

ARMOR PLATE TEST.

Steel Treated by Krupp Process Found to Be Superior.

Projectile Falls to Pierce a Twelve-Inch Plate When Fired from a Two-Inch Gun Only Three Hundred Feet Away.

The remarkable results of a ballistic trial of armor plate at the Indian Head naval proving station are almost certain to lead to the adoption of a new process for treating heavy plates by which battleships may be armored with greatly reduced thickness of plate with the same resisting quality as those protecting the sides of the best fighters now in the service. The plate tested was one treated with the new Krupp process, and the result showed that it is superior in all respects to plates made by the Harvey or any other process now in use.

Some time ago the Carnegies brought to the navy department's attention the Krupp process and asked that it be tried, as the right to use it in this country had been secured. A six-inch plate was subjected to the most severe ballistic trial. A six-inch shell failed to penetrate it. Three shots did little damage, and no cracks were seen in evidence.

The plate tested last was a fraction under 12 inches, perfectly made, and the test was witnessed by a large party of American and foreign officers. Against the sides of a Maryland hill the steel plate had been substantially bolted, and 300 feet away was one of the navy's new 12-inch guns. The first projectile, one of the armor-piercing variety, entered only $\frac{1}{2}$ inches, the shell remaining imbedded. No cracks, radial or otherwise, or signs of weakness were shown in the plate.

The second shot was with the highest velocity ever employed in ballistic trials with a 12-inch gun at such a thickness of plate. The projectile passed clear through the armor and backing and lodged in the embankment. What was found of the shell showed it to be badly broken and distorted, but the plate gave not the slightest evidence of cracks on the surface.

Ordnance experts explained that no plate ever made could possibly withstand such a shock at a velocity that this second shell had been fired. A third and last shot was then fired at the smallest velocity of all. It penetrated about five inches and stuck. A careful examination of the plate showed the absence of the usual large opening cracks.

The effect of the trial, it is said by ordnance experts, will lead to the adoption of the Krupp process for the navy, and that all the armor for the three new battleships and four monitors will be treated with it. The heaviest plates on their sides will not be over 15 inches in thickness, equivalent to the 18-inch plates protecting the Indiana and Oregon class. The reduction in weight would be about 300 tons to a ship.

BIG ARMY FOR UNCLE SAM.

Congressman Hull, of Iowa, Says at Least 100,000 Soldiers Are Needed.

Congressman John A. T. Hull, of Iowa, who is chairman of the committee on military affairs of the house of representatives and author of the bill bearing his name "for the better organization of the army," which became a law just before the breaking out of the war with Spain, was asked while in New York city what legislation he thought likely at the coming session of congress looking to the permanent increase of the standing army.

"A bill will be introduced as soon as congress meets," said Mr. Hull, "providing for a permanent standing army of 100,000 men."

"We certainly will need that many to maintain a guard in Cuba until a stable government is established there and to garrison our new island possessions of Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and possibly the Philippines. I don't believe there will be any difficulty in raising the army to that strength in the course of three or four months. I think it would be possible to raise 50,000 negro troops in that time, and they would make the best sort of soldiers for garrison duty in tropical countries. They can stand the climate better than white men, and the recent war demonstrated what sort of fighters they are."

PRIZE A DENT.

NEW STANDARD.

Plan Proposed by Col. L. M. Mau for Reorganization of Medical Bureau of National Guard.

Col. L. M. Mau, chief surgeon on Gen. Lee's staff, has presented a report which contains some important recommendations as to the proposed reorganization of the medical bureau of the national guard. He suggests that the national guard be under the control of the national government as far as summer camps are concerned, and that the expenses of these summer camps be defrayed by the national government; that every officer and soldier of the national guard be placed upon a pay roll by the national government for the time he is actually in service; and that uniforms for the enlisted men of the national guard be paid for by the national government.

He further recommends that the medical officers of the national guard be organized in a separate corps like that of the United States army, that all such officers be required to pass a rigid examination before receiving commission, and that they be required to report once yearly at the national guard camps for instruction in professional and administrative work, under the guidance of a medical officer of the United States army detailed by the war department, who shall likewise have authority to call upon these medical officers at any time during the year for reports as regards the work they are doing in their military organizations; that the hospital corps of the national guard be organized the same as that of the United States army and independent of regiments; that in time of peace this corps will consist of three percent of the strength of the national guard and in times of war five percent; that the government built its own war vessels, enormous quantities of live oak were brought to Portsmouth, and much of it was not used. Mr. Tawney has told the navy department that there is enough of this live oak to construct the hulls of three vessels.

FOR TRAINING SHIPS.

Suggested That Stock of Live Oak Be Used to Build Them

Naval Constructor Tawney's Ideas Old Sailing Men-of-War Used for the Purpose Fast Deteriorating.

The naval authorities have under consideration a proposition by Naval Constructor Tawney to construct wooden vessels to take the place of those that have been doing service for many years as training and receiving ships. These old sailing men-of-war have become obsolete for war purposes, and are rapidly deteriorating. Some of them cannot last much longer. Tawney has suggested that new vessels would be much more comfortable and could be fitted in modern style.

It has been the practice of the navy department to use fighting vessels for years after they have become useless for the purpose for which they were first designed. The first step in the process that leads to not using them at all is their utilization as training ships. Then they become receiving ships, and later are occasionally turned over to various states for use as school ships. It is considered desirable for naval cadets and apprentices to have some experience on sailing vessels.

Mr. Tawney is stationed at the navy yard at Portsmouth, N. H. There is a great quantity of timber there belonging to the government that he believes can be profitably used in constructing new vessels of the kind mentioned. Before the civil war, when the government built its own war vessels, enormous quantities of live oak were brought to Portsmouth, and much of it was not used. Mr. Tawney has told the navy department that there is enough of this live oak to construct the hulls of three vessels.

FRANCE'S LATEST DEATH TOOL

Provts Its Ability to Destroy a Whole Regiment or Battery in One Minute.

Information by cable is that the Frenchmen believe that in the new rapid-fire gun of their army they possess the most deadly and efficient weapon ever invented. It is of 2.95 inches caliber, and discharges 20 shells a minute. Each shell can be loaded with 250 bullets. Many practical experiments have been made with the gun at Châlons. It proved its ability to destroy a regiment or a battery in one minute.

The barrel of the new gun is of nickel steel. The breechblock is constructed on the interrupted screw principle, but greatly modified from the old form. It can be closed quickly with one motion. The closing of the breech cocks a hammer. The gunner at the same time holds the lanyard, aims, and fires.

The gun with its carriage weighs 3,000 pounds, which is distributed at the rate of 600 pounds to a horse. This makes it easily movable.

One of the most valuable features of the gun is that the recoil is practically abolished. This is what makes it possible to load and fire so rapidly. The appliance for avoiding recoil includes a cylinder filled with glycerin. An iron rod driven into the ground helps to hold the gun firmly.

COMPLAIN OF LIGHTHOUSE.

Citizen of Highland and Seabright, N. J., Kept Awake by a Most Powerful Flashlight.

Quite a curious complaint has been received by the government from the citizens of Highland and Seabright, N. J., about a new lighthouse which has been built in New York harbor, and which prevents the people of these two suburban towns from sleeping. This light is the most powerful one of its kind in the country, the lens being six feet in diameter. It is the first light seen by incoming steamers after passing Fire Island. The light revolves and shows a flash every five seconds, and it is claimed by the complaining citizens that these sudden flashes prevent them sleeping. There was no objection to the old light, which was a steady beacon, but the new one is a great disturber of sleep. These people will have to put up with the inconvenience, as there is no remedy, the screen erected by the treasury department failing to shield them.

GOES TO MANILA TO WED.

Miss Emilie Smith Will Be Married to Capt. Pegram Whiteworth.

Cupid has given marching orders to a daughter of the army, and Miss Emilie Smith will proceed to Manila, Philippine islands, and become the wife of Capt. Pegram Whiteworth, of the Eighteenth infantry, stationed there. Miss Smith is the daughter of Col. G. C. Smith, deputy quartermaster general, stationed at St. Louis. She is a child of the army, and as her fiance cannot come to her she, accompanied by her mother, will bravely cross the continent and Pacific to gladden the heart of the man she loves. Miss Smith first met her future husband in San Antonio, Tex., when her father was stationed at that post. They have been engaged since April.

PRIZE A DENT.

Silver Punch Bowl on Board the Battleship Indiana Bears the Scars of Warfare.

MEDALS FOR SOLDIERS.

Members of Harvard University Alumni Will Honor Students Who Served in the Recent War.

Harvard is soon to erect a memorial to the students who went out in answer to the call for volunteers in the late Spanish-American war. The matter has been placed in the hands of an alumni committee.

The memorial will take the form of a gateway dedicated to all Harvard men who enlisted, and inscribed with the names of those who died. The gate will be a part of the wall to be built about the college yard, and will be placed at the south entrance. It is expected to cost \$25,000.

There were many who hoped that tablets in memory of the Harvard men who fell would be placed in Memorial hall, but the fact that the latter memorial was erected only to the men who died in the civil war prevented this.

Cheap Living in Japan.

In Japan a man can live like a gentleman on \$20 a year. This sum will pay the rent of a house, the wages of two servants, and supply plenty of food.

All After That Barrel.

A club at Trarbach, which offered a prize of a barrel of wine for the best song in praise of Moselle wine, has received 2,149 compositions to choose from.

L'ABEILLE DE LA NILE-ORLEANS

Est très répandue en Louisiane et dans tous les Etats du Sud. Sa publicité offre donc un commerce des vantages exceptionnels. Prix de l'abonnement pour l'année Edition quotidienne, \$12 00 ; Edition hebdomadaire \$3 00 ; Edition du Dimanche, \$9 00,

Bulletin Financier.

Mercredi, 7 décembre 1898.

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