

DIVING FOR PEARLS BY NATIVES OF SOUTH SEAS

Descend to Depth of Twenty Fathoms Without the Use of Appliances.

The recent voyage of the Fish Commission's ship Albatross among the islands of the South Sea has been productive of most interesting results. The pearl fishery industry of the natives is striking and unique, and attracted to A. R. Alexander, one of the commission's experts, especially deserving of notice and study. Mr. Alexander said, in describing this peculiar industry:

The fishery is regulated by the French government, the lagoon being thrown open every third year at the island of Hokuera, which is the most important center of the industry. Only one lagoon is fished at a time, and in consequence all divers assemble at one place. As we arrived at the open season, natives from almost every island in the Paumotu group were represented. Three firms control the fishery—one French, a German and an American firm. The season's fishing commenced October 5, and 55 tons of shells had been taken up to October 27. The last season the lagoon was fished, 280 tons of shells were taken out. From this amount \$3,000 worth of pearls were found. As compared to other parts of the world, where pearl fishing is carried on, it is said that this amount of pearls is small for the quantity of shells taken. Here the finding of pearls is incidental. The main object is gathering the shells.

DIVING SUITS DISCARDED.

"For a number of years machine diving was carried on—that is, the men dressed in diving suits. By this process a much greater amount of shells was taken out each season. Thinking that this method was not so profitable, the fishery law was passed prohibiting it, since which time all diving has been performed in the original way of going down naked. Diving is performed in depths ranging from five to 20 fathoms, the average probably being 10 to 15 fathoms.

Each company employs its divers for the season; they are bound by contract to fish for no other company, and are paid so much per ton of shells, the price being governed by the quality. The shells are divided into three grades. First-class shells are worth \$1,500 to \$2,000 per ton; second-class, \$1,200 to \$1,500, and third-class frequently less than \$1,000, sometimes as low as \$200 a thousand money. The prices vary for some extent each year, according to supply and demand. Germany is the principal market for pearl shells and pearls, the price for both being regulated in that country, and forwarded to agents at Papeete before the season opens.

SELL TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER.

"All pearls belong to the divers finding them, they having the privilege of selling to the highest bidder. Usually they sell to the firm employing them. On the strength of the high wages earned, each season there is a considerable rush to the lagoon where pearl diving is to be conducted. At the time of our visit there were 3,500 natives either directly or indirectly engaged in the fishery, many of them from distant islands.

"In moving from their homes the natives bring a large portion of their household effects with them—in some cases even the houses they are to occupy. The houses are very light, made of cocoanut palms and pandanus leaves put together in sections, and easily

transported. The representatives from various islands form separate settlements, and for a distance of several miles along the beach clusters of houses and small villages are built among the cocoanut palms. The different villages are in every way the same as if they were located on the island homes of the people occupying them. Women and children are brought to the island, and housekeeping goods are sent from the shore. Many of the women and young girls take part in the diving, and we were informed that they are equally as good divers as the men in depths not over 10 or 12 fathoms.

FOND OF GAUDY CLOTHING.

"Besides those engaged in the fishery, many natives and a few white traders deal in coral. They are very fond of gaudy articles in demand by the fishermen. A generous portion of the wages earned by the divers finds its way into the hands of the trader. The natives, both male and female, are fond of gaudy and gaudy patterns of goods are purchased to a much greater extent than seems necessary.

WORK AROUND CORAL PATCHES.

"Pearl diving is carried on in all parts of the lagoon where the water is not too deep. The right depths are found by the coral patches, many of which are washed. These coral growths vary in size from 10 to 15 feet across the top, others 50 feet or more, descending with a gradual slope, pearl shells being found around them. Some are found in the water, others scattered along the inner rim of the atoll, at a distance of something more than a mile from the beach.

Montavilla Residents Say They Are All Right.

VOTE WAS 17 TO 7 AGAINST Most of the Speakers in Favor of Coming Into City of Portland.

If Dr. William Devitt, secretary of the Montavilla Board of Trade, had been present at last evening's mass meeting of the residents of the suburb to consider the incorporation project, he would have said the result was "all right." It was about 8:15 o'clock when about 30 of the residents of the Villa, bringing their dark lanterns along, took their seats in Aylsworth Hall. E. M. Stevens was elected as chairman for the meeting, and W. A. Aylsworth unanimously chosen as secretary.

ALL RIGHT AT PRESENT.

Dr. O. S. Murray, being called upon to express his sentiments, said: "I think that we are doing very well at present, and it is very well to leave well enough alone. I don't want to be annexed to the City of Portland, and would much prefer to organize a city of our own. If the Villa had incorporated eight or nine years ago, I feel very sure that we would have been much better off in the way of improvement than we are at present. When the Villa was first started we organized a company with \$500 capital stock in shares of \$50 each. The well was dug about 20 feet deep and some pipes were laid. Then some people decided that they did not want an incorporated city, and in consequence the project was dropped and a monopoly secured by the city of Portland.

METHOD OF DIVING.

"One man consented to give an exhibition dive in deep water. The cutter was dropped off a short distance from the shore and a sounding made in 17 fathoms of water. We watched through water-glasses the diver's movements from the time of sinking below the surface until rising to the top again, two minutes and forty seconds. One shell was brought up. Long before reaching the bottom we thought it would be impossible for him to accomplish the feat. In fact, he was not mistaken. Reaching his destination, he began picking over pieces of coral, brushing aside stones, broken shells, etc., in the same manner as if he were at work in a garden. He investigated the bottom some 40 or 50 feet from the initial point of landing. When ready to ascend he stood erect and came up as if being pulled with considerable force, shooting up at water half way to the surface. He seemed to suffer no unusual discomfort, and in a short time was ready to go down again. There is a record of a dive of 23 fathoms. The length of time the diver remained down we did not learn.

The boats employed by the natives are curious in design, being counterbalanced by a side timber so as to avoid being upset. This method, though apparently clumsy, is, in reality, very effective.

OVER THE WILLAMETTE EAST-SIDE SUBURDS

ALBINA

DON'T WANT TO INCORPORATE

Montavilla Residents Say They Are All Right.

VOTE WAS 17 TO 7 AGAINST Most of the Speakers in Favor of Coming Into City of Portland.

right as it was at present. "The streets of the Villa," said Mr. Barringer, "are in better shape than nine-tenths of the Portland thoroughfares."

AYLSWORTH FOR, SCHNEIDER AGAINST.

W. A. Aylsworth, the Base Line grocer, spoke in favor of the incorporation scheme and said he thought that Montavilla should vote to become a city by itself, rather than be forced to come into the City of Portland, as would be done when the Legislature meets.

To Extend Railway.

The survey for the newly selected extension of the Oregon Water Power & Railway Co. to the Mt. Tabor reservoir has been completed, and everything is in readiness for the building of the road as soon as the weather permits. The new extension leaves the old line at Hawthorne and Euclid avenues, runs down the latter thoroughfare south to the tract of L. M. Myrick, thence east and south to the reservoir.

New Grange Organized.

At a called meeting of the residents of Rockwood Tuesday, a new grange of the Patrons of Husbandry was organized, with a charter list of 60. The election of officers resulted in the selection of E. H. Crane as master and Mrs. Viola Lovelace as secretary. The new grange will hold meetings on the third Thursday in each month. At the next meeting the newly elected officers will be installed.

For Street Cleaning Bee.

President M. E. Thompson of the Central Albina Board of Trade will bring the matter of street cleaning before that body at the next meeting. President Thompson says that for about a year the streets in Multnomah Addition have not been cleaned by the street department, and will suggest that the members of the board take up the matter and appoint some day when all the members will turn out and make a clean sweep.

Pleasant Surprise Party.

A very pleasant surprise party was tendered Miss Gertrude Stupper at her home, 14 Shaver street, Albina, Wednesday evening, about 30 of her young friends being in attendance. During the evening an excellent literary and musical program was rendered, and refreshments served.

Did You Ever Stop to Think

How much more you would enjoy your meals if your teeth were attended to? Bad teeth make it difficult to masticate the food properly. Let us stop this trouble. If attended to now the cost will be small, but if allowed to go on, go the cost will become greater. Teeth extracted absolutely WITHOUT PAIN.

Dr. T. P. Wise. Dr. W. A. Wise.

WISE BROS., Dentists

208, 209, 210, 212, 213 Falling Building, Both Phones: Or. South 2291; Col. 368. Cor. Third and Washington Sts. Open evenings till 9; Sunday 9 to 12.

STATEMENT OF THE CONDITION OF The United States National Bank OF PORTLAND, OREGON, At the Close of Business, Nov. 25, 1902.

ASSETS.	
Loans and Discounts	\$1,103,130.71
U. S. Bonds to Secure Circulation	50,000.00
U. S. and other Bonds	189,850.00
Real Estate	35,209.64
Office Furniture and Fixtures	6,995.00
Bank Building	125,000.00
Cash and due from Banks	787,177.69
	\$2,297,463.04
LIABILITIES.	
Capital and Undivided Profits	\$ 300,000.00
Surplus	64,827.89
Circulation	50,000.00
Individual Deposits	\$1,570,091.83
Due to Banks	323,013.41
	1,893,105.24
	\$2,297,463.04

Attest: J. C. AINSWORTH, President. The above statement is correct. F. C. MILLER, Cashier.

TO GET CAR SHOPS

Sellwood Board of Trade Raises Bonus for That Purpose.

At a well attended meeting of the Sellwood Board of Trade last evening the committee on the securing of a bonus for the removal of the Oregon Water Power & Railway Company from Millwaukie to Sellwood, reported that the sum of \$1,500 had been subscribed.

To Give Entertainment.

A combined committee from the Central Albina Board of Trade and the Ladies' Auxiliary is at work arranging details for an entertainment to be given in Gomez Hall, on Russell street, about December 15. The funds will be used in the purchase of gymnastic equipment for the Boys' Brigade Hall, kindly donated to the young people of the neighborhood by Capt. Hamilton.

Stole Bicycle Wheel.

Some one stole a bicycle from in front of the Burkhardt Building, on East Burnside street, Thursday evening while the owner was visiting in the building. Police Officer Joseph Reising found the bicycle lying on the bank of Sullivan's Gulch, the rear wheel with its coaster brake being missing. There is no clue to the thief.

Rockwood Artisans Dance.

Rockwood Assembly, No. 206, United Artisans, gave a dance at their meeting hall the other day, which was largely attended. The assembly is in a flourishing condition, new members being taken in at nearly every meeting.

BRING OUT SPEED BY USE OF "DOPE"

Horses Drugged in Many Fast Races.

Method to Wake Up Old Skates ---Animals Like the "Dope."

The recent action of the racing stewards against the use of "dope" in horses and their subsequent rejection of the entry of two well-known thoroughbred horses Wagner and Bellario—says the New York World, has caused the query, "What is done in horses?" to be asked by many turfmen who are not familiar with this phase of horse racing.

When the use of it was no longer allowed by the turf authorities the "needle" was discarded and the "ball" substituted. The use of the syringe left a tell-tale mark which, wherever the needle touched the flesh, puffed up and remained in that condition until the effects of the drug had worn off. It was this sign that paddock judges searched for when looking for horses that were supposed to be "doped."

beat his field in a gallop. Dr. Ring cashed in the thousands.

All he desired was the consent of the owner to use it and a promise of secrecy. He picked out a horse that once possessed speed, but had lost his best form, placed a needle in him and then went into the ring and backed him. He made the book-makers pay his fee.

In recent years dope has been improved upon. It has changed its formula and is made up of other drugs than those used by Dr. Ring.

When the use of it was no longer allowed by the turf authorities the "needle" was discarded and the "ball" substituted. The use of the syringe left a tell-tale mark which, wherever the needle touched the flesh, puffed up and remained in that condition until the effects of the drug had worn off. It was this sign that paddock judges searched for when looking for horses that were supposed to be "doped."

The drug is now given in a "ball." It is not so dangerous to those who use it, and it does not leave a trace of its existence behind.

FEDERATED TRADES VOTED BLANK

On Candidate for Labor Commissioner.

A Resolution Was Passed Suggesting to Dealers a Plan to Avoid Trouble.

At the meeting of the Federated Trades Council last night, when the ballots containing the names of the candidates for the proposed office of labor commissioner were presented, that body cast a blank. A question had been raised at a previous meeting whether or not the council had a legal right to vote, and by casting a blank was thought to be the best way out of the difficulty without engendering any additional animosity.

ELDER IN PORT.

The steamship Elder arrived in port at 5:30 o'clock last evening from San Francisco with 80 tons of general merchandise. She is expected to start on the return trip next Wednesday, and will carry passengers.

UP-TO-DATE STORES

are being very generally equipped with electric lights, especially where considerable attention is given to display. The store which has not a goodly amount of illumination is now-a-days regarded as a back number. Proprietors of the most prosperous stores will tell you that plenty of good light

Is Necessary

and that there is no light equal to the electric for convenience, cleanliness and effect. In the show window, a light is desired which is free from deposits of soot or moisture, a light which can be turned on without climbing in or even opening the sash. The Incandescent electric lights fulfill these conditions perfectly and will help you

To Make a Profit

by bringing more customers into your store. If you once get the customer in and the goods are right the business is half accomplished.

PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY

PHONE US AND WE WILL SEND OUR SOLICITOR

Seventh and Alder Sts.