

A BALL-BEARING GUN.

Alleged Invention of a Virginia Man Is Deemed to Be Visionary by Army Officials.

Recently army officers were impressed by the reports of a so-called ball-bearing gun which has been invented by a Virginia man, O. C. Cullen.

Some inquiries made by army officers, however, have led to the abandonment of the idea of investigating Cullen's invention.

The experts have found the scheme is entirely visionary and probably no further attention will be paid to the novel device.

A UNIQUE DINNER.

Pleasing Features at Annual Gathering of Silk Dealers of Country—Chinese Minister Speaks.

"I am glad to find that it is not the purpose of this great republic to depart from its traditional policy and adopt a policy of territorial aggrandizement in Asia, but that you are going for expansion of trade there; and on that account we welcome you," said Wu Ting Fang, the Chinese minister to the United States, at the dinner of the Silk Association at Delmonico's the other night.

Smooth as silk moved all the arrangements which went to make the feast a jolly and picturesque affair. A curious and mirth-provoking feature consisted of more than 300 silk balloons, each about the size of a man's head, each filled with gas and attached by a short string to the wine glasses of the diners.

WILD CAREER OF A FRIGATE.

An Old-Fashioned Vessel Breaks from Her Moorings for a Stampede.

The old-fashioned 50-gun frigate Franklin, anchored in mid-stream off the Norfolk navy yard, broke loose from her moorings during the terrific 60-mile-an-hour gale that prevailed the other night and in a mad career about the southern branch of the Elizabeth river rammed and barged against everything in sight.

A KNOTTY CASE.

In Which It Is Shown That Cows Are Valued More Than a Mere Human Body in Africa.

A Uganda woman had married three husbands at different times, and had had a son by one of them—the second, says a writer in Blackwood. The father unfortunately died, and the other two quarreled about the possession of the son, who meanwhile lived with his mother.

DEWEY POSES AS A MODEL.

New York Sculptor Who Is Making a Life-Sized Bust of the Hero of Manila Bay.

Part of Admiral Dewey's mornings while in New York recently were spent in the studio of James E. Kelly, sculptor at 318 West Fifty-seventh street. He sat there for hours while Sculptor Kelly punched, gouged and coaxed a big mass of clay that, some day, is to be a life-sized bust of the hero of Manila.

Sowing and Reaping.

Kentucky has sowed the pistol habit, and is reaping blood, says the Chicago Tribune. And again, if Kentucky will persist in sowing plows, it may expect to reap galling guns.

A Good Suggestion.

Along with the wireless telegraph and the horseless carriage, the Chicago Times-Herald suggests, a guinea Keatsky would be quite a good thing.

A QUEER CORK SAFE.

Dupes Were Unable to Find the Place Where They Were Bunked.

"Did you ever hear of a cork safe?" asked a drummer who represents the latest thing in chilled-steel and burglar-baffling time locks, according to the New Orleans Times-Democrat. "As far as I am aware," he continued, "only one of them was ever built. It was made by an ingenious Dutch mechanic for a one-time famous confidence man named Dr. Baggs, who operated in Denver, Salt Lake and El Paso."

"When the victim entered the place it looked like an ordinary business establishment, with desks, railing, maps on the walls, safe in the corner, and several clerks at work on books. The instant he left a roll-top desk was opened up into a bed. The railing was folded together and slipped into a closet, a table was turned into a wash stand, a cabinet turned into a bureau, the safe was put away in its case, the curtains were pulled down and the room was to all appearances a simple sleeping apartment.

THE JOLLY HARBOR SEALS.

One of Them Up on the Platform of Their Pool, Watching the The Red Fir.

"What's he watching the clock for?" a visitor at the aquarium asked of an attendant, referring to the smallest of the three harbor seals there, the one with the blackest coat. It was up on the platform at the end of the pool, with its eyes apparently fixed on the clock that is secured to the front of the railing round the gallery. The hour was about two minutes of four o'clock, says the New York Sun.

ANNA GOULD'S MAD LOVER.

Story Told of Infatuation of a Barber for the Girl Who Became a Countess.

The presence in New York of Count Castellan and his wife brings out the story, hitherto unpublished, of an experience of the countess in El Paso. Mr. Gould and his daughters spent some time in that city in 1893. A barber named Steiner, meeting the young ladies on the street, imagined that Miss Anna was casting friendly glances at him, and he shadowed them continually. At the theater he entered their box, and, laying a handsome bouquet in her lap, bowed himself out. She thanked him, supposing him to be an usher presenting a gift from some friend.

PADEREWSKI BADLY SCARED.

Kentucky Colonel Flashes a Revolver at His Long Hair and He Flees.

Paderewski, the pianist, was nearly frightened out of his wits at Louisville, Ky., while the conference seeking a peaceful settlement of the political conflict in Kentucky was being held. There were "bad men" here from all parts of Kentucky, and the lobby of the city house, where the artist was staying, was full of them, and he knew it. As he started from his room to take a carriage for the theater a Kentuckian got a glimpse of his long, curly hair, and, promptly drawing a six-shooter, proposed to "stop the thing."

Fate of a Good Cause.

Chicago has halted in her spelling reform, says the Baltimore American. The press all over the country thought the idea too funny, and the university proposing the change had not the courage to face the fire of ridicule. And so, for want of valor, another good cause threatens to go by the board.

Attendance at Paris Exposition.

On the basis of results of previous exhibitions at Paris, it is assumed that 52,588,280 people will pass through the turnstiles, and it is possible that the total number may reach 60,000,000.

Will Let His Wife Try Now.

Howard Gould has now had a quarrel with his cook. The Chicago Record suggests that probably the fellow was not able to bake pies such as Howard's mother used to make.

A Mean Advantage.

A New York man eloped with his wife after she had begun suit against him for divorce. The Chicago Times-Herald thinks this is taking a mean advantage of the law.

Pass the Apparatus.

According to Liebig, the alkali in asparagus develops form in the human brain.

LAY GOLDEN EGGS.

Kansas Geese Pick Tiny Nuggets Out of Creek Bed.

Discovery in Craw of One of the Birds Reveals a Source of Wealth That Was Not Before Dreamed Of.

The goose that lays the golden egg has been found, and he is a Kansas bird. There is not only one of him, but a whole flock. Mrs. Mursell, who lives at the mouth of White Clay creek, a sluggish stream that empties into the Missouri river just below Atchison, is the owner of the birds, which no money can buy, and which have become the wonder and the talk of the town.

"One of Mrs. Mursell's geese was sacrificed for the dinner the other day. When she went to clean the craw she discovered that it was filled with what at first appeared to be minute grains of sand. The brightness of the stuff and the curiosity it excited led her to keep it to show to her neighbor. The neighbor's husband, who is an old miner, saw it and at once pronounced it gold—almost pure gold. Tests made at the jeweler's subsequently corroborated the miner's opinion. The yellow particles taken from the goose's craw were gold. Discovery led to investigation. A goose egg was analyzed. It was permeated with gold. Egg after egg was subjected to the test and not one failed to show traces of gold.

A brickyard is located in the vicinity of Mrs. Mursell's home. The mud for the manufacture of the brick made at these yards is pumped or sucked from the slimy bed of White Clay creek. A vast yard of it is constantly kept on hand. This oozy mass is the favorite haunt of Mrs. Mursell's geese. They waddle in it and eat it all day long. An analysis of this mud shows that it contains gold. A further analysis of the manufactured brick shows a percentage of gold in every one. Almost every house in Atchison is constructed of these bricks, and minute particles of gold in the brick can be seen with the naked eye—very distinctly under the microscope.

While the gold in the geese's craw was what might be called nuggets—very minute, however—as well as that in the mud and burnt brick, that in the eggs is in a soluble state.

INTENSE COLD.

Numb the Senses and Produces in Some Cases Results Similar to Alcoholic Intoxication.

The usual results of exposure to extreme cold are loss of energy, both physical and mental, followed by drowsiness and disinclination to move; the mental faculties become torpid and the senses numb, while the victim is seized with an irresistible desire to lie down and sleep. If this desire is yielded to the lethargy passes into stupor and death follows. Occasionally these symptoms are preceded by others which resemble those of intoxication, and are due to a peculiar condition of the blood, which at a very low temperature takes up an insufficient quantity of oxygen, and so has an injurious effect on the nervous system. It was observed during the retreat of the French from Moscow that those who were most severely affected by the cold often reeled about as if intoxicated; they also complained of giddiness and indistinctness of vision and sank gradually into a state of lethargic stupor from which it was impossible to arouse them. Other instances are recorded in which persons became delirious and died through a short exposure to intense cold.

FAMOUS ZOOS.

South Africa Possesses Some of the Largest and Finest in the World.

The South African republic's zoological collection and gardens are the finest and largest in the world. The gardens, which are in the Lebombo region, are guarded by a whole tribe of Kafirs, and contain every species of wild animal to be found in South Africa. The zoological collection at Bronx park, New York, is a remarkably fine one. The gardens cover 300 acres, and one of its most important features is the natural environment provided for the animals.

Never Rains There.

Rain has never been known to fall in that part of Egypt between the two lower falls of the Nile.

GETTING AN ANTIQUE CHEAP.

How a Collector Secured an Old Mahogany Table at Very Small Cost.

When a man becomes a crank on the subject of antiques he will go to any extreme to gain possession of a coveted treasure, says the Philadelphia Record. There is a physician up on the northeast way who has the craze, and has it bad. He made a professional call on an old Irish woman the other day, and as her ailment was not of sufficient severity to keep her from her household duties, he found her in the kitchen washing dishes. His eyes glistened as he saw the table upon which this homely operation was being performed. It was an old decrepit affair on three legs, but it was solid mahogany, with quaint carvings.

"That's a queer sort of a table to be washing dishes on," ventured the doctor.

"Sure, it is that," replied its owner; "an' I wouldn't be bothered wid it at all, at all, if I could afford a new one." The doctor was all solicitude in a moment. "Why, that's too bad," he said. And then, as though seized with a sudden philanthropic inspiration, he added: "If you will allow me I'll buy you a new table, and I'll take the old one off your hands." Of course, the old woman was only too delighted. The doctor invested two dollars in a common kitchen table, in exchange for which he received the old mahogany one, which had been in the old woman's family for nearly a century.

AT THE PARIS EXPOSITION.

This Account Tells the American Pavilion Is a Beautiful and Attractive Structure.

Our cocher has been ordered to turn into the Avenue de la Tour Marbourg, and suddenly I find that we have come out upon the Quai d'Orsay, and are at the entrance of the Pont des Invalides, says the New York Journal. Here cabbies are ordered to halt, and look on in surprise as we descend into the ankle-deep dust and proceed by means of our open sesame, to the place where four American flags at the corners of a large square indicate the inclosure chosen by our commissioner general for the American pavilion.

Here, on the five gauche, in company with others of the Pavillons des Etrangers, will stand the American pavilion, a beautiful and attractive structure, whose broad steps lead down to the water. Here Americans may land, and at once receive that welcome and attention which the visitor soon discovers is second nature to the commissioner general and his staff; and here, more than anywhere else in Paris, will he find himself thoroughly at home.

LONDON'S BATHS.

Facilities for Ablution in the City Are Many and Are Being Increased.

It is no fault of the authorities of the metropolis if any considerable proportion of the people of London are going unwashed. Facilities for ablution are many, and these are yearly being increased. At present there are 35 public baths in London where the bath and washhouse net has been adopted, and in most of these there are one or more of these establishments in full working order, says the Newcastle Chronicle.

TOBACCO A NECESSITY.

One of the few things of which the Boers have an inadequate supply is tobacco. While spending millions for guns and ammunition, they neglected to provide themselves with an abundance of the soothing weed. Soldiers positively cannot get along without it. They can easier in many instances dispense with food. An editor in Pretoria, the capital of the Transvaal, appreciates the situation. He has made an appeal to the citizens who remain at home to deny themselves tobacco in order that the supply of the men at the front may not be restricted.

Bad Roads in China.

Lord Charles Dersford says that the roads in China are very bad. When he was in that country he complained of them one day to an American resident, who replied: "Yes, a mule was drowned the other day in the road outside my house."

The Red Fir.

The division of forestry of the department of agriculture has 16 men in the state of Washington gathering statistics regarding the growth of red fir.

SAILOR IN A LAND FIGHT.

This Anecdote Illustrates the Efficacy of His Humor on All Occasions.

Wherever and whenever Jack has been permitted to join in the work of the army he has made his mark so deeply that he has come to be looked upon as indispensable, invincible, says the London Spectator. His effervescent humor never seems to desert him, as the following anecdote, told the writer recently, fairly well illustrates: It was at Ginchiovo, and the naval brigade was face to face with an apparently overwhelming force of Zulus, numbers of whom were armed with rifles. The sailors were reserving their fire, only sending an occasional volley when a favorable opportunity presented itself. Forth from the Zulu host stepped a warrior laden with an ancient firearm, which he calmly mounted upon a tripod in the open, while the sailors looked on admiring his pluck, but wondering much what he was proposing to do. At last one jovial tar suggested that their photographs were going to be taken, and, by common consent, no shots were sent at the supposed phizographer. Having loaded his piece with great care, the Zulu primed it, sighted, and, leaning hard against its breech, he fired. The recoil—for the thing was much over-loaded—knocked him head over heels backward, while a great roar of laughter went up from the delighted sailors. He sat up looking lurch and dazed, and then, the amusement over, he, along with a suddenly changing impulse of his countrymen, was annihilated by a volley from the steadily aimed pieces of the little cheerful band of bluejackets.

AN INVISIBLE ENEMY.

What the English Have to Contend with in Their Battles with the Boers.

We do not think that the extraordinary conditions of the warfare in South Africa have ever been realized in the way they should have been, says the London Lancet. Wherever the British forces have encountered the Boers in the open field they have beaten them and they have, again and again, even driven them out of strong positions. But for the first time in warfare, so far as we know, our troops have had to attack an invisible enemy armed with the best and most destructive weapons that modern science can devise. As an officer with Lord Methuen's force has graphically described it: "Perhaps you think it is easy to see a Boer, but it isn't. We have fought four or five big battles against him, but few of us have seen a single Boer. He is the invisible enemy. He lies in the grass, deep down in a trench or behind a rock and pits death at us all day long, but we never see who is killing our men. An English soldier of imaginative mind might come to think of the enemy as a sort of nineteenth-century invention—a vapor like the colorless smoke of the new powder—or a demon or an essence." The Boers' tactics and methods of fighting are traditional with them, and they are always mounted, but these facts, curiously enough, seem to have been lost sight of for the force sent against them was an first weakly mounted infantry, cavalry and artillery.

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IS YOUR CLOCK ON TIME?

Some Interesting Observations Suggested by This Frequently Repeated Query.

"One of the things I have learned in the course of my experience," said the middle-aged man, according to the New York Sun, "is that people don't like to have you ask: 'Is your clock right?' This is a question that we put to a great many people, and it is more or less annoying to most of them. I have seen men resent it with a start, though that would be something unusual; but, as a rule, most men think well of their clocks, and they resent the question more or less in their hearts if they don't in word or manner.

"Doesn't every man think his own watch is a good timekeeper? He does. It may be a cheap watch that cost ten dollars or five dollars or one dollar, but he thinks it's a good one. All cheap watches are better nowadays than they used to be, but each man thinks he's got the still remarkable exceptional watch that really is a wonder. And the clock owner thinks the same of his clock. Whether it's in the jewelry store, the bakery or the butcher's, they all resent the question: 'Is your clock right?'"

"The question implies it some vague, indefinite way the idea of an assumption of superiority on the part of the questioner, for does it not suggest inferiority, at least of the other man's clock? and to man lives it. My conclusion is that nobody should ask the question, not at all, in fact, unless something really depends upon it. But if it should be really a matter of importance for you to know, then you may ask, and this time you'll find the question will not be resented."

MYSTERY OF NUMERAL NINE.

Thoughts of Olden Times Attached a Sacredness to It—Some Curious Coincidences.

Among the magicians and soothsayers of ancient times both the figures nine and three had a certain amount of mystery and sacredness attached to them, and volumes have been written in explanation of their meaning in connection with the history of men and the world. Apropos of this, a curious coincidence is noted in the fact that nearly all the great mining discoveries of recent times have been made in years ending with the magic figure nine. Thus the famous gold find in California fell in the year 1849. Ten years later, in 1859, remarkable discoveries of the same metal were made in British Columbia, causing a great rush of fortune hunters to these points, says Leslie's Weekly.

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