

FRENCH THE FIRST

PIONEERS IN THE FUR INDUSTRY IN AMERICA.

As Far Back as 1697 One of That Race Began Dealing with the Indians—Bitter Contests Over Territory.

In 1627 a Frenchman named Du Pont set up a little trading post at the junction of the Saguenay river with the St. Lawrence. He sold his merchandise to the Indians and took his pay in furs.

A few years later the French Fur company was organized. In 1661 two employes were sent to the shores of the Hudson bay and from there to Lake Superior and Lake Winipeg.

They reported fur-bearing animals in abundance, but their employes were not impressed by the business possibilities of the enterprise which they suggested.

They went to Boston, where they aroused interest, but were unable to raise funds. They went to England and then to France. After three or four years of effort they were brought into contact with Prince Rupert, who agreed to finance a preliminary expedition.

In 1668 a little vessel of 50 tons, named the Nomach, left England for "parts unknown." The expedition passed the winter in Hudson bay and returned to England in the summer of 1669 with a full cargo.

Early in 1678 King Charles II granted to Prince Rupert and 11 others a charter as the "Governor and Company of Adventurers Trading into Hudson Bay," with sole rights to trade in fish, whales, timber, minerals, furs and numerous other things throughout all the territory tributary to Hudson bay.

The name of Rupert's Land was given to the district, and although this title was long since dropped officially it is still heard and the Church of England still has a bishop of Rupert's Land.

The company was practically authorized to establish and maintain a government throughout a territory of hundreds of thousands of square miles in extent. This was held until its transfer to the dominion government in 1869, in consideration of \$1,500,000 and the reservation to the company of certain lands and privileges.

If the right man could have access to the records, the legends and the campfire tales of this remarkable institution a series of books might be written which by comparison would make the Leatherstocking tales seem almost insipid and Mayne Reid's stories almost tedious.

Many a lady's affair has cost a man's life and many a collar has been sent to market at the price of suffering and danger.

In 1784 a charter was obtained by the Northwest Fur company of Montreal on the ground of a claim that it was the legal successor of the old French company. For nearly 40 years a bitter and often bloody contest was maintained between this and the old company.

In 1816 the site of the present city of Winipeg was the scene of a pitched battle. The two companies were consolidated in 1821, because both were convinced that a continuance of such hostilities meant ruin to both.

The Hudson's Bay company has been one of the most important advance guards of civilization on this continent. Around many of the forts and posts from which the hardy and courageous "voyageurs" and "coureurs de bois" brought the furs of pelts by dog sled and canoe there have grown up prosperous towns and cities.

Victoria, Winipeg, Calgary and Edmonton were originally trading posts of this company. About 25 years ago the company put steamboats on the Saskatchewan and the Mackenzie. But even now it has stations in the far north, where mail is received only once a year.

THE BEST OF SPORTS

GREATEST CHARM FOR THE ANGLER IS FREAK FISHING.

Varies the Monotony of Ordinary Pursuit of the Finny Tribe—Taking Small Sharks with Rod and Reel.

The Florida fishing season is now in full swing, and the disciples of Isaac Walton are pulling in tarpon, kingfish and jewfish in the regular manner, but for many amateurs freak fishing has the greatest charm.

To say the least such freak work varies the monotony of tarpon or kingfish angling, affords greater danger and excitement, and occasionally leads up to that champion of sea demons—a 14-foot sawfish, which will wreck a boat if it can.

Mr. Vom Hofe captures devil fish at Punta Rossa and southward, his largest weighing over 1,000 pounds. He says he finds them in groups of from three to ten, floating on the surface with the tide, feeding on fish, for which they seem to fly under the water with a vampiric motion of their huge wings.

Mr. Vom Hofe's views on the hammerhead shark would indicate that it is a mammal, like the whale, rather than a fish. A female which weighed upward of 1,500 pounds, he says, when cut open was found to have 25 young shark within weighing from three to four pounds each.

Mr. Vom Hofe used a small stout rope for his fish line when angling for all kinds of sharks. Attached is a brake made of rounded wood, split in twain, which prevents the rapid running of the rope from burning the hands.

The rope is coiled on the bottom of the boat. When the hammerhead is hooked the boat is beached as soon as possible, and the shark is worked toward the shore. As soon as the hammerhead approaches within distance he is killed and dispatched.

There is no finer sport than to angle for small sharks with rod and reel and hook specimens weighing under 300 pounds. One is fairly safe in handling small sharks if armed with a good stout fish knife having six inches of blade or even a strong knife.

The main thing is to get knife or gaff home through the throat, the vital spot, before attacking the fish into a boat or on a wharf, otherwise they will fiercely attack the angler and may snap off a hand or foot.

Fish bites are somewhat poisonous, and a shark bite is dangerously so. A fish in snapping the hand will often leave a tooth point under the skin, causing a serious sore. Immediate cauterization is necessary for such wounds. No person should go fishing for sharks without a stick of caustic (nitrate of silver) in his pocket.

In fishing for large sharks the harpoon becomes man's good friend, and must be hurled with deadly accuracy before the great fish is taken aboard. In Florida the rope is passed ashore, if possible, and the shark dragged to the beach, where there is room to kill him or let him die naturally.

At sea the tackle is rigged to the boom and the shark hauled up to it, where his throat is cut. The wise angler who hooks a big shark from a rowboat, with no weapon but oars, discreetly cuts the line if he cannot get his tackle ashore. A large shark will, when maddened, attack a rowboat and smash it.

Such a shark, weighing nearly 1,000 pounds, would readily make kindling wood of a rowboat with his tail and jaws.

Micro-Organisms in Cheese. A professor of the Swiss Dairy school at Sobthal has compiled statistics of the number of micro-organisms found in cheese.

His experiments lead to the conclusion that every gram (one-thirtieth part of an ounce) of fresh Emmenthalet (Swiss) cheese contains between 90,000 and 100,000 living germs. After two months the number has increased to 800,000. Cream cheese contains a still larger number of animalcules.

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PLEASANT PLACE OF ABODE

Writer Speaks Highly of St. Michael's, One of the Islands of the Azores.

"The pleasantest place in the world to live in is the island of St. Michael's, in the Azores," says George H. Pickereil in the Washington Post.

For more than eight years Mr. Pickereil has been stationed on the island as United States consul.

"The island is 40 miles long, ten miles wide and has 100,000 inhabitants," he went on. "It has a salubrious semi-tropical climate and the only disturbances of nature are hailstorms.

"It is a beautiful town, and over it are spread little villas, thatched with vines and moss, where the doors need not be locked, because of the peacefulness of the population, and where the windows may always remain open to let in air, which never becomes too cold.

"Six days' sail from New York, we have all the metropolitan papers and keep in close touch with the world's doings. Twice a year a Portuguese opera troupe and now and then a circus comes to the island. At other times we have bands in the public squares.

"Fruits, vegetables and fish are eaten mainly and the cost of living is low. One can live plainly but very comfortably with wife and child for \$75 a month, as servants can be hired for \$2.50 a month.

There are many beautiful women there, and the young man makes love to them in the street in Spanish fashion. He stands in the street and talks to her as she leans from the window above. When the engagement is made they meet, but after that they are never again so near until they are married."

TOO FULL OF ENTHUSIASM. Lawyer's Plea for the Disinterestedness of His Client Had Some Drawbacks.

A diplomat was reminding the other day, and spoke unreservedly of his early days as a lawyer, and his listeners with some anecdote, mostly at his expense.

"After my shingle had been banging over my door for three days, he said, 'my first client sent for me. He was a man who confessed to me that he had snatched a purse from a woman's hand. He wanted me to take the case up for him, and he was to be tried the next day. I went over the technicalities of the case at once, and full of enthusiasm I was ready to move the judge with an eloquent address.

"The next day my brief was prepared. After stating my side of the case, and believing I had made a hit with the court, I wanted to close by saying something bright. And I did. 'Your honor,' I exclaimed, 'this case shows extenuating circumstances. You must make allowances for the disinterestedness of the accused, because the purse was empty!'"

Carries Burden in Names. Hector Kilnor, Arthur Herbert Worthington Francis Monroe is the formidable burden of names under which a young Englishman, lately arrived in Chicago, tries to support life. Not that all those names are his own.

To only three of them and the surname can be rightly lay claim, but the trouble is that he cannot tell which three given names are his. Twenty-five years ago, when this much-named man appeared in the world, a twin brother also made his debut. Both infants were promptly christened.

This ceremony was barely concluded when the babies' mother died and almost immediately afterward one of the infants also died. Unfortunately no one could tell whether it was Hector Kilnor Arthur or Herbert Worthington Francis who still survived, and he is thus compelled to go through life under the horrible suspicion that he is in reality his brother. To avoid any false representation he carries around the whole assortment of names, satisfied that if he uses all six he is bound to use the right ones.

Does Sorrow Spoil Beauty? "If we regard beauty from its merely physical aspect, it can be said with truth that sorrow improves it, for there is no doubt that deep grief, anxiety and care can rob the eye of its brightness, and cheek of its bloom, and plant deep furrows across the once smooth brow.

But there is a higher kind of loveliness than that which proceeds from perfect features and exquisite coloring—namely, the beauty of soul and mind which reveals itself in expression. This, indeed, can be ennobled, purified and elevated by sorrow, if the sorrow be bravely borne.

Not So Crazy, After All. While a wedding breakfast was being held in a restaurant at Fresnes les Rungis, France, a naval officer in uniform entered the room and was invited to preside over the feast. He made himself very agreeable, sang songs and delivered speeches. He was proposing the bride's health when two policemen rushed in and arrested him as an escaped lunatic from a neighboring asylum. It is further asserted that he thereupon politely turned to the officers and said: "I think you have made a mistake, gentlemen. There," pointing to the bridegroom, "is the man you want."—London Tribune.

He Knew His Book. "From a grammatical viewpoint," said the fair maid with the lofty forehead, "which do you consider correct, 'I had rather go home,' or 'I would rather go home?'" "Neither," promptly answered the young man who was engaged in holding down the other end of the sofa. "I'd rather stay right here."

CURIOUS OLD LAWS

WERE THOSE OF COLONY AND DOMINION OF VIRGINIA.

Order Given for Building of Jail Seems to Have Been Beginning of Law and Order—Rules for Innkeepers.

During one of his last lecture tours through Old Virginia Mr. Harry Ellard was in a small town called Fincastle, which is the county seat of Botetourt county, and there gave a talk to the Confederate Veterans Association of that place.

He met a number of gentlemen who were connected with the courthouse and who allowed him access to all of the records of the county.

On looking back nearly 140 years he came across a curious order of the court which he copied and which is as follows:

"Be it remembered that at the house of Mr. Robert Breckenridge, in the thirteenth day of February, in the tenth year of the reign of our Sovereign King George the Third, by the grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King Defender of the Faith, and in the year of our Lord Christ one thousand seven hundred and seventy—In the Colony and Dominion of Virginia, that the Court orders that the Surveyor of Botetourt county do lay off two and one-half acres of land for the use of the county, directed by Robert Breckenridge, who shall appoint by court Christian and Stephen Pix to agree with a workman to build a log cabin twenty-four feet long and twenty feet wide, for a Court-house, with a clapboard roof with two small rooms, one at each end, for a jury room.

"The court doth give leave to James M. Geocock to build a log cabin twenty-four feet long and sixteen feet wide, with an addition at the end sixteen feet wide and twelve feet long, for a prison and the Gaoler's House, the expense of which to be paid by the county."

This was the first record Mr. Ellard came across, so it will be seen that by the building of the courthouse and jail law and order began to prevail in this section. Another curious order which Mr. Ellard copied is as follows:

"Order of the Colonial Court regulating the charge of Innkeepers at Fincastle, Virginia, 14th day of February, 1770, under King George III. of England, Defender of the Faith.

"Ordered that the following rates be observed by Innkeepers in Botetourt county to-wit: For East India rum they may demand 10 shillings per gallon, for rum made on this continent 2 shillings sixpence per gallon, Madeira wine 12 shillings per gallon, for Tennessee 11 shillings per gallon, for peach brandy 5 shillings per gallon, for apple brandy 4 shillings per gallon.

For Virginia strong malt beer, bottled three months, 7 pence half penny per bottle, same not bottled three months one shilling three pence, for Bumbo with two gills of rum to the quart made with white sugar one shilling three pence, for same with brown sugar one shilling. For a warm diet with beer sixpence, for lodging with clean sheets, one in a bed, sixpence, two in a bed three pence three farthings, more than two in a bed nothing."

There was no explanation given as to what Bumbo was, but it might have been a colonial highball.

Her Thoughtfulness. An English cook dreamed of a lottery, and despite her master's advice invested her savings in a ticket. A few days later the employer was astonished to see that the ticket had won \$100,000. He was a bachelor and she was an old servant. It was impossible to think of parting. He proposed and was accepted, and they were married by special license next morning.

As they drove away from the church, he said to her: "Well, Molly, two happy events in one day. You have married, I trust, a good husband. You have something else first let me ask about the lottery prize."

"Thinking her husband meant to scold, she replied, with a sigh of relief: "Don't say no more about it. I thought how it would be, and that I should never hear the last of it, so I sold the ticket to the baker for a guinea profit."

Sprightliness Unappreciated. A traveler relates that the steamer was nearing the completion of a very rough passage, and most of the passengers were silent, sad and thoughtful. Only one gay and sprightly individual looked as though an earthquake hadn't suddenly swallowed up his friend and all his worldly goods. "Look here," he said, dancing nimbly about, "I'm all right. If you chaps just brace up and be cheerful, you'll feel all right." He did a horripole and a jig, and one of his fellow passengers raised his head long enough to say: "George, will you do me a great favor—a very great favor—possibly the last favor I shall ever ask of you?" "Why, certainly, old man. What can I get for you?" "Nothing. I simply beg of you to stop dancing. It shakes the boat so."

No Room for His Kind. "Bounders says he often knocks at the door of opportunity, but he can never get in."

"What's the matter? Is it full inside?" "No. But he is."

Evidence. "What makes you so sure Bliggins is a college man. He never quotes from the classics?" "No. But he knows every technicality that pertains to athletics."

FOUND TREASURE IN LAKE.

Boys While Bathing at Cleveland Discover Iron Chest, But Are Forced to Give It Up to Brewers' Union.

Cleveland, O.—"Ouch!" exclaimed one of a group of small boys who were bathing in the lake the other afternoon. "Gee, my foot bit somethin' somethin' hard like iron."

Soon all were splashing about and groping their way along the bottom, endeavoring to find the cause of the trouble. In a few minutes two of them bumped heads as they crawled blindly about. Then they put out their hands and one of them felt a hard, square metallic substance. He struggled to the surface with a good sized iron chest in his arms.

All shouted as they gathered around: "Cap'n Kidd's treasure." "Guess we ain't lucky!" And they carried the box, good and heavy, to the shore. There they expected to open it and to divide the treasure in true pirate style. "Maybe its diamonds and gold and silver and—" Just then a patrolman happened on the scene.

"What's that? Found Cap'n Kidd's treasure, have you? Guess not. I've heard of that iron chest before."

He took charge of it and carried it to the station house. When the lid was pried open inside were found stock certificates and life insurance policies to the amount of \$4,000 and other valuable papers. It was the iron box which had been stolen from the office of the Brewers' union on the night of June 21 by some one who entered the office with a duplicate key and then abstracted the box from the safe. A silver watch was missing from the chest. Otherwise the contents were intact.

Frederick Zepp, the treasurer of the union, was called to the station and took charge of the box.

CABIN NEARLY 200 YEARS OLD. Belle Situated at Pittsburg Recalls Days When Settlers Battled with Redskins.

Pittsburg, Pa.—Alone, yet with dainty appearance, stands a log cabin built of rough hemlock timber and mud plaster upon Squirrel Hill by John McComb, nearly 175 years ago. At that time the McComb cabin was a veritable fortress.

Indians afore inhabited the now peaceful residential section of Squirrel Hill and many times the McComb family and their few nearby neighbors were forced to take up arms and here for their lives against the "redskins." The log cabin stands alone in the center of a big plot of ground just off Murray Hill avenue.

The old cabin, of historic fame, is now a dilapidated structure. The walls still stand as firm as when they were erected some years ago, but the floors have warped, and the interior is in a general state of decay. In the cellar of the cabin are located two large wells of water, dug by the McComb family at a time when they were besieged by Indians.

Until last February the cabin was occupied by an old servant of the McComb family, Mrs. Lucy Rogers. For 23 years after the McComb family vacated the cabin Mrs. Rogers and her family lived in the log house. Mrs. Rogers was a slave to Dr. E. A. Van Camp, formerly American consul to the Fiji Islands, and after her services as bondswoman to that family ceased she entered the employ of the McComb family.

DIG UP HISTORIC CANNON. Famous Gun Was Thrown Overboard from British Ship During the Revolution.

Palermo, N. J.—There has just been dug up here and removed to Ocean City a cannon with a revolutionary history. For more than a century it had done duty as a fender on the Marshall property, on what is known as the Cannon and Shore road, where it had been placed by Ulrich Smith, an early settler of the county, and who owned the property at that time. While the cannon had long been famous in that section, little was known of its history, and H. L. Stafford, of this place, looked it up.

From Barber's history of Cape May county he learned that the cannon was one of the 12 thrown overboard from the British brigantine Delight, which went ashore in a fog on Peck's Beach, on June 2, 1779. The local militia took possession of the vessel and sent its crew under guard to Philadelphia. The cannon, cast off to lighten the ship in an effort to get off the beach, was fished by Smith and placed at the corner of his land for a fender.

Girl Trudges 300 Miles. Richmond, Va. Tanned by the summer sun and begrimed by the dust of travel, Mrs. Catherine Hampton recently reached Richmond after a journey on foot from Abingdon, Washington county, more than 300 miles from Richmond. The young woman, who is attractive, says that she left her home on May 1, proceeding by way of the country roads, stopping for food and shelter wherever the day's journey happened to find her. She declares her sole idea in making the long journey was to see and talk to Gov. Swanson. She believes he is the greatest man in the world. Secretary Ben Owens did not deem it advisable to have his chief bothered with the curiosity seeker.

Boom in Japanese Trade. London.—Japanese foreign trade for the first six months of 1906, according to the correspondent at Tokio of the Times, shows an increase of \$10,000,000 in exports and a decrease of \$20,000,000 in imports as compared with the same period of 1905.

PLAN TO JOIN LAKES

PROJECT TO CONNECT BODIES OF MICHIGAN AND SUPERIOR.

Bill Authorizing Waterway Introduced in Recent Congress—Cost Estimated at \$40,000,000—Would Take Six Years to Build.

St. Ignace, Mich.—What has been looked upon more or less as a wild dream of a ship canal by the people of northern Michigan may yet become a reality if the views of Lawrence E. O'Mara, once of South Ste. Marie but now of Chicago, are to be taken as correct. His scheme is for the construction of a ship canal between Lakes Michigan and Superior following a route a few miles to the east of Marquette. A bill authorizing the project was introduced in the recent congress.

Where such water way constructed it would mean a saving in distance from the head of the lakes to Lake Michigan of over 400 miles. The canal would be 40 miles long and would cost, it is estimated, \$40,000,000.

Schemes contemplating the same project have been broached before, but nothing ever came of them. The plan has been pronounced feasible by some persons, while others have said that it was impracticable, among these a Marquette engineer familiar with the proposed route, who figures that at the highest point a cut to a depth of 200 feet would be necessary and this through solid rock. However, Mr. O'Mara declares that the promoters have confidence in being able to float the proposition and carry the project to a successful issue.

The bill introduced in congress provided that Thomas Dolan, Jr., F. B. Sprague, L. E. O'Mara, John H. Mauristius, G. W. Lolan, Edward Sprague and

LaBouch H. H. was granted the right of way through the waters of the United States to enable the construction and operation of a ship canal connecting Lakes Michigan and Superior via Whitefish river, Mud lake and Au Train river and lake, in the state of Michigan, with power and authority to construct and maintain all necessary harbors, locks, dams, channels, dikes and piers without expense to the United States.

The bill provides that the secretary of war shall first approve the plans for such canal or channel and that the plan shall be in no way interfered with the usual navigation along the proposed waters. The bill also provides that in the transportation of military or naval stores, troops or munitions of war of the United States no toll shall be charged, and in addition no tolls shall be charged upon boats or craft now able to use the waters.

In the event the bill is passed no construction shall be undertaken within two years and the canal completed within six years.

HUNDRED SHOTS A MINUTE. Auto-Electric Battery—Invented by Cleveland Man; May Lead to New Kind of Fighting.

Cleveland, O. A new auto-electric battery, capable of sending a machine forward at the rate of 50 miles an hour and at the same time of firing 100 shots a minute is the latest death-dealing device about to be patented by S. N. McClean, of the McClean Arms company.

For two years he has been experimenting. His device is expected to make the automobile a popular engine of war.

The battery works automatically firing shells 1 1/2 inches in diameter. There is practically no recoil from the discharge of the gun, and the speed of the machine is not interfered with. The battery is operated by a chauffeur from an unexposed position at the rear of the machine. A turn of a crank regulates the speed and the firing apparatus.

Must Behave Five Years. Oroville, Cal.—The last will and testament of John Dudley Meng, a capitalist who resided at Chico and who was known all over the northern part of California, has been filed for probate in this country. The approximate value of the estate is \$60,000. Under the will the estate is to go to an only son, Charles Anderson Meng. The will, however, recites that the son shall receive only \$30 a month for a period of five years. After that time if young Meng quits his reckless ways and acquires a fixed purpose in life the trust shall expire. If not the allowance shall continue.

President Lives in Terror. Mexico City.—So terrified is President Cabrera of Guatemala of the revolutionists, according to Duncan Bankhart, consul general of Salvador here, that all of his food is sent to him in a tin can by his mother and securely locked, lest it be poisoned en route. Cabrera is so afraid of assassination that he never sleeps two consecutive nights in the same room. It is also said that Cabrera has become so morbid that he has imprisoned the wives of leading citizens.

Wars on Walter's Mapkin. Berlin.—Prof. Kron has started in a leading medical journal, a crusade against the waltzer's mapkin, which, he says, is a "deplorably unhygienic piece of linen, which should be abolished from all civilized countries." He notes how the waltzer carries their napkins, now in their hands, now in their trousers pockets, and sometimes under their arms. They use it to wipe table tops, glasses, knives, forks, perspiration from their brows, and beer from their lips.