

## GIANTS IN A CONTEST

CHICAGO SAID TO HAVE THE B.C. GIGANT POLICEMAN ON EARTH.

He is Six Feet Three Inches Tall and Weighs 317 Pounds—Champion Policeman of Other Cities—Modera Goliaths In and Out of Shows—Tall Women.

There seems to be a revival in literature pertaining to giants. One phase of it started in St. Louis.

The other day a St. Louis editor discovered a wonderful young giant wearing the blue uniform and brass buttons of the St. Louis police force—a stalwart son of Anak, impressive in his official trappings and a terror to evildoers. With a flourish of boastful delight he sent forth a challenge to the students of giant greatness in other cities, calling on them in words that rang a defiant note to produce the equal or superior of the St. Louis Goliath.

The towering specimen of gianthood offered by St. Louis is Patrolman Murray P. Davidson, twenty-nine years old. His height is six feet two and a half inches, and his weight 291 pounds. The challenge in his behalf was directed to the police chiefs in other big American cities.

"Have you any officer in your city that would beat him?" said the letter.

The proud boss of St. Louis that it had the biggest policeman on earth was destined to early humiliation. Chief Kipley, of Chicago, read the challenge. Then a sardonic smile uncoiled itself upon his usually imperturbable face. He touched an electric button and asked for Edward Martini. In response Martini was speedily ushered into the chief's presence. The latter proudly surveyed his subordinate from the ground up, his gaze seeming to rest on the ceiling when it had reached the giant's head.

"What are your dimensions, Martini?" asked Chief Kipley.

"I am six feet three inches in height," said the policeman. "My weight is 317 pounds, my chest expansion eight inches."

"That will do," answered the chief, with a lofty wave of his hand. "It beats the St. Louis giant, and we can rest on our laurels until we hear from some other precinct."

He is thirty-six years old, and a native of Wisconsin. His record, dimensions and photograph were promptly forwarded to St. Louis, to the great chagrin of the champion giant of that town.

It was only a day or two before a Ohio giant entered the lists. This was Officer F. K. Starrett, a member of the Columbus police force. But he failed to carry off the palm. He easily beat the St. Louis giant in every point except height. His principal measurements are: Height, six feet one inch; breadth of shoulders, twenty-six inches; chest and waist girth, each fifty-five inches; calf of leg, twenty inches; thigh, thirty inches. He is thirty-nine years old and weighs 347 pounds. The Buckeye giant has thirty pounds the better of Chicago's biggest policeman, but the latter is superior and more impressive in height. Yet he lowers the proud standard that was raised by the champion giant of St. Louis.

There are doubtless many other big-coated giants that will be heard from before this interesting contest is ended. It is natural that men of extraordinary strength and proportions should seek and find employment on the police force of large cities. A year or two ago, just after the reorganization of the Broadway squad in New York, it was said that Archibald Taggart and Harry Graham, at that time roundsmen in the squad, were probably the biggest policemen in the world.

Graham was the tallest man on the New York police force, being six feet six and a half inches in height, but his weight was only 245 pounds. He was so tall and thin that he was called the lightning rod cop. In every point except that of height he is outclassed by the Westerners already referred to. Taggart, in every way except in height, was a larger man than Graham. His measurements were: Height, six feet five and a half inches; chest, forty-seven inches; waist, thirty-seven and a half inches. His weight was 278 pounds.

Still, all modern Goliaths are not found in the police ranks. When Emperor William made his celebrated tour of the Holy Land, two years or more ago, he took with him for spectacular purposes the tallest man in the German Army. This German giant was reported to be seven feet eight inches in height. Prince Frederick Henry, eldest son of the Prince Regent of Brunswick, who recently attained his majority, is the tallest of the Hohenzollerns, being over six feet three inches in height.

Oswald Ballins is now said to be one of the greatest giants of the German Army. He is a Bavarian by birth, twenty-three years old, and seven feet one inch in height and still growing. He weighs 300 pounds and is, unlike most extremely tall men, in perfect health. He was recently married to Miss Beeman, a native of Tonquin, China. Her mother was a German, and her father a Chinese. She is considerably taller than most women, being six feet six inches high, and when last heard from was still growing at the rate of two inches a year.

Hassin Ali, who gives Cairo, Egypt, as his home, is said to be eight feet five inches tall. His head is thirty-one inches long. He married a Mahometan lady who was six feet high at the age of fourteen.

Miss Ella Ewing, the Missouri giantess, who is eight feet four inches in height, recently completed a house for herself at the town of Govin, in that State. Her new house has doors ten feet high, ceilings fifteen feet high, with chairs, tables, beds and every-

thing in proportion. Before this she never had a bed long enough to sleep in with comfort.

The greatest thin giant of recent times was Joseph Blacysewski, a laboring man in Chicago, who was seven feet eight inches in height, but weighed only 125 pounds. He lately died at the age of forty-one. He came to America from Poland.

Chicago has now a renowned pygmy in the person of one Harry Meyers, who says that he quit the show business a short time ago to become a tramp. He is one of the few tramp giants on record. He is twenty years old, stands six feet eleven inches in his stocking feet and weighs over 300 pounds.

Tennessee has a reformed giant. He is the Rev. Charles Kesterson, a native of Hancock County, in that State. His height is seven feet eight inches, though he says that in the prime of manhood he was over eight feet tall. He is now seventy-five and weighs about 300 pounds. Years ago he was a moonshiner and general all-round terror. Then he was converted, joined the Baptist Church and began preaching. He was still engaged in this work at last accounts.

It is said that the tallest man ever accurately measured was Winckelmeyer, who was eight feet six inches in height. Chang, the Chinese giant, the tallest person ever exhibited in this country, was only seven feet six inches high, though he pretended to be over eight feet.

The tallest woman on the American stage is Miss Mary Tull, who, beside her histrionic talent, has won worldwide fame as the favorite model of some American sculptors for their goddesses of liberty. Miss Tull's height is considerably over six feet, which naturally limits her field of endeavor as an actress.—New York Sun.

### Hedgehogs and Moles.

Writing to a sporting contemporary a gentleman offers to receive any number of hedgehogs "up to a thousand," as he believes they would do good on his estates in Devonshire. Some people may be disposed to wonder what service can be rendered to agriculture by creatures that do occasionally make a late supper of chickens and partridges. The truth is, the hedgehog has never received full justice. He is, take him all in all, an admirable beast. Everybody knows that the hedgehog eats snails and slugs, but few people, perhaps, have realized that he is also a liberal consumer of moles. Now, there are many estates in Devonshire where the mole employs a band of men to keep his family down, and there are places in Surrey, quite near London, where neither man nor trap can stop the ravages of these creatures on what is intended to be the lawn. Where the soil is sandy the mole lives deep, and he will fling up a chain of veritable mountains in his journeys under one's lawn in the course of a single night. This conduct may be borne with in parks and meadows, but in gardens it becomes intolerable. It may be suggested, therefore, to those householders whose lawns are ravaged by moles whom neither trap nor professional trapper can control that a few hedgehogs in the garden might bring the pestiferous moles to some sense of the fitness of things.—London Globe.

### Curious Fish From a Driven Well.

Some time ago a driven well was sunk at the Howell Creamery, Pine Island, to the depth of 250 feet. The supply of water obtained equalled only one quarter of the amount necessary, and in order to obtain a greater supply two charges of Jovelite, a new explosive, were discharged by William J. Brown, an expert in its use. Both charges were set off simultaneously by an electric battery, and a column of water eight inches in diameter was thrown to a height of 300 feet. Many curious things came up from the bottom of the well, including three curious fish. They were about eight inches long and had neither head nor tail, both ends being alike. They could swim as easily backward as forward and were not provided with eyes or mouth. There were several small orifices at each end of these curious fish. When they came down with a shower of stones from the top of the column of water they bounded repeatedly many feet in the air. One was captured by a Poleander, who, curious to see its interior, struck it with a dull hatchet, but made no impression whatever upon the fish, although he killed it. One is still alive in captivity.—New York Sun.

### The Congressman Went to Sleep.

One of the most absent-minded men in the House of Representatives is Mr. Burton, of Ohio, chairman of the committee on rivers and harbors. The other day Mr. Burton having charge of the appropriation bill, forgot that for the time being he was boss of the House and that it was his duty to say when the weary lawmakers should quit work. When that time came Burton forgot all about it. The speaker looked hard at him, but Burton did not come out of his trance. Finally General Henderson's patience gave out. "The gentleman from Ohio," he shouted, just as if Mr. Burton had been asking for recognition. The Ohioan jumped up, looked bewildered and finally burst out: "Eh, eh, Mr. Speaker, he do now adjourn." "Well, he's awake finally," muttered Speaker Henderson, sotto voce, "but some people do need a lot of sleep."—Chicago Chronicle.

### King Edward's Curious Propriety.

King Edward VII. is proprietor of the beds of all British tidal rivers, such as the Thames, the Mersey, the Tyne, and others. He also owns that part of the shore all round the coast line which lies between high and low-water mark.

## TOM HOOD AS A JOKER.

How He Once Got His Wife Into a Bad Scrape.

It is one of the ironies of fate that a wit or humorist is sometimes married to a prosaic, jest-proof woman or an imaginative, humor-loving woman to a literal-minded, matter-of-fact man. It has been suspected that Laurence Sterne, the creator of "My Uncle Toby" and Shandy and Corporal Tim, had such a wife as the former, by whom his sly, rich bits of Rebelaisian humor—his mediæval double entendres, his quillbats and quid pro quos modeled on Scarron and exploding like pyrotechnics—were not only unappreciated, but almost unnoticed. How fortunate it was for that prince of jesters, Thomas Hood, that, with his fondness for both verbal and practical jokes, he was married to a woman of the sweetest temper, who, though often cheated by them, could join in the laugh which they provoked even when at her own expense!

On one occasion, when living by the seacoast, Hood gave his wife some useful hints on buying fish. "Above all things, Jane," said he, "as they will endeavor to impose on your inexperience, let nothing induce you to buy a piece that has any appearance of red or orange spots, as they are sure signs of an advanced stage of decomposition." Armed with this information and rather anxious to show off her knowledge, Mrs. Hood was prepared to do battle with the cunning fisherman, one of whom soon afterward called. As it happened the woman had nothing but plaice, which had the ominous spots, and Mrs. Hood, shaking her head, hinted her fears that the fish were not fresh. In vain did the fisherman insist that they were only just out of the water. Mrs. Hood, in the innocence of her heart and the pride of conscious knowledge, was ready.

"My good woman, it may be as you say, but I should never think of buying any plaice with those unpleasant red spots."

"Lord bless yer eyes, mum!" replied the astonished fisherman with a shout, "who ever seed plaice without spots?"

A suppressed giggle on the staircase behind her revealed the joke, and, turning her head hastily, Mrs. Hood caught sight of her husband hurriedly disappearing in an ecstasy of laughter, leaving her to appease the angry sea symph as best she could.

### Russia's Advance in Machine Tools.

Most Englishmen must feel astonishment at the headway made by France, Germany and Russia in recent years; it is a revelation which, suspected by some and known to a few, was undreamed of by most. Germany and France have the largest exhibits of machine tools at the Champs de Mars. But if the Vincennes annex at the Paris exposition is included the Americans come out a good first, both in size and in point of interest. Belgium, Switzerland and Italy make comparatively little show in machine tools, though strong in other productions. A feature that is likely to astonish many is the appearance here in force of Russia. In metallurgy chiefly, in railway plant, and in machine tools, though in a lesser degree, she occupies an important position. And it is not that of an amateur, but of a people in possession of sound practical knowledge. That great, and until recently inert nation, has definitely entered into rivalry with the western nations of Europe and we may anticipate that not many years will elapse before that rivalry will be severely felt. The nation that figures so largely here in metallurgy and in machinery, and that is able to construct a trans-Siberian railway without outside help, is capable of great things—Cassier's Magazine.

### The American Soldier in China.

In spite of his many handicaps, the American soldier has fully held his own. He has numerous weaknesses, but fear of the enemy is not, fortunately, among them. I heard foreign officers freely criticize his military manners and organization, but never his fighting qualities, once his burden of antiquated methods has been cast aside and he faces the foe on the firing-line. Then he is as he always was, and, let us hope, always will be. In all the criticism one hears there is an undercurrent of respect. I never see him in a fight but I feel, with absolute certainty that the American soldier will ever give a good account of himself if not asked to do more than should be asked of a man. Other elements being approximately equal, the stoutest heart and steadiest nerve will win the most battles. In these qualities Uncle Sam's boys are second to none. "They've done their share," is the verdict of people in China who have been here through it all.—Thomas F. Millard, in Scribner's.

### Where Pigeons Were Proliferous.

The American ornithologist, Alexander Wilson, who undertook many journeys in several parts of the States to collect knowledge for his great work on the feathered creation, stated that near Shelbyville, Ky., he came upon a roosting place of the carrier pigeons upward of 40 miles in extent. He found the branches of almost every tree in the country, which was thickly wooded, filled with nests. A marvelous spectacle was presented by the pigeons in flight, as on rising from the trees they formed fluttering multitudes, with wings roaring like thunder. Early every morning the pigeons set out for their feeding place at a distance of from 30 to 60 miles away, and the advanced party generally arrived back by noon.

## Chaplain's Prayer Causes Commotion.

Quite a commotion has been aroused in the Nebraska legislature by a prayer uttered by the chaplain in the house of representatives. It was in the wise: "O Lord, we thank thee that the members of the legislature can come and go between their homes and their legislative halls with such ease and such little expense to themselves." This cut at the solons who travel on railroad passes has roused great indignation, and many hearers are in an uncomfortable frame of mind.

## Vast Coal Fields in India.

A Calcutta correspondent of the London Express says that coal is found in abundance over very extensive areas in Bengal, in Hyderabad (Deccan), in Upper Assam, the Central Provinces and elsewhere, and there is one rich coal field 1,900 miles in extent which has a yet scarcely been touched. Even more important than the aid which Indian coal may yet render to the empire is the enormous stimulus it will give to Indian industries, many of the most important of which have only languished in the past because of the cost of foreign coal.

Berlin is to have a school for coachmen, in which drivers are to be taught to get along in the crowded city streets.

## Distribution of Victoria's Wealth.

It is reported in England that Queen Victoria's will bequeathes \$700,000 each to the Duke of Connaught, Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, Princess Louise and Princess Beatrice, and includes liberal legacies for the Duchess of Albany and a number of the late queen's grandchildren. The bulk of her private fortune, however, goes to King Edward, and both Balmoral and Osborne Houses are given to the king. Two small houses on the Osborne estate are given to Princess Beatrice.

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