

Alaskan Dog Races Thrillers

Sporting World Knows No More Exciting Events Than Contests over Snow and Icy Trails

The world of sport furnishes no more exciting contest than the dog races of northern Alaska. True, the entire course is not visible from any one position and the finish is often devoid of an exciting climax. Yet this is no deterrent to racing fandom and the start of every race is the scene of excitement, while the entire population turns out at the finish to hail the victor and console the loser. Announcement that the first team will start at 2 o'clock in the morning is the signal for a general lighting up of houses and a peering out of heads. When the bugle proclaims the start of the first team, the streets are thronged about the judges' stands and every available balcony is fairly alive with humanity. For the trial of strength and endurance is on, the prize is thousands of dollars and many bets on the race are recorded.

Greatest of all the races is the All-Alaskan sweepstakes, 412 miles in length over a difficult trail. Across the peninsula from Nome to Candle, from Bering Sea to the Arctic Ocean and return, the trail leads through canyons and over mountains, a tortuous course fraught with unexpected and unseen dangers at every turn. The racers know nothing of the weather that will greet them at each new stretch of track. Today the sky is clear at Nome, tomorrow the city is wrapped in a blizzard. The start may be made under sunny skies, while 20 miles out the teams may be forced to seek shelter from the blinding storm. The snowslide comes unannounced, burying dogs and driver or sweeping them into the canyon far below, from whence ascent means the loss of hours of time, but the skill required taxes the experience and resources of the best drivers the north affords.

For days before the appointed start bookmakers are busy recording bets on the race. Saloons which, in the far north, are more like clubhouses than anything else, are the scenes of great excitement and the telling of tales by veterans of the trail. Every man has his favorite and the relative merits of huskies, wolves and malamutes play no small part in the general discussion as to the outcome. On the part of the racers themselves, the contest represents far more than mere speed. The experience, endurance and quick wit of the men count heavily, while the selection of dogs is a matter of weeks. Canines are selected and tried, rejected or set aside for further trial. Another team is brought out and put through a system of culling until the required number of sturdy creatures, selected for strength, speed and endurance, is definitely determined. Then follow trips over the trail, trials of speed on short courses and tests of strength on difficult grades, until, when the day arrives, each contestant enters with the best material that his experience has been able to select.

Every precaution is used to protect the life and health of the dog. Tiny moccasins are carried to place upon wounded feet; dark or green colored veils are at hand to protect the dogs from snow-blindness; beef, mutton and soup serve to nourish and strengthen these intelligent creatures on whom so much money is staked. For the winter trail is dangerous and too many precautions cannot be taken. Often dogs and driver are found starving and nearly frozen within a mile of their own camps. In one of the great races a gale drove a driver and his team out upon Bering Sea, where they were compelled to spend the night in a driving storm. Brown's roadhouse is known as the "House of a Thousand Bow-wows," because the entire number of entries in one of the races was compelled by a blizzard to stop for 18 hours at his station. Yet, it is because the most daring courage is required for these contests that they command so much interest. The world admires such feats of sterling manhood.

The race from Nome to Candle, and return was inaugurated in 1908. Because of the great expense involved and the extreme hardship of the course, support for the venture was slow at first. There were ten entries in this race, which proved one of the most exciting of the series. The teams were started two hours apart, which was found to be a mistake on account of the great variation in the weather.

The difference is so marked that even between two teams the trail for one might be decidedly easy while for the other almost impassable. Now but 15 minutes is allowed to elapse between starts. Alaska is still talking of the wonderful final spurt made by Scotty Allen in the first race, when the last 70 miles was run in 9 hours and 36 minutes. Scotty won the race in 1909 and has since been one of the factors with whom the winner has had to figure.

Telephone connections are kept up between all stations along the course and the progress of each team is reported hourly. The greater part of four days is consumed in the race. The fourth day the streets again swarm with people to watch the finish. One of the rules of the race is that all the dogs must return. If one is incapacitated it must be carried in on the sled and any that perish must also be brought in. Thus the skill of the driver in caring for his dogs becomes an element in the race, as well as the endurance of the canines. More than one contest has been lost because of the loss of dogs.

The Solomon Derby over a course of 65 miles has just been completed, John Johnson winning with his team of Siberian wolves in six hours, one and one-half minutes. Scotty Allen came in fourth. While not the greatest race of the north, this derby is one of the most exciting and calls for speed on the part of both dogs and man. An average of nearly eleven miles an hour for six hours is a record that only the best trained teams can make. The dangers and hardships are perhaps less than those of the long race, but the skill required taxes the experience and resources of the best drivers the north affords.

ACTRESS TELLS HOW TO BE BEAUTIFUL

The following complexion beautifier is recommended by Valeska Suratt, a famous actress:

"One in my profession has an extraordinary opportunity of finding out the best there is in complexion beautifiers. It was a long time before I found something which I could call a real beautifier, and I had to figure it out and make it up myself. The result was really astounding. This is the formula:

"Let half a pint of water come almost to a boil. Add two tablespoonsful of glycerin. Keep stirring, while adding one ounce of zintone, until it is all dissolved. Then let cool. If the cream is too thick to pour easily from a bottle, thin it down a little with more hot water. The cream will be white and satiny. After bathing in the morning, hold a wet, hot towel to the face several times for several minutes. Rub this cream on the entire face, liberally. Let the cream dry on the face. Repeat this again at night. Any good druggist will sell you an ounce of zintone for not more than fifty cents.

"There is nothing I could buy ready-made that I would care for, after using this. I use it on my hands, arms, shoulders and my face. Every red, spot, freckle, all muddiness and sallowness vanish, and leave the skin as pure and spotless as marble. Every woman should use it. The result will very soon show itself."

All Habit.

The telephone girl from the city was fishing one day during her two weeks' outing in the country. Some one from another boat called, "Hello!"

Just then she got a bite. "Line's busy," she answered.—Country Gentleman.

Gingerbread Nuts.

Put one pound of brown sugar, one pound of honey, and the grated rind of half a lemon in a saucepan over the fire and let simmer well together. Remove from the fire, add a fourth of a pound of butter, one ounce of ginger, one teaspoonful of soda and two pounds of flour. Roll out thin, cut into rounds and bake about twenty minutes in a slow oven.—E. L. L.

When water has spilled on a valuable book lay a blotter on each side of the first wet leaf and iron until dry with a medium hot iron.

Militant Suffragettes in Riot

English Women, "Betrayed" by Premier, Become Troublesome Political Factor in England

Militancy among suffragettes in London has again assumed alarming aspect. Led to believe that the prime minister's cabinet would present the suffrage amendment before parliament, militancy has been singularly quiet for some time past. On January 27 Premier Asquith announced that, although he desired to fulfill his promise to the women in the presentation of this bill, the knowledge that it would have no chance of passage forbade such a course. Mrs. Emmeline Pankhurst, leader of the militant faction of the suffrage movement, declared at once that the withdrawal of the bill was the result of a conspiracy of which Premier Asquith had actual and positive knowledge. "The answer to this treachery," said Mrs. Pankhurst, "is militancy."

So, the window-smashing campaign is on again in earnest. Women and their sympathizers throng about the fashionable streets and pay as little respect to the costly plate glass fronts of high-priced jewelry stores as to the four-paneled side-lights of the less pretentious. Mail-boxes have again come into prominence as the special objects of attack, the militants dropping acids into them with disastrous effects upon mail matter. Street speeches serve constantly to stir up the flames of discontent and to widen the breach between contending factions of the suffrage movement. For those who favor a quiet campaign through an awakening of public sentiment give no sympathy to the militants. Attempts have been made to forcibly enter the house of commons, an action that called into requisition extra guards of police and resulted in several arrests. It is said that Christabel Pankhurst, said to be the brains of the movement, is in London directing the movement from some secret place.

For decades the women of England have been fighting for equality of suffrage with the men. Their cause has gained steadily during recent years. From 1886 until 1912 every suffrage bill presented has passed the House of Commons until last year. In nearly every instance the majority has been substantial. Last year the majority against it though slight, revealed the truth about the suffrage movement, according to those opposed to militancy. The militant movement began in 1905. From that year it has been carried on with varying degrees of ferocity, finding a climax last year in window-smashing and mail-box-tampering campaigns that far eclipsed all other efforts of the kind in behalf of the suffrage movement. This campaign had its effect upon the House members, for they refused to support the bill they had willingly endorsed in previous years. As a result of these violent measures a number of the leaders were arrested and three of them were sentenced to nine months' terms in prison.

In support of the militant movement it is pointed out that every movement for rights in the past has been accompanied by similar tactics. The American colonists gained freedom from taxation without representation by means of demonstrations such as these. Universal suffrage for men was gained in England by the use of the torch and the bullet. The suffragists who have adopted militant tactics declare they will use rocks only so long as they are effective in bringing about the end they seek, this declaration bearing the ominous

hint that the torch and bullet may follow unless the vote is granted. The movement is assuming gigantic proportions, although in some quarters militancy has served to make enemies.

The Women's Social and Political Union, from whose ranks come the greater number of militants, is a pretentious organization. The central office, located in the Strand, comprises 23 rooms and furnishes employment for 110 persons, all under salary. Here "Votes for Women," the official organ of the militants, is edited, and from this point directions for the campaign go out to the 105 local centers of organization. The place is fast becoming famous because of the persistent fight that is directed from within its walls. Occasionally a copy of the paper goes out of the print shop with blank leaves, the printers leaving three whole pages blank in one edition for fear of prosecution. The fight is at times bitter, for its generals are crafty and fearless.

The outcome of the struggle for suffrage is very much in doubt. The militants are making many enemies by their tactics, and yet their ranks are continually claiming new additions. The "peaceable" faction of the suffrage movement refuses to have anything to do with the militants and a division constantly exists between them. Militants have gone to

such extremes as to hurl hatchets into the prime minister's party. The lives of members of parliament have been threatened by fanatics. The chancellor of the exchequer, David Lloyd-George, has been threatened with political and social ruin unless he throws his influence for an immediate passage of a suffrage bill. So the war goes merrily on, while in the United States the suffrage movement is steadily gaining ground through the medium of peaceable agitation.

Aspects of Cattle Production

The world's cattle production and population have a very important influence upon the cattle feeding business, and a clear conception of world wide influences will aid in forming a correct estimate of conditions.

Geographic Distribution—There are approximately 450,000,000 cattle in the entire world; in the United States there are (estimated) 71,000,000, or about 16 per cent. However, considering type and size of animals, it is estimated that the United States produces one-third of the world's supply.

Ratio of Cattle to Population—The United States contains .77 cattle per capita; this in comparison to 4.27 in Argentine and .18 in Italy. Ratio of number of cattle to area in this country is 23 cattle per square mile; Belgium 164, and Canada 2.

Decline of American Supplies—Shown in exports and marketing at principal points, exports have since 1906 shown a steady decline and must surely cease unless production increases.

Helping the Red Cross



Madame Slavo Grouitch, in behalf of the Servian Red Cross Society, for some time past has been soliciting funds in America to be used in aiding the Balkan soldiers. Before her marriage, Madame Grouitch was Miss Mabel Gordon Dunlop, of Harrison County, West Virginia.

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