

GIANT STEEL HANDS WILL GROPE FOR LOST MILLIONS

Will Paw Ocean Depths in Effort to Recover \$5,000,000 in Gold.

London.—Immense steel hands will reach down through 85 fathoms of water and seek out the \$5,000,000 in gold which sank with the P. & O. liner Egypt six months ago off Ushant.

Groping through the silence of the water, these almost human machines will feel their way to the faults of the ship where the gold was stored.

A Swedish engineering firm has agreed to spend \$500,000 to raise the gold. They are confident of success. If they do they will keep \$3,000,000 and Lloyd's, who met the heaviest loss in the shipwreck, will get the remainder.

A specially equipped submarine will be sent to the bottom when the wreck has been definitely found. The bulk will be explored from all sides and accurate charts made. Targets will then be selected in the Egypt's hull and large holes made with torpedoes. Exactly what will happen then is a dark secret, except for the fact that a monstrous engineering device, rivaling the dreams even of Jules Verne, is in preparation for the work. All that is known is that the human hand is the underlying motif of the scheme.

The hands, attached to giant arms, will reach into the ship and grasp the chests of gold. The steel fingers will not relax even though the water at that depth would crush a diver's helmet. The treasure will be lifted at the sea bottom and then brought to the surface.

Details of this romantic undertaking have been threshed out by hard-headed business men who are behind it and work will begin in May. It will last three summers. If the project succeeds it will open up the prospect of recovering untold millions now at the bottom of the sea.

Georgia Heiress Weds Blind Piano Tuner



"Love in a cottage is better than all the riches in the world," says Mrs. Susie Grace Cofer, sixteen-year-old bride of J. J. Cofer, an Atlanta (Ga.) piano tuner, poor, and blind since youth. Mrs. Cofer is the daughter of wealthy south Georgia parents, who have started annulment proceedings to force their daughter to return. Mrs. Cofer says that all the law in the land won't cause her to stop loving her husband, and she has no idea of going back home.

Following the ceremony, her father, G. F. Ferguson of Sparta, Ga., came to Atlanta and took the girl home. Cofer followed and filed habeas corpus proceedings to obtain his bride. He won his suit. Scarcely had the couple returned to Atlanta than annulment proceedings were started by the young bride's parents.

War on London's Fog Stirs Old-Timer's Ire

London.—Horrors! They're going to abolish the London fog.

Old citizens are up in arms. "If the fog's been good enough for me, I don't see why the rising generation can't stand it," they moan. But despite this defense of one of London's oldest institutions parliament is "going into it thoroughly." Someone has suggested that Londoners have been "going into it thoroughly for generations, and coming out of it and going into it again, but nothing ever is done about it."

There finally seems to be a serious attempt to end "the London particular" and a committee of technical experts of all British industry are to deal with the problem on national lines.

Many persons who are not experts say there will always be fog in London until the obvious thing is done, prohibit the burning of soft coal.

Hawaiian Volcano Spouts Lava.

Hilo, T. H.—Kilauea volcano is more active than it has been for years. The glow in the sky is visible for miles. With 40 acres of fire less than 300 feet from the rim, ten fountains are spouting an amount of lava estimated at 3,000,000 cubic yards weekly.

Sunflower Is Twenty Feet High. Kansas City, Mo.—Judge Charles B. Montgomery, "the sunflower king," has heard from the 11,345 packages of seed he sent out last year. The tallest sunflower was grown in Sanger, Cal. It was 20 1/2 feet high. The "king" raised the largest head, 10 1/2 pounds.

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL

Sunday School Lesson

(By REV. F. M. FITZWATER, D. D., Teacher of English Bible in the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.) Copyright, 1923, Western Newspaper Union.

LESSON FOR APRIL 29

RUTH THE FAITHFUL DAUGHTER

LESSON TEXT—Book of Ruth. GOLDEN TEXT—Thy people shall be my people and thy God my God.—Ruth 1:16.

PRIMARY TOPIC—The Story of Ruth.

JUNIOR TOPIC—Ruth and Naomi. INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—Ruth's Choice and Its Outcome.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—The Secret of Ruth's Noble Life.

1. Ruth's Connection With Naomi (Chapter 1:1-15). On account of famine in Bethlehem of Judah, Naomi with her husband and two sons sojourned in the land of Moab. After the death of her husband her two sons married Moabitish women. After a time her sons died also. After the death of her sons Naomi resolved to return to her homeland, having heard that the Lord had visited His people in giving them bread. They went to Moab to escape trouble but only got into more. It was not until Naomi was thus chastised that she resolved to return. Naomi had the good sense to recognize that the hand of the Lord was upon her for good. When the time came for her to go Ruth and Orpah accompanied her for a distance. This she permitted her determined to place before them frankly the dilemma which would necessarily confront them. It was this frank presentation of the difficulties and her repeated urging them to go back that called forth from Ruth the expression of her noble choice.

II. Ruth's Noble Choice (1:16-18). Much as Naomi loved her daughters-in-law, she would not have them go into this matter blindly. She told them the worst that could come upon them. This principle ought to be carried out by us in all our relations in life. In business the spirit of frankness should be manifest. At home we should deal with each other in the most straightforward way. The same thing should characterize our behavior in the church and society. Note the difficulty which confronted Ruth:

1. No Chance to Marry Again. Naomi told her that she had no more sons for whom she could wait. In that day to be unmarried was the greatest disgrace. Society differed then from now.

2. She Must Renounce Her Gods. Her idolatrous worship could not be carried on in the land where God's people dwell. This was delicately touched upon when Orpah went back (v. 15). Orpah went back when it was plain there was no chance to get a husband. Now Naomi puts an additional test upon Ruth, that of giving up her religion. Ruth was equal to the occasion. Her mind was fully made up. She was willing to accept as her God the one who was able to produce in his subjects the nobility of character she had observed in Naomi. Naomi's very frankness in dealing with her caused Ruth to be more determined to cast her lot with her. Ruth's position was so definite and unflinching that the very expressions have come down to us in words which "no poetry has unperfected, and no pathos has excelled, and which has gone through centuries with the music that will not let them be forgotten." She was determined to share Naomi's journey, her home, her joys, her lot in life, and her grave in death, whatever that would be. To crown it all she would renounce her heathen gods and worship Jehovah.

III. Blessings Which Attended Ruth's Faithfulness. Ruth was never sorry for her choice, because—

1. She Found the True God (1:16). Instead of her heathen gods who were unable to help her she now had a living God, the God of Israel, as her God.

2. She Found Human Friends (Chapter 2). As she went to glean in the field she was led to the field of Boaz, a man of wealth and grace. The servants of Boaz treated her with consideration. Even Boaz gave instructions for special consideration to be given her.

3. A Good Husband and a Happy Home (3-4). She not only secured a husband, but a man of God who had an abundance of this world's goods.

4. An Honored Place in the Israelitish Nation (4:13-17). Though she had to forsake her own people she became one of a nobler people.

5. She Became a Link in the Chain of Christ's Ancestry (4:18-22 compare Matthew 1:5). The one who fully decides for Christ and gives up all for him shall get a hundred-fold in this life, and in the world to come, eternal life.

Sharing Misfortunes. Some people think that all the world should share their misfortunes, though they do not share in the sufferings of any one else.—A. Poincelot.

Those Who Mean to Be True. Those who honestly mean to be true contradict themselves more rarely than those who try to be consistent.—O. W. Holmes.

Fearless Minds. Fearless minds climb soonest unto

SONG OF THE NEGROES

(Exchange)

A church hymn dealing with war is swinging into popularity in Southern negro churches. Maybe it's an old one, born after the civil war and now resurrected after a long sleep. Anyway, it's timely. And negro congregations are singing (or chanting) it with such vehemence and enthusiasm that it's obvious there's one element of the world's population that's "fed up" on war, regardless of what Europe may be thinking and doing. The hymn sounds like this:

"I'm gonna lay down mah war tools down by de ribber side, Down by de ribber side, down by de ribber side—

Ain't a-gonna study wah no mo'.

Chorus: Study wah no mo', study wah no mo', study wah no mo'.

Study wah no mo', study wah no mo', study—study wah no mo'.

Too bad we cannot get Europe to singing this hymn.

Negro music, with its seductive rhythm and none-such melody, stands out unique among all other music. It reflects the primeval spirit of the jungle.

The white man, beginning shortly before the war, sank to the jungle state. Probably that is why the white man has been almost deliriously obsessed by jungle-jazz.

Some authorities tell you that jazz is a comparative new creation, originated in Guinea Area and New Orleans some ten years ago, but for 400 years consider this old-time negro slave song:

"Old Guinea nigher, wid a head full o' knowledge, Redder go to free school than any o'uhah college;

Libb e'chink ash cake, little meece fat, an'

De white folks grudge him de gits enough o' dal.

Old Jonah, lak er fool, got as stubborn as er mule,

So de wha-ale made him disappear, Jonah swoppe is razor out, cut de whale in two,

An' he floated into shore on his ear."

Before it is too late some one should collect and publish for posterity the best of the negro folk-lore songs.

And while we are on the subject of the psychological condition of a nation, it is always reflected in the songs its people are singing. Soboring up from the war, we are getting away from the war, we are getting away from a jungle state of mind, so jazz is fading out of popularity.

While the future may be a sealed book, you can get advance information on the "national drift" by watching the kind of music that comes to replace jazz. We may be in for another wave of religion revival. Watch the songs. They'll tell you.

DEAD WHALE TO BE BROUGHT IN COURT

Biloxi, Miss., April 16.—As a result of a legal squabble over the ownership of a dead whale found several days ago off the coast of Biloxi the federal court for the southern district of Mississippi today issued a writ of sequestration directing the United States marshal to "seize and bring into court" the whale, weighing more than seventy-five tons and measuring more than sixty-five feet. It is valued at \$10,000.

Rojelio Lopez, captain of the fishing boat San Frisco and his crew found the dead whale floating a few miles off the main and near here last week and according to Captain Lopez, towed it to the northeast end of Deer Island, where after attaching a placard bearing his name and that of his boat, as a means of showing that the whale belonged to them, they anchored it and proceeded to New Orleans to tell of their find. Upon their return they found another party in possession of the whale, claiming its ownership. Legal proceedings immediately were taken by Lopez and his crew to regain its possession.

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THE UNKNOWN WEST

Henry Dubs' article in Sunday's Daily News regarding Grand Canyon, in other words the gorge of Linville river, recalls to mind the fact that, in so far as the vast majority of the people of the state are concerned, western North Carolina has hardly been explored. All the world knows Asheville and the well advertised resort towns of the southwestern corner of the state, but who has been to Linville gorge? Who knows anything about that 12-mile precipice with one lone break? Only the people who live in the neighborhood, and an occasional lover of the hills who is not content to follow the beaten track of the tourist, but must explore for himself.

It is certainly to be hoped that the writer's information is correct, and that the country he describes is to be taken into the care of the people as a state park. The little patch of ground that the state has preserved on Mitchell's crest has already proved a paying investment. It has preserved more than a bit of forest land—it has preserved North Carolina's reputation for appreciation of beauty, it has preserved the state's self-respect. A similar move by North Carolina to take care of Linville gorge would be equally worth while.

Indeed, all that middle and northwestern section of our mountain region deserves more attention. It is even now gradually being opened up as a resort country, and its beauties revealed to a beauty-starved world, but as yet the development has hardly started. One of these days—and we think now within comparatively few years—there will be a scenic highway, not an ordinary road, but a beautiful boulevard, from Spartan to Murphy, beyond the Blue Ridge, or following its crest, that road will soon become one of the most famous, not in the state, not in the east, but in the world. It will be, like Niagara and the Grand Canyon of the Colorado, one of the sights that will be recommended to every visitor to America; and no American will consider himself really well acquainted with his own country until he has seen it.

But the national beauties along that road must be preserved if the highway is to be worth building; and the state cannot begin too soon to look to their preservation. A great system of state parks we believe would be worth more to North Carolina in the long run than even Tam Bowie's railroad.

FINDING THE FIRST MAN.

Determining the origin of man is a popular pastime among a certain class of so-called scientists. Every other and awhile we seem to hear from all quarters of the world about the discovery of certain fossils that show man in an early stage of his evolution. These affairs come with interest until another of these scientists succeed in proving what the other fellow says is not true.

Patagonia and Asia have been excellent hunting grounds for the prehistoric man and animals. Every time one of these fellows called anthropologists digs up a skull in Asia, where history first catches sight of man, somebody down in Patagonia, a sort of a desert strip in South America, reports a remarkable find there of some bones of an inconceivable large and weird animal that existed long before history began. Then the Asiatic explorer retorts that the South American find is a "mare's nest." London scientists who are assiduously engaged in trying to fill in the link between ape and man are having much agitation among themselves now. They are finding new things that upset old theories among scientists and are beginning to convince the public that they are all chasing "mare's nests."

History is comparatively new. It traces back only about four thousand years and for the first thousand years or so is very indefinite thing. There has been a good deal of postulating of man during the past two thousand years and some of the latest figures of anthropology like A. J. Huxley, Joseph and Moses challenge the world of geologists today to produce 100 equals or superiors. Joseph's theory in relation even today into the past, out and back on a par with his giant ancestors. Dr. Peabody, who is French and eminent scientist, several months ago made the statement that man has developed here in three thousand years, for then he was apparently as capable of absorbing and preserving knowledge as he is today. It appears the race moves in cycles and fortunes are being spent now to try and uncover knowledge of some of the things that men knew when history opens the story of the race. We are fighting and talking about fighting just as did our distant ancestors and the stakes remain about the same. Selfishness still drives man to war as it drove Cain to kill his brother Able.—Lexington Dispatch.

DANVILLE MAN MAY OPERATE MINE IN CALDWELL

There is a probability that a kaolin and aluminum mine will be developed on a big scale in a short distance from Patterson. The property is located about eight miles from here. E. T. Booth, cashier of the First National Bank of Danville, Va.; M. E. Warren and Charles Guenther, mining engineers, also of Danville, owners of the property, were here a few days ago. The property is known as the Harper-Jackson property and consists of about 150 acres.

The survey and explorations were made by Mr. Guenther some time ago. He reports that there are valuable deposits of kaolin, aluminum, tin, etc. There are well defined veins and not mere pockets, as the way Mr. Guenther described the property.

The estimated cost of the development is placed at \$50,000 by Mr. Guenther. A tunnel will have to be dug and this is placed at \$25,000. The minerals taken out in building this tunnel would more than pay for the cost of building it. Engineer Guenther's report also covers a water power development for furnishing power for the development of the mining property.

The owners of the property do not make any statement as to how early they expect to begin mining operations. It is believed here, however, that work will be started before summer is over.

The visit of the owners to this property several days ago has caused a number of rumors to get in circulation about them, that it is a big gold mining property that will result in making the mountain to develop it. This rumor has it that there are millions of dollars in gold buried between the mountain. This same rumor says that one local concern tried to buy \$50,000 worth of stock in this gold mining enterprise, but because the stock was turned down by men who owned the property.—Lenoir News Topic.

Johnson City, Tenn.—J. W. Higgins, who died in a Marion (N. C.) hospital early the past week as a result of injuries sustained by being struck by an automobile driven by Elias Hensley, a 16-year-old youth, left \$800,000 in cash and realty to the Methodist Church. He was president in 1914 and 1915 of the N. C., and one of the outstanding financiers of the western section of the State. He was 81 years old and childless. He left a farm valued at \$16,000 to a nephew, Joe Higgins.

an ANNOUNCEMENT

We are now in our own home, in the new Watauga County Bank Block on Main Street and we are in a much better position to serve you than we have ever been before.

We are unable to express our thanks in words, to the good people of this County for the loyal support and patronage you have given us all our life of 3 years in your midst, and your cooperation and support is fully solicited in the future.

Our first aim is service and courtesy and we will leave no stone unturned to accommodate and serve anyone as long as such does not conflict with good business principles.

Our stock is more complete today than ever before and we shall try at all times to keep such merchandise as the people want and will be worth the price to you. We do not cater to the sales idea of putting off a lot of goods to get your money, but try to give you staple merchandise worth the price.

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