

SCUTTLED THE SHIP WAS A COMMON PRACTICE BEFORE 1875

When Kipling wrote "Bulwer," the conditions he describes were, so far as Britain was concerned, almost a thing of the past, says Tit-Bits. Samuel Plimsoll, by the simple device of the load-line, had made overloading illegal and easily detected.

The immediate result of his efforts is best stated in his own words: "Under one short Act passed in 1875, nearly five hundred vessels, every one of them as rotten as a pear, were broken up . . . and from June, 1876, to June 1883, 832 ships were stopped when about to sail, were repaired, or had their loads greatly reduced."

In the six years prior to his entering Parliament, 6,357 coasting vessels had been wrecked, with immense loss of life. Samuel Plimsoll denounced shipowners as "little better than murderers," and his revelations of the trunk coffin-ships, insured far above their value for the purpose of being cast away and lost, aroused general indignation.

With the practical disappearance of coffin-ships little was heard, even in law courts, of sea losses planned deliberately, until war conditions gave a new impetus to this class of crime.

Since the middle period of the war, when the seas became strewn with mine-fields, case after case has appeared in British courts of insurance companies resisting huge payments on the alleged grounds that the shipowners, in collusion with the master and the mate, deliberately arranged the loss of a ship.

Usually the insurance companies fail to prove their case, because in spite of the most careful investigation and in spite of much conflicting and very doubtful evidence, the difference between a real wreck and a mock one is very difficult to determine, and the owners get the benefit of the doubt.

Notwithstanding this, the insurance companies have won a good many cases, generally against foreign-owned craft. There was, for instance, the case of a certain big cargo boat engaged in the Mediterranean and Black Sea trade. She was heavily insured, and as the ship was known to have changed captains just before her last voyage, the judge gave it as his opinion that the discarded captain was too honest to fall in with the scuttling scheme, and a man with a more elastic conscience was installed.

Even the owners of fishing craft in the North Sea have on more than one occasion come under the gravest suspicion of taking dishonest advantage of the known presence of mines. A story was told recently in the courts about the loss of an over-insured Dutch trawler. Her owners had taken the precaution to transfer the liability from a Dutch to a British company, and this is the sort of sarcasm the judge found himself justified in using:—

"I think this vessel was cast away. It was two o'clock in the afternoon and calm. The crew and master had

had their midday meal, and all but two were having a nap. It is represented that the vessel ran on something which ripped her side open, so that she foundered in a short time. None of the people taking their siesta heard it. That on a fine day they should not be disturbed by the vessel having her side split open passes my belief. That the ship went to the bottom because those on board wished her at the bottom I have not the slightest doubt."

In the old days the crew was very liable to be lost with the ship. In the newer style of scuttling the captain chooses a convenient place, opens the sea cocks, and he and his crew take to the boats.

PRINCE OF WALES TO GET JEWELS OF GREAT VALUE

London, Dec. 31.—Another attraction for marriageable young women has been added to the manifold charms of the Prince of Wales. The attraction is jewels, gorgeous, royal jewels.

The late Queen Alexandra left her jewels, valued at several hundreds of thousands of dollars, to the Prince for the decoration of his eventual Princess, according to the reports of the Royal will. Queen Alexandra's will like all such Royal documents, is secret. Its terms might be published after all concerned are dead, but not before.

Among the treasures are pearls, rubies, diamonds, and lesser stones. The "Blue Star," a famous perfect specimen of the blue diamond, is among the lot. Some of the pearls are almost equally precious. With his grandmother's bequest, the Prince would be able to provide his princess with such jewels as the Romanoffs wore.

ARLEN DENIES POLI ROMANCE

London, Dec. 31.—Michael Arlen, author of "These Charming People" and "The Green Hat," arrived in Liverpool today from the United States, and declared that he was certainly not "on marrying terms" with Pola Negri, film star. When reminded that a picture of Pola and himself taken together had been printed in American newspapers he admitted that he knew her, but only slightly. Arlen is here to pay a short visit to his mother, who is ill.

Mother—It's time to get up.
Jack (in bed)—Oh, mother couldn't the world get along without me for just ten minutes more?

OLD TIMER RECALLS THE DAY TOMATOES WERE A LOVE-MAKING MENU

(Toledo Blade.)

"I recall when tomatoes were called 'love apples' and were terribly poisonous. Particularly so to girls about the love-making age, their effect was mighty bad."

The Old Timer kept on rolling up little strips of paper into long screw-like twists, bending the ends over to keep the coils from unwinding. As he finished each one he placed it in a glass holder.

"We didn't have any radios, phonographs and the like in those days. Books were few, hard to get and well dog-eared. Cards were taboo in most of the strictly American pioneer families. There were dominoes and checkers, but the long winter evenings had their diversions mostly of another kind.

"Often th' family would engage in making lighters like these, lopping corn, cracking nuts and making hard taffy from maple syrup. Dads and granddads would have their mugs of cider simmering on the back of the stove or in the ashes on the hearth. First they would jab a hot poker into the cider until it steamed and foamed, and then set it back where it would keep at a regular temperature.

Plenty of Kick.

"I never knew just why, but we children were not supposed to drink the cider so treated, yet we were welcome to the same in the cold, raw state. Perhaps th' grownups thought the apple juice had more kick in it after being sizzled. Anyway, I recall, that any of it had punch enough along in the winter and to'ard spring."

"What was the idea about the tomatoes?"

"Course, I don't know who started it. But you know any foolish idea set loose always will travel twice as fast as a correct notion. And it's surprising how fast things spread in the old days before telephones, rural delivery and automobiles, and when th' railroads were few, and nobody ever thought of sending a telegram except to announce a death or some other bad news.

"Good news never was sent by wire in those days. Great districts were thinly settled, but say, boy! How news would spread—particularly bad news. It just leaped over the mountains, rivers and forests.

"Oh, That Grizzly Bear!"

"If a man in the next county killed th' biggest bear ever seen thereabouts you'd hear all about it down at th' crossroads within the next day or two, and in another day or so you'd have all the gossamer details—how many cows, calves, sheep and pigs had been devoured by the bear before it was finally fetched up in a terrible hand-to-hand encounter with a settler who had nothing to defend himself with but a dogwood club. No, sir; the radio ain't got so much on these days as you'd naturally think.

"Ghost stories traveled fastest—like the wind. You would hear a ghost story and start post haste and go 100 miles, confident that you had some news for the folks, but that ghost yarn would be there ahead of you—many versions of it. In those days the man or woman, who didn't believe in ghosts was looked upon as not quite all there. So the disbelievers usually kept silent and didn't interfere with spook circulation.

"Yes, sir; tomatoes were about th' size of walnuts when I was a boy and were only raised as a decoration in the gardens. Girls were particularly warned against them.

"One young woman in our neighborhood did the Adam act and ate one. She fell in love so fast that the fellow she picked for a husband left the neighborhood before she had time to marry him."

The old crossing watchman disentangled his legs, slumped his knees and yawned as he placed the last lighter in the holder. Hooking his thumbs in the armholes of his vest, he switched the end of tobacco to the other cheek and gazed out of the little window abstractedly.

"You know what I miss most in this modern civilization in winter-time?" he asked. "Well, 'tis th' old splittin' block and the woodshed back of the kitchen. I can get enough exercise in summer putterin' 'round my garden, but darn me, if I can in winter. And you know, without physical exercise man rusts mighty fast, and when a fellow's rusty-like inside he can't tune in on Nature's concert. And without that you get lost in the thicket of life. Woodshed Athletics.

"Yes, the old woodshed I was saying. You see most every house had a lean-to kitchen and connected with that was th' woodshed with a door between. This shed was filled with chunk wood ready to be split, and in the center was a splitting block.

"The shed was just high enough to swing an ax, and when the supply of wood in the box behind the kitchen stove got short you stepped out into the shed, which was usually a half open affair, and took your revenge on the woodpile.

"And, O boy, what a gymnasium. No Turnverein ever had anything on it. You could chop and split and cuss and sweat 'til you had all th' pisen worked out of your system. I knew fellows who learned to preach and to sing in these woodsheds, which I mostly didn't myself."

The Old Timer climbed to his feet, thrust his hands into his trousers pockets almost to the elbows and paced up and down the limited quarters like a caged lion with his chin in the air.

Too Much Hook-Up.

"Guess there was a lumber famine on when they built these railroad shanties, and you'd think paint was as costly as Christmas perfume or political office," he muttered.

"In the old days country folks stuck to the soil mostly. When a family up and moved to town everyone said 'they'll be glad to come back'—and they usually were. Today when they make that move old neighbors expect to see 'em callin' 'round in a year or so in a six-cylinder car navigated by a chauffeur in livery. And that's a lot what's the matter with th' country. It's a different hook-up."

A crusty captain of a catboat had taken a party sailing. By way of making talk one of the passengers remarked, "Looks as though it might blow a bit." The captain spit to leeward.

"Mister," he replied, "when I want our influence with the weather I'll ask ye for it!"

"There's Gink, the efficiency expert. What's he working on now?"

"Trying to figure out something to use a flyswatter for in the winter."

HEAVY PUBLIC DEBTS IN CANADA MEAN THAT THERE MUST BE PLANS TO RETIRE THE BONDS

(Financial Post.)

In any consideration of the problem of public finance in Canada—and there is no more important issue before the country than taxation—what is being done in the United States cannot be ignored. In fact, the reductions being effected in that country, largely through better business methods in national affairs, have a direct bearing not only on the comparative prosperity of the two peoples in relation to their net incomes, but on business in relation to the cost of production of the goods and articles which Canadians can buy with these tax-reduced earnings. And not only has the government of the United States already made material reductions in the tax levies on individuals and on business, but further reductions are planned for succeeding years. President Coolidge outlines the program as follows:

The outlook for the coming fiscal year, 1927, is most favorable. For that year it is estimated the ordinary receipts will be \$3,824,530,000 and expenditures \$3,494,222,000. This indicates a surplus of \$330,307,000.

The outlook for 1926 and 1927 shows clearly that the united effort of the executive and legislative branches of the government for economy in federal expenditure is bearing further fruit. In the last four fiscal years there have been two substantial reductions in taxes. We have restricted to the people a part of the moneys which we required of them to finance the world war. We are now in the favorable position of making further restoration.

One of the most important steps taken in the United States preliminary to this tax reduction program was to definitely budget the national debt. Although it is seven years since the signing of the armistice, nothing of the kind has yet been done in Canada. The Financial Post would reiterate that it is of the utmost importance that something definite be done in this direction. Steps should be taken

to plan how the bonds issued during the war and during the period of reconstruction are to be finally taken care of. Until that is done it is practically impossible to judge where and how reductions in expenditures can be made looking to cuts in tax levies.

That it is practical for Canada to arrange a debt retirement program has been shown in the case of the province of Ontario, where Hon. Col. Price, provincial treasurer, has announced a plan whereby the debt will be taken care of in forty years by the issue of serial bonds. The leading financial and business experts should be called in to aid in formulating a sound plan.

The accompanying chart, prepared by MacKenzie Williams, in his study of the finances of the various provinces for the Bond Dealers' Association of Canada, shows the relatively high debts of the Canadian provinces as compared with the States of the Union. And these debts are in addition to the national debt, created largely by the war, and the municipal debts—the liability for all of which rests on the shoulders of Canadian taxpayers.

BABE DYE IS OPERATED UPON

Toronto, Dec. 29.—"Babe" Dye, captain of St. Patrick's hockey team was taken to a local hospital after the game on Saturday night and operated on for an infection of the ear, which has troubled him since the game at Ottawa last Wednesday, where he received a blow on the side of the head. He should not have played Saturday night, but he refused to stay out of the game. It could not be learned when Dye will be able to leave the hospital.

Keeping the mouth shut at the proper time has saved the skins of innumerable fish and cornet players.

About That Printing Job?

WHEN you want something done in the Printing line don't forget that **THE MAIL IS READY TO SERVE YOU.** We carry a large stock and **OUR PRICES WILL BE FOUND REASONABLE,** consistent with First Class Work.

We are in a position to promptly fill orders for **COUNTER CHECK BOOKS** in one or two colors. Don't wait for some travelling salesman to come along, **GIVE US YOUR ORDER NOW.**

We have, by far, the **LARGEST** and **BEST EQUIPPED** **JOB PRINTING PLANT IN THE CITY,** and can turn out all kinds of work promptly and efficiently. When in need of anything in our line call No. 67 on the telephone—**WE WILL DO THE REST.**

Call at 329 Queen Street or Phone 67

The Mail Printing Company

327-29 Queen Street.

Genuine Price Slashing Sale

AT

CURRIE BROTHERS

We find we are overstocked in **FARMERS' and LUMBERMEN'S FOOTWEAR** and **CLOTHING** and have decided to clear the entire lot at **REAL BARGAIN PRICES**. Listed below are a few of the bargains we are offering to the public.

	Reg. Price	Sale Price
Men's 10 in. Palmer Draw String Shoepacks	\$5.50	\$4.85
Men's 6 in. Palmer Draw String Shoepacks	\$5.00	\$4.45
Men's 6 in. Palmer Skowhegan Waterproof 'packs.	\$3.50	\$2.95
Men's 10 in. Palmer Horse Hide Indian Style D.S.	\$3.00	\$2.15
Men's 6 in. Palmer Horse Hide Indian Style D.S.	\$2.50	\$1.95
Boys' 6 in. Palmer Plain Sewn Oiltanned 'packs.	\$2.75	\$2.25
Youths 6 in. Palmer Plain Sewn Oiltanned 'packs.	\$2.00	\$1.60
Little Gents 6 in. Palmer Plain Sewn Oiltanned Shoepacks	\$1.50	\$1.25
Boys and Misses 6 in. Palmer Horse Hide Indian Style Draw String. (Just the thing for Snow-shoeing)	\$2.25	\$1.85
Youths 6 in. Horse Hide Indian Draw String 'packs.	\$1.75	\$1.50
Little Gents 6 in. Horse Hide Indian Draw String Shoepacks	\$1.50	\$1.25

The above goods were all manufactured by the John Palmer Co., and are first class standard brands and New Stock—no trash or imitations.

WE ALSO HAVE SOME
Mens 4 Buckle Overshoes. Splendid values, worth at least \$5.00. We are going to sell them at \$3.75
Mens Heavy Khaki Wool Trousers, \$6.00 value at \$4.50
Mens Heavy Khaki Wool Breeches, Leather bound at \$4.50
We have a few Mens Macinaw Jumpers and Shirts, excellent qualities at greatly reduced prices, ranging from \$4.00 to \$5.00
Men's All Wool Under Shirts. While they last going at \$1.00
All Wool Home Made Socks and Mittens.
Leather Gloves, Mittens and Pullovers.
Ladies' 4 Buckle Overshoes, regular \$5.00. Sale price \$3.50
Ladies' 2 Buckle and 2 Snap Button Overshoes, Regular \$5.00
Sale price \$3.75