

SAVED THE FLEET.

Brilliant Exploit of a Brainy Wisconsin Lumberman.

A BIT OF WAR TIME STRATEGY

The Red River Was Dammed, and Admiral Porter's Gunboats Shot the Rapids, Though the Scheme Had Been Ridiculed by Army Engineers.

In the spring of 1864 a Wisconsin lumberman by a brilliant exploit saved the Red river fleet of the Mississippi squadron from destruction. To thwart the intrigues of Napoleon III., who had sent a French army into Mexico, the federal government desired to gain a strong military foothold in Texas. To this end it was planned to send an army and fleet into interior Texas by way of the Red river, which was navigable only in the spring.

The army under General Banks, supported by Admiral Porter's fleet of gunboats, began the ascent of the river. But matters went badly almost from the beginning. The leaders quarreled among themselves, the preparations made were inadequate, and, worst of all, the Red river suddenly began to fall, when by all precedents it should have risen. Admiral Porter, fearful that his fleet would be caught in the shallows, hurriedly descended the stream, and the army, already savagely handled by the opposing Confederate force, followed after.

At Alexandria, in central Louisiana, the retreating federals found themselves face to face with a crisis. At this point the Red river is broken by a mile of rapids; the stream had fallen so quickly that the gunboats could no longer navigate the channel. The water was but three feet four inches, whereas Porter's larger gunboats drew at least seven feet. Here was indeed a desperate situation—the army far from its source of supplies, the victorious enemy pressing in hot pursuit, and the \$2,000,000 fleet marooned by falling water. It seemed to almost every one that the only course open was to blow up the vessels.

But Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Bailey of the Fourth Wisconsin, who was serving at the time as acting engineer of the Nineteenth army corps, came forward with a plan for bringing the ironclads to safety. It was to raise the level of the water above the rapids by constructing a great dam across the river. When a sufficient depth of water had accumulated he proposed to break the dam in the center, thus forcing the vessels with the outrushing flood through the shallows and into the deep water below. Before the war Colonel Bailey had been a lumberman and had often seen this scheme employed in the Wisconsin pineries to "lift" stranded rafts of logs to safety. The project was at first received with ridicule by Colonel Bailey's superiors. It was declared impossible of achievement by the best engineers in the army.

But there was nothing else to be done, and at length the Wisconsin lumberman was dubiously granted permission to put his project to the proof. His first step was to requisition detachments of "pinery boys" from the Twenty-third and Twenty-ninth Wisconsin regiments, who understood what was to be done and how to go about it.

In all 3,000 men were employed in the enterprise. Hundreds of men were set to felling trees, other hundreds toiled in the quarries that were opened for the occasion, and two or three hundred wagons were engaged in the essential work of transporting the materials for the dam. Up to their necks in the swift current, which swept over the rapids at the rate of nine miles an hour, under the blistering southern sun, the men toiled.

At the end of eight days the river was sufficiently high to permit three of the lighter gunboats to pass the upper falls, where they had been held, and come down to a position immediately above the dam, ready to pass the lower rapids. One more day and the dam would be high enough to permit all to come down in readiness for the final attempt.

On the morning of the ninth day, however, the steadily increasing pressure of the water caused two of the stone barges in the middle of the dam to swing aside, and through the opening thus created the accumulated torrent swirled. The three lighter vessels that were in position to make the passage, together with a fourth that had meanwhile come up, promptly took advantage of the break and, passing the remaining rapids on the flood tide, safely reached the deeper waters below.

Somewhat encouraged by the escape of at least four of the vessels, the men bravely set about repairing the damage that had been done. Within three days the break had been closed and in addition two wing dams constructed on the upper falls. The remaining gunboats, somewhat lifted by the back-water of the wing dams, were now hauled over the upper falls, and on May 12, amid the tumultuous cheers of 30,000 soldiers lined up along the shore, made the perilous passage over the lower falls to the deep water below.

On June 11, 1864, congress adopted a resolution of thanks to Lieutenant Colonel Bailey. A few months later the officers of Admiral Porter's fleet presented him with a beautiful sword and loving cup, and before the year was over he had been promoted by order of the war department to the rank of brevet brigadier general.—Frederick Merk.

CAUGHT FISH WITH EAR.

California Angler Evolves Unique Method of Landing Trout.

San Bernardino, Cal.—There are divers ways of catching a trout. Most fishermen go about it with a hook, some catch them with nets and others with dynamite, but there has been found a man who does the stunt with an ear and gets away with it. This may sound fishy, but it is the gospel truth, according to the story brought in from Deep creek.

Jay Fetters of Victorville alternated fishing for trout in Deep creek by taking swims in the cold water, and that is the way that he demonstrated that the human ear can sometimes catch more than mere sound. A few days after he left Deep creek he was troubled with acute pains in his ear.

Dr. Murphy examined the auditory cavity and after prodding around found a tiny mountain trout. The fish was dead. The pain in Fetlet's ear was almost instantly relieved. He is at a loss to know whether the fish entered his ear or it became the lodging place for some spawn and served as a hatcher.

WASH HENRY IRVING'S FACE.

Actresses Win Bobbie's Praise by Cleaning Statue.

London.—Two young repertory actresses yearning for excitement after long weeks of resting determined the other night to wash the face of Sir Henry Irving's statue, which stands behind the National gallery. Armed with soft soap and a bucket of water and accompanied by a photographer they started operations on Sir Henry at 2 o'clock in the morning.

Just as Sir Henry's face was beginning to take a nice polish the expected policeman stroiled up. The statue scrubbers tried to look unconcerned, and the photographer primed his flash lamp.

"What are you doing?" inquired the policeman.

"Washing Sir Henry's face," came the defiant reply simultaneously from the workers.

"Capital, capital; just what it wanted!" was the unexpected reply.

FALSE RUMORS STIRRED GERMANS

Papers Printed Jokes So Citizens Would Be Watchful.

The Hague.—Sensational stories in German newspapers during the first days of the war, such as the report of a French physician's trying to infect a well in Alsace with typhoid bacilli were secured by the German army of officials with a view of stirring people to watchfulness.

Stories like that of the infected well were widely published. Lakes all over the country were being poisoned. Russian automobiles carrying a great quantity of gold were trying to cross Germany to France. The whole country was swarming with spies.

These stories, generally believed, led to the shooting of many innocent persons, including one German army captain. The chief of police in Stuttgart issued the following official statement to his men, showing the effect of these sensational stories:

"The populace is beginning to become crazy. The street are full of old women of both sexes who conduct themselves in an unworthy manner. Every one sees in his neighbor a French or Russian spy and considers it his duty to beat him, together with the policeman who tries to protect him, or, at least, to cause a tremendous crowd to collect and hand the supposed spy over to the police. Clouds are mistaken for aviators, stars for airships, bicycle pumps for bombs. Telephone and telegraph wires in the middle of the city are believed to have been cut, bridges blown up, spies shot and the water supply poisoned. It is impossible to predict what form these extravagances will assume when the situation becomes really more earnest. As a matter of fact, not a single suspicious thing has thus far occurred in Stuttgart.

"The police should continue cool. Be men and not old women. Do not let yourselves be duped, but keep your eyes open, as it is your duty to do."

BLIND BOY A STENOGRAPHER.

Bert Cutting Wins Distinction by Reproducing Speech in Shorthand.

Indianapolis, Ind.—Bert Cutting, nineteen years old, who has been totally blind for years, has won distinction for himself by reproducing in shorthand a speech made by Governor Raibson.

Cutting became blind as a result of typhoid fever and other maladies. Being otherwise in good health, he wished to earn a living and hit upon shorthand writing as an occupation. He uses a mechanical device instead of taking the usual notes.

By this method words are spelled out in print. Cutting believes he is the first blind person in the world to do this kind of work for a livelihood.

Seven Brothers in the War.

Elwood, Ind.—David Kessler, a merchant in Elwood for twenty years, has a vital interest in the European war. Kessler is a native of Austria and has seven brothers, all of whom are under arms, three in the German emperor's forces and four in the armies of Austria-Hungary.

Dairying In Malheur County, a Great Success

Provides a First-Class Market For All Alfalfa and Corn Raised here. Nyssa Factory Has Large Output For Year of 1914.

The object of this article is not to exploit an individual enterprise but to give some of the possibilities of a great industry in our county. By giving a brief history of our enterprise we hope to bring out in a concrete way the possibilities of the dairy business in Malheur county.

A Home Builder

The dairy business is recognized everywhere as a home building industry. Its history is a record of prosperity wherever it has been consistently followed up. It is of inestimable value to any community fortunate enough to be surrounded by favorable conditions, but of greater value still to the individual who engages in this thriving and lucrative enterprise.

The advantages to a community of a factory of any kind engaged in the manufacture of dairy products can scarcely be over estimated. They are so evident they need not be pointed out. We believe however, a statement of the results secured by our factory the past year would be of interest to anyone engaged in the dairy business.

Securing Milk

Our method of securing the milk is to buy it at the farm. We provide means of transportation for the milk to the factory and deliver the whey back to the patron free of charge. All the dairyman has to do is to place the milk in some convenient place for our haulers to get it.

Our factory is run on a co-operative basis securing for the producer all these in the way of price for his product.

Good Prices Paid

Last winter when the larger creameries were paying 32 cents per pound for butter fat delivered at their stations we paid the same price for it at the farm. This summer when they paid 20 and 21 cents delivered we paid 27 cents and took it at the farm. The producer not only received a premium of six to seven cents per pound for his butter fat, but he was also relieved of that hard task of separating his milk and hauling his cream to market.

We were able to do this because the business was in the producers own hands, being run to furnish a market for their product and not a profit for the manufacturer. The advantages of any well managed enterprise of this kind can easily be seen by the statistics they can furnish.

To our own vicinity the factory has meant much to the farmers. Before the advent of dairy stock the alfalfa hay which we produce in such abundance was selling at \$4.50 to \$5.00 per ton and not finding a ready market at that. With the dairy industry came more diversified methods of farming, more stock of various kinds on the farms and a better market for our farm products.

Alfalfa \$13.00

Our records show that every ton of hay fed to cows furnishing milk to our factory last winter brought \$13.00 in butter fat. Some herds did not pay this much but some of our best herds paid as high as \$18.50 per ton for all the hay they consumed in butter fat alone to say nothing of the by products. It must also be remembered the industry here is yet in its infancy and

these figures can and will be increased as our herds are bred up for greater milk production.

The Alfalfa Cheddar Cheese Company began operation in February, 1915. The first day's supply of milk was 113 pounds. At that time few cows were in our community but the fact that the industry guaranteed a permanent market for dairy products encouraged people to invest in dairy herds until by May of 1914 the factory was getting 7500 pounds of milk per day. Today we have about five hundred cows in our territory and in another year this number will be greatly increased as it will in each succeeding year.

200,000 Pounds of Cheese

The output of our factory for 1914 will appropriate 200,000 pounds of cheese which represents \$30,000.00 foreign money brought into our territory.

Malheur County is a Dairy Country

It is a dairy country because every condition is favorable to the industry. Our climate is ideal. We have no severe winters. A bad storm is almost as rare as a snow in June. We have no sudden severe changes in temperature to which a good dairy cow is very sensitive. Our summers are ideal, while it gets hot, cattle are not tortured by the heat because it is always cool in the shade and this can be easily provided.

15 Tons Per Acre

Our soil and climate will produce more dairy feed per acre than any section in our country so far as we can find out. It is the home of alfalfa which produces from five to seven tons per acre. We have demonstrated it to be a country where corn can be produced abundantly. For ensilage purposes a yield of 15 to 20 tons per acre can be easily produced at a cost that is normal indeed. These two feeds are the best known for dairy purposes and Malheur county can beat the world in their production.

Nor are we entirely dependent upon these. Blue grass does remarkably well here where we have an abundance of water the year around and some remarkable results have been secured. As many as six cows have been pastured from April till October on a single acre of blue grass with no other feed. We believe our locality will produce more dairy feed per acre than any other section of the great northwest.

Climate and Market

Malheur not only has the climate and feed but a market as well. The demand for dairy products are constantly on the increase. There seems to be no possibility of ever over stocking the market. In our factory we are always behind our orders. If our output were trebled we would still be unable to supply the demand for our product. Any dairyman locating within our territory is guaranteed a profitable and permanent market for his product. The opportunity for entering the dairy business in the best dairy country in the world is yours. If you are interested in the business we will be glad to render you any assistance possible and give you any information that we can. We can put you in touch with a live proposition in the best country you ever saw.

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TURKISH SOLDIERS REACH SUEZ CANAL

London.—Reuter's Constantinople correspondent in a dispatch sent by way of Berlin gives the following official Turkish statement:

"The Turkish troops have reached the Suez Canal. In fighting near El Kantara the British suffered heavy losses and took to flight."

El Kantara is a port on the right bank of the canal about 25 miles south of Port Said.

The Amsterdam correspondent of Reuter's Telegram company says:

"A heavy battle lasting nine hours occurred on November 18 along the Shat-el-Arab river (this river empties into the Persian gulf and forms part of the boundary between the Persian and Turkish dominions) between British and Turkish troops. The British losses were heavy. Captured British soldiers declare that the wounded included the British commander.

"One shot from the Turkish gunboat Marmaris hit a British gunboat and caused an explosion. Details are not yet available."

War Aiding Business.

Washington.—Secretary Redfield told the house appropriations committee that the commercial expansion of the United States was evidenced by the fact that the total exports for November showed an increase of \$63,000,000 over November last year, and undoubtedly would have shown \$140,000,000 increase if cotton and copper had been exports. Part of the increase in exports he attributed to the war.

TEACHERS EXAMINATION AT VALE THIS MONTH

The following is the program for the teacher's examination which will be held in the Court House in Vale on December 16-17-18 and 19, 1914.

Wednesday: Arithmetic, Civil Government, Geography, Grammar.

Thursday: History, Orthography, Reading, Physical Geography, Composition.

Friday: Theory and Practice, Writing, School Law, Psychology.

Saturday: American Literature, Physiology, Algebra.

Very truly,

FAY CLARK,
County School Superintendent

Elevator Head is Bound over.

Grangeville.—Allen McKinnon, manager of the Cottonwood elevator, was arraigned before Justice H. W. Garts on a charge of embezzlement. He appeared without a lawyer, waived examination and was bound over to the district court and bail was fixed at \$800.

Shoshone County Receives \$6694.

Wallace.—The Shoshone county school and road funds have been enriched by \$6694 as its proportion of the federal forest reserve receipts for the fiscal year in the state of Idaho, amounting to \$59,227. Twenty-three counties of the state contain forest reserves and participate in the reserve apportionment. Only one county of the 23 received a larger apportionment than Shoshone county, that being Bonner county, which received \$12,509.

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