

Food from the Antarctic

By John Dickinson Sherman

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

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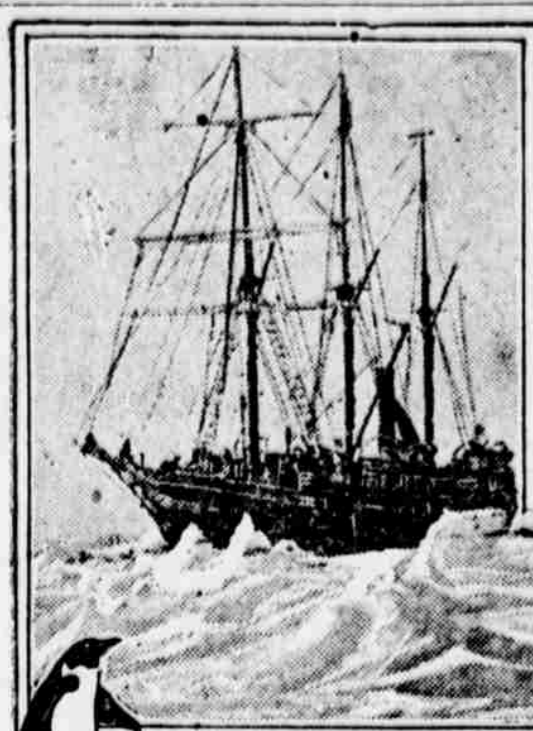
LESSON FOR JULY 25

DAVID SUCCEEDS SAUL AS KING

Sure Relief

BELL-ANS
FOR INDIGESTION

6 BELL-ANS Hot water Sure Relief



THE ENDURANCE IMPRISONED



YOUNG GREY SEAL



SEA ELEPHANTS



ADEPT ON A FLOE



A MOTHER PENGUIN



END OF THE ENDURANCE

FOOD from the Antarctic by airplane freighter! So prophesies Sir Ernest Shackleton, the famous explorer, now on his way for the third time to the "Bottom of the World."

Points which seem to indicate that Sir Ernest is at least a near-prophet, if nothing more, are these:

The high price of food, especially meat, shows no prospect of substantial reduction.

The world shortage of meat is increasing, with apparently no chance of production catching up with consumption.

The likes and dislikes of the civilized world for certain kinds of meat are largely psychological.

Nature has provided edible animals just as palatable and nourishing as those commonly used for food.

The animal food supply of the antarctic regions is varied and apparently inexhaustible.

The present progress in airplanes and airships is so rapid that it seems foolish to set bounds to their future development.

Sir Ernest says he knows sea elephants, sea lions, seals, penguins and other animals and birds of the antarctic are edible. Well, he should know what he's talking about. He certainly had a chance to find out on his second antarctic expedition.

Although Cook, as far back as 1774, got south as far as 71 degrees 15 minutes, and Weddell, Ross, Borchgrevink, and De Gerlache did valuable exploration work between 1823 and 1900. It was not until Capt. Robert F. Scott's first expedition in 1902 that the world really became interested in the south pole. For some reason the race for discovery honors was principally toward the north pole. Shackleton followed Scott in 1909. Then Roald Amundsen reached the south pole in 1911. Scott also reached it a few days later.

Shackleton's second party left Buenos Aires October 27, 1914, aboard the Endurance, a small, sturdy ship, built especially to withstand the onslaught of the ice. In addition to the crew, scientists and explorers, the Endurance carried nearly 40 dog teams, which later proved of untold value in aiding the party to cross the ice on their historic journey back to civilization.

The first step of the expedition was at South Georgia, the southernmost outpost of the human race, where arrangements had previously been made for taking on supplies to last through the winter. Seal-meat was a feature of these supplies.

The Endurance started again toward the "Bottom of the World." For weeks the ship upheld her name gallantly, fighting her way through the treacherous antarctic seas. Each day the journey became more difficult and more dangerous. With colder weather and heavier ice the members of the expedition came to realize that it was only a question of days until they would have to give up the journey until spring should break the ice again.

At three degrees from their destination, the white horror of the antarctic closed in upon them. Weeks were spent in attempts to clear the way to the open sea, but all to no avail. The ice was relentless. And then the sun set, not to rise again till spring. Months were spent in preparation for the final dash to the pole. Everything was in readiness. Then, as Shackleton puts it, "the little party lost its hope and its hopes."

The Endurance was crushed by the pressure of the ice, which followed on the heels of a terrific blizzard, such as could occur only in the polar regions. The ice tore the rudderpost from the ship and a few moments later she was thrown sideways to an angle of forty-five degrees.

The entire party was forced to abandon the doomed vessel, removing all necessary supplies. A few weeks later the ice ground the ship to pieces—at last sending it to the bottom.

With the possibility of reaching the pole beyond all human endeavor, the expedition started on the long and perilous return journey. With the crew

dragging the heavy life boats the dog teams went ahead to break a pathway. After weeks of traveling it was found impossible to move the entire party, so they settled down for a stay on the ice. Then the ice broke. For more than ten months the expedition floated about on a great floe, helpless.

At last the huge "raft" became unsafe. One night it broke directly through the center, dropping several men into the sea. As the ice raft grew smaller and the sea became more perilous it was decided to risk everything in a desperate attempt to reach civilization in the small life boats.

Later, seeing the impossibility of transporting the entire party at one time, Shackleton started out with five of his companions for South Georgia, the nearest point of civilization, nearly 800 miles away.

They landed on the uninhabited side. Leaving three of his companions, Sir Ernest started for the Stromness whaling station, 32 miles away, over a rough sea with huge ice cakes threatening to smash the little craft. He finally reached his destination.

As soon as arrangement could be made Shackleton with a new ship and supplies started back to rescue his companions. Following their rescue, the entire expedition, without the loss of a man, steamed into Valparaiso harbor, while the guns of the Chilean navy roared welcome. Then came the triumphal return to England.

So you see Sir Ernest had plenty of opportunity to find out that the animal life of the antarctic was "edible." What he thinks of the general proposition to use the food resources of the antarctic in feeding the world may be seen from these extracts from a letter written this summer, to an American friend, just as he was starting from London on his third expedition:

"My Dear Chap—When you receive this I shall probably be on the ship on my way to the frozen south, to clear up the scientific questions that were left undone by the destruction of the Endurance.

"One thing I have been forced to overlook through the pressure of events, and that is a question close to the hearts—or I should say stomachs—of humanity. It is the food question.

"It is apparent that the world is getting short of meat. Consumption is outstripping production, and the condition is becoming more serious daily. Before long we shall be forced to eat meat that today, although it is good food, is filling the skins of interesting zoological specimens.

"Human nature is peculiar about eating. Pretty and ugly, ferocious and kindly animals of the zoo, to the average man, are nature's creatures for his entertainment. He does not realize that most of these animals are common sights to some of the earth's inhabitants and most of them are used as food.

"The inhabitants of South Africa (I mean the whites, the Boers), than whom there are no more intelligent or physically perfect people, have been eating most of our zoo animals since their settlement in Africa, nearly 300 years ago. Also in the vast regions of ice there are millions of edible animals, whose flesh, with proper cooking, is just as nourishing and just as palatable as any other meat.

"On the great ice continent at the bottom of the world sea elephants, sea lions, seal, penguin, etc., have bred unmolested for thousands of years. They are edible, I know,

"In the Robertson-Cole expedition to the bottom of the world I particularly made a study of these animals as a possible food supply. I found the vast ice continent at our south has the greatest food supply in the world. It is the refrigerating plant that humanity will ultimately turn to with flying freighters—and they will come as sure as the flying machine is here—carrying the meat from the cold south to the civilized distributing centers.

"There will be no difficulty in tapping this great supply from the great freezer where ice and storage will cost nothing. This may seem remote, but in my opinion it is not. Because of the rapid growth of the automobile, telegraph and flying machine, I expect to see the time of great flying freighters that will solve the problem of the distribution of foods.

"I shall arrange, before I return to the south in a few days, to have a quantity of the food that we used in the south sent to the United States. Some of the medical societies here have eaten sea elephant, penguin, seals and sea lions and pronounced them first class foods.

"I would like you to arrange with one of the big educational institutions, such as Harvard, to give a dinner to a number of scientific men and students of humanity's needs, using this meat on the menu. This would bring before the people immediately the desirability of investigating the antarctic food supply and familiarize them with the idea of eating the food that I know from experience can be recommended.

"When I reach Chile I perhaps shall read in the paper something that you have done along this line; at least I hope so.

"With best wishes, yours,
"ERNEST SHACKLETON."

Eating sea elephants is only a step farther than we have gone already. Arctic explorers have lived on seal meat and thrived. Vilhjalmur Stefansson achieved lasting fame by proving to the world that a civilized man can penetrate the polar regions, going light and living "off the country," subsisting on the animals he can secure by gun and trap. Whale meat has been tried and found excellent on the Pacific coast. The United States government is introducing many strange kinds of fish as first-rate food—including sharks and sting-rays and dogfish.

As a matter of fact, our present food likes and dislikes are really largely psychological. The flesh of a young dog is good meat in every sense of the word—if you only think so. Veteran big-game hunters swear that the most toothsome and most nourishing meat on earth is that of the big cats. Those who have eaten it say that a rattlesnake is as good as an eel. Vernon Bailey, chief field naturalist of the United States biological survey, says in "Wild Animals of Glacier National Park" that the mountain rat's flesh is "as delicate and delicious as that of quail or any of the game animals" and that ground squirrels and pocket gophers are very good eating.

All things are relative. The man who has never known the killing thirst of the desert has yet to learn that he can drink with great pleasure several kinds of water other than bottled

spring water. The man who has never been famished little imagines how delicious is raw, tough seagull. The man who has had plenty of beef, mutton and pork all his life would be surprised to find how quickly the pangs of hunger would drive him to almost any substitute to sustain life.

Dr. Owen B. Ames, the Boston psychologist, declares that likes and dislikes of foods are "purely psychological."

Because we have been bred for years to regard certain animals as edible, animals without that class have never been thought of as a possible supply of food.

In South America the octopus is used as the base of a particularly appetizing soup. The simple fact that it does not appear disgusting to us until we know its ingredients proves that our taste in foods is purely psychological.

In Australia among the English-speaking people, who are very much like ourselves, the mutton bird is used as one of their finest dishes. The mutton bird is very much like the penguin, of which there is an enormous supply in the antarctic regions.

McMillan, the explorer, says that seal food is splendid. Not only is it very nourishing, but it is also surprisingly palatable. Among the Eskimos seals' eyes are considered a real delicacy, but the fact that they are eaten by Eskimos or that they are seals' eyes does not make them any less a food for the white man.

In the last few years many men have been forced to realize that food is food, no matter what its special name might have been. In a country where a certain animal is rare or has been brought merely as an entertainment, the people of that country would never regard that animal as a food. But where that animal is plentiful he is always used for consumption.

To us, who depend mostly upon beef, pork, lamb and the products of a few other domesticated animals for our supply of meat, this seems strange and unnatural. But considering the fact that most animals are for the most part made of what they eat, we find that the menu of many of the animals we keep in our parks and circuses is exactly the same as that of our domestic animals. So, Dr. Ames believes, the question of taste in food is purely psychological.

At the south polar regions there have been breeding unmolested for centuries many kinds of food animals and birds with natural environment to keep them always in perfect condition. To give some idea of the almost limitless food supply in the antarctic seas, the Endurance had to literally plow through a sea of seals.

So much in earnest is Sir Ernest Shackleton over his project that he promises to come to the United States in its promotion, upon his return from his expedition to the antarctic.

LESSON TEXT—II Sam. 21:7; 5:1-6. GOLDEN TEXT—Trust in the Lord with all thy heart, and lean not upon thine understanding.—Prov. 3:5. ADDITIONAL MATERIAL—I Sam. 8:1-18; II Sam. 1:7; 23:4-12. PRIMARY TOPIC—The Shepherd Boy Becomes a King. JUNIOR TOPIC—How David Became a King. INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—The Secret of David's Success. YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—True Success and How to Win It.

The death of Saul lay open to David the path to the throne. This would have rejoiced the heart of many, but David was sad. Instead of reward being given to the slayer of Saul, quick vengeance was executed upon him.

1. David Made King Over Judah (2:1-4).

He knew full well that the Lord by the hand of Samuel had anointed him to be the successor of Saul. He had learned the essential lesson which the School of Providence was designed to teach, namely, that the position now open to him was no easy one to fill. His exile and sufferings gave him self-control. He had the good sense to know that promotion to the throne did but bring "harder duties and multiple perplexities." He threw himself upon God and asked for guidance. He rendered instant obedience to the Lord's answer. If we are to enjoy God's fellowship and blessing we must render quick obedience. He made a right beginning, therefore God prospered him. When he reached Hebron the men of Judah came and anointed him king over them. Thus a part of the nation recognized him as king and ratified the work which Samuel did many years before. When David went up he took with him all who had been with him in exile and suffering. They are now sharers with him in the kingdom. When David's great son, Christ, shall enter upon his glorious reign, those who have been faithful to him in his rejection shall reign with him. "If we suffer we shall also reign with him." (II Tim. 2:12); "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my father in his throne." (Rev. 3:21).

11. David's Behavior Toward the Men of Jabesh-Gilead (2:4-7).

The men of Jabesh owed much to Saul (I Sam. 11), and they showed this recognition of debt by making a daring dash to rescue his body from the ignominious exposure at Bethshan. David's act of sending men to Jabesh with a message of good will for their affectionate remembrance of Saul is an exhibition of his noble generosity. His love for the unfortunate king survived all the injuries which he suffered at his hands. He forgave and forgot them all. This was an act of political shrewdness as well as a generous one. In fact the only policy which proves effective is that which proceeds from a generous heart. He deftly follows this generous commendation with a solicitude for the men of Jabesh to transfer their loyalty to himself, since he is now their legal king. Since Saul is now dead, he urges them to be valiant for him. In view of the civil war which was to follow he knew it would require valiant men to stand by God's king. This appeal to be valiant is needed now, for we are all called upon to take sides between God's appointed king, Jesus Christ, and Satan, the pretender to the throne. May Christ's appeal result in making us faithful and valiant for him.

111. The Dual Kingdom—War Between the House of Saul and the House of David (2:8-4:12).

This period of civil war lasted seven and a half years. Most of the tribes of Israel clung to Ishbosheth, Saul's son, whom Abner had proclaimed king at Mahanaim. Feuds continued between the rival generals. David's power increased while that of Ishbosheth's waned.

1V. David Crowned King Over United Israel (5:1-5).

Though the struggle for supremacy lasted long and was a bitter one, Abner's death and Ishbosheth's assassination put an end to David's opposition. David's behavior during this time gradually won for him the confidence of the tribes so that they all came to him at Hebron and anointed him as their king. They accepted his divine right to rule (v. 3). The reasons for anointing him their king were:

1. He is their brother (v. 1). This is true of Christ our King. Through the incarnation he has become one with us.
2. He was their true leader in war, even in Saul's time (v. 2).
3. He was the Lord's choice (v. 2).

Procrastination. Procrastination is helping the devil in retarding righteousness in the world. Remember that legend of how he summoned his imperial staff and offered a reward to the member who would suggest the best way to destroy a human soul. One said, Convince him there is no God. Another said, Prove there is no immortality and no truth in the Bible. But still another suggested, Convince him that there is no hurry about his carrying out his good resolutions. And the devil gave that one the prize.—Bishop Talbot.

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FRECKLES

1920 Style. In an Indianapolis barber shop a man got a shave, haircut and tonic and gave the boss barber a dollar bill, which the latter rang up as he said, "Just right."

After about a minute the customer exclaimed: "The only difference between you and Jesse James is that Jesse had a horse."

"There is a bigger difference than that," replied the boss barber; "Jesse was a piker. Why, I've got a seven-passenger car."—Indianapolis News.

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Drawing a Jury. "Why do they call them talesmen?" "Have you never listened to the tales they tell in order to get excused?"

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