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Towed By a Big Sea Cow

Novel Trip of An Angler On the Florida Coast

Bobbing gayly along in a boat attached to a big sea cow would strike most persons as a pleasant diversion, and so thought Mr. John D. Crimmins, the New York capitalist, who recently enjoyed that unique sport at Palm Beach, Fla.

Mr. Crimmins and his son were just off the pier at Palm Beach in a small fishing boat. Catches were not very lively, and everybody was taking the most listless interest in the sport.

Suddenly the spectators were electrified at seeing Mr. Crimmins' canoe shoot off across the water at an express train rate.

"Sharks! Man eatin' sharks! Le's all git out o' dis!" shouted a score of darkies in chorus as they dropped their fishing poles and pulled frantically on their oars.

"Nothing of the sort," began Mr. Crimmins urbanely. "It's a—"

But just then the sea cow on the other end of Mr. Crimmins' fish line



gave a terrific flirt to her tail, and the frail craft behind took a new notch in its gait.

By this time it was plain to the company that Mr. Crimmins had set out to give an exhibition of fancy driving. The water is of wonderful clearness off Long pier, and the huge, sealike body of the manatee was as distinctly visible as if it had floated on the blue surface of the sea.

Sea cows are not uncommon in that district to sailors, but decidedly a novelty to landmen close inshore.

Mr. Crimmins can name at sight about everything that swims, and as soon as he spied the sinuous curve of the manatee's body he knew what it was. He decided on the instant to capture it.

The manatee does not take bait. Mr. Crimmins trailed his hook until he had it caught firmly in the sea cow's tough, sleek skin. It was then that the spectators on the beach saw the canoe dart forward, got a glimpse of the plunging sea cow and understood the game.

It was fun pretty well spiced with danger from start to finish. The sea

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cow is as strong as a horse, and the water is its home. Consequently no false starts were made, and in the end the sea cow came out of it without getting the least bit blown and in true sporting parlance fresh as a daisy.

Ordinarily a sea cow has the mildest temper imaginable. Amiability beams from her big soft eyes.

At first Mr. Crimmins' catch was unconscious of her captivity, and the canoe was drawn forward with the steady motion of Lohengrin's swan boat.

Finally the sea cow became aware that Mr. Crimmins was getting a ride for nothing, and her temper was ruffled. With a snort she thrust her head down and started ahead at a rapid rate.

Mr. Crimmins played out line as far as possible.

"Swish, biff!" and the manatee thrashed the water into pale green foam. This proved ineffective. The hook still stuck.

"Swing on! Hooray! Tire your catch out!" shouted the spectators encouragingly.

Just as Mr. Crimmins was replying that he intended to swing on the manatee headed toward the open sea and plunged forward at an astonishing gait. A trail of foam marked the track for a distance, and after that the Crimmins craft appeared to ride her furious way like a flying Dutchman, not propelled by anything or directed by any body.

Suddenly the canoe slackened her speed.

The big tarpon hook had proved unequal to the strain, straightened out and let go its prey.

Mr. Crimmins still held his fishing pole fast.

The feeding grounds of the manatee are in the semisalinal marshes of the Florida coast. Unlike the seal, they keep tolerably close inshore in shallow water. They weigh from 1,000 to 1,500 pounds and are strong in proportion to size.

Representatives of the Smithsonian Institution at Washington are now at Palm Beach on the lookout for a choice specimen. There is a penalty of \$500 attached to killing a sea cow without license.

"The variety of fish found off Palm Beach is remarkable," said Mr. Crimmins. "One never knows what one is going to catch next. The negroes, however, are the cleverest fishermen there."

"The sharks are the worst enemies to good fishing, and there are multitudes of them. They will always take a bait, and often they will take your fish before you can land it. I have had them snap up a fish of four or five pounds that I had safely hooked and bite it off below the head as cleanly as if it had been slashed off with a knife."

"Of course landing one's first shark is exciting, for they are fighters, but after you have caught five or six you get tired of it and are only too willing to have them leave you alone. They are big fellows, some of them, but they are only a nuisance."

"It is intensely interesting to get in among the coral reefs and watch the fish life down eighteen or twenty feet in the clear water. The smaller fish usually get in among the corals to protect themselves from the borders of predaceous larger fish. Some of the big fish are clever enough to know this and take advantage of it. I have seen an enormous jewfish lying as motionless as a log at the bottom, seemingly oblivious to everything. But let a daring small fish get within reach, and in a moment an enormous mouth has opened, and the small fish is in it and on his way to the depths."

CURRENT POLITICAL DISCUSSION.

The Questions at Issue before the People of Oregon Today.

STATE PRINTING GRAFTING.

A Robbery That Can Only be Ended by Electing Godfrey State Printer.

The Journal does not blame F. C. Baker for wanting Mr. Whitney of Albany elected state printer. Mr. Baker was the republican state printer twice and is a loyal republican still.

But he should not blame other people who are republicans and who are not state printers and never expect to be from looking at the matter from a different light.

The republican party has everything to gain and nothing to lose by abolishing the old \$35,000 a year graft, putting the printer on a salary and breaking the ever expanding graft.

If the republican party elects Mr. Whitney the present graft will be continued and Mr. Baker will continue to make more out of the state printing than any other official.

The Oregonian will not print the facts about this matter, either from the laws or the reports of the secretary of state. It will not print the facts as presented in Mr. Chamberlain's speeches.

But the people will hear Mr. Chamberlain all the more gladly because he is excluded from the Portland organ of the associated political graft.

The state should buy and own its printing plant or all the state printing should be done at commercial rates on union scale.

The people cannot bring this about, having all the work done at commercial prices in commercial printing offices if Mr. Whitney is elected.

If Mr. Whitney is elected he will either lease the Frank Baker state printing office or the faction he is the candidate of will buy the Frank Baker state printing office. The people want neither.

At fair commercial prices the state printing should not cost over \$15,000 to \$20,000 at the utmost.

Organized labor should know that at present, with the state furnishing rent free an office, light, water, heat and janitorship for a private plant, all the work is not done by union labor.

The whole graft hasn't a leg to stand on and the only way to beat it



An important discovery in medical science is announced by M. Armand Gautier in the current number of the Comptes Rendus. He has found that sodium methylarsenate injected into the blood in minute amounts is an absolute cure for malarial fever.

Particulars are given of the treatment of nine cases, all of which had been contracted in Africa and which were of such a severe type as to be refractory to large doses of quinine. The nine cases were rapidly cured, two only showing a slight relapse, and these yielded at once to a second injection. The progress of the cure was followed in each case by the examination of the blood, and the treatment was always followed by the disappearance of the specific hematozoa. The salt was also found to suppress entirely the anemia associated with malaria.

M. Gautier regards the results as sufficiently definite to authorize the substitution of this drug for quinine in pernicious malaria, although it still remains for further researches to determine the best dose and whether administered by the mouth or hypodermically is to be preferred.

Save Your Eyes.

If your eyesight is good, take care of it. Look away off yonder every time you get to the bottom of a page in reading. If it is defective, let no foolish pride prevent you from wearing the proper glasses. There is no sense in handicapping yourself in life when a piece of glass before each eye will make your vision as good as it possibly can be, says a writer in Ainslee's. The oculist will not advise you to wear glasses if you do not need them any more than he will prescribe a drug you do not need. Plenty of people, though, do not know that they have defective sight because they have never really seen at all. They have headaches, inflamed eyes, styes, even much graver troubles, from the strain of trying to see with eyes that were put up wrong. There are cases where homicidal insanity has been completely cured when impaired vision has been corrected.

Salt Cure For Neuralgia.

Communicated to the Edinburgh Medico-Chirurgical society by Dr. George Leslie, it consists in snuffing or blowing a minutely little powdered common salt up the nose through the anterior nares. Dr. Leslie gave details of thirty or forty cases of facial and other neuralgia, cephalgia, odontalgia, etc., which had been cured, and he stated that he had only failed in two cases.



HYGIENE

A young lady of small stature recently fainted at a dinner given in her honor. It was then found she had not been able to touch either her feet to the floor or her back to the chair, and the restricted circulation and prolonged discomfort had finally overcome her.

An antiquarian, says a writer in Popular Science News, traces the present mania for high seats to the fact that at the old French courts sets of handsome furniture were ranged along the walls for effect, but never occupied. The chairs and sofas actually used were much lower. Furniture makers of today copy the more showy pieces and further enhance their inutility by spring cushions.

The dictum of a famous cabinet maker is that in choosing chairs the knee of a person standing should come clear above the seat he intends to occupy.

Leaks in Gas Pipes.

A leak in a gas pipe may be located without the use of a light by painting the pipe with soap and water. Bubbles will indicate where the leak is.

The Latest in Automobiles.

The Austrian military authorities have a motor under construction at the motor factory at Vesselsdorf, in Moravia, which is to be used by the Austrian army for the purpose of reconnaissance and also for racing. The car is being fitted with three separate motors, which will work independently of each other. The maximum speed is stated to be 120 kilometers, or seventy-four miles, per hour, and an entirely new system of transmission is to be used.

Indian Uses For Plants.

V. K. Chestnut in a recent bulletin of the division of botany of the United States department of agriculture tells of numerous uses to which the Indians of Mendocino county, Cal., put various plants. The list is so large and includes such a variety of plants that it suggests the possibility that the white man might learn something of value in this regard from the aborigines. More particularly is this the case with food plants, as they seem to use the seeds of a large number which we allow to go to waste for this purpose. One curious fact he refers to is their practice of eating clover, not the flower head, as white children sometimes do, but the stems and leaves, chewing them like herbivorous animals. He says it is no uncommon sight to see a party of Indians in a clover field eating it by handfuls.



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