

SKILLFUL PADDLERS

CANOEISTS PREPARING FOR THE MEET ON LAKE CHAMPLAIN.

There Are Many American Disciples of Rob Roy McGregor and Their Annual Meets Furnish Great Amusement and Much Healthful Exercise.

[Special Correspondence.] ALBANY, July 14.—The pioneer of modern canoeing was Rob Roy McGregor. Nearly every one, whether canoeist or not, has read his tales of solitary paddling and sailing. The first to introduce the sport in America was W. L. Alden, whom commander of the American Canoe association and afterward consul general to Italy. He began experimenting about 1868. After him came N. H. Bishop, who might be called the great apostle of canoeing, for his books were read far and wide and



TWO KINDS OF WIND.

gave the sport a mighty impetus. From Montreal he sailed in a paper canoe through Lake Champlain, down the Hudson and along the coast of Florida. He also sailed down the Ohio and Mississippi in a sneak box—a sort of marine flatiron in shape—and his book descriptive of the journey had an enormous sale.

As late as 1870 there was but one club and only a hundred or so of canoeists in the United States. Many open canoes were then in use in Canada, and a few in the United States, but of decked cedar canoes there were probably not over 150 in the country up to 1870, all of the Rob Roy or Nautilus model. In 1870 the New York Canoe club held a regatta on New York bay, the first for five years, and, in fact, the first successful canoe regatta sailed in this country.

During the same summer a number of canoeists visited Lake George and were present at the rowing regatta off Crosbyside, and extra prizes were offered for canoe races, which were hurriedly arranged. Just above Crosbyside, the headquarters of the boating men, was the beautiful home of one of the earliest and most enthusiastic of America's canoeists, Mr. N. H. Bishop, and it was in his fertile brain that the idea of a national association of American canoeists first originated and the general scheme as well as its details was planned. Mr. Bishop was at the time disengaged from business, and he took up the new idea with all the dash and energy that characterize his many adventurous cruises.

In the highest story of his beautiful house, overlooking the lake far and near, he set up an amateur printing press, and in 1879 began his missionary work in behalf of canoeing. He was soon in correspondence with the leading English, Scotch and Canadian canoeists, and in a little while had made the acquaintance by letter with the few American canoeists, then disunited and isolated—a couple of dozen in New York, two or three in Cincinnati, one in San Francisco and others in different localities.

It was solely through Mr. Bishop's labors that the arrangements were made for the meet of canoeists at Crosbyside, Lake George, in August, 1880, with sailing and paddling races, those present to organize a national association. Help was promised from all quarters, but the promises were not kept, and when the first meeting was called to order only thirteen men responded. This baker's dozen of canoeists camped, paddled, sailed and talked, the result being that all went home full of enthusiasm and ready to come back the next year to the second meet of the American Canoe association, which they had organized, with Mr. Alden as commodore and Mr. Bishop as secretary.

During the next year the growth of the young organization was somewhat slow. Canoeing had not yet overcome the strong prejudice and ridicule which it excited at first, but the annual meet was successful and well attended. It was held on the Canoe islands, owned by Messrs. Bishop, Longworth and Wulstin, near Long Island. This year the first Canadian delegation (five canoes), led by Mr. Edwards and Colonel Harry Rogers, was present.

In 1882 the association had increased greatly and a most successful meet was held at the Canoe islands. In the following year a move was made to Canada, the camp being held at Stony lake, with the result that many Canadian canoeists joined.

As the meets increased in size it became evident that the Canoe islands were too small, while the winds on Lake George were not the best for canoe sailing.



THE WAR CANOE.

so in 1884 the camp was held on Grandstone island, in the St. Lawrence river, between New York and Canada. This beautiful spot so pleased the canoeists that the camp was held there in 1885 and 1886, the latter year being marked by the visit of the two English canoeists, W. Baden-Powell and Walter Stewart, with the Nautilus and Pearl, and their defeat by the American sailors. The American Canoe association's trophy was raced for this year for the first time. It was a handsome silver bowl, to be held by the winner for one year and returned to the next meet to be raced for again. Canoeists of all na-

tions to be admitted to the competition. In 1887 the association visited a new spot, Bow Arrow point, in Lake Champlain, one of the most beautiful of all camps. After going to Lake George once more in 1888, the association then went to the Thousand Islands, and in 1890 it held a salt water meet at Jessup's Neck, Peconic bay, Long Island.

Last year, from Aug. 6 to Aug. 27, the association met once more on Lake Champlain. It was the first time within its history when the meet lasted three weeks instead of two. The longer time given to it proved to be such a success that the meet will be of the same length this year. It has also been decided to hold the meet at the same place on Lake Champlain, which is known as Willisborough point. The surroundings are all that can be desired. The lake is at its widest breadth, about ten miles, at this point. Directly across is the flourishing city of Burlington, in Vermont. It is about twenty-five miles due north to Plattsburg, and perhaps sixty miles southward to Ticonderoga.

Next year the meet will go to Canada, it being the turn of the northern division to select the camping site. There are now four divisions in the association, for it has grown to a membership of about 2,500.

The present officers of the association have worked hard and faithfully to make the meet of 1892 a success. The commodore is Charles V. Winne and the purser is William B. Wackenhagen, both of Albany, it being the turn of the central division to have not only the chief officers, but also the location of the meet. The fruits of the meet are from Aug. 4 to Aug. 25, inclusive. The middle one of the three weeks will be devoted to racing, and all kinds of contests will be called, from the professional sailing for crack boats down to simple gymnastics that almost any canoeist can perform.

The canoe is particularly adapted for daring and perilous voyages, and in the hands of a skillful navigator is not nearly so dangerous a craft as is generally imagined. The canoeist sits in the center of his canoe, or hangs over the edge, and the rigging is so arranged that he can raise his sails, reef or take in sail, and manage the vessel without moving from his seat, and he can ride triumphantly over the stormy billows without fear of being swamped. Indeed, there are many records of canoeists having weathered storms that would have been fatal to the yacht.



THE SLIDING SEAT.

The art of canoeing calls for some very sterling qualities. The man who follows it must be brave, coolheaded, agile, strong and patient. Though the canoe may tip over, he must not "lose his head," but deftly right it again without shipping too much water. He must learn to sit in the canoe, tip it over, go under with it, make a complete turn and come up fresh as a daisy without showing any signs of distress. Unless a man can do this he is not good at all in an "upset race," in which all the contestants, after forming in line, at a given signal perform this feat before starting to paddle. It is awkward for the man who cannot make the aquatic somersault promptly, because his companions in the race might be paddling far away from him, while he, head down, waiting for help, might "pass into the immensities" before aid could reach him.

FREDERIC G. MATHER.

Guessed It Every Time. BINGHAMTON, N. Y., July 14.—The wit of the southern "Cracker" is illustrated in the following incident related by Colonel Thomas Markham, who recently returned from a trip to Florida. The colonel went to Florida to examine a tract of "valuable" land which he found had been sold by the gallon instead of by the acre. His ruminations on the return trip were therefore anything but pleasant, and as the train halted at a way station for water he decided to vent his rancor on a genuine "Cracker" who was cultivating a mealy patch of corn near the track.

"That's a handsome patch of corn," was the greeting.

"Fair, stranger, fair," was the nonchalant reply.

"That land won't raise over half a crop."

"Guess yer right, stranger; pap didn't plant only half a crop."

"Well, it won't be half grown," said the capitalist, growing red in the face.

"Yer guessed it agin, stranger, fer pap planted popcorn."

"You won't get over half a crop out of that dot gasted soil," roared the capitalist, his ire getting the best of him.

"Right agin, stranger," replied the "Cracker," leaning on his hoe. "Pap planted on shares," and the train moved out, bearing one disgusted passenger amid the roaring crowd. G. C. R.

International Tugs-of-war. For some little time a rage has prevailed in San Francisco for "tugs-of-war," one nationality being pitted against another. A result of this craze was a very comical little scene witnessed in one of the more private streets near the limits of Chinatown. Five small Chinamen in their pretty bright silk dresses were holding a "tug-of-war" with five white children. None of the little ones appeared to be more than nine years old, and the play was got up and managed entirely by themselves with an amusing correctness of detail.

UNEXPECTED ANSWERS.

Rare Specimens of Repartee Gathered from Many Sources. Unexpected answers have been given by others than children or uneducated people. Lord Houghton relates an anecdote of a lady friend who was somewhat famous for this kind of retort. An acquaintance was lamenting over the sad fate of a relative who had made an unfortunate marriage, and concluded: "What would you do in such a case? I am sure I should die."

"No, I should kill," was the brisk rejoinder. One of the most startlingly unanticipated replies on record was that of the "Mother's help," a young lady versed in all present-day female attainments, who, in reply to the address, "I want a person of some experience in the nursery; do you know much about children?" cheerfully retorted, "Oh, dear, yes; I've dissected a baby."

Kindly people who attempt to pay compliments are often rebuffed by unexpected replies. Sir Walter Scott tells of a good natured minister who complimented an old Highlander on his extraordinary memory. "Yes, but I only remember things here and there; things that take my fancy," said the old Gael. "Why sir, if you were to preach to me for an hour I should not remember a word of it next day."

"Do you know, Johnny, I am often afraid I shall never meet you in heaven," said a Sunday school teacher to a rebellious urchin. "Lor, miss, whatever bad things have you been a-doin' of?" retorted the scandalized Johnny. There are some occasions on which it is gratifying to hear an unexpected reply. Nothing is more irritating than to converse with a person who "knows exactly" what his companion is about to say, and who "takes the words out of his mouth" with exasperating readiness. The American poet has satirized this description of speaker in his account of how "an aged man" calls on a devoted adherent of the north during the civil war and commences, "I was with Grant."

"Say no more," cries the eager host, forcing hospitality and honors upon the supposed companion in arms of the Federal leader. The visitor vainly struggles to complete his sentence, but only after a banquet and an ovation is permitted to finish, "I was with Grant in Illinois three years before the war." Many an interesting illusion has been shattered by an unexpected answer. A party of tourists at a well known ruin asked the custodian if they might carry away some of the fragments of stone which were lying in the embrasure of an historic window. "Oh, dear, yes," was the reply; "it does no harm to the window. I put fresh bits there every day on purpose for visitors to take." Equally disappointing was the reply of the famous chef, who, when bribed to reveal his secret for "roasting a turbot," coolly replied, "Vel, sare, I no roast him at all; I put him in de oven and bake him."—London Standard.

The Echo of a Kiss. The following interesting table of statistics is believed to possess a true scientific accuracy. It appears to be the record of a drummer, and may be considered authentic. He gave it the title which we have retained, meaning, apparently, what each girl said:

- Boston Girl—Mr. Bunkerill, your conduct shocks me beyond utterance. New York Girl—Thanks, awfully, don't you know. Providence Girl—Oh, mamma! Philadelphia Girl—Are you sure nobody saw us? Baltimore Girl—Dear George! Washington Girl—Well, I suppose I'll have to pardon you. Pittsburg Girl—Oh, Harry! Cincinnati Girl—What had I for? Indianapolis Girl—Ah, there! Chicago Girl—More! More! Detroit Girl—Well, I declare! Louisville Girl—Yum, yum! St. Louis Girl—How shocking! Nashville Girl—Oo! Oo! Atlanta Girl—Golly! New Orleans Girl—Oh, my! Kansas City Girl—Break away, there! Denver Girl—Gosh! San Francisco Girl—Rats! Texas Girl—Whoop! Every Girl—Oh, don't!—New York Sun.

What the Trouble Was. Employer—I was sorry to learn, Mr. Jennings, that you were too ill to attend to your duties at the office yesterday. What seems to be the trouble? Mr. Jennings (the clerk, absentmindedly)—Poor battling and no good men in the infirm!—that is—I mean— Employer—with great dignity—I think I understand what you mean, Mr. Jennings. I can't ask a man to work for me any longer who is afflicted that way.—Chicago News-Record.

Too Long. The most practical lover has been discovered at West Hartlepool, England. In one of his letters to his sweetheart he wrote: "I wish, my darling, that you would not write me such long letters. If you were to bring an action for breach of promise against me the lawyers would copy the correspondence between us and charge fourpence for every folio of seventy-two words. The shorter the letters the more we save from the lawyers."

Seeds That Failed. Fair Patron—Those morning glories you sold me are no use. Seedsman—What's the matter, ma'am? "They never open."

"Those seeds, mum, was imported direct from China, mum, and it bein day over there when it's night here, I suppose, mum, they do their blossomin after you get to sleep."—New York Weekly.

Advertising Pays. In a certain cemetery, which shall be nameless, there is a gravestone with this inscription: "Mr. Charles Fiest will repose here; at present he is still alive and carrying on the shoemaking business at 900 High street."—London Tit-Bits.

Explicit Directions. The Skipper—I say, gov'nor, you'd be more comfortable if you didn't lie on your stomach. Gov'nor—freely from the bottom of the boat—Stomach—yes—fold it up, please, and—put it in the lining of my hat.—Life.



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