

ESTABLISHED 1889.

The Review,

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A Florida Sea Monster.

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla., Dec. 5.—Both Dr. Dewitt Webb, president of the St. Augustine Scientific Society, and Dr. Grant, have made a close study of the marvellous sea monster that came ashore near Dr. Grant's residence and have not reached any definite conclusion as to its identity, says the New York "Sunday World."

Some idea of the size of the monster when alive and in its native element may be had from its measurements as it lies shrunken and mutilated on the beach.

The body when first found was 25 feet long, and although much shrunken was 4 1/2 feet thick by 10 feet in breadth. Judging from the size of the body the long tentacles attached to it must have had in the water a radius of over 30 feet.

Of course the first impression naturally is that the monster is of the cuttle-fish order; but Dr. Grant, who has made an anatomical examination of it, says he found in it no bones to indicate that it was of that species. Dr. Grant describes the creature as follows:

"The head is as large as an ordinary flour barrel and has the shape of a sealion head. The neck, if the creature may be said to have a neck, is of the same diameter as the body. The mouth is on the under side of the head and is protected by two tentacle tubes about eight inches in diameter and 20 feet long. These tubes resemble an elephant's trunk, and obviously were used to clutch in a sucker-like fashion any object within their reach."

"Another tube or tentacle of the same dimensions stands out on the top of the head. Two others, one on each side, protrude from behind the monster's neck and extend fully 15 feet along the body and beyond the tail. The tail, which is serrated and jagged with cutting points for several feet, is flanked with two more tentacles of the same dimensions as the others and 30 feet long. The eyes are under and back of the mouth, instead of over it."

"This specimen is so badly cut up by sharks and sawfish that only the stumps of the tentacles remain, but pieces of them were found strewn for some distance on the beach, showing that the animal had a fierce battle with its foes before it was disabled and beached by the surf."

The Water Dog, a Four-Legged Fish.

Now and then the newspapers tell about some unlucky sportsman who has captured "a fish with legs." It is sometimes asserted that the zoologists have been consulted and have been unable to identify the monster.

Such game as this is not at all uncommon in the region about Chicago. The animal is, however, no fish, but is a cousin of the salamanders, and one of the lowest of the group of animals called batrachians. It goes by the name of water dog. It may become a foot long, and has a broad, flat tail, four short legs, a wide mouth, and three pairs of bushy gills. These gills are not concealed as they are in fishes, but stand out from the head. The color of the water dog is ashy brown, and on the back are a number of dark spots. It is a rather uncanny-looking creature, and the man who captures it, if not acquainted with it, may not unreasonably look with suspicion on his prize. The fishermen usually fear it, and believe it to be venomous. On the contrary, it is wholly harmless, and it is doubtful if it can be provoked into biting. It certainly is not poisonous.

This animal lives perhaps wholly in the water of rivers ponds and lakes. There it conceals itself, at least during the day, under stones and other objects. Out of such lurking places it protrudes its head and watches for its prey. The gills, which are of a beautiful scarlet color, are kept waving to and fro in the water. At night it prowls about seeking for food. It will probably eat any living thing which it can swallow, fishes, frogs and snails. It sometimes devours large quantities of the spawn of fishes. Some years ago, at Ecorse, Mich., about 2,000 of these water dogs were taken in a seine at one haul. They had doubtless been attracted to the spot by the spawning of the whitefish, for some of them were so gorged with fish eggs that, when thrown on shore, the spawn flew out of their mouths.

These animals do not depend wholly on their gills for the air they need. They frequently come to the surface and gulp in air. They are found to have quite well-developed lungs.

As a rule, the batrachians possess gills while they are in the tadpole stage of life, but when this past the gills are lost. In some respects the water dog remains a tadpole during its whole existence.—(Chicago Times-Herald.)

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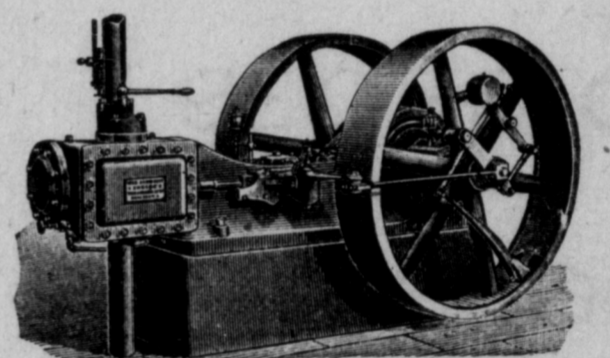
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NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that the board of Licence Commissioners for the district of the County of Kent under the Liquor License Act, 1896, have fixed THURSDAY, THE TWENTY FIRST DAY OF JANUARY, next at eleven o'clock in the forenoon in the sample rooms of the Kent Hotel, in the town of Richibucto, in the County of Kent, as the time and place the Board of Commissioners will meet for considering applications for licences in said district under said Liquor License Act, 1896. Buctouche, Dec. 28th, A. D., 1896. Robert A. Irving, Inspector.

In the Matter of the Estate of Joseph Grogan.

Joseph Grogan, of Kouchibouguac, in the County of Kent, in the Province of New Brunswick, Merchant, having on the third day of December, A. D. 1896 in pursuance of the provisions of 58th Victoria, Chapter 6, made a general assignment to me for the benefit of his creditors. I do hereby call a meeting of the creditors of the said Joseph Grogan, to be held at the Court House at Richibucto, in said County of Kent, on Wednesday, the 16th day of December instant, at ten o'clock a. m., for the appointment of Inspectors and the giving of directions with reference to the disposal of his estate. AUGUSTE LEGER, Sheriff of the County of Kent, Assignee. Richibucto, N. B., 7th December, 1896.

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