

MOUNTAIN COMMERCE.

STREAMS ARE THE PRINCIPAL HIGHWAYS IN EASTERN KENTUCKY.

How the Mountaineer Gets His Supplies. The "Push Boat" and the Method of Navigating It—Traveling Up Stream on the Big Sandy.

Among the many novelties which the stranger finds among the mountains of eastern Kentucky few will interest a man of a practical turn of mind more than the public highways. The mountain roads, except where a mountain gap is to be crossed, are the mountain streams. In consequence there is scarcely a cross road or four corners in this county outside of this, the only village in the county, but wherever a creek forks or a brook enters a creek the road forks.

Under Kentucky law the county judge decides where and how new roads shall be laid out. The ordinary mountain road is laid out six feet wide, and the roadway proper must be graded not less than two feet wide. But Judge Wagner, of this county, is an enterprising citizen, who desires to improve the country, and in consequence he has refused to issue any order for a year past for roads less than nine feet wide. This may seem narrow to northern farmers, who lay out private lanes at least a rod wide, but in a country where traveling is done on horseback, and where the vehicles for transporting goods of any sort, even in summer, are narrow sleds, the nine foot road is a novelty which has set the county talking.

Of course there are necessarily wagons wherever logging is done, but the log wagon sticks to beds of the streams, which are invariably wide and hollow, while the public highway winds along the bank of the stream and runs in the actual bed of the stream only where the configuration of the mountain sides on each bank of the stream makes it necessary. When the logging is done no effort is made to keep open the highway formed. These creek bed roads are excellent in warm weather, and low water in winter, and spring they are impassable for weeks.

The creek beds were originally selected for highways because very little labor was needed to make a highway out of a creek bed. There is not such a thing in Pike county as a big nigger head rock. The beds of the streams are of sand or sandstone, and there is never a rapid or water fall of such descent as to bother a team. Another very good reason for utilizing the creeks as roads was the fact that all the imports and exports of the mountains have been necessarily carried in and out on the rivers. The mountaineer's supplies have been brought up from the Ohio river ever since there was any one on the mountain, and generally the shortest route to the river, it was natural for the mountaineer to follow the creek down to its mouth to get his supplies at the stores which were located along the river.

The "push boat" is a scow 7 feet wide, 60 feet long and 18 inches deep. At one end there is a narrow house high enough for a man to stand upright in a high seat. The boat is very often got started up Pikeville, the head of navigation, only to get stranded on a bar, or to find themselves in a predicament between bars by the sudden fall of the water. Out of this uncertainty regarding the length of a steamer's passage and from the headwaters of the creeks, the creek boats on the Big Sandy, the head of navigation, called the push boats, are a very common sight. The push boat is a scow 7 feet wide, 60 feet long and 18 inches deep. At one end there is a narrow house high enough for a man to stand upright in a high seat.

The merchandise is piled on three wide planks that run the length of the boat, so as to cover a large part of the boat's bottom; but a clear gangway of at least fifteen inches in width is left along each side of the merchandise, no matter how great the load. These gangways are also floored by planks laid bilge-keelson fashion.

A boat like this will carry twelve to fifteen tons dead weight of goods on a draught of eight inches. There are over 100 of them regularly employed on the Big Sandy, and the cargoes carried up consist chiefly of the goods kept in the country stores. At certain seasons, particularly in the fall, down cargoes can be had.

When the boat is loaded the skipper climbs to his shelf and grasps the tiller. The crew of four men cast off the ropes and pick up their push poles. These poles are about ten feet long and from an inch and a half thick at the top to an inch and two inches thick at the bottom, where they are shod with a short pike. Two of the crew stand on the starboard bow and two on the port, one behind the other, and facing aft, place the lower ends of the push poles on the bottom of the stream, the upper ends against their outboard shoulders, and then, throwing their weight against the poles, they walk aft. As the poles cannot slip along the bottom, the boat is forced forward. The push boat is a horizontally acting treadmill. Of course, the men walk aft on the bilge planks, which are left clear of merchandise, so that they can walk there freely. It is distressing to a stranger—it makes him feel as if his own back was about to break—merely to look at the men as they shove the boat along; but the Big Sandy boatmen are a hardy and cheerful race, and not only do not fret and chafe over their toil, but even walk away to the tune of some rollicking song or ditty which they have learned from the favorite artist of a traveling theatrical troupe at Catelettsburg.

The men get \$1 a day each and board. The day runs from sunrise to sunset, and in that time four men will shove a boat from thirteen to fourteen miles up stream on the Big Sandy. The pilot is usually the owner of the boat. He gets twenty-five cents a hundred pounds for general merchandise brought from Catelettsburg to Pikeville, a distance of 100 miles. Flour he brings at \$1 a barrel. It is only when the boat has a full cargo and a prosperous passage, the boatman say, that the push boat owner gets any return on his investment, which, however, is not great for a good boat costs but \$60 or \$70. Pikeville (Ky.) Cor. New York Sun.

Thought He Could Stand It. "I thought I would be sorry to lose your sister, to sell to you, Johnny?" asked the visitor of the little boy who was weeping in the drawing room. "I thought I would be sorry to lose your sister, to sell to you, Johnny?" asked the visitor of the little boy who was weeping in the drawing room. "I thought I would be sorry to lose your sister, to sell to you, Johnny?" asked the visitor of the little boy who was weeping in the drawing room.

WHEELING THROUGH EUROPE.

A Bicycle Tourist Tells How Enjoyable Such Traveling Is.

One scarcely realizes, till he has tried it, how little is the expense of a bicycle trip through Europe. To the practical American, wheelman the first question is, "What does it cost?" From the experience of one who has been through the Trossachs of Scotland and the cathedral towns of England, who has ridden up the Rhine and climbed half a dozen or more of the Alpine passes in Switzerland, and has spent nearly a month each in the cities of London and Paris, the cost is found to have been little more than it would have been to have continued in the dull routine of home life. To be sure, there is the lost time of those who have only salaries in consequence. Once over the water, the traveler by ordinary means of conveyance is debating whether to go second or third class or to buy Cook's tourist's tickets or the regular ones, the wheelman selects an independent route and, without waiting upon the manner of going, goes. Besides, the great expense as it sometimes is by steam or horse power, on the contrary, over the perfect roads of Europe, is a means of enjoyable exercise that not only does not decrease the bank account, but increases the stock of physical health. After nearly four months, or 1,500 miles, of such delightful travel in the present case, the limited letter of credit is still found so bulky that a ride through southern France, along the Riviera, down through Italy and over to the Pyramids is to be undertaken soon.

But as to the cost, so far, in dollars and cents. While the English hotels are, as a rule, I think, more expensive than those on the continent, yet in either case, my expenses did not average over \$2 a day. In fact, through Belgium and Germany they were but \$1 a day. A wheelman travels so independently that he is not always obliged to stop over night at the larger cities, and is often content to avoid them by riding eight or ten miles further to some small inn. I found plenty of good food and a comfortable bed for half the money. Such a mode of traveling does not allow of the putting on of any great amount of stove, but my chief ambition was to see rather than to be seen of men. In London there are plenty of good, respectable, private boarding places to be found for \$1 or \$1.25 a day. To find them one needs only to inquire of some friend who has made an extended stay in London, or to apply to some American living there. I found a good place on Euston road, within a mile and a half, or a town of omnibus ride, of Fleet street, for \$1.50 a week. That included the room and attendance, a meat breakfast at 8:30 and a four or five course dinner at 6:30. The luncheon at 12, if had, was extra, but it was usually more convenient to take a light luncheon wherever I happened to be.

It is proverbial that Frenchmen like Americans better than almost any other class of foreigners, and this was, perhaps, shown to be so one afternoon when I was riding out in the Bois de Boulogne, that beautiful park of 2,200 acres just outside the fortifications towards the west. I was riding slowly along, listening to the music of the Grand Opera orchestra, which, to many of the listeners, must have been in pleasing contrast to the sound of the German shot and shell heard there so short a time ago, when a policeman stopped me and ordered me to go another way. I did not understand which way, but turned about and rode off. In about half an hour I met the same policeman in another drive. This time he was not so gesticulated wildly and talked so fast I could say nothing. Finally, when I could get in a word, I said I did not understand, and could only speak English. "You are an Englishman!" he said in French. I could understand, but without speaking down any. "No," I said, "I am an American." "Oh," he replied quickly, "pass on," and he stepped aside with a wave of his hand, as pleasantly as could be. I happened, I have since found out, to be riding in some of the drives from which we are prohibited. Many of the English and German wheelmen use little silver bells fastened to the handle bars as warnings to pedestrians, but in Switzerland, where the noise of running water drowns all other ordinary sounds in so many localities, I found that my shrill whistle even was insufficient, and would clear the road of the numerous pedestrians. Here in Paris the wheelmen have adopted the tram car horn, an instrument with a rubber bulb for forcing the air through, and, really, one blast from those pneumatic levers is enough to lift a whole regiment out of the road.—George B. Thayer in New York World.

Simple Method for Reanimation. At a meeting of the last congress of German scientists this subject was discussed, and Dr. H. Frank mentioned that there are but two ways to stimulate the heart—electricity and mechanical concussion of the heart. The first is considered dangerous by him as it may easily destroy the last power of contraction remaining in the organ. But what is termed "peccatoral concussion" is decidedly preferable. Dr. Frank's method is as follows: He flexes the hands on the wrist to an obtuse angle, places them both near each other in the iliocecal region, and makes vigorous strokes in the direction of the heart and of the diaphragm. These strokes are repeated eight or ten to twenty times, and are succeeded by a pause, during which he strikes the chest over the heart repeatedly with the palm of his hand. In favorable cases this method is early successful, and sometimes a twitching of the lids or the angles of the mouth appears with surprising rapidity as the first sign of returning life. As soon as these symptoms are noted, the simple manipulations above described must be earnestly continued and persevered in from a half to one hour, for, with their cessation, the phenomena indicating beginning of return of life also cease. Generally, the face assumes a slight reddish tint, and at the same time a faint pulsation may be felt in the carotids. By this method Dr. Frank has seen life return in fourteen cases, among whom were such as had hung themselves, drowned and asphyxiated by carbonic oxide, and in one case by croup.—Herald of Health.

Aid to Memory. Dumley (overtaking Brown on his way home to dinner)—Aren't you rather late to-night, Brown? Brown—Yes—washerwoman—washerwoman—washerwoman. Dumley—What are you mumbling "washerwoman" for? Brown—So that I wouldn't forget to advertise for a washerwoman in this afternoon's paper. My wife told me to keep repeating washerwoman, and I've kept it up all day, and (suddenly) by thunder! I didn't forget it after all. Washerwoman—washerwoman—washerwoman—washerwoman. Dumley—What are you mumbling "washerwoman" for? Brown—So that I wouldn't forget to advertise for a washerwoman in this afternoon's paper. My wife told me to keep repeating washerwoman, and I've kept it up all day, and (suddenly) by thunder! I didn't forget it after all. Washerwoman—washerwoman—washerwoman—washerwoman. Dumley—What are you mumbling "washerwoman" for? Brown—So that I wouldn't forget to advertise for a washerwoman in this afternoon's paper. 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