

# A HISTORIC RIDE.

## RIVAL EXPRESS COMPANIES RACE THEIR MESSENGERS.

Bill Lowden Tells the Story of an Event That Thirty-seven Years Ago Stirred Up the People of the Pacific States. A Great Hundred Mile Run.

All over California and perhaps in every one of the Pacific states men are living today who remember the wonderful feat of horsemanship known as "Bill Lowden's Ride," which was performed thirty-seven years ago. Tehama, on the Sacramento river, was the starting point; Weaverville, in Trinity county, the terminal one. The distance was a good 100 miles, most of the last forty being made in the night over mountain trails and through heavy timber. The distance was accomplished in five hours and thirteen minutes—unexampled time for a ride of 100 consecutive miles under existing circumstances. We let Mr. Lowden tell the story of his wild ride.

"In the latter part of the year 1851 Adams & Co. and Wells, Fargo & Co., the rival express companies, with Cram, Rodgers & Co. and Rhodes & Whitney, the connecting companies between Shasta and Weaverville, commenced racing their express with horseback messengers. After many hard races had been run, first one and then the other winning, in December, 1854, it seemed to have been arranged by the chief companies that they would run the president's message from San Francisco to Portland on the arrival of the mail steamer and then stop racing.

"Great preparations were made for the race, and all the fast horses along the road were pressed into service. As high as \$100 was paid to owners of horses for the privilege of riding them from three to five miles. Everything was in readiness about the 28th of December. Horses were placed about four miles apart by each company, every horse having a man to care for him, with an extra horse to ride himself. At least that is the way I had my stock arranged. Both relays of horses were under saddle from the 28th day of December, 1854, until the 2d day of January, 1855, on which date I made my part of the race. I rode for Adams & Co.

"The race was a very close one from San Francisco to Tehama. Wells, Fargo & Co. led to Marysville. Between Marysville and Tehama Lusk, Adams & Co.'s messenger passed Wells, Fargo & Co.'s rider, and the Mexican who took the bags from Lusk reached Tehama first and crossed to the Tehama side of the river just as Wells, Fargo & Co.'s messenger arrived at the opposite bank and jumped into the boat.

"Now my race commenced. I sprang into the saddle, with saddlebags weighing fifty-four pounds, and rode nineteen hours to Shasta without touching the ground but once during that part of the race. That was at the Prairie House, where Tom Finn, the man in charge of my horse, had got into a fight with the man who kept Wells, Fargo & Co.'s horse, and had let my horse (Tom McTurk's gray) go loose. I saw the situation, and riding my tired horse a little past where the fight was going on, sprang to the ground, caught the fresh horse by the tail as he was running away from me and went into the saddle over his rump. I turned to the horse I had just left with the express bags, pulled them over to my fresh horse and went on. I lost about one minute here. All other changes I made while the horses were running, the keeper leading the horse I was to ride and riding his extra one. I could make my coming known with a whistle about one-half mile before reaching the change, giving ample time to tighten the cinch and start the fresh horse on the road, and by the time I overtook him the keeper would have my horse in a gallop.

"Reached Shasta—sixty miles—in two hours and thirty-seven minutes. I was detained there about two minutes to divide the express matter. I taking the Weaverville portion and Jack Horsely the through pouch for Portland. I had nine changes of horses between Shasta and Weaverville and reached the latter place in five hours and thirteen minutes from the time I left Tehama. From Shasta to Weaverville, forty miles, the ride was made after dark, with a light snow falling, but when I reached the mountains and had my faithful horses to ride—Wildcat, Comanche, Greyhound, Pompey, Jack and the Bill Klix horse—a little snow did not make much difference in speed. But I was myself in bad condition at the end of this ride. I had lost my cap and my hair was a solid mass of ice. I wore no clothing except flannel drawers, undershirt and boots, unless my belt, with pistol and knife, might be considered clothing. The cold first seemed to penetrate me when I threw the express bags into the office at Weaverville. I had not felt it before.

"I was so far ahead of Wells, Fargo & Co.'s messenger at Shasta that they stopped the race so far that company was concerned. It was well that they stopped, for Jack Horsely made a splendid ride to Yreka, and was half way to that place when Wells, Fargo & Co.'s messenger reached Shasta. My stock and help for this race cost Adams & Co. about \$2,000. I made other races, long and short, but considering the weight I carried, the weather and the time of day that I made it, I have always believed this to be my best one.

More may be said in regard to the narrator's condition on arriving at Weaverville. The five hours' strain on nerve, mind and muscle had produced complete exhaustion, and it was always related that when Mr. Lowden sprang, or rather slid, from his horse he dropped to the sidewalk, and had to be assisted to bed. But a thorough rubbing, an occasional poultice of "Mountain Balm" and a good sleep soon revived the hero of the greatest race ever made in northern California.—Rohrerville Herald.

Abul-Hassan, an Arabian horologist who lived in the Thirteenth century, was the first man to introduce the equal hour theory.

## Soudanese Troops in Battle.

I was told a delightful story of one recent action in which the Soudanese troops took a prominent part. The enemy was under cover not far off, but the firing line of blacks were blazing away at him as fast as they could open and close their rifles. In vain their officers tried to stop them. The waste of ammunition threatened to become extremely serious, and their commanding officer, a Scotchman who had seen many fights with them, losing his temper, rode up and down behind the line cursing them with every abusive epithet in a fairly adequate vocabulary of Arabic invective, but entirely without effect. At last one of them happened to turn and discovered the beloved bey in evidently a very excited state of mind. He at once rose, ran back to him, and patting him reassuringly on the foot he said: "Don't be frightened, bey. It's all right. We're here. We'll take care of you!"

The Scotch bey, however, was equal to the occasion. He rode out through the line, and walked his horse up and down in front of the rifles. "Now," he said, "if you must fire, fire at me!" After this it is not surprising to read in dispatches that this officer has twice recently had his horse shot under him.—Contemporary Review.

## Jay Gould's Book.

Occasionally some person knocks at the door of Jay Gould's office in the Western Union building with a copy of "The History of Delaware County, New York," by Jay Gould, to sell. An impression exists in the minds of many people that Mr. Gould is desirous of suppressing this publication as completely as possible, and that he will pay almost any price to get possession of the few stray copies that are left. Residents of Delaware county are authority for the statement that several years ago an agent of Mr. Gould's scoured that county for these books and bought nearly all of them at fancy prices. When- ever a copy of this particular history of Delaware county is displayed in that county at the present day the older residents will advise the owner, "Jist you take that down ter New York, an Jay Gould'll give yer thirty or forty dollars for it." It is certain that nobody in Mr. Gould's office ever heard of his paying any such price for one of those books. And nobody is able to explain why Mr. Gould should want to suppress the publication, unless it is that he thinks there is too much sentiment in it for a man of his present reputation.—New York Times.

## The Unreasoning Crowd.

Speaking of the queer things to be seen on the streets, it is really astonishing how instinctively one person imitates another. A man with a passion for psychological research has been proving this by some experiments which are, to say the least of it, original. Going along about dusk the other night in advance of a small party of folk, he suddenly turned out into the muddy street, as if avoiding something in front. Unquestioningly every person behind did the same thing in spite of the mire. It isn't likely that they felt the full humorous force of the incident in quite the way he did, however, when they saw him face about and walk calmly back in the beaten path. The sheep went to all the trouble of jumping over a bar of dust, to be sure, but it would really seem worth while if human beings could think a little more independently and for themselves. The truth of it is, it is just this blind unreasoning herding together that leads to half the accidents and panics which are cropping up on all sides.—Boston Transcript.

## Antidotes for Snake Poison.

The effect of snake bite depends partly on the condition of the snake and partly on that of the person bitten and the part attacked. No effectual antidote has yet been discovered. Ammonia and permanganate of potassium will not suffice, although a solution of the latter will take away the poisonous property of the snake's venom if it be mixed therewith. Immediate amputation of a bitten toe or finger is the best course, as the delay of a few seconds may suffice to convey the poison into the patient's circulation. If from the nature of the part bitten amputation cannot be performed, a very tight ligature applied after cauterization and sucking the part is the best course, and the administration of stimulants is generally recommended.—Quarterly Review.

## Rice and Wheat at Weddings.

Throwing rice and wheat at a wedding is a relic of an old Roman custom, and has probably been common in England since Roman times. Brand gives several authorities for it. Friend refers to the case of the bride of Henry VII at Bristol in 1486, when wheat was thrown upon her with the greeting, "Welcome and good luck!"

Rice is used similarly at weddings in India, and the substitution of this grain for wheat in our own country of late years may be partly due to that fact; but where wheat cannot readily be come at rice would naturally suggest itself as a substitute.—Notes and Queries.

## A Physician's Fees.

South Africa responds to modern innovations. A recent traveler in Kaffirland tells this incident:

As we were upscaling, there passed us a man driving a small flock of goats and several head of cattle. This was the husband of a lady physician who is ruining the practice of the local witch doctors, and he was taking home his wife's fee for attending a patient.—Youth's Companion.

## Not the Man in Question.

A laborer in a rough felt hat and long smock walked the other day into the Shakespeare library, and after looking attentively for some time at one of the custodians, went up to him and said, "I say, zar, be you Mr. Shakespeare as I've heerd 'n speak ov?" The custodian explained to Hodge that he was not the gentleman referred to.—London Telegraph.

## THE VOICE WITHOUT A WORD.

Beside the rounded ridges of the deep I sat me down in silent fantasy; A mother wind laid all the sails asleep Upon the cradle of the Summer sea. No sound but that of waves that followed save Across the shining yellow sand was heard; But all their tones grew one in concert grave— The Voice without a word.

I sat before an altar and a shrine, Beyond the shadows of the crystallized light The organist, with fervent divine, Prayed for the willing keys a blessing soft, That filled the crannies of the cloistered air Like spread wings of some immortal bird; And once again it came and thrilled me there— The Voice without a word.

The arms of night held close the sleeping earth, I laid me down and watched the lambent west, And saw the star fields and the giant breath Of Nature. And within my secret breast The flood of song across its barriers broke, And all the chords of being greatly stirred; But tongue and pen fell mute; alone there spoke The Voice without a word.

—W. J. Henderson in New York Times.

## Fond of Simple Diet.

The Astor House has among its regular patrons of the lunch counter in the rotunda one gentleman who for a period of ten years, summer and winter, has scarcely varied his diet for his noonday meal.

He is a tall, athletic man, always well dressed and appears to be, if not wealthy, a man in excellent circumstances. It must be from choice then and not pecuniary reasons that each day in the year he orders regularly a bowl of milk and a plate of crackers, and concludes the repast with a chocolate éclair in winter and a dish of berries in summer.

The gentleman for fully a half score of years has not altered this order. Whether he is interested in a dairy and desires to popularize a milk diet no one seems to know. That the food agrees with him is evident from his appearance, and a mere glance only is conclusive evidence that he most thoroughly enjoys the refreshing repast.—New York Herald.

## Area and Population of the World.

The data given in "Die Bevölkerung der Erde" show that the area of the world is 52,269,431 square miles and the population 1,479,729,151, an average of twenty-eight to the square mile. Ravenstein's revised estimate for 1890 gives the area at 51,250,800, the population at 1,467,929,000, and twenty-nine to the square mile, and estimates the increase of the world's population in a decade (1880-90) at 8 per cent.

In computations of this kind several totals, particularly in Asia and Africa, have to be obtained by estimate. It is quite possible that the total population reaches more nearly 1,500,000,000 than the figures given. In any event the latter in round numbers are more practical and easier to remember.—Chicago Tribune.

## Moving Sand Hills.

In the arid lands of central Asia the air is reported as often laden with fine detritus, which drifts like snow around conspicuous objects and tends to bury them in a drift. Even when there is no apparent wind the air is described as thick with fine dust, and a yellow sediment covers everything. In Khotan this dust sometimes so obscures the sun that at midday one cannot see to read fine print without a lamp. The tales of the overwhelming of travelers by sandstorms in Saraha are familiar to every schoolboy.—Goldthwaite's Geographical Magazine.

## Influence of Superstition.

When we stop to think, we wonder how real the silly superstitions, in which nobody believes, are in their influence upon our actions. We hesitate to start on a journey on Friday; we walk out in the mud rather than go under a ladder; we don't give knives or sharp instruments to our friends, and we don't do a hundred things that we might, all because, though we are not superstitious, we would rather not do what suggests anything disagreeable.—Harper's Bazar.

## Gypsy Superstition About Witches.

Those people who suffer from a witch fall into a kind of lycanthropy. They are characterized by a pale, sunken countenance, hollow, mournful eyes, swollen lips and flabby, listless arms. At night they often change themselves into wolves and do great harm. Transformed into dogs, they must accompany the witches on their nightly forays.—Philadelphia Ledger.

## She Told the Truth.

"Maria Jane," said a fond mother the other morning to her daughter, "did Daniel Jamieson kiss you on the steps last night?" "No, mamma; he did not." If the fond parent had said "lips" instead of "steps," it would have troubled Maria Jane to reply.—Exchange.

The horse's intelligence has been so marked by every nation, ancient and modern, that he has always been taken as a symbol of the human intellect or understanding. Hence in the mythology of all nations he has been used as a symbol of the intellectual principle.

The harbor of New Haven, England, presents an excellent example of the extensive use of plastic inset concrete, this material having been almost exclusively used in the construction of that massive breakwater.

The poor of Paris know how to spend a little money in a way that approaches the genteel. At the tables in front of the cafes they sip their cheap red wine with the air of persons of leisure.

No opening could be discovered through which an enormous beetle came to be included in a solid log of wood which was discovered in a ship's hold in Portsmouth.

Old books are not forged. It has been tried, but the deception is sure to be discovered. The old paper and old type cannot be made now.

## Nebraska Weather Report.

The period of ten days covered by this bulletin has been generally cold with less than the average rainfall and about the average amount of sunshine.

The temperature has averaged from four to six degree below the normal and the sunshine was about average excepting in the extreme southeast where the period was generally cloudy. There was a light frost on the night of June 1 doing some damage to tender vegetables.

In the southeastern portion of the state the rainfall was slightly above normal, ranging from an inch to over an inch and a half; over the remainder of the state it was generally below normal.

Corn planting is nearly finished in most parts of the state; much of that planted before the middle of May is a poor stand and in many instances has required replanting; that planted later is coming up nicely and in some places cultivating is commenced. Small grain is generally in excellent condition and rye and winter wheat are heading out. The season continuing about two weeks late.

Fruit of all kinds seems to have been injured by the cold wet weather and the indications now are that the crop will be light.

## NORTHEAST SECTION.

Antelope—Weather fine; all crops in good shape; everything growing splendid; corn about all planted; light frost Wednesday night.

Cedar—Corn all planted and some coming up.

Collax—Good weather for crops; corn is backward and small grain looking poorly.

Cuming—Corn nearly all planted. Dakota—Corn mostly planted except on low grounds; small grain looking well; grass backward.

Dixon—Corn is about all planted but is two weeks late; some is up and cultivated once; small grain looks finely.

Holt—Ground in fine condition; planting nearly done and corn coming up; small grain good.

Knox—Corn planting about finished and the earlier planted up and in good condition.

Platte—Corn not all planted, and much of the early planted had to be replanted; rye heading.

Pierce—Some corn to plant; some up and being plowed, but too cold for corn to grow well.

## SOUTHEAST SECTION.

Cass—Corn planting mostly done; winter wheat and rye are heading out but straw short; spring grain very backward and looks yellow and sickly.

Clay—Wheat and oats look fairly well; corn very backward, coming up very slowly and apparently will be a thin stand; clover and timothy excellent.

Fillmore—Corn two-thirds planted; no plums and cherries to speak of.

Gage—Some corn to plant yet, much of the first planting rotted; that planted later coming up and doing well; oats short but looking finely.

Jefferson—Ground too wet to work and planting not yet completed.

Johnson—Planting about done on uplands; three-fourths through on the lowlands.

Nicholls—Wheat and grass looking remarkably well; corn nearly all planted and the first planting coming up well.

Otoe—Rain has retarded work; corn not all planted yet.

Pawnee—Corn not all planted; some coming up; apple blossoms killed by cold and rainy weather.

Richardson—Heavy rains delayed corn planting but corn now nearly all planted.

Saunders—Corn planting all done and crops looking well.

Seward—Corn planting about finished; some replanting done; oats does not improve much; wheat looks fairly well.

Thayer—Ninety-five per cent of the corn planted; early corn up, but part will be planted over, oats and wheat looking well.

York—Crops progressing slowly; corn nearly all planted; replanting early planted.

## CENTRAL SECTION.

Dawson—General rain June 1 made the ground wet enough to delay planting; wheat doing finely; corn backward.

Greeley—Corn nearly all planted; too cold for corn; light frost Thursday; wheat and oats looking well.

Hall—Weather favorable for farm work but too cold for corn, some to plant yet.

Loup—Early corn coming up, but looks poorly, corn nearly all in; early sown wheat looks well; late sown wheat on spring plowing not so well.

Merrick—Rye, wheat and oats very backward; corn on the uplands all up and does not seem to need replanting; some of the lowlands not plowed yet.

Nance—Planting mostly done. Sherman—Corn planting finished, but some replanting; coming up nicely.

Valley—Early planted corn not so badly rotted was supposed. Wheeler—Small grain in good condition; most of corn up and cultivating begun.

SOUTHWEST SECTION. Chase—Corn about all planted; prospects for small grain never better at this time of year. Dundy—Corn coming slowly.

Furnas—Corn mostly planted; fruit doing nicely; small grain and alfalfa looking well.

Hayes—Corn planting is about all finished; small grain doing well; rye and winter wheat are headed out.

Hitchcock—Weather good for wheat; most of the corn is up and looking well.

Kearney—An unusual acreage of corn listed, fall wheat looks well. Red Willow—Rather too cool for crops; rye all headed out and small grain looking well.

## WESTERN SECTION.

Lincoln—Frost on June 1 but no damage reported; small grain doing remarkably well; corn backward.

Logan—Small grain in fine condition; much corn being replanted especially that which was listed on heavy soil.

Scotts Bluff—Corn nearly all planted; but weather too cold for growth; some corn has to be replanted; wheat and oats growing slowly; pasture good.

## NORTHWEST SECTION.

Brown—Ground very cold, still sowing wheat on the low grounds where it was too wet before.

Cherry—Little corn planted and much of the ground yet to be plowed.

Keya Paha—Crops late, but looking well; corn planting about two-thirds done.

Sheridan—Small grain all in and much corn planted.

GODWIN D. SWEZEY, G. A. LOVELAND, Director, Weather Bureau Assistant.

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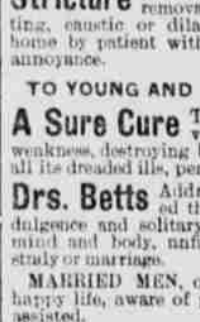
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