

## HUNTING THE SEA OTTER

ARE CAPTURED WHEN THEY GO FOR A HOLIDAY.

Pacific Shooting Towers—Used as Lookout Stations From Which the Eager Rifleman Sights His Prey—Five Hundred Dollars Earned by One Shot.

The most beautiful stretch of ocean beach to be found anywhere on the Pacific coast of the United States is the wide expanse of spotted and glittering sand which lies between Gray's Harbor and the Quinault River. There may be seen an unbroken area of twenty miles in length, and at low tide from three to five miles in width, which would make a moonlight playing ground for the hours.

There are many tower-like structures at regular distances of perhaps a mile each which excite the curiosity of the people on the many coast line steamers plying between San Francisco and northern ports. These are the towers or shooting boxes of sea otter hunters. They are built of tall, slender poles, generally four in number, sunk to a great depth and fixed securely in the sand and surrounded by a small box covered with a roof to protect its occupants from the burning sun. Cleats securely fastened to the poles from bottom to top afford the hunter means of ingress and egress.

The hot sun which blazes fiercely on this wide expanse of white sand during the months of July and August heats it almost to a burning point, and the waters of the incoming tide, rolling and curling over this hot sand, become deliciously warm. This is the playing ground of the sea otter, the place where they come to spend their holidays.

They leave their homes in the far-off rocky islands, where there are no sand beaches, and the green waters are cold and deep, and come here like people to a watering place, to spend the summer months in rolling and tumbling about in this warm water in a perfect ecstasy of delight. They leap and play about in the foaming breakers and polish their beautiful skins by hugging the sandy bottom and allowing the ocean swells to drive and throw them about as they will.

Although sea otters have the timidity which is natural to all wild animals, they are better able to protect themselves than any of the other animals which have their homes in the sea. The swiftness of their movements makes it possible for them easily to catch any kind of small fish, and thus they can appease their hunger with the daintiest food.

No shark can catch them; they could be twenty feet away while Mr. Shark was turning on his back, and if the shark were directly beneath them they could throw themselves five feet in the air like a kaleidoscope ball while the ugly monster was snapping his jaws. The hunter is in his box, the tide is coming in, and with a powerful field glass to assist his practiced eye, he eagerly scans each coming roller. He has been here every day for a week, and his rifle has lain untouched by his side. To-day something may happen.

All at once he starts and mutters a little ejaculation; he sees something. He will soon know what it is for the swells are coming swiftly and the distance between himself and the object he has seen will be quickly lessened. Yes, there it is again; there is no mistake. It is an otter, not more than 600 yards away. The hunter lays down his glass, and there is \$500 or \$600 worth of beautiful, shining fur plainly visible to the naked eye.

The man in the tower picks up his Sharp's rifle, inserts a 120-grain cartridge in the chamber, and there is a wicked, wistful gleam in the keen eye of the hunter as he raises his weapon for the first shot. There is a flash, a recoil and a report, which is scarcely distinguishable in the roaring of the breakers to the man who holds the gun. Ammunition is no object, and, with lightning rapidity he loads and fires his piece. That otter will not be more than ten feet away from where he was when the hunter pulled the trigger when he gets there, and that hunter can hit a bounding deer at 300 yards twice out of five shots. The otter is enjoying himself in the dangerous company of murderous bullets, which are doing their best to find him.

Another huge breaker brings him within 200 yards of the blazing rifle. A quick recoil of the heavy gun turns the hunter half round; there is an unnatural splash which tells the man something has happened. He strains his eyes; no need of his glass to see there is blood in the water, and this tells him that there is a big hole somewhere in that \$500.

No need to shoot again; no otter could bleed like that and not be washed ashore. The hunter lays down his heated gun; there will be no more otters in sight to-day. He sees his game almost opposite his tower; it is drifting helplessly toward the shore. That skin is his, and its possession means that he will have everything he wants for another year if he does not fire a single shot.

The fierce gleam of desire has left his dirty face and has been replaced by one of possession. He is wild with joy. How he wishes that he could get down from that tower and be at the spot where the otter will be thrown upon the sand, but he must wait until the tide falls a little. One of his half-breed boys, who is ten or eleven years old, is moping lazily along the beach; his quick eye detects something. Like a frightened wolf he leaps over the sand and is soon beside the dead otter.

With a yell of delight he flies toward the shanty on the bluff to tell his mother and the half dozen or so of other little half-breeds what has hap-

pened, and they all come trooping down the beach as fast as their legs can carry them.

The tide is going out now and the blood of the otter stains the sand which has lured him to destruction, and the ebbing ripples tenderly caress for the last time the pretty animal which has been their playmate all its life, and the sea will moan for the free-born thing which has always had a home in its bosom.

Some way or another the news spreads quickly and other hunters and crowds of Siwash come trooping toward the dead otter from all directions.—Morning Oregonian.

### THE LUCK OF FIRST-BORN.

But Younger Brothers Make a Good Showing.

The law is by no means alone in favoring the first born of a family and comparatively neglecting later comers, for a careful examination of the biographies of our most eminent men will prove that quite a preponderating number of them owe their fame largely to the fact that they made their entry into the world in advance of their brothers and sisters.

To such an extent does this appear to be the case that, if a dozen names of distinguished men are taken at random, it would be quite safe to assert that four of them (or possibly five) are first sons; of the remainder three are second sons, while younger sons, ranging from number three downward, must be content with dividing the small amount of celebrity among them.

Occasionally a very late comer acquires fame, but the odds are all against him. Thus, Benjamin Franklin, the great natural philosopher and politician, had no fewer than thirteen brothers and sisters in front of him. Sir Richard Arkwright, the famous inventor, was the thirteenth child of his parents, and Sir Joshua Reynolds was number seven in his family.

But by far the majority of the world's distinctions are shared between first and second sons, the lion's share going to the first born.

Fame in the world of letters has been in quite undue proportions to the eldest born. If we may take Dante, Goethe, Shakespeare and Milton as the four greatest names in the history of the world's literature we shall find that all four, with the exception of Shakespeare—the greatest, it is true, of them all—were eldest sons.

This privilege of the first born is claimed for Shelley and Byron and Heine, and in modern times, to mention names without regard to relative merit, by Ruskin, Max Muller, Lecky, Professor Jebb, Sir Lewis Morris, Frederick Harrison, Sir John Lubbock, Sir George Trevelyan, Mr. Pinero and others far too numerous to mention.

Confucius and Mohammed, Talleyrand, Rossini, Charlemagne, Luther and Raphael were all eldest sons; as also are such eminent statesmen of to-day as Mr. A. J. Balfour, Mr. Chamberlain, Mr. Brodrick, Lord Rosebery and Goschen and Mr. John Morley.

Among great soldiers we have Lord Wolsey and Lord Kitchener; among lawyers Sir Francis Jeune and Sir Edward Clarke; in the church, the late Bishop of London, and on the stage Sir Henry Irving.

Of famous second sons the list is distinguished if comparatively short, for we find such giants of the past as Michael Angelo and Beethoven; the Pope, Garibaldi and Pascal; Wallace and Sheridan; John Wesley and Montaigne. Of famous statesmen of our own time we have Sir William Harcourt and Mr. Asquith, as well as Lord Salisbury, to mention only three names.

The list of second sons contains a great soldier in Sir Redvers Buller, an eminent judge in Lord Alverstone, still better known as Sir Richard Webster; a clever actor in Mr. Beerbohm Tree; an artist in Mr. Phil May, and men of letters in Grant Allen and Sir Edwin Arnold.

Nor are the third sons by any means to be despised in point of quality, although the number is relatively very small.

They include the greatest soldier of modern times, the Duke of Wellington; the greatest author of any time, Shakespeare, and the most famous fiction writer of the last century, Sir Walter Scott.

Voltaire was a third son, and so were C. J. Fox, the famous statesman and orator, Lord Lytton and Sir Robert Walpole, while Lord Halsbury has proved that a third son can fill with distinction the highest place in the law, and the late Sir Walter Besant that he can win laurels in the field of letters.—Tit-Bits.

### How to Fell a Chimney.

A tall chimney sometimes becomes useless, and it is desirable to take it down. To erect scaffolding and take it down by removing the bricks or stones one by one is a long and laborious task. A man in Manchester, England, pursues a simpler and more expeditious plan, by which he fells a chimney even 250 feet in height in a very short time. He removes the bricks or stones of about two-thirds of the base of the chimney up to a height of five or six feet. Then he underpins this part with wood. When the work is properly done, the chimney leans slightly towards the side where the underpinning is inserted, and when a crack appears in the masonry on the opposite side, he applies fire to the underpinning, and when that gets fairly to going down comes the chimney. It has been found that in nearly every case, the chimney partly telescopes as it falls, owing, doubtless, to the shock produced by dropping into the void left by the burnt timbers. This ingenious unbuilder has felled 100 tall chimneys without accident.

### One Cent For Profit.

A flustered young woman, out of breath as though from walking fast, rushed up the steps of the mint and asked to be directed to the bureau of information. "There isn't any," replied the uniformed messenger, a very fat man. "Perhaps I can tell you what you want to know." "Perhaps you can," said the young woman, producing a copy of a frivolous weekly paper. "I want to know if this is true." She pointed to a paragraph which read: "Among the curiosities of collecting is the fact that 1901 cents now bring about \$19 in the coin market." The fat messenger adjusted his glasses and scrutinized the paragraph. While he was thus engaged the young woman explained that she had four 1901 cents, and wanted to know what made them so valuable, and where she could realize on them. Then the fat messenger grew purple in the face from suppressed laughter, which finally exploded, and seemed in momentary danger of having an apoplectic fit. He called the attention of the other messengers to the paragraph, and then followed combined roars of merriment. In the meantime the young woman with the four 1901 cents wondered if she had strayed by mistake into a lunatic asylum. Finally the fat messenger regained his breath sufficiently to gasp: "It's a joke. Don't you see?—I'll give you \$19 for 1901 pennies, and I'll be a cent ahead of the game. See?" A great light seemed to dawn in the mind of the young woman. "I dare say it's very funny," she said, "but I don't think such things ought to be printed." And she made her exit sorrowfully.—Philadelphia Record.

### Acid in Valuable Mail.

It has come to be generally believed that dishonest postoffice employees select letters containing bills by smelling them through the envelopes. A New York druggist who has a great many transactions with customers out of town tells the Times this is true from his own experience.

His confidence in the mails as a safe way to send money was established a few years ago when he sent more than \$200 in bills to his wife, who was traveling. The precious envelope missed her at one place and was forwarded and reforwarded before it finally reached her hands. By that time the envelope was torn and the money was sticking out in plain sight—in fact, held in the envelope only by a rubber band which some country postmaster had slipped around the whole parcel.

Nevertheless, the druggist afterward met with several \$1 and \$2 losses until a year or two ago, when he conceived the idea of putting a single drop of diluted carbolic acid into every envelope in which he inclosed a bill. Since then he hasn't met with a single loss.

"They can't smell the money in these envelopes," he says, "and besides, maybe they think there is something unwholesome about them. Anyway, they always let them go through. It is safer on the whole than registering. I think."

### Three Traits of a Boy.

There are three things that a child may do with the world that surrounds him. He may appropriate it; he may run away from it; he may fight it. These three types of action sum up the efforts of a man's life, from the cradle to the grave. They spring from three emotions, the most fundamental. These are sympathy, fear and anger. What a child sympathizes with, what he fears, what he gets mad at—this will determine very largely what he shall become. The training of these emotions should, therefore, be the primary aim of every parent and teacher. This fact has not been generally recognized. And because it has not, the world is full of men and women who sympathize unwisely, fear unwisely, fight unwisely and live miserably.—Detroit Free Press.

### To Stop Rooster Crowing.

A Brockton (Mass.) man has invented an appliance to keep roosters from crowing in the early morning and is said to work like a charm. It is called the Brockton "Anti-crower." The device is fastened to the bill of the rooster at night by a simple clasp, which does not interfere in any way with respiration. When the chanticleer rises before dawn, throws back his head and attempts to wake himself and everybody else by uttering a clarion note, the device restrains his ambitious plans and not until his owner sees fit to remove the clasp will his vocal organs give utterance to his feelings. The inventor hopes to raise a race of non-crowing fowl by means of this device.

### Women Hermits in Russia.

Among the villagers on the Volga in the Province of Samara a curious sect of women has made its appearance. It was originated by an elderly peasant woman in Sorocova, called the "Blessed Mother." These women have fled from the villages around into a remote district, where they live singly in holes dug out of the face of the hill. They lead a life of fasting and prayer, and believe themselves called from the world, which they think is shortly about to perish in a general conflagration. The "Blessed Mother" has "ten wise virgins" as a sort of bodyguard, and the sect believes that these eleven women are possessed of miraculous powers.—London Globe.

### Just.

It is only a just fate, after all, if an intellectual girl is fallen in love with a man who kisses her on the forehead.—New York Herald.



Sample Highways Built.  
MARTIN DODGE, Director of Public Road Inquiries Office, writes as follows in Municipal Journal and Engineer:

The reflex influence of the bicycle and the automobile has finally created a public sentiment that is crystallizing into betterment of the public highways to an extent that is most gratifying to the good roads enthusiasts. Many States which have failed to make any appropriation for the improvement of roads in the past year yielded to the public demand and made for them liberal appropriations. The good example of Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York and other States is bearing fruit. In the aggregate, including the small appropriation made by the Government, millions of dollars have been set aside for the betterment of the country roads during this year. Canada is by no means a laggard, but rather well in the lead, when all things are considered, for she has appropriated \$1,000,000 to be expended upon the improvement of the highways during the season.

The good roads train which has been touring the South during the last three months, was made up at Chicago through the co-operation of the National Association of Good Roads, the Illinois Central Railroad and several manufacturers of road-making machinery. The train started from Chicago on April 20, equipped with eight carloads of the best and most important roadmaking machinery, expert operators, roadmakers and engineers, arriving in New Orleans on April 22.

The following week an object lesson road, about two miles in length, was built in the suburbs of New Orleans, over a low plain, formerly subject to overflow. It was desirable to raise the roadbed higher than usual to get above the action of the water, which softens the surface of the road so rapidly; therefore, earth handling machinery was used to advantage. The New Era grader, propelled by twelve animals, was first put upon the work, and earth was transferred from the sides to the centre, at the rate of four cubic yards per minute. Within the short space of two days the undisturbed earth was transformed into a smoothly finished road-way, over which automobiles could pass with perfect ease.

During the week a State convention assembled for two days in pursuance of a proclamation issued by the Governor of Louisiana. Every parish of the State was well represented, there being about one thousand delegates in attendance. As a result of this convention a permanent State organization was formed, which will operate in co-operation with the national association, to carry on the work already so well begun.

On the first of May the train left New Orleans for Natchez, Miss., where it remained a week building another object lesson road and holding a district convention for two days, at the close of which a permanent organization was formed for carrying on the work in that vicinity, and for the purpose of co-operating with the State association, afterward formed at Jackson, Miss., and the national association, formed last November at Chicago. We had here the hearty co-operation of the city and the county authorities, the object lesson road being built partly within and partly without the city of Natchez.

Our next stand was at Greenville, Miss., where we arrived on May 10. This is in the midst of the famous Yazoo Delta. The soil is an alluvial deposit, subject to overflow and inundation. A portion of this soil is known as "backshot land," and is exceedingly difficult to handle and more difficult to retain in the form of a smooth roadbed. It was doubted whether the earth-handling machinery so successful in other soils, would be able to handle this peculiar backshot formation, but our efforts were crowned with success, and we left them an object lesson of great value, in the form of smooth, well rounded roadbeds, raised well above the water level. We also had a very successful two-day convention, which terminated with the organization of a permanent association for the improvement of highways.

I left the train temporarily at this point, and the next stand was made at Granada and another at McComb City, and from McComb they went to Cambridge, after which the great convention was held at Jackson, Miss., where an object lesson road was built, as at each of the other places. The State convention was probably the largest and most successful of any road convention ever assembled in America and resulted in a permanent organization for the entire State.

From Jackson, Miss., the train went to Jackson, Tenn., where a similar program was carried out. The next great stand was at Louisville, Ky., where I again joined the train on June 27. The Governor of Kentucky had issued his proclamation for the State convention to be held here at this time, and continue two days. This was well attended by eminent men from all parts of the State, and it was one of the best conventions ever held in the interest of good roads. Governor Beckham was present and delivered

an address full of encouragement for the cause and urging the people to industrial activity. A fine object lesson road was produced here just outside the city limits, and a permanent organization formed for the purpose of carrying on the work in connection with the national association.

The train went from Louisville to Hopkinsville and repeated there substantially the same work that had been done in the other places. Owensboro, Ky., was reached July 14, and a most enthusiastic convention was held on the fair grounds in that city.

From here we crossed the Ohio River into Southern Illinois, and made a final stand at Ebbingham. It was expected that the train would move from here to Mattoon, but owing to a disastrous fire in that city, the engagement was cancelled, and the great tour of the good roads train was closed.

### HOW A STEAMSHIP WENT DOWN.

Graphic Description of the Plunge of the Kincoira.

This account of the recent collision between the steamships Oceanic and Kincoira was written by a passenger on the Oceanic:

"I was reading in my bunk last night and the foghorn began to blow, and at about 12.30 I felt a shock, as if a great wave had struck our vessel and we had gone through it. Something fell on the deck (I am three decks down), and after a time I became conscious of an excitement up above. Up I went. Then I saw our vessel had struck another steamer about one-third from its stern, and the two were lying apparently fixed, with the steamer's bows pointing at an angle with our vessel toward our stern. It was a very misty night, and above the junction of the two ships there was a light which radiated through the mist without giving much illumination.

"By degrees I became aware that the steamer was lying with its nose up and its stem above the water. The bows rose higher and higher, the masts were seen at an increasingly extraordinary angle with the deck of our steamer. The masthead light of the steamer came down and down, when a contrary motion seized the steamer, and she slipped down, stern foremost, with appalling speed, and, when half immersed, and apparently upright, fell over on her deck and disappeared without a sound.

"It was as if she covered her face and fell forward—but the speed with which she went down, and her last motion before disappearing, were very striking. The contrast between our lighted decks (for before the end every light had been turned on) and her hull, dark and black except where her masthead light flickered, and where some light came out of the engine room, made a great picture.

"Our boats were out at once, but no one came up after the steamer went down. I was on deck at 1.10 and by 1.17 the tragedy was finished."

### WORDS OF WISDOM.

Calamity is man's true touchstone.—Beaumont.

Education is the chief defense of nations.—Burke.

In belief lies the secret of all valuable exertion.—Bulwer.

He who foresees calamities suffers them twice over.—Porteus.

The best teachers of humanity are the lives of great men.—Fowler.

Books are lighthouses erected in the great sea of time.—E. P. Whipple.

Benevolence is allied to few vices; selfishness to fewer virtues.—Home.

The luxury of doing good surpasses every other personal enjoyment.—Gay.

He who would be a great soul in future must be a great soul now.—Emerson.

Have something to say; say it, and stop when you're done.—Tryon Edwards.

There are few wild beasts more to be dreaded than a talking man having nothing to say.—Swift.

Never does a man portray his own character more vividly than in his manner of portraying another.—Richardson.

"As the duty of every day requires." That is a simple rule. Let it be pondered well. Resolve when you awake that it shall be to some faithful purpose, and that your renovated powers should be obedient to Him who has renewed them. Let not the opportunity that is so fleeting and yet so full pass neglected away.—Frothingham.

### England's Taciturn Judge.

Sir F. Bacon, in a well-known passage, says that "an overspeaking judge is no well-tuned cymbal." It is obvious that Sir F. Bacon has at least one disciple in the courts to-day.

In twenty-two reported cases in which one of his Majesty's Judges took part, he gave a judgment in one case occupying some nine lines of print. His judgments in the remaining twenty-one cases were as follows. In one case, "I am of the same opinion, for the same reasons;" in yet one other, "I entirely agree;" in four, "I concur;" in five, "I am of the same opinion;" and in ten, "I agree." To adapt Mr. Puff's celebrated observation, "When they do agree on the bench, their unanimity is wonderful."—London Law Journal.

### Arizona's High Honor.

Arizona has a heavy line of newspapers, considering its population. It has a paper for each 2000 people—more, according to the percentage of population, than any other State or Territory in the United States.

### THE PRESIDENT ABROAD.

The Idea That He Cannot Visit Foreign Soil a Mere Superstition.

There is a popular superstition that the President of the United States is inhibited from leaving this country during his term of office, but it is superstition only. The article of the Constitution which relates to the President contains no provision of the sort, and therefore the President is quite free to do precisely as he chooses in this matter.

The reason why no President has ever visited foreign countries until after his retirement has probably been due to the fact that in the early years of the republic, before the invention of the telegraph and before the laying of the Atlantic cable, and also before the development of steamships of great speed, absence from the country would have meant so protracted severance of communication between the executive and the subordinate officers of the Government as to constitute what would have been practically an "inability to discharge the powers and duties" of his office. When it required a month to make the voyage to Europe and when letters and orders could be transmitted only by sailing packets, or, afterward by steamship, it would, of course, have been impossible for the President to visit England without practically abandoning his office and installing the Vice-President in his place. But now, when the time required to pass from New York to Queenstown is but little more than five days, and when immediately upon his landing he would be in telegraphic communication every moment with his Cabinet, there exists no satisfactory reason why he should not feel entirely free to perform a striking act in international courtesy.

It is not, indeed, true, that no President has ever gone beyond the boundaries of his country. President Arthur, during his term of office, went to Florida by sea, and although he did so on a vessel of the navy, and was therefore technically still upon American soil he was, as a matter of fact, shut off from communication with the administrative departments for several days; and President Cleveland also on one occasion, while shooting in the Adirondacks, crossed the Canadian border, and for several hours was, without knowing it, actually upon British territory.

If, indeed, the President of the United States were now to visit Egypt he need never be so remote from Washington in point of facility of communication as was President Monroe when, during the era of good feeling, he left the seat of Government and traveled by canal and coast and carriage to the city of Boston.—The Bookman.

### Brains Saved by Machines.

A machine which does the work of six clerks without making their mistakes has been introduced into several Chicago banks. It weighs, counts and sorts gold coins, delicately separating the worn ones—which lose four cents in value for every grain rubbed off—from the pieces of standard weight.

Adding and change-making machines have already been long in use in banks and commercial houses. Cash-registers are familiar savers of time and figuring. In many markets there are patent scales which indicate weights and calculate prices at the same time.

It is worthy of notice that what these pieces of mechanism relieve is not the hand but the brain of man. They serve to spare the arduous exercise of certain mental faculties, just as books of ready reference make enormous strains on the memory unnecessary.

As inventions multiply which lighten men's brains of a mass of clogging detail more room is left for other things in the human mind and a greater freedom of mental processes is afforded. These brain-saving devices, then, must be ranked high among the instruments of progress, overcoming handicaps for the intellects that must go racing on.—New York World.

### Needed a Shave.

A man who has been on a lecture tour through the South tells this story on himself: He was late in arriving in one of the cities in which he was booked, and had but half an hour to reach the hall where he was to give his entertainment. He needed a shave almost as much as he did his dinner, but he decided to cut out the latter. The former he was obliged to have. Going to his room, he rang for a barber. A bright-looking boy came in and announced that he was the barber. Mr. Bingham sat down on a chair and told him to go ahead. "I beg your pardon, sir, but would you mind lying down on the couch?" "Why?" asked the astonished lecturer. "Well, sir, you see, I am generally sent to shave the corpses and I can shave a man better when he is lying down."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

### Preserving Fruits.

The Agricultural Department of Victoria has recently made experiments with reference to the preservation of fresh fruits. Pears and peaches packed in the ordinary boxes for shipment were subjected to the vapors of hydrocyanic gas. The fruits were then taken out of the boxes and separately wrapped in tissue paper. Some of them were again treated with the gas, and the whole lot was placed in a dry room at a temperature of forty degrees Fahrenheit, and kept there for seven weeks. While the fruits were taken out they were in an excellent state of preservation, especially those that had been treated with the gas a second time. Not only the pears, but the peaches, felt hard to the touch, retained their fresh appearance and showed no decayed spots, as the germs had all been killed by the gas.