



ADRIFF ON AN ICE CAKE.

VELYN BUSS, one of the victims carried on the ice off Bluff City, has kindly consented to give her impressions of the terrible experience for "The Gold Digger."

"It was four nights before Christmas Eve that Audrey Bell, Charles Hagein, Eric Johnston and myself rounded the point at Bluff City and found open water barring the trail. Miss Bell and I were tied to the sleds, for the way was rough, and we did not pay much attention to the water, the men telling us there was often a crack at that point. Eric Johnston jumped across and ran up town for ropes, and then we realized that we were gradually drifting away from the shore.

"People at Nome seem to think that we were carried away on a little patch of ice, but our floating prison was many miles in extent.

"As the crack grew wider Eric Johnston and W. F. Austin, the man he had asked to assist at Bluff City, rowed out in a boat. They succeeded in scrambling on the ice, but Austin was drenched, for it was a wild and stormy night. We had a robe and two or three pieces of canvas, and we wrapped him in one of the sleds and let the dogs lie around him to keep him from freezing. He had no hat, and his mucous were wet through, so I opened my trunk and got out an eiderdown matinee for his head and tore up a flannel skirt for his feet; the rest of the things in the trunk we used to keep ourselves warm.

"Every one in the party seemed anxious to pretend that there was no danger; the boys made light of everything, and Mr. Austin was full of fun. I did not realize till the next morning that we might drift out on the ice till we were starved or frozen, and then I did not see any use in making a fuss about it.

"That day we kept traveling to keep land in sight, as the position of the ice was continually shifting. All the time we were afloat we must have gone over twenty or thirty miles. I had been ill, and could not walk fast enough to keep warm, so they let me lie in one of the sleds with the dogs around me. Miss Bell, Johnston and Hagein kept walking all the time to prevent them from freezing. As the days went on they sometimes fell asleep on their feet.

"All our provisions consisted of some fish for dog feed, and a little corn meal, but we had no salt. On the second day, when we began to travel, a strange thing happened. We found some wood that Austin had thrown from his sled a few days before. With this the boys were able to light a fire and cook, but it was not till the third day out that I could eat a little corn meal, mush, and it revived me wonderfully.

"We saw a bonfire on the coast the third night, one of those, we afterward heard, that were lighted as signals to us. The fourth night it snowed, and we were soaked through. If we had been forced to stay on the ice another night we should probably have been frozen, for we were very wet and exhausted.

"But on the morning of the fourth day our icefield drifted inshore, and we were only separated from the beach by six miles of rubber ice. This was our one chance, and we determined to risk it. The sleds were put side by side, and with a rush we started, the ice cracking and breaking all the way. The fourteen dogs dashed on, urged by the men. I did not dare to look, but covered my head, expecting every moment to go through, till some one called out, 'We are on the beach!' and then I threw off the wrap and saw one of the boys break down and sob with joy, and Mr. Chisman, the roadhouse keeper at Chookook, with an Indian, was standing on the shore welcoming us."—Nome Gold Digger.

Winning Victoria Crosses.

Before Delhi on July 9 an attack of great strength, and marked by great daring, was made by the enemy, and was almost lifted into success by the disloyalty of a detachment of the Ninth Irregular Cavalry. They were on outpost duty, watching the trunk road. They allowed the enemy to approach the British position without giving warning, and when Hills, who commanded two guns in front of the General's mound, ran out of his tent and leaped on his horse, he found a troop of carabineers in broken flight, sweeping past him, and the enemy almost on his guns. He shouted "Action front!" then, to give his gunners a chance of firing, rode single-handed into the enemy's squadrons, a solitary swordsman charging a regiment! He cut down the leading man, and wounded the second; then two troopers charging him at once, he was rolled over, man and horse, and the troops swept over him. Bruised and half-dazed, he struggled to his feet, picked up his sword, and was at once attacked by two of the rebel cavalry and

a foot soldier. He coolly shot the first horseman riding down upon him, then catching the lance of the second in his left hand, thrust him through the body with his sword. He was instantly attacked by the third enemy, and his sword wrenched from him. Hills on this fell back upon first principles and struck his opponent in the face repeatedly with his fist. But he was by this time himself exhausted, and fell. Then, exactly as his antagonist lifted his sword to slay him, Tombs, who had cut his way through the enemy, and was coming up at a gallop to help his comrade, with a clever pistol shot from a distance of thirty paces killed the Sepoy. It was a Homeric combat, and both Tombs and Hills received the Victoria Cross. The enemy meanwhile had galloped past the guns, eager to reach the native artillery, which they hoped would ride off with them. The Ninth Lancers, however, had turned out in their shirt sleeves, and, riding fiercely home, drove off the enemy.—The Cornhill.

Hugged by a Glacier Bear.

Archie Park, a pioneer of Valdez, Alaska, was carried off by a gigantic white bear on September 9, and had it not been for a small dog, he would have lost his life. He was badly used up and several bones were broken.

With two companions Park was prospecting the headwaters of the Shushetna River, and at the time of his exciting experience was some distance ahead of them on the trail. Hearing a noise in the bush, he investigated. To his surprise he suddenly found himself face to face with an immense white glacier bear, which immediately came at him with an ominous growl. Park threw his rifle to his shoulder and fired, but probably did not hit, as the bear rushed on and grabbed him. As Park felt the embrace of bruin he thought it was all off with him, but he had forgotten a little cur which he had previously been tempted to kill as a nuisance. With snapping and growling the dog worried the bear into dropping Park.

Park had heard that if one played dead a bear would leave him alone, but the plan did not work. Having driven the dog back, the bear again grabbed Park and was making off with him, when the dog attacked again and succeeded in making Bruin drop him a second time. This time Park crawled off into the brush, and in the meantime his companions, having heard the noise, came up and opened fire on the bear, which made a hasty retreat.

Park was picked up a mass of blood and bruises. Several bones were broken and his scalp was torn loose. The affair occurred 100 miles from the nearest camp, and at last accounts Park was being treated with ointment made from wild animals.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Marching Without Food.

When Hilario and Segovia began to deal with the question of food for the seven-days' march to Palanan, an unexpected difficulty was encountered, writes General Funston, in Everybody's Magazine. The staple articles of food at Palanan are fresh fish and fresh vegetables, principally sweet potatoes. Neither would serve for a long journey, as they would not only spoil, but were too heavy and bulky. A small quantity of Indian corn is raised at Palanan, and was the only article of food to be had which was portable and would not deteriorate, but the amount on hand was quite limited. The vice-alcalde stated that if we would remain a week he could in that time obtain a sufficient quantity of cracked corn to serve for all during the march. But such a delay was out of the question, as I had arranged with Commander Barry that the Vicksburg meet us at Palanan Bay on the 25th. If we had not arrived by the 27th a force was to be landed to investigate. Despite all his efforts the vice-alcalde had not been able in two days to collect more than three days' ration of cracked corn and a small quantity of dried buffalo meat. We must start with that and take chances, or abandon the expedition. By a unanimous vote among the five Americans we chose the former alternative, though I must confess it was with considerable misgivings so far as I was concerned. As will be seen, the result came near being disaster.

Funston and His Men Land at Casiguran.

When the dim form of the Vicksburg had faded from sight, we lay down on the sand and waited for the break of day, says Frederick Funston in Everybody's Magazine. At last it came, a gloomy, drizzly morning, and we marched a short distance along the beach to fresh water and prepared breakfast of boiled rice, of which we had brought a day's ration for each, thinking a full supply could be obtained at Casiguran. We could not bring along American food for us officers, for the obvious reason that it might arouse suspicion in the minds of the natives that we were not prisoners. After breakfast we continued the march along the beach up the west side of the long and narrow Casiguran Bay. In places the mangrove jungles came down so close that at high tide we were compelled to wade. We waded fully five miles the first day. No human beings were seen, although there were signs of the savage Balugas. At noon we stopped for two hours to cook again. At this place we found a small dug-out canoe and conceived the plan of sending news of our approach to Casiguran, lest the inhabitants take alarm at our approach and flee to the woods.

The most ductile metal is platinum. Wires have been made of it very little thicker than the threads of a spider web.



Marketing Fruit.

The fruit grower whose production is not too large to be handled in one market will usually do better to send always to the one market, and if he finds the right market man, always to the one man. Then any pains he may take to sell only the best, or to pack honestly and neatly will be better appreciated, and will help to establish a reputation that will bring its reward in the prices he will receive. After this is done he will find that his products are sold as soon as they arrive, and that he may expect the best price the market will bear. Not always can one have only the best grades of fruit to send off, but never mix a good and a poor lot, or mark a quality above what it really grades. This has been the secret of success with many who have been more successful financially in fruit growing than the average of those in the business.

Success With Callas.

If one wants a calla to bloom, a large tuber must be secured. A calla will not bloom until it is two or three years old, so get a large bulb. Allow any little bulbets on the main bulb to remain, as they throw up a mass of greenery that helps give grace to the plant. For a large bulb use an eight inch pot. Place in the bottom two inches of broken charcoal, then a layer of rich soil, composed of garden loam, sand and well decayed manure, in equal quantities, and on this the bulbs (two or three can be placed in one pot), and cover with the soil, pressing it down securely about the bulbs. Water well and place in shade.

When the shoots appear above ground give plenty of water. Have a large flower pot saucer placed under the pot and pour warm water in the pot until it runs out and fills the saucer. Do this every morning. Once a week add a good fertilizer. Give as much winter sun as possible. With this treatment a strong bulb will produce eight to ten blossoms.—New England Homestead.

How to Make Water-Lilies Grow.

At the farthest point of marshy ground in the garden you can some day excavate a little basin cemented to obtain water, but a cheap way to obtain water lilies here would be to sink some old paraffin barrels. Saw them in half, burn out the oil, knock off the bottoms, and sink them in the marshy soil, puddling the bottom well with clay, to which add old cow manure and fibrous loam and a sprinkling of charcoal. Above this foundation connect the barrels with slily rhizome tied in a sod of good turf with a few pieces of charcoal, and fill with water to the depth of two feet. If the barrels do not fill from the natural supply, they must be kept full artificially. Outside the barrels make a handsome, bold group of taller aquatics, such as calanmus, epilobium, Gunnera sagittaria, and especially Typha latifolia, the great bulrush. Plant these only on one side of the little pond, and even if there be not enough water for the lilies they will thrive. Pampas grass, I think, flourishes in similar hot, moist positions. A very little paraffin floated on the surface will destroy mosquito grubs.—Anna Lea Merritt, in Lippincott's Magazine.

Protecting Weeping Trees.

The small weeping ornamental trees are now to be found on many country lawns, and decidedly ornamental they are proving themselves to be. Some of these are not wholly hardy in our Northern regions, and so require some winter protection. Covering a weep-



ing tree is not an easy matter, and covering in the ordinary way does not prevent the top from being broken down by the snow. The manner of growth makes the top in danger of receiving a great mass of possibly damp snow, that quickly splits off the curving branches. The cut shows an excellent plan to use in the care of such trees. Four stakes and two cross pieces gives a framework that permits bagging to be wound about the tree, but at such distance from it as to permit straw and hay to be packed in about the trunk and under and around the curving branches while crossboards at the top will support any weight of snow. The same stakes and boards can be saved and used year after year, for these weep-trees gain little in height from one year's end to another.—New York Tribune.



America is not the only country where unconsidered trifles are snapped up by manufacturers and put to practical use. In China the down of the thistle is gathered and mixed with raw silk so ingeniously that even experts are deceived when the fabric is woven. It is also used to stuff cushions as a substitute for eiderdown, and a very good substitute it makes.

Some of the mine owners in Pennsylvania are providing for the safety and convenience of their employes by putting telephones at regular intervals along the shafts of their mines. It has often happened in mine accidents that the whereabouts of the imperiled men could not be found out, and thus the work of rescue was delayed, and lives were lost. It is believed that the telephones will remove this trouble.

Bangkok, Siam, now has an electric light plant and a tramway six miles long, and is laying a second line of equal length. The service is fairly good. The telephone system, however, is decidedly bad. It is owned by the Government, and there are some 200 instruments of German make. Bangkok is a city of magnificent distances, and as the Siamese are particularly intelligent people they would undoubtedly patronize a good telephone system were it once established. There should be at least 1000 instruments instead of 200, and this number would, of course, be increased as the system was better understood.

Some electricians are in the habit of putting too much reliance on what are called insulating gloves—that is to say, gloves made of india rubber or of glass pearls, interwoven with cotton tissue. Experiments lately reported to the International Society of Electricians show that these gloves may not be trusted to give security to men that work about electric apparatus. They should not be depended on for touching directly conductors of high tension, but only for touching the already insulated attachments of such conductors as, for example, the non-metallic handles of interrupters. The danger is always greater when the gloves are moist.

The present depression in the cement industries in the East is universally attributed to the recent enormous increase in production due to the erections of new mills in Michigan. According to the report of the Michigan Bureau of Labor and Industry there are at present in the State ten plants, eight of which are running day and night, with an aggregate daily production of 6000 barrels of cement. Five other plants are in course of erection which will have a total output of from 8000 to 10,000 barrels per day additional. One of the largest cement plants in the world, with an output of 4000 barrels daily, is included among the latter. This is located near the village of Baldwin, in Lake County. The average cost of the plants is given as \$500,000.

The second briquette-making plant in the United States has been established in Stockton, Cal., the first being in Chicago, and the product of the California factory bids fair to become as popular, the San Francisco papers report, as like fuel in European countries. These papers claim that the Stockton briquette is far in advance of anything of the kind ever before placed on the market. Coal screenings or slack and oil are the chief components of the product. The process of manufacture is very simple, and the materials are, of course, inexpensive. The cost of briquettes is about the same as that of common forms of fuel. A ton of the new product, however, it is claimed, will last as long at least as one and a quarter tons of coal. The heat efficiency, too, is said to be fifty per cent. greater. With all these alleged advantages it is surprising that more use is not made of the mountains of coal slack and screenings to be found in every coal-mining district in the country.

Building and Loan Associations Safe.

These people's banks, the most beneficent outgrowth thus far of the cooperative idea in the United States, have increased in fifty years to over 6000 associations, distributed throughout every State and Territory, and represent savings amounting to over \$1,000,000,000. Laws regulating their management differ in different States; but however their external features may vary, the great principle of cooperation—mutual helpfulness by the working together of individuals for joint benefit or common good as opposed to selfish competitive individual effort—remains unchanged. "Investment in building and loan association is as nearly absolutely safe as it can be," to quote from an exhaustive report on the associations of this country published by the Government, to be had for the asking; "for the monthly dues and accumulated profits, which give the active capital of the association, are loaned as fast as they accumulate."—Ladies' Home Journal.

A Precocious Infant.

The feminine instinct begins young. The little girl who wore her new cloak for the first time in an east wind was not thinking of the east wind. Her mother, however, was; and she suggested that people who allowed their cloaks to blow over their heads sometimes caught cold. "Oh, no, mother," observed her daughter complacently, "you don't catch cold when it's such a pretty lining!"—London Chronicle.



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EQUINOCTIAL STORMS.

What is Supposed to Cause These Annual Disturbances.

The belief that the sun's crossing the equator in the spring and the fall causes atmospheric disturbances dies hard, but it is dying, for all that. It is true, as a rule, that we do have such disturbances about the middle of March and the middle of September, but the mere "crossing of the line" by the sun does not produce them, as many persons believe. The disturbances are due to atmospheric changes that take place over the equatorial belt when the cold season gives place to the warm, and when the warm season gives place to the cold. It has been shown by carefully kept records in England that more storms occur during the week preceding and the week following the equinox than during the week of the equinox. That the sun's passing an imaginary line should cause a storm is absurd from the scientist's standpoint, but it is true, nevertheless, that the storms are caused by the sun's position in the sky. There is no objection to calling the storms equinoctial because they occur at the equinoctial season, but there is objection to applying that term to them because they are expected on the equinoctial date.

The Healthiest Land in Europe.

An article in the Statistische Wochenschrift, upon the comparative increase of longevity in the various nations of Europe imagines that Sweden will before long become recognized as the healthiest of European lands. In the early part of the last century its sanitary reputation was bad, but between 1830 and 1840 its mortality was reduced to 26.8 in the 1,000. Each successive decade has shown a remarkable improvement in the longevity of its inhabitants. In 1870 the deaths were 20.2 in the 1,000; in 1880, 18.3; in 1890, 16.90, and lastly, in 1900, 16.5. With such favorable conditions of health it is no wonder that the tourist in Sweden should say that he "met an old Swede at every turn."

Marriage Epidemic.

Servia is in trouble now with an epidemic of marriages. The cause is the system of marriage banks founded as an encouragement to thrift, but which have proved to have quite an opposite effect. The young men and maidens of Servia begin paying in to these institutions at an early age on the promise of a premium on marriage. Immediately a small sum has been accumulated the desire for marriage grows overwhelming, with the result that the first offer is snapped up. In consequence prematurely early and unhappy marriages are general. The matter has now reached such lengths that it is seriously troubling the government, and the advisability of abolishing these banks, which are held to be the root of the evil, is being debated.

In 50 years the words and phrases of the English language lexiconized under the letter "A" have increased from 7,000 in number to nearly 60,000. Science and invention requiring new terms are largely responsible.

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The Height of Waves.

At the recent Glasgow meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science Mr. Vaughan Cornish read a paper on the size of waves at sea. He said that the height of the ocean waves in deep water far from land had been determined with fairly concordant results by a number of independent observers. He gave the following table as the average of the heights of a number of successive waves: Hurricane, 28.54 feet; strong gale, 20.64 feet; gale, 15.42; strong breeze, 10.83. These values are only about one-half of the 40 or 50 feet which experienced seamen frequently state to be the size of the waves met with in strong gales. The author explained this by the fact that waves of a larger size probably recur at short intervals and that it is these which rivet the attention and are dangerous.



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