PIRATES AND SKYROCKETS

HOW A STRANDED VESSEL GOT OUT OF TROUBLE.

Something Had Happened, But There Was No Repitition Of It.

It all happened when Norman Roberts was first mate of the Amur, a small tramp steamer trading in Australasia, which was about a year ago and before he joined the Truvall.

"We were off the coast of Sumatra when something went wrong with our engines," began the mate. "Something was everlastingly going wrong with those engines of ours, but the particular time the machinery began to clank and whistle and grind until our teeth stood on edge and the old man told the chief he'd put in at the first decent looking anchorage and lay to until the engine-room crew got things in shape, if it took till doomsday.

"Well, we finally put in for a little bay where the old man said he knew of a Dutch trading station. As we put into the bay we sighted a small steamer at anchor. As we got closer we saw that there was no smoke coming from its funnel, and when we came to anchor within hailing distance we could see no signs of life on the craft.

"Something funny about that Dutchman," said the old man, and the more he thought of it the more mysterious it all seemed. After we had made ourselves snug the old man orders a boat lowered, and he and myself and four of the crew pulled over to the silent tramp. As we came alongside we saw that it was the Goethe, a German tramp in the South Sea trade.

"A rope ladder was hanging over the side, and so we pulled alongside and, the old man leading, we climbed on board. Such a sight as met our eyes I never want to see again. Four men lay dead on the decks, and it looked as though there had been a merry fight of it. The bodies were terribly mutilated, and we could tell at a glance that it had been the work of Malay pirates or some of those fierce natives that help make large chunks of Sumatra places of everlasting nightmare.

"We went into the charthouse and found the body of the first mate. Stretched out on the cabin floor, with empty cartridge shells all about him was the dead skipper. Then we came up on deck to try to figure it all out. We couldn't find any more bodies, but from the number of sharks we saw shooting about the ship and sticking their noses out of the water we knew what had become of the others.

"Ashore we could see the Dutch trading station buildings, but never a sign of life. The old man said as how we had better pull ashore and look the situation over.

"In front of the Dutch trader's bungalow we came across the bodies of five natives, evidently part of his force, who had come to their death fighting for their master. Just inside the house we stumbled over the body of the Dutch trader, and behind that the body of his native wife. The rooms were turned upside down, and there was nothing left that was worth carrying away. It had certainly been a complete massacre! and from the appearance of the bodies the whole ghastly business hadn't taken place more than a day or two before.

"'Great Scott!' said the old man to me, 'something certainly happened in these parts, and we'd better get back to the Amur or something'll be happening to us.'

"Well, those engines of ours were in a bad fix, but the old man called up the chief engineer and told him to get the old threshing machine in working order right smart, as that there neighborhood was not at all to his liking. And, anyhow, we'd have been in a bad fix if we were attacked, for beyond three or four revolvers, we were an unarmed ship.

"The chief and his engine-room force pounded at their machinery day and night for three days, and things began to look as though they were arriving at the cause of the trouble.

"Then it happened about daylight one morning the watch called the old man and me on deck and said as how he heard strange noises in the direction of the shore. We listened, and we heard them, too. Then after a bit we saw half a dozen war canoes filled with natives coming in our direction.

"'We're in for a pretty mess,' said the old man, and then he begins to cuss and bawl orders so loud that the oncoming natives stopped their paddling to listen. And there we were with three revolvers among the lot of us. The chief said if we could hold the heathen off for an hour or two he'd get the danged old engines running so we could up anchor and away. But how to keep the natives off for an hour or two was a problem that caused the backbone to hump and cold sweat to run down my face.

"And all the while the natives kept coming on. Then they started up a blood-curdling sing-song that frightened us stiff. Well, sir, it was just then that I got an inspiration that was a beauty. I thought for a minute—then I ducked into the charthouse and brought out an armful of my inspiration. That inspiration was nothing less than a bunch of signal rockets. The old man and the rest of them were too busy to watch me, so I set about with my plan.

"I climbed up on the galley and picked off the stovepipe. I fastened the stovepipe on the rail and pointed it at the rag-timing natives as they paddled towards us through the gloom. Then I put a big rocket in the improvised cannon, got out a box of matches, and waited until the savages were within proper distance.

"Finally those six canoes were just where I wanted them, and I let go. There was a splutter, a zip and a roar, and a blazing red rocket shot kerplunk into the middle of the bunch of yodelling pirates. The sing-song stopped with a short turn and a howl of anguish came across the water. Then I let go another and another. First I'd give them a red and then a blue and then a white.

"Gosh, if we'd had twelve-inch guns we couldn't have accomplished more. The poor, benighted heathen didn't want any more, and they began to pull for the shore like dear life, with my blue, red and white rockets whistling by their heads or bursting gloriously in the middle of their backs.

"By this time the chief engineer had got his engines to working, and we pulled out of that bay of murder in a hurry. Down the coast a bit we came across a Dutch gunboat, and told 'em the facts, and the Dutchman set out with top speed to get the pirates, but I'll bet those rockets of mine scared those murdering heathen so bad they're running yet."

ONE CANNOT READ IN TEN.

How the Population of Canada Is Educated.

Of the grown-up male population of Canada one person in ten can neither read nor write, the exact number of illiterates being 207,322, out of 2,197,663 men who are 21 years or older. So say the latest census returns, and give the British-born citizens the highest standing for education. Of the 409,000 male immigrants from the British Isles all can read and write save 13,000, which is 3.16 per cent. Of immigrants from foreign lands one in six is unable to read or write. Of the 1,441,933 Canadian-born voters there are five in every hundred who do not boast those accomplishments.

The census taker also looked for some education in the entire population from five years of age up. Eleven in a hundred did not come up to the mark. The Province of Ontario made by far the best showing, for here the percentage of illiteracy is only 6.52. Little Prince Edward Island came second with 7.62 per cent. The most uneducated province was New Brunswick, with 14 in every hundred who cannot read or write, though in the neighboring province of Nova Scotia its proportion is just 10 per hundred. In Quebec there are 217,316 people without rudimentary education, which is 12.69 per cent. of the population of five years and over.

The real place to go if you can read and write and wish to be conspicuous, is the Northwest Territories. There you would have an advantage over 70 people in every hundred of the population; most of them, however, would be Indians and half-breeds.

Throughout the Dominion the proportion of illiterates has fallen from 14 to 10 per hundred since the previous census in 1901. Saskatchewan has shown the greatest improvement—from 35 per cent. to 13. Every other province shows some amberation in the educational condition of its inhabitants. In Ontario, for instance, despite the large increase in population there are 24,000 fewer illiterates than there were ten years ago. Only in the three prairie provinces has there been an increase in the total of those who cannot read nor write, and that, of course, is due to the large influx of foreign-born immigrants.

"Why, little boy!" exclaimed the shocked old lady, "aren't you ashamed to be smoking that vile cigar?" "Sure, lady," replied the urchin, blowing out a ring, "but, yer see, the man that dropped it didn't have no taste for good terbaccer!"

Minard's Liniment Cures Distemper.

GERMANY'S WEALTHIEST DUCHESS.

The Grand Duchess Theodora of Saxe-Weimar, wife of Germany's wealthiest reigning Prince. The Princess was married in 1910. She recently celebrated her twenty-third birthday. She has one little daughter. Her husband, who was until the birth of Princess Juliana heir to the throne of Holland, is reputed to possess a fortune of $35,000,000.

THEY FAKE ILLNESS.

Weak Points in the British Government's Insurance Bill.

If all men were perfectly honest, schemes like the British government insurance act might be ideal schemes. But the few months in which the act has been in operation have shown that many Englishmen cannot resist temptation. The amount of feigned illness among the insured is becoming a great scandal.

In this respect Great Britain is repeating the experience of Germany, which furnished the model for the Lloyd George bill. The Germans have invented a new word for the illness of the government insured, and some similar word will be needed in England soon.

Some employers who pay small wages find that the number of employes absent from work on account of alleged illness is from twice to ten times the number under former conditions, before workmen and women were assured of ten shillings a week whenever they laid off. The doctors agree that there is an enormous amount of malingering, but have not yet discovered any cure.

Many persons consider that a week of leisure, with an income of ten shillings, is a justifiable holiday. When the official doctor asserts that they are not ill they begin to denounce the act as a fraud and make political capital of it. Conservative newspapers are only too willing to print complaints from the insured that the insurance act is a failure.

Fourteen million people are now paying their weekly contributions, "licking stamps," the government's opponents say derisively. Undoubtedly many of them find fault with the administration of the act, and probably some amendments will be found necessary.

New problems develop every day. An employer has written to the papers explaining that an employee had been four or five months in jail charged with murder. The trial resulted in acquittal. The employer wants to take back the man, but wants to know who is to pay the insurance contributions for the time of detention in jail. The act says nothing on that point.

For the time opposition to the insurance scheme, or rather criticism of it, is the principal political capital of the conservative party. Home rule and Welsh disestablishment have taken back seats as targets for attack. But while conservatives declare that compulsory insurance is a failure their leaders do not go so far as to urge repeal. It is unpopular with many, but whether it is not popular with the great majority of the insured is still an open question.

Much Faster.

A Yankee was boasting to an Irishman he met on board a Clyde steamer about the fastness of American trains. "Why, Mike," he said, "we run our trains so fast in America that the telegraph poles look like a continuous fence." "Do they now?" said Mike. "Well, sir, I was wan day on a train in Ireland, and as we passed first a field of turnips, then wan of carrots, then wan of cabbage, and then a large pond of water, we were goin' that fast that I thought it was broth!"

His Method.

Friend—"Now, confidentially, how do you figure what to charge for a prescription?"

Druggist—"Well, our system is perfectly fair to everybody. After the clerk makes up the prescription he goes to the back of the store and shakes up a lot of cards in a hat. The cards are marked with prices ranging from 25 cents to a dollar and a half, and whichever card he draws settles the price of the prescription."

Minard's Liniment Cures Colds, Etc.

Lawyer—Now, sir, tell me, are you well acquainted with the prisoner? Witness—I've known him for twenty years. Lawyer—Have you? I must now ask, ever known him to be a disturber of the public peace? Witness—Well—er—he used to belong to a band.

RATIONS FOR BRITISH TARS

VICTUALLING AFFAIRS IN THE ROYAL NAVY.

Compared With Olden Days the Sailors Fare Very Much Better.

Within the past decade the dietary in the Royal Navy has altered greatly for the better. Gone are the days of biscuits so full of weevils that they had to be rapped on the table before being eaten; of salted meat so tough and hard that it could be manufactured into snuff-boxes; and of beer and water which, through long keeping in wooden casks, was as often as not quite unfit to drink, says London Answers.

Beer—of which the Elizabethan seaman received a gallon a day—has been supplanted by rum; while the water on board is now kept in iron tanks, which are refilled from the shore, or by the distilling apparatus on board, at frequent intervals.

All modern ships are fitted with bakeries, so Jack receives his fresh, newly-baked loaf every day of his life. There is also a refrigerator on board, in which is stowed enough fresh meat and vegetables to last every man in the ship for a month, so the sailor is no longer subsisting on salt beef and pork within a few days of leaving harbor.

Floating Hotels.

A modern battleship, in fact, only carries about two days' salt meat—that is, if she is fitted with a refrigerator; and it is then carried merely as a "stand by," to be served out in very exceptional circumstances.

The ordinary daily rations of every man in the Navy is 1 lb. of fresh bread (or 3-4 lb. bread and 1-4 lb. flour); 1-2 lb. fresh meat; 1 lb. fresh vegetables; 4 oz. sugar; 1-2 oz. of tea (or 1 oz. of coffee for every 1-4 oz. of tea if preferred); 1-2 oz. of drinking chocolate (or 1 oz. of coffee if preferred); 3-4 oz. of unsweetened condensed milk; 1 oz. of jam or marmalade; and 4 oz. of preserved meat on one day of the week in harbor, or on two days while at sea.

Mustard, pepper, vinegar, and salt are served out as required, while 1-2 lb. of biscuit or 1 lb. of flour is issued instead of the bread if the latter is not available. A man over the age of twenty receives one eighth of a pint of rum daily, but those who desire it can receive money instead.

The rum itself, to all men except warrant and chief petty officers, is served out in the form of "grog"—three parts of water to one of rum. It is called by this name as the mixture was first issued by Admiral Vernon in 1740, for he, from the fact that he wore breeches made of a stuff called gragam, was known to his men by the nickname of "Old Grog."

Can Purchase Extras.

The sailor, in addition to his stated ration, is granted a messing allowance of 4d. a day by the Government; and with this sum he can purchase extras from the stores on board. All the ordinary articles, such as bread, meat, vegetables, tea, coffee, cocoa, condensed milk—everything, in fact, except rum—can be bought in this way, but additional delicacies like tinned salmon and rabbit, raisins for puddings, dried beans and peas, pickles, suet, etc., etc., can be procured if required.

All these articles are of the very first quality, and as they are bought by the contract department of the Admiralty in enormous quantities, there is no doubt that Jack gets the finest value for his money.

A man, moreover, is not forced to take up his full allowance of provisions. He must draw one third of his amount of meat and vegetables, but for the remainder, if he likes, he can be paid their equivalent value in hard cash.

Once a month each sailor can buy one pound of tobacco free of duty. It is issued in leaf for a shilling a pound, and cut up ready for consumption at 1s. 2d., and as many officers smoke nothing but the latter variety, it speaks well for its quality. All this tobacco comes from special tobacco plantations in South Africa, and could not be bought ashore under six shillings a pound.

By the Ton.

The following amounts of provisions carried on board a man-o'-war with just under 800 men may be interesting:

Fresh meat, 1 ton. Fresh vegetables, 2 tons. Salt pork, 920 lb. Flour, 45 tons. Biscuits, 1 ton. Preserved meat, 3 3-4 tons. Tinned salmon, 3-4 ton. Tinned rabbit, 1,418 lb. Pickles, 1 1-4 tons. Suet, 340 lb. Split peas, 1-4 ton. Dried beans and peas, 1 1-2 tons. Celery seeds, 53 lb. Condensed milk, 5 1-2 tons. Sugar, 20 tons. Tea, 1 3-4 tons. Coffee, 1-2 ton. Drinking chocolate, 2 1-4 tons. Jam, 1 1-2 tons. Raisins, 1-4 ton. Rice, 1-2 ton. Mustard, 325 lb. Pepper, 250 lb. Salt, 1 1-2 tons. Vinegar, 150 gals. Rum, 1,236 gals. Soap, 6 1-2 tons. Tobacco, 2 tons.

WOMEN QUESTION IN JAPAN.

Cry for "Emancipation From Domestic Slavery."

The "new woman" question has come to the fore in Japan, just as it has in the Occident, and has aroused almost as much attention as the woman's rights problem in foreign lands.

The Japanese woman, compared to her sisters abroad, has occupied a modest place in the life of the empire and has been held greatly in subjection. But advanced opinion agrees that the Japanese woman is entitled to greater freedom and wider intellectual activities than hitherto has been allowed her.

A cry for "emancipation of women" from "domestic slavery" is being raised by a number of educated girls, who call themselves "Blue Stockings." These "new women" do not clearly specify what they wish to accomplish, but in a general way they defy the old order of things laid down for the female sex. They have their own publications and occasionally arrange public meetings for the propagation of their ideas. They have a club of their own in Tokio, and gather for nightly woman's rights discussions.

However, these are the extremists. Their utterances and their mode of life have shocked conservative Japan. In fact, some of them have been so radical in their action that the authorities have invoked the law to restrain them. Recently a number of magazines for women were suspended on the ground that they were "injurious to society."

Dr. Okuda, minister of education, is of the opinion that the discussion of the woman's rights question may not be dangerous to the minds of women who are well educated and have been well trained in mind, but he added his view that "it will excite injuriously the minds of ordinary women; or, in other words, will encourage vanity among them." He asserted that nine out of ten women who discuss such a problem are the victims of the "cruel influence of vanity."

Short Directions for Busy People.

To find a needle in a haystack—sit down on it.

To remove stains from a character—marry money.

To enjoy yourself at your wife's dinner—stay away.

To hold a book properly—consult a book-maker.

To keep creases in trousers—remove the girl from your lap.

To plant a garden—live a planter.

To rest quietly in a strange bed—close all the windows and turn on the gas.

To cure a cold—make an application of about fourteen days. If cold continues, double the dose.

KEEP CHILDREN WELL DURING HOT WEATHER

Every mother knows how fatal the hot summer months are to small children. Cholera infantum, diarrhoea, dysentry and stomach troubles are rife at this time and often a precious little life is lost after only a few hours' illness. The mother who keeps Baby's Own Tablets in the house feels safe. The occasional use of the Tablets prevent stomach and bowel troubles, or if trouble comes suddenly—as it generally does—the Tablets will bring the baby safely through. They are sold by medicine dealers or by mail at 25 cents a box from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

"Are you the same man that ate my shepherd's-pie last week?" "No, mum. I'll never be the same man again."

Minard's Liniment Cures Garget in Cows.

Happiness consists in activity. Such is the constitution of our nature; it is a running stream and not a stagnant pool.

JAPAN'S ICE KING.

How Yamada Keisuke Built Up His Great Fortune.

One man cut a lot of ice in his life. That was Yamada Keisuke, the Ice King, of Japan, who died lately at the age of sixty-nine, leaving a fortune of 3,000,000 yen or $1,500,000, in a country where a dollar goes further than it does here. Keisuke was a poor timber coolie, forty-seven years old. One hot summer day, carrying lumber down a mountain, and almost overcome by the intense heat, he drank from a running stream and saw something gleam in a cavern. It was natural ice left from the winter. He thought. Then he acted. He had twelve dollars and a half. He rented an old building, filled it with ice covered by sawdust, made the place air-tight and waited until June. The experiment was successful.

Keisuke then found in the cold part of Japan a large lake of natural ice. He decided to ship it by steamer to the large cities of the country. He had no capital, no ties, nor tools. He chartered a vessel with 300 tons ice capacity, and contracted for ice cutting coolies who were by the contract to receive pay after the vessel was fully loaded. Just before full loading the steamer sailed away. The coolies clamored for their pay. Keisuke pointed to the contract. Then followed the steamer to arrange matters. At destination he stored the ice, received advances on the cargo, returned and paid off the waiting coolies.

From June to September ice in Japan averages from $12.50 to $8 a ton. From October to May it averages from $8 a ton. These prices helped the upbuilding of the Keisuke fortune, which passes to a seventeen-year-old son.

Time-Saving.

Dorcas—"Won't your meeting be very late if all the members are going to take part in the debate?" Mrs. Dorcas—"Why, no, dear. We'll all speak at once."

A FRIGHTFUL FIRE

Causes widespread sorrow. Next to a lively conflagration nothing causes much pain than a cut. "Putnam's" the old reliable Pain and Corn Extractor, that never fails and always cures, try it, 25c. at all dealers.

Putting It Off.

"He's a mean man."

"How so?"

"When his little girl begs for an ice cream, he asks her if she wouldn't rather have a gold watch when she's nineteen."

Wire Wounds.

My mare received a very valuable one, was badly bruised and cut by being caught in a wire fence. Some of the wounds would not heal, although I tried many different medicines. Dr Bell advised me to put MINARD'S LINIMENT. diluted at first then strong as the nerves became better, until after three weeks the mare was here healed and, best of all, the hair growing well, and is NOT WHITE as is most always the case in horses where wounds F. M. DOYLE.

Weymouth.

Not So Bad as That.

"Women are certainly trying hard to become man's equal."

"Oh, I think you wrong us. All the women I know seem anxious to go forward rather than backward."

Try Murine Eye Remedy

If you have Red, Weak, Watery Eyes or Granulated Eyelids, Doesn't Smart—Soothes Eye Pain. Druggists Sell Murine Eye Remedy, Liquid, 25c, 50c. Murine Eye Salve in Aseptic Tubes, 25c, 50c. Eye Books Free by Mail.

An Eye Tonic Good for All Eyes that Need Care. Murine Eye Remedy Co., Chicago

Mr. Wyborn—Ever since I married you I've drunk the cup of happiness to the dregs. Mrs. Wyborn—Yes; imagine you leaving a drop of anything in any cup!

Minard's Liniment Cures Diphtheria

DREADFUL ITCHING AND BURNING

White Blisters Spread All Over Head. Scratched Until Mass of Sores. Hard Crusts Left Raw Flesh. Had to Cut Hair Away, Healed by Cuticura Soap and Ointment. Hair Growing Thick.

139 Romaine St., Peterboro, Ontario.—"My little girl's head was in a terrible state. It started with little white blisters, which would break until it spread all over her head. The burning and itching were dreadful, especially at night when she would scratch it until it was one mass of sores all over her head and the pillow would be covered with blood. She could get no rest at all with the pain. She would beg of me to put something on to cool the burning and irritation. Hard crusts would form on her head which when she scratched it would leave the raw flesh underneath, and her hair came off with it or would be in such a dreadful state that I would be obliged to cut the hair away.

"I tried several remedies but none of them seemed to do any good. I then cut her hair quite close, washed it with Cuticura Soap and bandaged it using Cuticura Ointment. It is now quite healed without a mark on the skin. Her hair is growing nice and thick again." (Signed) Mrs. M. Saunders, Feb. 13, 1912.

Cuticura Soap and Cuticura Ointment are sold by druggists and dealers everywhere. A single set is often sufficient. Liberal sample of each mailed free, with 32-p. Skin Book. Address post card Potter Drug & Chem. Corp., Dept. 36D, Boston, U. S. A.

DODD'S KIDNEY PILLS
FOR ALL KIDNEY DISEASES
CURES RHEUMATISM
BRIGHT'S DISEASE BACKACHE
DIABETES
NUMBER 23 THE PRICE

A Bowser Portable Tank
For Sale Cheap
WILL MAKE MONEY FOR YOU

GARAGE OWNERS and others who require a cheap and convenient method of waiting on customers should investigate this tank to be sold at a sacrifice.

This has been used a short time in one of our departments, lately discontinued. Our branches and Sales depots are already equipped, and we cannot place this Tank in our own Company.

THIS BOWSER TANK IS A BARGAIN
In Good Shape—Almost as Good as New

50 gallon capacity—one gallon to the stroke. Pump self registering. Mounted on rubber-tired wheels. Can be moved anywhere—to the sidewalk and back to any car in the garage.

The best investment you ever made. It will save your gasoline—your time—your money.

Regular Price $350.00
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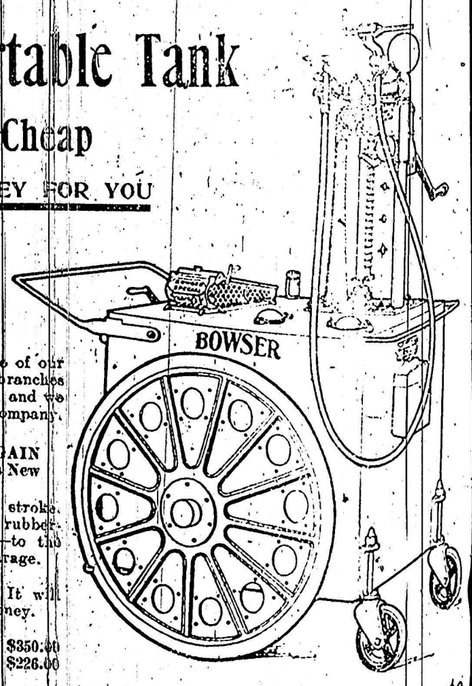

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