him for over two years and has served as "instrument man" on farm surveys of lands and laying out streets. She speaks German, French and Spanish.

The position of chainman pays \$3 a day.

AUDITOR'S NOTICE.—Estate of Frederick Dierolf.

Notice of Audit: Notice is hereby given that Homer Greene, an auditor duly appointed by the Orphans' Court of Wayne county to pass upon exceptions filed to the account of W. S. Harvey, administrator of the above named estate, will attend to the duties of his appointment at his office in the borough of Honesdale, Monday, Sept. 23, 1912, at 10 o'clock a. m.

HOMER GREENE, Auditor.

August 28, 1912. 70w3

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