

Peck's Bad Boy in an Airship

BY HON. GEORGE W. PECK

HE SAILS WITH THE EXPEDITION

I don't know whether I like the climate of South Africa or not, but you can have any kind of climate you are looking for, from the Alaska kind to the tropical kind, the same day.

I think it is the climate that makes all the animals so mad. One minute a lion or a tiger may be lolling with his tongue out, fighting flies and scratching fleas, and the next minute there are icicles on his mustache, and he has to crawl into a hole in the ground to keep from freezing.

These natives beat me. They do not wear any clothes except a dolly, made of bark or grass, over their loins, and from the dolly above and below, their skin is bare, and they ought to be arrested for disorderly conduct and exposure, but their skin is thick and warty like a rhinoceros, and when it freezes it looks like pickled pigs' feet.

One man we have hired to help capture animals is a native chief with 60 wives, and he has brought them all to camp with him, and we have to feed them, and it is rumored the women all have their caps set for Pa, if the husband dies, and Pa is afraid they will kill their old man and select Pa to fill the vacancy, that being the unwritten law that a man's wives can select a husband.

Gee, if I had to be a stepson to all those 60 senegambians that look like monkeys in the face and when on dress parade like oxen, I should die, or they would, if I could find enough chloroform to go around.

Well, Pa is trying his best to save the life of that husband of the 60 wives and every time one of the wives pats Pa on the back or chuck him under the chin he has a chill, and I know

and steering it into the gas bag, and we had got the bag about half full, and it was lying on the grass like a dead male that had died at sea and floated ashore, and we were busy thinking of how we would sail over the veldt and have our cowboy rope a few lions and choke them into submission, when I happened to look around towards the jungle, and there were two tigers crawling through the grass towards the gas bag, and a lion walking right towards it as though he was saying to the tigers: "Ah, g'wan, I saw it first," and a rhinoceros was rooting along like a big hog, right towards us. I told Pa to look out, and when he saw the animals he seemed to lose all appetite for lions and tigers in their wild state, for he started for a tree and told me to climb up, too. Well, it took Pa quite a while to get up on a limb, but he and I was right with him, and Pa looked at the animals creeping up to the gas bag, and he said: "Bub, the success of this expedition will be settled right here if that lion drinks any of the gasoline."

Well, I have seen cats crawling along the floor towards a mouse hole, and stopping and looking innocent when the mouse stuck his head out of the hole, and then moving on again when the mouse disappeared, and these tigers acted that way, stopping every time the wind caused the gas bag to flap on the ground. The lion acted like a big St. Bernard dog that sniffs something ahead that he doesn't exactly know what to make of, but is going to find out, and the rhinoceros just rooted along as though he was getting what he wanted out of the ground, and would be along after a

And Then Pa Told Me to Blow the Horn for the Cages to Be Sent Out.

foot on the lion and strike an attitude like a lion tamer, and I will play with the tigers."

When the cages came up I was on to my job all right, and the boys gave me three cheers, and they asked where Pa was, and I pointed to the center of the gas bag and said Pa was in there having a little fun with a mess of tigers, and when they walked over the billowy gas bag they found Pa with one of the tigers that had partly come to playing with him and chewing his pants, but they rescued Pa, and in a few minutes they had our three animals in the cages, and we started for camp. Pa walking behind the cages with his coat over his arm, telling young Hagenbach the confoundedest story about how he subdued the animals by just hypnotizing them, and I never said a word. A boy that will not stand up for his father is an idgit.

When we got to camp the natives had all scattered to the four winds. It seemed that when the fiery rhinoceros came towards them they thought the Great Spirit had sent fire to destroy them, and they took to the jungle, the rhino after them, bellowing all kinds of cheering messages from the Great Spirit.

Along towards night they came to camp dragging a cooked rhinoceros, and they turned in to eat it, and all those 60 females brought nice pieces of rhino, cooked by gasoline, to Pa, and wanted Pa to eat it, but Pa said he was dieting, and it was Friday, anyway, and he never ate meat on Friday.

Then we all sat up all night, and everybody made speeches glorifying Pa as the greatest hero that ever came to Africa, and that he had Stanley beaten mile, and Pa blushed, and the women held him in their laps and said he was the dearest thing ever.

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THE OVERLORD OF THE SEA.

Swordfish is Undisputed King of All That Swims.

The swordfish, "is the overlord of the sea. Neither the whale, the shark, nor any other giant of the deep can conquer him in private fight or public brawl. Nevertheless, he is peaceful in the main and seeks the simple life, amusing himself often with world-wide travel and always with delicate gustatory joys. He is the daintiest feeder that swims, always kills his own game and thereby insures its freshness. Wherefore his flesh is a delight to the palate of mankind—as far west as Bridgeport, Conn.—and wherefore, again, men go forth to kill him for market, and thereby at times fall upon adventures that make the hunting of tigers and the shooting of grizzlies pale into pastimes for the weary weakling."

"For the bold swordfish is still hunted in mode as primitive as that the Eskimos used to kill the whale, and often the sting of the harpoon changes this luxurious ocean gas-tromine into a raging water-devil, quick to perceive his advantage, charging with the speed of a bullet and the accuracy of a swordsman up against the lone fisherman in the dory who tries to bring him to gaff. Then must the fisherman measure with exactness the lunge of the monster, avoid it by a marvel of nice side-stepping in a plunging dory, or he will be spitted like a lark."—William Ingles, in Harper's Weekly.

New Yorkers Fond of Sweets.

A Broadway dealer in candy says that he has sold sweets in Chicago, Philadelphia, London and Paris, but that the New Yorkers consume more per capita than the people of any of the other cities.

Cobb to Play Ball in New Orleans.

Having secured consent from Mrs. Cobb to play winter baseball, Ty Cobb, Detroit's noted batter, has signed for a season with semi-pros in New Orleans. It is said that a movement may be started by New Orleans Southern League officials to stop the independent, as many stars, including Ryan of Cleveland, have been signed in addition to Cobb. A similar fate for players who played in the Chicago "outlaw" field may be forthcoming.

Sleiging to Lead Tigers.

Rudolph C. Sleiging of Charleston, S. C., was unanimously elected captain of the Princeton football team to succeed Eddie Dillon. Sleiging is a junior and has played left tackle two years. He is six feet tall and weighs 200 pounds.

POSITION OF FOOTBALL TRAINER NO SINECURE

Must Know Whims of Players and Coaches and Conduct Himself Accordingly.

Only those closely connected with the game know the magnitude of the problem that confronts the trainer who is responsible for the condition of a college football team, particularly on the eve of a big match. It must be remembered that the trainer is not the coach, and in many cases is not on the best of terms with the coach, owing to differences over trivial matters pertaining to the team, and if there happens to be a board of coaches, as is necessarily the case where the graduate coaching system is in vogue, then the troubles of the trainer are increased, since he has the whims and notions of a number of men, in place of one, to contend with. If he is a capable man, and most of the big universities have very capable trainers—more capable trainers, as a rule, than coaches—he soon learns the strength and weaknesses of the men associated with him, as well as of the players, and conducts himself accordingly. It is a common weakness of football coaches to overwork players, particularly after they have been conditioned by half a season's work, and this danger is greatest with a board of graduate coaches in charge. Every coach has some pet idea of his own which he would like to see worked out in practice, and to try it the co-operation of the whole football squad is necessary.

The new play may not work out satisfactorily in actual practice, but may suggest a modification of the original idea, which must also be tried in actual play on the field to determine its value. Only about one in 16 of these new formations ever amounts to anything, but that one may be well worth all the time and labor spent in developing it. It is the duty of the coach to evolve something new which will take the opposing team by surprise, and it requires practice by the men who are actually to attempt it. The afternoons are not long enough to suit the coaches in this practice work, and unless the trainer is very watchful he may suddenly awaken to the fact that his men are going stale on him at a time when the team needs them most. Some men can stand more work than others, and it is a wise trainer who can always tell just when a man has had enough. But if it is difficult to give every football player on the squad the right amount of practice in order to bring out the best that is in him, how much more difficult is it to regulate the work when there are injuries to be considered. No player ever goes through a whole season without an injury of some sort, and if he is compelled to play while in a half-crippled condition he lays himself open to additional injuries of a more serious nature. It is the duty of the trainer to determine whether a player's injuries are severe enough to keep him out of the game.

STAR MICHIGAN QUARTERBACK



Quarterback Wasmund Who Directs Plays of Michigan Eleven.

League Averages.

New England league averages show Catterson, who finished with Brooklyn, leading the batsmen with .327. Big-leaguers who were in the bunch are Burkett, who hit .293; Billy Hamilton, who swatted .290; Winslow once with the Sox, .290; Bowcock, formerly with Cleveland, .269; Connaughton, who was with several big league teams, .236; and Mal Eason, formerly a Cub, .191. Hamilton is still a lightning fast man on the bases. In 85 games, he stole 39 sacks. Eason seems to be whale in the little leagues. He won 16 games on the season, and lost only four.

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NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM

By William Pitt



The essential thing in keeping sweet potatoes dryness.

Cold nights and frosty grass never put a pound of flesh on any animal.

Well groom the horse and he will work well for you; neglect him and he will prove an indifferent servant.

Go slow with the new variety of fruit tree, the new breed of stock, the seed of the new variety of grain. Test them out first.

Growing crops on the land in the summer should be followed in the winter by the growing of crops of beef and pork and mutton in the barns.

Oil meal is good for the horses. It keeps them in good condition and makes their coat soft and sleek. Give a handful to each horse once a day.

While sheep do not need as warm housing as other stock, they must be kept dry, both under foot and overhead. Keep the sheep stables well cleaned.

An excellent plan in handling sheep is to provide well-protected yards into which they may be turned on fine days and have a shed for the stormy, blustery weather.

Put the unthrifty-looking ewes by themselves and give a little extra feed. Perhaps they are suffering from the greed of the bosses in the flock or are not getting a full ration.

Sweet potatoes are packed in ventilated barrels for shipment just as are apples. They must be packed snugly and the cover pressed on so as to make sure that there will be no shifting in the barrel.

The need of the establishment of county agricultural high schools is being urged, and the success of the Duncun county (Wis.) school is an illustration of what such a school may do for farming communities.

A cheap field shelter for sheep and cattle can be made by erecting a framework of poles supported by posts set in the ground, over and around which a straw stack can be placed, leaving the south side open.

It is not known to how much each cow is producing, but how much the production has cost. To do this you must not only weigh and test the feed, but keep account of the feed and estimate its cost to you.

There is more clean money in winter dairying than in summer dairying. With a silo to provide succulent feed, and cows freshening in the fall and winter, the highest returns can be counted on from the herd. No flies to bother in the winter time.

Don't let pails of milk stand in the barn while all the cows are being milked. Remove it at once and get the separator at work upon it while it is warm. Cool the cream as soon as possible. Never mix warm cream with that which has been cooled.

Green scum which collects on standing water and in stock tanks is caused by thread-like plants called Spirogyra. Cleaning tanks once a month will keep them free from the trouble. Some use a spray on the tanks made up of a six per cent. solution of copper sulphate.

The use of molasses as a ration for cattle is not so new as some would suppose, having been so fed as early as 1811, Germany being perhaps the first country to so use it. Farmers in this country are coming to understand its value, finding that it increases the milk flow and keeps cows in good condition.

Remember that temperature has everything to do with the churning quality of butter. In summer you must bring it down to 60 degrees and in winter you must bring it up to that temperature if you would have the butter come readily, and remember that though your cream may be of the right temperature you may have difficulty if the churn is too cold.

With the idle days lightened up on the horses' diet. During the months of hard work the horse has fed rich in nitrogen (the base of protein) and has needed it, for he was using it up in the expansion and contraction of muscles; but when idle, on account of stormy weather or leisure, and fed his working ration, too much nitrogen has accumulated in the muscles. Therefore a hard-working horse that has been well fed should, on being given a holiday for several days, have his ration changed. Corn is a good substitute for oats in such a case. If clover hay has been fed, timothy hay should be substituted.

A ten-year test by Prof Munson of Maine shows that cultivated trees made larger growth and produced more fruit than trees that were mulched. Another experiment was to show the effect of commercial fertilizers and stable manure in comparison with each other and with no fertilizer. The unfertilized trees showed clearly that on this virgin pasture soil additional plant food is absolutely necessary. While the rotting turf sets free a considerable amount of plant food when culture or mulch is first given this material is soon exhausted, and the trees assume the yellow, stunted appearance which is too familiar. There is an apparent advantage in the use of stable manure in comparison with chemicals, because of the humus. In many orchards this humus can be more easily supplied in the form of straw or cheap hay, or on cultivated lands in the form of green manures and cover crops. No difference was observed in the effect of different forms of potash salts. The best formula calls for about three per cent. potash, six per cent. phosphoric acid and ten per cent. potash, with an annual application of ten pounds per acre.

The president of Bowdoin college declares that the county fair as at present conducted has outlived its usefulness and has degenerated into an immoral exhibition at which crooks and gamblers play the star parts. We wonder what fair he attended this year? There may be county fairs which come within the scope of his criticism, and if there are such it is indeed high time that a reform was instituted, but the fairs we have come in touch with have been of a decidedly educational character, the exhibitions of fine stock, farm, garden and orchard produce, and of farm machinery being better than ever. Amusements of a clean, wholesome sort have their rightful place at every fair and provide the farmers and their families with the stimulating recreation that they need. However, too much care cannot be exercised by fair officials in seeing that objectionable features do not creep in unawares. Be sure that the parties seeking the concessions are reliable and can provide credentials from other fairs where they have exhibited.

It's oats that make the old mare go. It is good for the chickens, too.

Put a little ginger into the horse by way of the curry comb and brush.

Have a definite aim before you in the desire to improve your live stock and you will make some headway.

Eggs that vary much in size or color should not be packed together in the same case. Such ill-assorted cases never bring good prices.

One farmer who has had a good many waste apples and tomatoes this fall has cooked them and fed them to his big flock of chickens and they have thrived on them.

Don't keep the mongrel dog about the farm. Get one of good breed, preferably a collie, and then train him to do something useful in connection with the farm work.

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