

JOHN BULL REMAINS THE WORLD'S GREATEST SAILOR

"We are not so familiar with insprising tidings in these days of commercial doldrums and depression that we can be indifferent to the announcement that the White Star Line is coming back into British hands" writes A. G. Gardiner in London Sunday Express. "It would be absurd to call this a straw in the wind. The White Star Line is far too big a venture to be described even figuratively as a straw."

"And the transmission by which it is passing from American to British control is more than an encouraging symptom of the way the wind is blowing. It is a momentous fact."

"The Americans are the richest people on earth and they are a proud people. They do not surrender for a trifle. Least of all do they surrender lightly in a matter in which their national pride is involved."

"And their pride is profoundly involved in the mercantile lordship of the sea. It would be strange if it were not so. One foot of that great nation rests on the Pacific shore; the other on the Atlantic shore."

"Sea power is essential to it and sea power in a political sense, must be founded on sea power in a mercantile sense. No mercantile marine no navy may be accepted as an axiom."

"It is that consideration as much as the considerations of commerce that has inspired the efforts of the United States to challenge our commercial lordship of the seas. It seemed in the middle of the last century that the object was being achieved. America's shipping was overtaking British shipping and seemed destined to eclipse it."

"Then came the high protective policy in America and the challenge wilted away and at the opening of the war we not only possessed more than half of the steam tonnage of the world but the United States was not even a bad second. It had ceased to count."

"But with the end of the war hopes and ambitions revived. Now was the opportunity to establish some measure of sea power and win a place in the sun. Vast projects

were conceived great navies fashioned and the British mercantile dominion seemed menaced by a competition more formidable than anything in its history since Drake broke the power of Spain."

"It was all a phantom. It passed like a cloud from the sky. The projects vanished into thin air, the ships changed owners and rotted in the docks and the sale of the White Star Line is the final confession that in the great world of seaman-ship the palm still belonged to this spatially insignificant island in the Atlantic."

"The victories of peace are no less renowned than those of war, and this victory though it has not the reclamation of a Trafalgar is the greatest feather in our cap since the war. I shall not rejoice over the failure of America. Her object was legitimate."

"But if we do not rejoice over her failure, we can rejoice over our victory. And we can usefully turn aside from our worries and distresses for a moment to count our blessings and to ask what virtue in ourselves or in our circumstances has given to us and preserved to us this pacific dominion of the seas."

"The poet has offered his explanation. It is an explanation that Lord Fisher loved to quote with uplifted finger:

"Time, and the ocean, and some fostering star,
In high cabal, have made us what we are."

"No doubt the ocean has been the chief agent. It has given us an invaluable geographical position, near enough to the continent to be the universal port of call; far enough away and sufficiently detached to feel the winds of the world in our sails and to hear the call of the islands of the utmost seas in our ears."

"There is not one of us who is not within a few hours' journey of the sea and the man who has not plunged in it and sailed upon it is more rare than he who cannot write his name."

"This fact lies at the root of that seafaring genius that won us the

race for a world against the competition of Spain, Holland, France and Portugal and has enabled us to keep it ever since."

"America has nothing comparable with this genius. The bulk of its population lives remote from the sea, and when the American soldiers came to Europe it was estimated that half of them had their first experience of salt water on the outward voyage."

"And while they have not the tang of the sea in their blood neither have they the same impulse to turn to the sea for a livelihood. They inhabit a land whose riches have only been scratched and that offers them infinite adventures and potentialities ashore without that drudgery which the native American has learned to leave to the successive waves of emigrants that the Atlantic has washed upon his shores."

"With these advantages we have had the political wisdom in the past to keep our ports open and to pursue a policy that made our commercial hegemony to the seas not only profitable to ourselves but profitable to mankind. The world could not help coming here, because the freedom of our trade compelled it to come here."

"So by a combination of natural gifts, native genius and political good sense, we have established that mercantile sovereignty of the sea which without being a menace to others is our own most priceless asset."

NOT UP TO SCRATCH.

A small boy went into a grocery store and asked for a box of matches. Presently he returned, saying:

"Please, mother says these matches won't light."

"Won't light?" cried the grocer. "Why, look here!" and he struck one on his trousers.

The boy took the matches away but presently returned with them once more.

"Please, sir, mother says she hasn't time to come and scratch all her matches on your trousers!"

Borer—Clarence Yessly has a remarkable sense of humor. I thought he would split his sides when I told him the story about Pat and Mike.

Mrs. Borer—How much did he borrow from you John?

TESTS SHOW THAT CHIPANZEE IS TWICE AS STRONG AS A MAN; POWER ATTRIBUTED TO HEREDITY

That a chimpanzee is three or four times as strong as a husky farm lad appears from tests made by John E. Bauman and described by him in a leading article contributed to The Journal of Mammalogy (Baltimore), says the Literary Digest. This result, Mr. Bauman says, raises several interesting questions. Why this excess of strength? How was it acquired? Did our remote ancestors possess it? How did they lose it?

As a matter of fact, Mr. Bauman says, few animals are stronger muscularly than man when the necessary reductions for size and muscular cross sections are made. The experiments described follow an earlier series, reference to which is made occasionally by the author in his account. Says Mr. Bauman:

"The dynamometer employed was of 2000 pounds maximum capacity. It is based upon the principle of an elongated metal loop which upon being placed under tension in the direction of its long axis shortens in the direction of its transverse axis, thus moving, in a metal chamber situated in the centre of the oval, machinery which turns a pointer. This pointer automatically retains its position at the maximum reading until reset."

Device Outside Cage.

"The dynamometer was at all times outside of the anthropoid's cage, the animal pulling on a looped rope which was passed through the bars and was attached to one end of the dynamometer, the other end of the latter being fastened firmly to the metal-work in front of the cage by a heavy steel chain. The end of the dynamometer farthest from the rope was fastened to a board on which it lay, the other end being left free in order that the entire stress should come on the dynamometer itself. The dynamometer has been used for testing the back and leg strengths of Muhlenberg College students for anthropometric records."

"In the first of these endeavors only meagre success was attained, since a representative strength test can generally be secured only from an anthropoid of distinctly vicious disposition and then only in a limited interval of time."

"The results were not wholly barren, however. Suzette showed none of her former zeal to pull the apparatus apart. However, she made a very deliberate two-hand pull, without appearing to exert herself notably. The pull registered 905 pounds. Although less than her previous 1260 pound test, this pull by its very deliberateness and absence of particular effort seemed almost more impressive to the author."

"Chimpanzee Fanny, who previously refused to have anything to do with the apparatus, seized the rope loop, but instead of pulling on it whipped it to and fro violently, screeching at the top of her lungs. She also varied this procedure with furious futile attempts to grab the author and the keeper, who were standing beside the recording device. It was very illustrative of Fanny's transport of rage that she should try to grab persons so far out of her reach. Suzette, though vicious, would not waste her energy in attempts having not the slightest prospect of success."

"Johanna, a large chimpanzee, showed a most ludicrous fear of the apparatus. Only on one occasion did she make a pull, but she was at the time in a runway between her indoor and outdoor cages, in which she was cramped for room and moreover assumed so strange and awkward an attitude to pull, not even bracing herself against the framework, that her record of 378 pounds means little except that in so awkward a position the ape could pull more than the average man under the best conditions."

"The second of the three objectives proved very interesting. Although Suzette's 1260-pound two-hand pull seems to have appeared more impressive to most people than Boma's right hand 847-pound pull, the author judged from the mechanical disadvantages of the position that the latter really was the more significant of the two."

"To test this fact he secured the co-operation of a number of students of the college at which he was teaching, Augustana College, at Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Most of these students were members of the college football team who had been working hard before coming to college that fall and were therefore well developed muscularly and in good condition."

Pulls 491 Pounds.

A tabular statement shows that the strongest of these men could pull 210 pounds with one hand and 491 with two. The writer goes on:

"In considering the above data one

fact is very significant that these men used to hand manual labor, had to use a folded cloth in the palm of the left hand (which held to a fixed support so that the full strength could be developed, otherwise the person would just have pulled himself up to the apparatus by his right hand) to prevent the fixed support from cutting the hand."

"The author endeavored to use a fixed support as closely as possible comparable to the sharp-cornered steel door frame which Boma held with his left hand during his pull and was struck by the fact that while Boma's horny fingers could hold onto a fairly sharp-cornered metal piece during an 847-pound pull these men with all the calluses developed on their palms by farm labor could not exert their pulls ranging from 147 to 210 pounds without the above-mentioned protection."

"In order to make a just comparison with the two series of tests it was necessary of course, to reduce to an equal weight basis. Simple averages were employed and no attempt was made to use biometric methods."

The results show that taking the contestants' bodily weight into account, the chimpanzee was from 2.57 to 4.73 times as strong as the men. Only two out of five of those husky farm lads could approximate one-fourth of Boma's pull, the position being fully as handy for man as for ape. Mr. Bauman goes on:

"Since chimpanzees are so much stronger, weight for weight, and also muscle girth for muscle girth, than men to what factors do they owe this very striking superiority? Is the chimpanzee muscle of superior nervous stimulus exerted on the muscle fibres? Or is it partly one and partly the other? A three or four to one difference certainly demands an explanation. No one could attribute it to exercise, in comparing long-captive chimpanzees with students fresh from strenuous farm-labor."

Heredity Suggested.

"Heredity suggests itself immediately and rightfully so, but as the exigencies of an arboreal life in which strength is a prime asset have probably resulted in natural selection maintaining this high strength level, the further question suggests itself: Did our own arboreal ancestors possess a comparable strength, and if so at what period did such a high degree of strength cease to be an object of stringent selection and gradually diminish to a lower level? Furthermore, heredity and selection might explain the original acquirement and subsequent transmission of such strength but they leave the physiological problems of its immediate causation unexplained. It is the physiologist who must deal with these."

"Taking a comparative view, we find that, making the necessary allowances for difference in stature and amount of cross-section of muscle in proportion to body weight, man compares favorably with many, probably with most, other animals. We rank considerably above the Ungulata (hoofed animals), and the oft-cited strengths of the beetle and ant, when duly corrected as just indicated, appear to me materially less than our own. Probably cross-section for cross-section of muscle, man stands materially above the bulk of the animal species. The animals outranking him, it would seem, are the carnivora, the other primates, and such animals as the mole, etc."

"It would be an experiment both interesting and valuable to test the relative strength of the Felidae (cat tribe) and the chimpanzee and orang, in order to determine which is entitled to the rank of greatest strength in the animal world per unit area of muscle cross-section. The author has thought of doing so himself, but the practical difficulties are immense in the case of the Felidae. Milo Hastings' statement is a true one that: 'The cat tribe and man seldom if ever test their powers save in a manner in which weapons and not strength decide the issue.'

"The power of blow of the paw of a lion or tiger might perhaps be measured with a specially constructed apparatus and the power of spring by an arrangement of a net attached to a dynamometer dropped over the beast, in the act of springing, but, difficult as this would probably prove to do, homologizing the result with those of tests on the Primates bids fair to be a greater problem."

"The last question raised by the strength of the chimpanzee seems to have been completely overlooked in the past. All anatomists place reliance upon the relative development of the various muscle attachment ridges and pits on the bones as a trustworthy

THE STRIPED BEETLE IS A REAL NUISANCE

(Insect notes from the Dominion Entomological Laboratory.)

The striped cucumber beetle, which attacks the seedling plants of cucumber, squash, pumpkin and melon, is a well known pest and one difficult to control. It is a native insect which spends the winter in the adult form, feeds upon the blossoms of several trees and the leaves of wild plants in spring until its favored food plants appear above ground. During the summer its attentions are devoted exclusively to cucumbers, squash and allied plants; the eggs are laid in the soil about these plants and the larvae which hatch from the eggs feed upon the roots.

Control measures commonly used include screening with mosquito bar stretched on wood-frames, the use of repellents, and stomach poisons. Screening is a very effective method but expensive for any but garden plots.

Repellents such as air slaked lime, hydrated lime, or Bordeaux Mixture are to some extent effective but rather likely to check plant growth.

Lead arsenate diluted with lime or land plaster forms a mixture both repellent and poisonous to the beetles.

A 5 per cent nicotine-lime dust (5 parts nicotine sulphate to 95 parts hydrated lime) is the form of contact poison found most effective. When dusted on and under the plants in bright sunlight the nicotine vapour is liberated rapidly and kills the beetles within a few minutes. On dark days it is less effective because the nicotine is not liberated rapidly. It should be used with a hand duster in order to drive the material to the leaf where the beetles feed.

SUMMARY.

1. Kill the beetles by the use of stomach or contact poisons.
2. Protect the plants from beetle attack by means of screens or the use of repellents.
3. Clean up crop refuse early in the fall in order to cut off the autumn food supply of the beetles.

A ROAD HOG CAUSED BAD ACCIDENT

Wolfville, June 10—Mrs. L. R. Morse, of Lawrence town, who was injured in an auto accident on Tuesday evening, in Wolfville, returned to her home in Lawrence town on Wednesday evening. Dr. and Mrs. Morse, who is a sister of Dr. F. E. Wheelock Provost of Acadia, were returning to their home from the Medical meeting, held in this town, and when near Kent Avenue, Dr. Morse's car was forced into the ditch by an oncoming auto which kept the middle of the road. Dr. Morse's car was overturned and Mrs. Morse's collar bone was broken. She was brought by a passing car to Westwood Hospital, where the bone was set.

GOLD MINING IN SPAIN.

Madrid, June 12—Although gold mining in Spain has a history going back to the Romans its story so far is rather gilded than golden. Now however dredging alluvial soils on the River Orbigo, in the ancient province of Leon begun seriously in July, 1925 is giving such promising results that a second bucket dredger is about to be installed by the company making the venture.

indication of the strength of the owner.

Yet anyone who will take the trouble to compare carefully the chimpanzee with the human being will notice that the muscle attachment roughnesses are very markedly less prominent in the former than in the latter, yet Suzette's pulls have clearly demonstrated an immense superiority in strength of the lumbar region in the ape. Also with regard to long-sustained action, a short time spent in the anthropoid posture will convince any person that this posture calls for more taxing, long-sustained action of the lumbar muscles than does the erect posture of the human-being.

"We certainly cannot look to man's erect posture for an explanation of the smooth, sharp rim of the hip bone in the anthropoid ape; why, then, do the usually so reliable muscle attachments fail here to correctly indicate relative strength? The discrepancy is an extremely pronounced, not a trifling one, moreover."

THE TELEPHONE

Has been successively transmitting speech for the past fifty years, yet the Public, in general, have not taken seriously the fact that the Instrument actually projects the personality of the speaker to the person spoken to. When you make a Long Distance call, you are telephonically as near to the person to whom you speak as though they were in the next room.

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