

THE DOUBLE TURRET.

Further Tests Declared to Be Necessary to Prove Its Success.

Structural Strength Proven, But the Military Efficiency, Wherein Main Objection Lies, Has Yet to Be Demonstrated.

Rear Admiral Charles O'Neill, chief of ordnance, has given out this statement in regard to the recent performance of the battleship Kearsarge: "I did not suppose for a moment that the turret structure of the vessel would prove deficient in any respect, as both have been carefully and conscientiously worked out by the bureau of construction and repair, as have also the various mechanical difficulties which the scheme presented.

"It will be necessary, however, to determine what will be the result of rapid and prolonged firing, and further tests under varying conditions of weather at sea are desirable. "It may be said that it is shown that we may, if we choose, build battleships, with respect to their turrets, in this manner, but the vital question is: Do we want to or is it desirable to do so? There will always be a difference of opinion on this point.

"The question, therefore, whether or not the system of superimposed turrets should be adopted for the new battleships is by no means easy of solution. It will have to be carefully considered and a consensus of opinion obtained from a number of people whose judgment in such matters represents the best talent in the navy."

Rear Admiral Hitchborn, chief naval constructor, agrees with Admiral O'Neill that further tests of the superimposed turrets are desirable.

"The test that occurred last week," he says, "demonstrated the structural strength of the superimposed turret. The military efficiency, to which this bureau has always taken exception, has yet to be demonstrated."

WOMAN OF KALI FAITH.

Wears Strange Garb of Gray Woolen Stuff with Cassock Sleeves and Is Known as Sister Niveditina.

On the limited train that left New York for Chicago the other day was a sweet-faced young woman clad in a strange garb. Around her was wrapped a long garment of gray woolen stuff, with loose cassock sleeves, half dress and half robe, held in at the waist by a simple girdle. It was the dress of an Indian devotee. She was Miss Margaret Noble, a wealthy English woman, who has been converted to the weird beliefs of the far east.

She believes in Kali worship. Her faith in reincarnation is supreme. She holds that the Supreme Being should be typified by motherhood rather than by fatherhood, which is the essence of Kali worship. She holds dear all the mysticisms of the orient—yet she still clings, she says, to her Christianity. Miss Noble is now Sister Niveditina.

"I have renounced the English world," said Sister Niveditina. "I will spend the rest of my life in India. It is far more satisfying than the crude west. I am an Indian now, for I have taken the three vows—never to marry, never to possess anything, always to obey."

Miss Noble left England for India 18 months ago. She is in America to publish a book and to raise funds for an educational institution in India which purports teaching girls manual training in order that they may better support themselves.

DANGER IN ICED DRINKS.

May Bring on Brain Disease, According to the Statement of a Wichita Doctor.

A doctor of Wichita, Kan., says that iced drinks are dangerous, especially to women who drink them through a straw. The doctor has made a close study of this question, but refuses to allow the use of his name in connection therewith. He did, however, make the following statement to a Chicago Inter Ocean correspondent:

"I am sure of one of my young women patients who died recently was first made ill last summer by taking iced drinks through a straw. She drew the iced water against the roof of her mouth, which cooled the brain, and when she again went out into the sun, a headache and fever followed. This was kept up all summer, until her brain became affected. Last week she died, after four months' suffering, from the worst form of brain fever. I am not sure that sipping iced drinks in this way will injure all young women, but it will affect most of those who keep at it a whole season."

A RICH FIND.

Farmer Near Bridgeville, N. J., Uncovers a Box of Silver and Gold Coins in a Colonial Chimney.

William Gingles, a farmer living near Bridgeville, N. J., while engaged in tearing down an old house on his place struck a stone chimney that had stood for a century or more. In it he found an iron box, seven by nine inches, which upon being pried open was found to contain a large quantity of silver and gold coin. A good deal of the coin is foreign and its value is unknown, but it is variously estimated at from \$1,000 to \$2,000. How the money came there is not known, but it must have been hidden away a great many years ago when there was fear of an insurrection or possibly of an Indian raid.

True to His Name.

The word "cossack" is Turkish, and means "free man" or "free lance."

LOOKING AFTER SOLDIERS.

The War Department Follows Movements of Officers with Great Accuracy.

A young army officer, who has seen service on the Arizona plains and on the Maine coast, and who is now in Cuba, tells two stories out of his own experience, to show the accuracy with which the war department follows the movements of officers.

"I was with a small scouting party in Arizona," he says, "and after two weeks in the desert my squad came to the railroad near a small station. Within ten minutes a dispatch from Washington was brought to me by the station agent. It asked if I wished to be transferred to one of the two new artillery regiments then forming.

"I answered by telegraph that I should be glad to enter either of them. Then we set off again across the desert.

"It was six days later when we again struck the railroad, this time 80 miles from the point at which we had previously crossed it. But my reply from the department was awaiting me. It had been telegraphed to every station within 200 miles.

"A more striking instance of accuracy occurred after my transfer to the east. I was traveling home on leave, and, as the regulations require, I had notified the department of my day, hour and probable route of my journey. After I had been on the train for eight hours, at a small station the porter entered with a telegram, asking if anyone of my name was present. On opening the dispatch, I found that it was from the adjutant general's office, ordering me on detached duty.

"Exactness of detail could not be carried much farther. The department knew the whereabouts of an insignificant second lieutenant, even when he was traveling on leave of absence."

CHEROKEE SENATOR BULLFROG

He Believes Most of the Clients of Cheap Lawyers Are in Prison.

Senator Bullfrog was a picturesque figure at a recent session of the Cherokee congress. His raiment on this occasion consisted of a new pink calico shirt with no collar, navy blue trousers and heavy riding boots. Senator Bullfrog wore his spurs, and although he understands the English language quite as well as the whitest man in the Cherokee tongue. At intervals Senator Bullfrog paused in his speech and spat with unerring aim at the stove, while an interpreter repeated his argument in English. Senator Bullfrog is something of a philosopher. A certain lawyer had offered to accept five per cent. as a retainer for collecting a claim for the nation, and it was of this that the senator from Goingsnake district spoke. Senator Bullfrog declared that cheap lawyers were not safe.

"They will," he said, "offer to recover your hog for a ham, but the chances are you will never get the hog and will lose an extra ham besides. I notice that most of the clients of cheap lawyers are in prison. This argument was uproariously applauded by all the other senators, who sat with their chairs tilted back against the wall, expectorating in the direction of the stove.

WILL USE ELECTRICITY.

Propel Big Passenger Steamers on the Seine at the Paris Exposition.

Passenger boats propelled exclusively by electricity will make their appearance on the Seine early this spring, in connection with the Paris exposition.

These novel boats, the trial trips of which have proved a wonderful success, have been built on the piers and under the direction of a French engineer, Mr. Placa, for the company of Suburban Omnibus Boats, which will employ them, notwithstanding their luxurious equipment, for the transportation of ordinary travelers at a reduced rate. They will run at a great speed, without noise or smoke, and will be able to make nearly 65 miles without recharging, managed by one man.

These boats will be charged by an electric machine on the river bank at Anseries, in front of their mooring station.

Particular interest attaches to these boats from the fact that they are the first devoted to the public service that have been tried in Europe. If the enterprise proves successful, which there is every reason to expect, it will revolutionize river transportation.

Australian Oysters.

The Journal of the Society of Arts says that Australian oysters are cheap and plentiful, being retailed in Sydney at from sixpence to one shilling per plate or bottle. The consumption is enormous, and lasts throughout the year. The whole of the New South Wales coast is admirably adapted for oyster culture. Unlike the coasts of Great Britain and even America, where the temperature during the summer months is frequently sufficient to prevent the shedding of spat, and generally to limit its quantity, the spat of New South Wales is distributed in unlimited profusion. Mr. Coghlan, the New South Wales government statistician, says the establishment of "parks" like those which may be seen along the coasts of France and Belgium, where oyster culture is conducted on scientific principles, would be remunerative. It is said that the equipment for a Sydney harbor picnic would be considered incomplete without the means of detaching oysters from the rocks, on which they are found in myriads.

IT CALMS THE SEA.

Unsubmerged Hemp Net Tested at Havre, France.

Invention of a Frenchman Said to Be More Efficient Than Oil-Foam Ships, Lighthouses and Harbors.

Baron Benvenuto d'Alessandro, living in Paris, has invented a new method of protecting vessels at sea, entrances to harbors and lighthouses from the force of the waves and surf, which he claims is more efficient than the use of oil. According to Consul Thackara at Havre this invention consists in retaining on the surface of the water an unsubmerged floating net, by means of outriggers, when used to protect vessels at sea, and by attaching it to buoys when used to protect lighthouses, hydraulic works in course of construction and entrances to harbors.

Baron d'Alessandro bases the idea of his invention upon the principle that in covering the surface of the sea with a thin, light, flexible and floating body of whatever nature, the part covered forms a crust under which the molecules of the imprisoned mass of water cannot move in the same manner as the surrounding body of uncovered water, the result being that even the most violent waves, upon reaching the edge of the crust, instead of climbing over it, or breaking, or destroying it, will pass under it as if there were a fall or difference of level, become flattened out and lose much of their force. The net used in the recent experiments at Havre was made of a thin hemp fiber, knitted in square meshes of 1.57 inches and afterwards waterproofed by the application of a solution of powdered cork and pure rubber. The material of the finished net was 12 inches in thickness and light, weighing only 4 1/2 ounces avoirdupois per 10.76 square feet.

To illustrate the efficiency of the net in protecting hydraulic works in course of construction from the effects of a heavy sea surf, Baron d'Alessandro placed his net off the middle of the north jetty of the new avant port of Havre, which is now being built about 400 meters. The buoys were anchored in 50 feet of water at high tide, in a position to secure the head of the net in the direction of the prevailing westerly winds and perpendicular to the jetty, the buoys being about 325 feet from it. At first only four buoys were used, but the anchors not being heavy enough to stand the force of the current the buoys dragged, allowing the net to be slackened and take the form of a crescent. Afterwards buoys were added and the weight of the anchors increased. During a heavy westerly gale recently the net was held in position, but on account of the seas hurling themselves against the jetty and breaking over it, it was impossible to approach near enough to observe the effects which the net produced upon the portion of water protected.

EIGHT MILLION EGGS.

That Number Consumed in New York City on Easter Day—American Hen Ruled the Roost.

Eight million eggs were consumed in New York city on Easter. Not all of them were eaten; far from that. Many of them appeared in the morning omelets, fried, soft-boiled and scrambled, while a few went to settle the coffee and more went into cakes, puddings and waffles, and Eastertide took the rest. On Easter day the great American hen ruled the roost. There were a couple of million eggs that appeared as Easter eggs—silvered, gilded, boiled in var-colored rags, dyed, painted or etched.

This has been a great year for the ubiquitous egg. The open winter, the early warmth of spring, the sunshine when it ought to have been snowing, all have fooled the American hen. She has laid all winter long, nice, big, full-yolked eggs. The cold storage houses, where eggs are the chief source of supply, have been doing a land-office business for six months. Easter they yielded up their stores.

Every state for 1,000 miles around contributed its share of eggs. The farmers that used to get three or four cents a dozen for their eggs got nine and ten cents a dozen. There are now 450,000,000 eggs in cold storage all over the United States.

Destitute Georgians in Cuba. A colony of 1,000 Americans went from Georgia to a place called La Gloria in Cuba and there is already much distress among them. They have been compelled to go to the plantations in the interior and work for whatever wages were offered them. The colonists' titles are said to be of doubtful value and the United States government is asked to furnish transportation back to this country for the destitute.

Alliances to British Royal Females. The British parliament makes liberal allowances to the women of the royal family. A queen dowager's annual income from that source is \$500,000. That of a dowager princess of Wales is \$200,000. Other widows of royal princes receive \$30,000. The grand duchess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, granddaughter of George III., receives \$15,000 yearly.

Answered.

A New York student of human nature has written a lengthy treatise on "Why Men Gamble." This whole subject can be fully explained, says the Chicago Times-Herald, in five words: "Because they hope to win."

Philippine Imports.

The Philippine islands have taken \$77,329 in merchandise from the United States thus far this year, against \$54,856 last year.

THE FLYING MOGUL.

Makes a Record Run and Now "The Twins" Are Furious with Jealousy.

The Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad has a pair of big twin engines, 1591 and 1592. They are only a little over a year old and weigh 127 tons apiece. They have great wheels, 84 1/2 inches in diameter, and compound cylinders extra large. As a matter of fact, they are the biggest passenger engines ever built, and as to fast running, they have been the "whole thing."

Now what do you suppose happened? A mogul, class H-2, No. 1091, fairly well born, to be sure, but comparatively a lightweight, with but very little brass work about her, used principally in the freight service and considered an excellent steady old girl, was the other day in a case of emergency hooked on to the fast mail No. 8 at Burlington, and came sailing into Chicago, 205 8-10 miles, in exactly 205 minutes—after stopping on the way seven times to take a drink. At Mendota she stopped six minutes, and the story goes that something a little stronger than water was given her there, because on leaving the town she felt so gay that Aurora, 45 1/2 miles away, was reached in just 40 minutes. A rate of 68 1-10 miles an hour for a mogul! Engineer Gillette and Conductor Cullenbine say it was all done on the square, and that she had nothing to drink at Mendota but pure water.

Well, at any rate, the twins are furious, and they are puffing and blowing about what they will do the next time they are turned loose. They never liked the mogul, and say she is a fast old thing. Probably after this they won't whistle as she passes by.

COPPER PRODUCTION.

Steady Growth in the United States—More Than Half of the World's Supply.

During the decade 1891-1900 the United States produced more than half of the copper of the world, while in the preceding decade it supplied but one-third of the world's production. In 1871-'80 the proportion supplied was only about one-sixth of the total. The growth of copper production in the century has been rapid, being in the first decade 91,000 tons, in the fifth decade 291,000 tons, and in the tenth decade, which ends with 1900, 3,643,000 tons, of which 1,963,000 tons is supplied by North America, the large proportion of this being from the United States.

The greatly increased demand for this material is further illustrated by the fact that, although the production has increased from 303,000 tons in 1871-'80 to 3,643,000 tons in the decade 1891-1900, the average price has only fallen from \$55 per ton to \$24 per ton, production having during that time increased more than six-fold, while the price fell but about one-half. The following table shows the value of copper manufactured of all kinds, including copper in bars, plates, and ingots, exported in each year from 1890 to 1899:

Table with 2 columns: Year and Value. Data for 1890-1899.

BOY FIGHTS A CATAMOUNT.

Is Rescued by a Woman When Nearly Killed, and She is Then Attacked.

Charlie Gallagher, ten years old, was nearly killed by a large catamount the other day within two miles of the town of Clifton Forge, Va., where his father, Bryant Gallagher, lives. The boy, with several companions, was gathering wild flowers in a ravine when the animal sprang on Gallagher from an unseen cover. The other boys were badly scared and ran away. Young Gallagher fought the catamount manfully, and was almost stripped naked and torn until he was bleeding from head to foot.

He succeeded in getting near enough to William Wiltshire's cabin to make his cries heard. Wiltshire's wife was at home and rushed to the boy's aid, beating off the animal with a broom. The catamount also attacked the woman, but she dragged the boy inside her door and closed it. Wiltshire finally reached home, and the infuriated beast sprang on him as soon as he came near, but he succeeded in killing the animal with a club.

The catamount was a female, and its savage attack was supposed to be on account of the boy approaching near her cubs.

General Botha.

Botha, the new commandant general of the Transvaal burghers, is a man of 35 years. In peace times he raises cattle and sheep on his range in the Vryheid district. He first distinguished himself as a fighter in Gen. Lucas Meyer's campaign against the blacks, about ten years ago. According to Correspondent Hillegas, of the New York World, he wears shockingly bad clothes, and has never yet been persuaded to visit the photographer. The "h" in his name is silent.

Kruger's Descendants. President Kruger by his first marriage had one child, who died young. By his second wife he had 16 children. His grandchildren number 104.

Catholic Indians. One hundred and twelve pupils of the Indian school at Carhála, Pa., have been received into the Catholic church. The school has 162 pupils.

Roses That Change Color. A peculiar rose has been successfully cultivated by Japanese florists. In the sunlight it looks red and in the shade it is white.

DOGS ARE BARRED.

England Shuts Out of the Country Pets of Tourists.

Board of Agriculture Enforces Old Order to Keep Rabies Out—The Experience of Charge d'Affaires White.

American tourists who usually take their pet dogs with them cannot bring them into England this year. The board of agriculture has put into rigid enforcement an old order forbidding the temporary entrance into England of foreign dogs.

Rabies has been exterminated in Great Britain. The last case known of was in Wales last November. Only seven cases are recorded for the preceding year. Eleven hundred deaths of human beings from hydrophobia are of record in Great Britain during the last 51 years. Under the measures taken by the government the yearly number of deaths and cases has dwindled to nothing.

Now that the disease has vanished the determination is to keep it out.

The absolute character of the prohibition has been brought to the attention of the American embassy by Henry White, the United States charge d'affaires, trying to bring in a fox terrier. Mr. White was informed that in his particular case he could take the dog from the ship and carry it ashore by constructive violence, as the diplomatic privileges that hedge him would protect Mr. White from arrest. But this Mr. White would not do and he stands with the rest of his countrymen in not being able to bring in a pet dog.

Michael Cudaby was in Dublin three weeks ago and he caused some amusement by dictating to a stenographer in the Shelbourne hotel a long cable message to his Chicago manager in regard to sending over a favorite dog. The idea of supposing that a dog could be gotten in at all is held by Dubliners to be the point of the story, which is told to illustrate the sublime confidence of Americans.

FAILS TO FLY.

South Dakota Man's Invention Proves to Be Too Heavy for Lifting Power.

Information has been received at Sioux Falls, S. D., that the airship constructed by Henry Wulf, of Aurora, Brookings county, under the direction of Henry Heintz, the inventor, has finally been tested. The men have been working on the machine at odd times for several years, a well-known business man at Elkton having given them the necessary financial backing, and general interest has been manifested in the result of the test.

Several eastern scientific journals and syndicate agencies have written for descriptions of the test and photographs of the airship itself as well as the inventor and the man who constructed it. The machine was expected to solve the problem of aerial navigation. Heintz' patent was said to have covered many points which were eagerly sought after by other inventors, but he has invariably declined to sell the whole or any part of his rights.

It was expected that the machine would be completed so tests could be made early in March, but through delays in the arrival of material the airship was not completed until a few days ago. The test did not result satisfactorily, the reason given being that it "proved to the mechanic doing the work that it required too heavy power to do the lifting." It has not been decided as yet whether efforts will be made to remedy, if possible, this defect so that further tests can be made.

IN DAIRY BUSINESS.

Washington Official's Sell Butter and Eggs from Their Farms to Society Folk.

Every spring official Washington is recommended to pay from ten to fifteen cents extra on the pound for butter, because it comes from some senator or congressman's farm. One administration found the receipts of a supreme court judge's wife a social place where trade in butter was solicited, and so successfully that more than one-half of the luncuous, teas and dinners were supplied with the product of the Tennessee dairy farm of Justice Jackson, of the supreme court. Senator Stewart's Virginia farm is one of the best known that looks to society for patronage now, and one dealer unblushingly makes a bid for the few cents extra on the pound that a senatorial stamp will bring. Mrs. Fox, the senator's daughter, inherits her father's love of farming, and has spent some summers on the place experimenting with butter making, chicken raising and horse parties. But even with the extra charge for butter made from senatorial cows the senator's farm is much more of a fad than an investment, and none of his friends begrudge him the pleasure in his old days of watching the chickens scratch up his Virginia garden.

Astor as a Duelist. William Waldorf Astor has been practicing with the sword since he became an English subject and is now reported to be a match for the best duellists in Europe. The Chicago Times-Herald suggests that perhaps he expects to come back and dare some of the people who scoffed at him while ago to step out behind the smoke-house.

Catering to Vanderbilt Trade. At many of the smart dressmakers' shops with which the Vanderbilt deal a wax model is kept of the duchess of Marlborough.

A NOTE OF WARNING.

Gen. Miles Opposes Extensive Use of Disappearing Carriage.

In a Letter to Secretary Root He Declares That It Is Easily Disabled—Is Opposed by Artillery Experts in Europe.

Gen. Miles has protested against the extensive use of the disappearing gun carriage in the coast defense system, and has declared the present conditions inadequate and dangerous. His letter to Secretary Root on the subject will create a profound sensation in the service. Gen. Miles says:

"I deem it my duty to invite your attention to the large proportion of our sea coast guns being mounted on carriages of the disappearing type. A glance at the list of coast armament reveals the somewhat startling fact that two-thirds of our guns are being supplied with disappearing carriages to the exclusion of other adopted types of mount.

"Full appreciation of this fact is of the gravest moment. Our coast armament represents an expenditure of upwards of \$40,000,000, and to complete the entire proposed scheme of national defense will involve the expenditure of as much more. The mechanism of the disappearing carriages is complex in the extreme, requiring constant daily care to keep it in proper working order. During the last year accidents which temporarily disabled the guns have been of frequent occurrence. This is due to defective material, to lack of proper care, and, primarily, to defects inherent in the disappearing system.

"Thirty-eight six-inch rapid-fire guns are to be placed on disappearing mounts, thus preventing that rapidity of fire which is the chief value of this gun, notwithstanding the board of ordnance has not yet adopted a type of carriage for guns of this caliber.

"In my opinion the disappearing carriage is an element in coast defense still more or less an experiment. It is yet to be subjected to the rigorous test of actual war. It is more costly to install and maintain than the protected barbette mount. Experience has shown it to be more easily disabled than any other type of sea coast carriage.

"In the modern coast defense systems of Europe there is not a single disappearing carriage in use, and the consensus of opinion among artillery experts in Europe is utterly opposed to the use of disappearing carriages."

BROKE HIS NECK, BUT LIVES.

Chicago Boy Who Fell While Throwing Somersaults Is Recovering.

Frank Nicholai, a Chicago boy, son of William Nicholai, of 305 Grand avenue, in a cot in Bellevue hospital, New York, steadily convalescing after one of the most remarkable operations in the history of modern surgery. Young Nicholai, an acrobat, broke his neck the other day, falling heavily upon the stage of the Dewey theater, and his death was regarded as inevitable. He was taken to Bellevue hospital, operated on by Dr. B. Farquhar Curtis, of New York, and has since shown steady progress toward recovery. A plaster cast inclosed his neck and shoulders, and every precaution has been taken to keep him from suffering the slightest jar. So well is his recovery going on that the doctors expect him to walk out of the gates in good health before many weeks pass by.

Nicholai, who is 19 years old, has been on the road with shows since he was 14. He is regarded as a plucky lad, and showed his courage by refusing to take ether while the doctors opened his neck and cut out the shattered bits of bone. "I broke my neck trying to throw a double somersault," he said, "and I ought to throw a triple one if I recover."

IGNORE WOMEN STUDENTS.

The Seniors at the Pennsylvania University Open War on Coeducation.

The feeling against coeducation at the University of Pennsylvania has been steadily growing with the increase in the number of women students until now the matter has come to a head, and the senior class of the college department has taken the initiative against the "coeds."

At a mass meeting of that class held the other day in College hall resolutions were adopted which excluded from the class record all mention of women students. A committee from the class was appointed to confer with other committees from the junior, sophomore and freshmen classes concerning the best methods of opposing coeducation. This action has aroused the whole university. It is believed by the more conservative of the male students of the university that a great mistake has been made, and that such an agitation at this time, and in such a way, is not only out of place, but is unjustifiable.

Hunting Big Game in Africa.

An expedition has just left England with the object of ascending the Nile as far up as possible beyond Khartoum and exploring the country on both sides of the river south of Fashoda, which is said to team with big game of all kinds. Almost nothing is known of the zoology of the region of the upper Nile, and the expedition will devote most of its attention to this subject, making extensive collections as it works its way up.

As Dangerous as War.

The prince of Wales may find it more dangerous to take pleasure trips through Europe, says the New York Tribune, than to go to the front in South Africa.