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Two Barrels of Rum for Paul Bunyan's Christmas Pudding

Famous Mythical Character of the North Land Woods Always Had a Merry Christmas. Left Haileybury When the Mining Men Came in. Some Stories of the Great Man of the North.

When Paul Bunyan was in the North Land he always used two barrels of rum for the sauce for his Christmas pudding. The pudding itself was usually mixed in a big cement mixer. The last Christmas Paul spent in the North Land Leo Mascioli supplied the mixer for the pudding. Paul Bunyan bought his own supplies, owning his own rum factory, the sauce being the important thing to Paul Bunyan.

There are people who do not believe there was ever a Paul Bunyan or that he did or said or knew the things commonly credited to him. But there are people who do not believe anything! Some even do not believe in Santa Claus!

Then there are people who believe things that are not so. They are as badly off as the unbelievers. For instance, a book has been issued recently by a professor in a college in the United States, and this book claims Paul Bunyan as a product of the United States. The truth should be told about Paul Bunyan above all people, for Paul's own fame rests upon his scrupulous regard for the truth.

The fact is that Paul Bunyan is the one home-brew hero of the Canadian logging and lumbering camps. He was originally in Nova Scotia, but like so many there he moved eventually to this North Land where his chief fame centres. Anyone who doubts this can be shown the man who worked last summer for Angus Taylor, Limited, on the construction work of the T. & N. O. line to Rouyn. This man said that he used to cook for Paul Bunyan. All the rest of the gang on the railway job readily believed this man. It seemed probable. Why should anyone doubt it? This man said that Paul made his morning eye-opener in a 45-gallon barrel so that he wouldn't be dry before breakfast. Another thing this man emphasized to prove that he worked for Paul Bunyan was to mention Paul's economical spirit. In writing, he said, Paul never dotted his 'i's' or crossed his 't's', and by this he saved twelve barrels of ink each year.

Paul Bunyan was the hero, the solace and the help of all the lumbering camps of this North Land. Many a long evening that would otherwise have been dull has been made joyous by recounting tales about Paul Bunyan!

Many a tiresome boaster has been sidetracked by the words, "Oh, that's nothing! Why Paul Bunyan—", and then would follow a tale that could not be beaten in regard to how Paul had done the work quicker and better, or that Paul Bunyan had a speed, or skill and strength, that makes all other boasting vain and simple.

When the lumberjacks gathered round the fire on the long nights or the odd days when work was suspended, tales of Paul Bunyan helped to while away the hours. There were

men who had known Paul. There were men who had worked for Paul. There was one man who had Paul working for him. There was another man who had slept with Paul, and still another who had tried to sleep in the next camp, some seven miles away from Paul, but could not sleep because Paul Bunyan's snores made such a deafening roar.

Years ago Paul Bunyan lived at Haileybury, but moved away when the mining promoters started to come in. He did not like being outclassed.

According to descriptions given by lumbermen, Paul Bunyan was 17 feet tall and took very long steps. It was hard to get on to his stride. He was almost as strong as the smell around the Timmins post office. When he was only three weeks old he rolled around so much in his sleep that he destroyed several miles of standing timber, so they built a cradle for him and anchored it off the coast of Nova Scotia. He rocked his own cradle and caused such a tide that several villages were washed away. To waken him up the British navy had to be called out and they fired broadsides for hours, but when Paul stepped out of his cradle he sank seven warships, and so the British Government seized his cradle, from which they were able to build seven more ships. It was the rocking of Paul's cradle that caused the tides in the Bay of Fundy, and they haven't stopped yet.

As a boy and young man, Paul Bunyan spent considerable time in the lumber camps of Quebec. As a bushman he was noted as being supreme. He did not waste time chopping trees in the ordinary way. Instead he had an immense double-edged axe made for him, and this he hung on a rope. Using this as a farmer uses a scythe he cut an ever-widening swath through the forest just like cutting oats for a Scotsman's porridge. Paul was the only agency that could market lumber faster than forest fires could destroy it.

After making a big hole in the Quebec forests, Paul Bunyan, according to the lumber camp history books, came over to Ontario. Here he gathered round him his famous axemen who were almost as good as himself. These axemen could not brother wasting the necessary week's time to grind their axes, so they rolled boulders down big hillsides, and running alongside of the rolling boulders, they sharpened the axes on the rushing stones. Paul and his axemen did great work but they ate a lot. It took a lot to feed them. The cook's helper used to strap a couple of hams to his feet and skate over the top of the stove to grease it for the pancakes. It took seven men steady wheeling away the prune stones from the camp. The chipmunks that ate these stones would get so big that they chased the wolves from the country and often were shot themselves in mistake for moose. The dining room was so large that when a man told a yarn at one end it grew so big before it reached the other end that it had to be shovelled out. The doughnuts were carried from the kitchen on poles two men finding a dozen of the doughnuts a heavy enough load, except after dinner.

Paul Bunyan's big blue ox, Babe, was almost as well known as Paul himself. The animal was so large that the camp washing was regularly dried on the animal's horns. But likely the horns had even a wider stretch than that. Once the straw

boss of the gang killed a hundred deer by rolling a bunch of logs upon them when the herd came to the Mattagami river to drink. Then the barn boss made a harness for the blue ox out of deer hides. The first time the harness was used it started to rain and the harness stretched. The result was that the driver and the ox came back to camp all right, but the load of wood was left sitting in the bush. When Paul Bunyan was told about the way the harness was stretched, he just laughed. "Wait till the sun comes out again," said he. He tied the ox to a tree where it stood, and went in to dinner. The sun came out in the afternoon and the harness dried and shrank up again, pulling the logs right in to camp itself.

Even more noteworthy than the blue ox was Paul's Bunyan's famous dog, Sport. Sport was understood to be an elephant hound on his father's side with relations in the wolf family on the maternal side. Sport had been raised on bear milk, so he was a bear cat to run. Before the accident he was as good as seven ordinary dogs, but after the slight error on Paul's part the dog became a mazel. The accident occurred when Paul threw his axe one of his fore-and-aft pet mosquitoes just at the exact moment that the dog took a notion to chase the pet. The axe struck the dog cutting the poor animal in two. Paul Bunyan, however, jumped up like chain lightning and grabbed the two halves of the dog and stuck them together again. He then bandaged Sport all up, and it was only a day or two till the dog was as well as ever. However, Paul soon noticed that in his hurry to patch up the dog he had put the hind legs on wrong side up, the hind legs pointing straight up in the air. Paul was the kind of man that always made the best of everything, so he simply taught the reformed Sport to run on either set of legs. The dog attained a marvellous speed through this method. Sport would run for a time on his front legs and then reverse and run on the hind ones. In this way he never tired, and would chase deer until they fell exhausted. Because of the peculiarity of his reconstruction period, Sport was known as the reversible dog.

The age of Paul Bunyan is uncertain. From the length of time he spent at various camps he must have been well up in his hundreds when he lived in Haileybury, but he moved so much faster than most men that he may not have been that old. He was reputed to be a handsome fellow, but no lumberjack has yet been able to say definitely whether Paul was ever married or to what extent. However, he is the hero of the North Land woods. Nothing was ever done by others but Paul Bunyan could do it better and more of it. "Paul Bunyan" is the answer to everything. Believe it or not.

The Wawbewawa correspondent of The New Liskeard Speaker last week says:—"A few settlers from here left last week for the north, having taken pulpwood hauling jobs for the winter. Farmers will soon have to take to the land as pulpwood in this district will before long be a thing of the past and farmers with small clearances will have a tough time of it, and should keep this in mind."

Another evidence of the growth of farming and allied industries in this North Land is given in the fact that recently a Charlton man purchased a carload of cattle in the district around Wawbewawa, these fine specimens of beef being shipped to Toronto packing houses.

Christian Science Monitor:—Neither the motorcar manufacturers nor the makers of molasses have been able satisfactorily to use the Collidge dietum, "I do not choose to run," but now an enterprising stocking merchant has found that it just fits.

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EXPLAINING SANTA CLAUS TO DOUBTING CHILDREN

Many mothers have been troubled in regard to making proper explanations to children when they come home with the sophisticated story that "there ain't no Santa Claus." One mother thus describes her method of handling the situation:—She tells her children that "Santa Claus" is the way the English people pronounced "Saint Nicholas" years ago. In Holland where St. Nicholas lived the people called him "Sant N'elos" and this became "Santa Claus" on English tongues. Saint Nicholas was a wonderfully good man. He had been a bishop and at Christmas Eve he always gave all the children gifts so that they would know they were loved and remembered. After he died he was made a Saint, and his friends felt that it would be nice to carry on his good work and be as his servants. The children realize that no one person could deliver gifts all over the country in one night, therefore he must have many servants, and as the best servants of all wear their master's uniform, so the Santa Claus costume is worn by all who do the beautiful work of Santa Claus. So, in many parts of the world people are assisting Saint Nicholas in his work. This mother says that the children readily accept the work of the servants for the real Santa Claus. She tells of a case where at a Christmas Tree one year the children recognized the gentleman in costume as a well-known man in town. "I knew there wasn't any Santa Claus," said some of the youngsters, but her little girl's comment was, "Why, Mr. So-and-So must be one the Santa's servants too."



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