

A NEW EXPLOSIVE.

Great Destructive Powers Shown at Sandy Hook Proving Grounds.

Shell Loaded with the Staff Penetrates Seven Inches of Armor and Then Explodes Destructively—Great Secrecy Over Matter.

Tests are being made at the Sandy Hook proving grounds with a new explosive of great power. Ordnance officials say highly satisfactory results have been obtained. Great secrecy has been observed in conducting the tests, for the war department has determined that nothing shall be made public regarding the experiments. It has been learned that the new explosive is the invention of an American and that it has not yet been named. This removes it from the class of explosives which have been named and descriptive work is being done on it.

A shell loaded with the new explosive penetrated seven inches of armor and then burst destructively. With most explosives the heat generated by the shell's impact has caused it to explode before penetrating the armor. Hence, if launched against the side of a battleship a shell would prove far less effective than if it penetrated the armor before exploding.

As a test of the power of the new explosive a shell was loaded with it, buried many feet deep in sand, and a huge pile of timber was placed on top of the heap. The same kind of a shell, loaded with an equal amount of other explosives was not burst by the explosion. With the new compound, however, the shell was burst into pieces and a sheet of flame shot up through sand and timber many yards in height.

GIRL IN DURE PERIL.

Child Over by an Engine on Tracks in Connecticut is Found Unharmed.

When Engineer Wilson, of the passenger train that reaches Meriden, Conn., at 8:51 p. m. was speeding into Meriden the other Saturday afternoon he saw Annie Kelp, the eight-year-old child of Frank Kelp, walking on a trestle not many rods ahead of the locomotive. The little one was brought into view when the train rounded a bend in the road.

Engineer Wilson grabbed the whistle cord to warn the girl. She started to run from the trestle to the side of the track, but believing that she could not cover the distance in time to escape the train she tried to jump from the trestle. In doing so she caught her foot in the ties and fell between the rails and could not move an inch. The engineer reversed the lever and applied the emergency brakes, but was not able to bring the train to a stop until the locomotive and one truck of the tender had passed over the body of the child.

Wilson jumped from his cab and ran back to pick up what he was sure would be the mangled body of the girl. Instead, he found Annie under the tender unharmed, except for a slight scratch on the side of her head. She had so fallen that the engine and fore truck of the tender had passed over her body without touching her. She ran away when Engineer Wilson hauled her out from under the trucks.

WIVES IN FRANCE.

British Parliament is Asked to Pass a Safeguarding Measure to Protect English Women.

Appropos of the wedding which the return of heroes from South Africa has made possible as a great relief in an otherwise dull season, a bill will shortly be introduced in parliament which might fitly bear as its last line "congress please copy." This refers to the marriage of English women to foreigners, especially French.

An English woman legally married at home finds herself, on reaching France, liable to be cast adrift, owing to a quibble in French law. The proposed bill makes it obligatory on every foreigner seeking to be married in England to obtain first a certificate from his consul stating that all the legal formalities which make a marriage binding in his own country have been complied with.

Such a document would give the girl's parents a legal standing before French courts and enable them to prosecute for perjury any fortune-hunting non-in-law. At present the only redress is to use a horsewhip.

PLACES WOMEN UNDER BAN.

Vienna Postal Employees' Association Bars Them from Membership.

At a meeting of the Postal Employees' association on Sunday at Vienna it was voted to strike out a clause in the constitution admitting women to the organization as contributing members. For this step no particular reasons are advanced except a general hostility to the sex. One speaker declared that "women would constitute a most dangerous element in the union, and if given a finger would finally take the whole." Much indignation is felt among the female employees of the postal department for this action, which they declare brutal and selfish.

Union of Great Britain and Ireland. This is the one hundredth anniversary of the union of Great Britain and Ireland. George III. abandoned the title of king of France and adopted that of king of Great Britain and Ireland, with rose, shamrock and thistle as emblems.

TWO ROYAL SPINSTERS.

Princesses of England Who Have Not as Yet Succeeded in Making Matches.

The only two royal spinsters in Europe are namesakes and granddaughters of the late Queen Victoria. Princess Victoria of Wales reaches her thirty-second birthday in the spring and Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein will never see 30 again, says the Chicago Chronicle.

It is an interesting fact that of all the royal household the prince of Wales has afforded his daughter the most kindly countenance in maintaining her position. He believes in a woman making her life to please herself, and he has never come to high parental authority over the only one of his girls who preferred not to be forced into the bonds of matrimony merely for the sake of the conventionalities. Furthermore, it is whispered that the prince was on her side when, for the only time in her life, she fell in love.

The event took place many years ago, when a famously rich, handsome, amiable and enlightened young Indian prince visited Queen Victoria. His gorgeous jewels, his charming manners, and his excellent pronunciation of the English language created a great sensation on his first appearance at a garden party given at Buckingham palace. He was then introduced to Princess Victoria.

The young East Indian found her royal highness most attractive, and when he went to pay a visit to Sandringham he shortly found that the princess was by no means indifferent to his admiration; that personally she was quite willing to make India her home, and privately her lover asked her hand in marriage. He pledged himself to make her his only wife, to conduct his domestic affairs on the European plan, and he was not refused point-blank. He was told to go home and let the princess's family think it over. He went, and died of the plague three days after reaching India.

What the princess's grief was the public has never known, but she has never been very strong since. Shortly after the sad news from India she pleaded with her parents to let her study nursing at Netley hospital; she refuses to even listen to any proposals to arrange a marriage between herself and any stout young German duke, and she always wears a ruby ring of surprising beauty.

WANTS LIFE OF SOLITUDE.

Cable Operator Applies for a Lonely Position Among the Midway Islands in the Pacific.

To live alone on a barren rock among the Midway islands in the Pacific is the strange ambition of Frank G. Hopewell, a cable operator, whose home was in New York, says the Journal of that city. Mr. Hopewell gave up a position with a cable company in order to join a surveying party under Lieutenant Commander Pond, who will shortly leave San Francisco on the tug Iroquois for Honolulu.

The party will make surveys and prepare charts of the route of the proposed Pacific cable. When the work is completed and the cable is laid there will be created the position of chief cable operator for the station to be established on the barren rock referred to. It is that position which Mr. Hopewell is desirous of obtaining.

"There is still some question whether congress will," he said, "provide for the laying of the Pacific cable, even after the preparations already made and those that are going forward. Still, the cable will be laid, if not by the government, then by a private enterprise. So well founded is my belief that I have made application for the station on the Midway islands.

"And yet no one is authorized to make promises of positions. There will be two and perhaps three operators at the station, which will probably be located on what is known as Eastern island, the smaller of the two. It is about half a mile by three-quarters of a mile in area.

"I like comparative solitude and am not fond of strangers. I have lived all my life in a great city and now I want a change. I have never known what it was to enjoy absolute quiet.

"You must understand, of course, that I will not be cut off from communication with the world. On the contrary, I will always be in touch with everything that goes on everywhere. A cable operator always is."

Valuable Pompeian Statue.

The fine Greek statue in bronze recently discovered near Pompeii has been placed in the Naples museum, where examination has shown it to be covered with a layer of fine silver. This peculiarity gives the statue unique value, as there is believed to be no other bronze statue in the world so covered, though several of the more valuable Greek masterpieces, like the bust of Berenice and the dancers of Herculaneum, in the Naples museum, have their lips or their garments ornamented with silver. The fact that the bronze of the statue is completely covered with the precious metal is considered a proof that the Pompeians themselves valued it highly.—Chicago Chronicle.

Fish Commission Work.

The United States government, through the fish commission, has made possible some fine sport in western streams, says Mr. F. J. Cannon, of Idaho. "A number of streams that were formerly almost entirely without finny inhabitants have been stocked with trout, and amply protected as they are by the law, their number is rapidly multiplying."—Chicago Chronicle.

SAVED BY PUFF OF WIND.

Story of a Merchant Who Escaped Robbery Through an Unforeseen Accident.

"If the truth were known," said the head of a large wholesale house of New Orleans to a Times-Democrat man, "I dare say we would be startled at the number of men of affairs in any large place who habitually sign letters and other documents without reading them. They become convinced that it is physically impossible to even glance at everything requiring signature and resign themselves to the necessity of 'trusting somebody.' I used to have that idea myself," continued the wholesaler, "but it was exploded by rather a startling incident, and since then I have never set my pen to an unfamiliar paper. The affair to which I refer occurred years ago, when I was in the manufacturing business in another city. We had an enormous mail that grew larger every day, and while I dictated very few answers myself I made it a rule to sign all outgoing letters as president of the company.

"Sometimes there would be several hundred in a batch, and my old confidential clerk, in whom I had the most implicit trust, finally got to bringing them in with the ends overlapped, so all I could see was a succession of lines for my signature. I didn't like the plan, but it seemed the only way of getting rid of the job, and I would grab a pen and slap down a succession of autographs at lightning speed. Of course I was kept advised as to the general character of the mail, but unless some question was raised I never thought of taking out a letter and reading it. One winter day—I will never forget it as long as I live—the clerk brought in an unusually big batch of letters to be signed and was about to deposit the sheet on my desk, when somebody opened an outside door and let in a severe blast of wind. Fully half the sheets were blown over the room and some went into the fire. The old clerk instantly dropped on his knees and began collecting the papers in frantic haste. I was astonished at his agitation when he failed to find some of the lot. 'Why, a dozen or so were burned,' I said, and at last he went away, very reluctantly, to prepare copies.

"When he left the room my stenographer handed me a sheet that had blown under his desk. It was an order on my banker for my safe deposit box, which contained at that time over \$35,000 in currency. I was dumfounded and while I was trying to decide what to do my dear old confidential clerk quietly walked out a side door and was never heard of again. I think the order was merely one document of several, all covering an elaborate scheme to loot the concern, but, be that as it may, I had my lesson and since then I have never been too busy to read a letter before signing it. I find it can be done easily enough by the use of a little system."

SHILLUKS OF THE NILE.

A Picturesque People Whose Women Shave Their Heads and Do All the Work.

One part of Egypt shows where the outward and visible evidences of the aboriginal have been softened down with a veneer which the softeners fondly imagine is indicative of inward and spiritual grace. This is along a 350 mile stretch of the White Nile, where the Shilluks live and move and have their being. Now, the Shilluks are a picturesque and a promising people, says the New York Herald. They have their Fashoda for a capital and their memories of Lord Kitchener, of Khartoum, which no man may take from them. Wherefore, what matters it that they have lost their original lawlessness, their former turbulence and their cheerful speciality of roasting the enemy on the point of the spit?

"Now the Shilluks are so civilized they carry short, wooden clubs after the fashion of the Broadway policeman, and occasionally brandish a long spear in true light opera style. They lead an enviable life, those Shilluks, nothing to do all the livelong day but lie on the mossy bank and spear the horny-hided hippopotamus as he glides within range, or make a dead crocodile of a live one by the simple expedient of harpooning him through his vitals. As for work, that is for women, and my lord of the Shilluks never puts his hand to it.

Agriculture is yet an undeveloped industry, and what little developing has already taken place has been at the instance and hands of the wives. In the Shilluk country all the women of the tribe shave their heads.

Art and Maple Sugar. "Hester"—"People think so differently. While some are always talking about the beauties of nature, others think there's nothing like art.

Uncle George—Yes, nature is well enough in her way, but after all there's nothing like art. Take maple sugar, for instance. Nature can produce it only a few weeks in the year; but art, Lord love you, is equal to its production the whole year round.—Boston Transcript.

When Trees Reach Maturity.

Authorities on forestry say that 75 years are required for the oak to reach maturity; for the ash, larch and elm, about the same length of time; for the spruce and fir, about 80 years. After this time their growth remains stationary for some years, and then decay begins. There are, however, some exceptions to this, for oaks are still living which are known to be 1,000 years old.—Scientific American.

Hopelens.

"Is there any hope?" asked the prospective heir. "None," replied the physician. "Your poor uncle will recover."—N. Y. World.

SERVED A QUERER SENTENCE.

The Novel Judgment Passed by a Missouri Judge Upon Two Prisoners.

Along in the '70's the late Judge Arnold Krekel, the well-known predecessor of Judge Phillips on the federal bench, was holding court at Jefferson City, relates an old timer, when there appeared before him two men charged and indicted for a violation of the United States laws, one of whom will be called Brown. He was charged with cutting timber on the public domain. Brown was about 40 years old and had been raised on the border in Arkansas and never had any opportunities for schooling; hence was unable to read or write. In his endeavors to get a living he had cut timber suitable for making ax handles on United States lands, which led to his arrest and imprisonment. The other man will be called Jones, says the Jefferson City Tribune, for the real names of both men are not known in the memory of anyone who witnessed the incident.

Jones was charged with and indicted for having sold liquor to the Indians. Mr. Jones was a native of New York, a graduate of Union college and was educated for a lawyer. He possessed a highly cultured mind—a good Latinist and thoroughly scholarly in all sorts of books. Not succeeding in his profession in his native state, more from lack of application than otherwise, he left that country and plunged into the great west and located nobody knew where, but he drifted into the lower strata of society, and to obtain the necessities of life he resorted to "boot-legging" among the red men of the Indian territory border. His arrest and imprisonment followed. The two men were arraigned before Judge Krekel and the indictments read. They both pleaded guilty and threw themselves upon the mercy of the court. The court questioned both prisoners at length and drew from each their history. He recounted the wrongs they had been guilty of against society. He did this in a kindly tone and manner, suggesting in a mild form that both might have been useful members of some community had they sought honorable means and methods to secure a livelihood.

The court seemed puzzled how to assess a punishment that would meet the ends of justice, protect the government, its lands, its wards and society. Finally, sitting upright in his chair, looking over his glasses, as both men stood before him, in a voice little louder and more positive than usual, he said: "Mr. Brown, it is the sentence of the court that you be confined in the Cole county jail until you are educated to read and write." The judge then turned his eyes upon the other prisoner at the bar and, possibly in a louder voice, said: "Mr. Jones, it is the sentence of the court that you be confined in the Cole county jail until you have taught Mr. Brown to read and write, and I enjoin upon the keeper of the jail to afford you every facility possible with the safe-keeping of his prisoners." The lawyers and spectators in court looked with astonishment at each other as the sentence was concluded, and the marshal led the prisoners out of the courtroom.

It was the second term of the court after this incident, when the marshal conducted Brown and Jones into court, and it was announced by the court that Brown had completed his education—ready to graduate—able to read and write. Judge Krekel looked over his glasses and asked that the prisoner give him an indication of his being able to read. Brown stood up and read a few paragraphs from a newspaper to the satisfaction of the court, when he said: "Mr. Clerk, will you let him sit at a table and write me a letter?" Paper, pen, ink and a seat were furnished Brown, who went to work to write a letter to the court. For some time the poor fellow struggled with the task, and in the meantime Jones was very nervous, fearing he would be compelled to go back to jail and "take up school" again. Finally the clerk said: "May it please your honor, the prisoner can write, but cannot form sentences to make it intelligible." "Mr. Clerk," said the court, not taking his eyes from the court docket he was looking at, "you will dictate a letter for him and see what headway he makes with that." The clerk dictated a letter that the prisoner wrote quite readily, which subsequently was passed up to the court, who read the same, and after giving the prisoner a short lecture both were discharged and walked from the courtroom free men.

Candy Offset Tobacco.

"I don't intend to marry a man who'll smoke himself into a heart failure," she said. "Now, look here," he protested. "I don't interfere with your eating candy. Why should you interfere with my smoking?" "But I don't eat candy morning, noon and night."

Neither do I.

"But you smoke morning, noon and night."

"Well, if you don't smoke morning, noon and night, and I don't eat candy morning, noon and night, we break even, don't we?"—N. Y. Commercial Advertiser.

Ornithologist.

"Is that Gazy's wife with the ostrich plumes?" "Yes."

"She's a bird, isn't she?" "I guess she is more of a fowl. Anyway, she henpecks Gazy."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

THE "HELLO" GIRL.

Invention That Will Make Her a Superannuery.

Telephone Subscribers to Make Their Own Connections by Means of a Wonderful Little Apparatus—Greater Privacy Secured.

An invention threatens to do away almost entirely with the telephone girl and to make every subscriber his own "central." There is now being constructed in a shop at Forestville, Conn., an apparatus with this object in view. It is the design of an electrician in the employ of the Providence Electric company of Providence, R. I. Wealthy New York and Boston men, it is said, are promoters of the scheme.

Under the new system there will be no more "hellos" with central office operators, but subscribers will be connected by means of miniature switchboards and plugs. The lines will be numbered and each subscriber may call anyone he pleases without connection with "central." When long-distance connection is required, however, it will still be necessary to call a central office, as at present.

The new invention is called the auto-commutator. It gives undisturbed direct communication at once and assures entire secrecy of the conversation. If the station called up is busy the instrument emits a humming sound. All the subscribers are connected with a central station, at which there is a commutator apparatus for each subscriber, which is connected with the live wires of all the other subscribers.

Every subscriber is supplied with an instrument consisting of a battery, transmitter, receiver, call bell and a movable dial with decimal figures. This dial revolves round a central pivot, and may be brought opposite any figure desired. A toothed wheel is worked by this dial and connects with the battery, breaking the circuit corresponding to the figure indicated.

The central office commutator is actuated by each emission of current thus produced in the line. An electromagnet at each emission causes a vertical rod to ascend one notch. This rod has three horizontal pins, which can be brought in contact with the extremities of all the wires, which are arranged circularly, one alongside the other, in superposed rows at the bottom of the apparatus. To obtain greater resources in the combinations the two-line wires are used separately.

After the subscriber has marked the number of the person he wants he pushes the call bell button and unhook the telephone receiver. If there is a humming sound he knows that the line is already in use. As it is possible to bring the pins of the commutator rod into contact with all the lines, of which the extremities are at the bottom of the apparatus, this will suffice for about 100 subscribers.

ELECTRICIANS FOR NAVY.

To Be Enlisted Under Different Grades According to Their Ability and Aptitude.

Electricians will have an opportunity to serve in the navy. A candidate for enlistment as an electrician must have learned the trade, must know the names and uses of the various parts of a dynamo and engine; must be familiar with the ordinary types of switchboard and methods of wiring; must be able to write legibly, and must understand arithmetic.

Electricians who have had experience in the management of dynamo and who are competent to stand a dynamo watch will be enlisted as electricians second class. Electricians who are not competent to stand a dynamo watch will be enlisted as electricians third class. Apprentices, first class, who have superior intelligence, mechanical ability and aptitude for electrical work may be assigned to duty in the dynamo room, but under no circumstances will they be given charge of a watch.

Apprentices, first class, in the last year of their enlistment, who have at least nine months to serve, may upon recommendation of their commanding officer be detailed by the bureau of navigation to take the course of instruction at the electrical school.

ODD FAD OF YOUNG WIDOW.

Comtesse Louise de Mortane of Paris Orders Sumptuous Submarine Boat.

Comtesse Louise de Mortane, a pretty young widow of Paris, member of the choicest provincial aristocracy, who six months ago tried to commit suicide because Harry Thaw, a young Pittsburgh millionaire, would not marry her, will soon have a private submarine boat, which she contracted for with a Marseilles firm four months ago. It will be called Le Mystere. It will have a large parlor, two staterooms, a small electric kitchen and quarters for the crew. The fittings are to be sumptuous. It is expected to travel three full days under water.

Surprised Them Both.

Marcus Clark, author of "His Natural Life," related to a friend that he had once discovered a French novel that he considered a work of genius. He translated it into English, and when a Melbourne firm brought it out publisher and translator were astounded at discovering that he had merely Englished a French translation of one of George Eliot's works.

Another Chance for Carnegie.

It is a little late now, perhaps, says the Chicago Tribune, but has Andrew Carnegie ever noticed how badly off Alexandria, Egypt, is for want of a library?

CALAMITY JANE A PAUPER.

Was Married Twelve Times and Killed Her First Husband After He Had Beaten Her.

"Calamity Jane," one of the most noted characters of western border life, a friend of Buffalo Bill and a participant in many of the early Indian campaigns, has been admitted to the poorhouse in Gallatin, Mont. Calamity is one of the relics of early frontier life and is known to nearly all of the old Indian fighters and frontiersmen from Gen. Miles to Vice President Roosevelt. She came west from St. Louis, crossing the plains with a party of freighters shortly after the war. At that time she donned male attire and has never discarded it since. She took her place in the saddle on the range, at the faro table, at a game of stud poker, at the saloon bar along with her male companions. She is an expert shot and a daring fighter. On her first trip west her party got into a fight with Indians, and she displayed such coolness and reckless daring that she was then dubbed "Calamity Jane" and the name has stuck to her ever since. No one knows any other name for her, and she says she has none. She has been married a dozen or more times. She killed her first husband after he had given her a beating. The second one was killed in a dance house fight and a bad end came to each succeeding one, till it became a saying that ill luck followed her matrimonial favors. Of late years she has been making a miserable living by selling a pamphlet which tells an abridged story of her life, but entirely omits the most thrilling portions of it.

GIVES UP ARMY TO WED.

Marquis of Headfort Resigns That He May Be Able to Marry a Chorus Girl.

Lieutenant, the Marquis of Headfort, of the First Life Guards, whose determination to make Miss Rosa Boote, of the Gaiety chorus, marchioness of Headfort, has created so much talk, is now under orders to sail for South Africa and is confronted with the necessity either of resigning when told to go and fight, or giving up his fiancée. He declares he will accept the stigma of resignation rather than forego his resolution to marry.

The case has been brought to the notice of King Edward, who has handed it over to Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, colonel of the First Life Guards.

The prince of Saxe-Weimar wrote the young marquis a letter, pointing out the ruin of his career if he persisted in marrying Miss Boote, as she could not be received by the regiment. The marquis replied, regretting he could not see it that way; but he sent his resignation papers to Lord Roberts. The commander in chief, apparently, was also involved in a little plot, for, instead of accepting his resignation, he ordered the marquis to hold himself in readiness to go to the Transvaal. The denouement is expected to be a quiet marriage and the retirement of the young peer from his majesty's service.

SURGEON'S KNIFE FOR QUEEN.

Wilhelmina's Mother Must Undergo Operation—Consented by Her Until Her Daughter Married.

Much sorrow has been caused at The Hague by the announcement that Queen Emma of the Netherlands is in such a critical condition that she is about to undergo a serious and dangerous operation, which has been delayed too long, and, it is feared, may prove fatal.

The queen mother, who, by the wisdom and unselfishness with which she administered the regency during the minority of her daughter, Wilhelmina, won the affection and regard of the Dutch to an extent achieved by no other foreign-born princess, has long known she was afflicted with a cruel and painful malady, from which only an operation could relieve her. Realizing the risk, she delayed it until her only child had been safely married and provided with a friend and counselor in the shape of a husband.

She bore her sufferings in silence, and it is doubtful whether anyone except her physicians were cognizant of her condition.

Her daughter did not know it, and has only just been made aware of it during the last week, as it is impossible to postpone the operation any longer.

STARTS SECT OF SUICIDES.

Russian Fanatics Avoid the Power of the Anti-Christ in a Strange Way.

A number of Russian peasants living on the Volga have attached themselves to a new religion, the principal tenet of which is to seek to get to Heaven by a voluntary death and in this way to avoid the power of the coming anti-Christ. The leader of the sect is one Makaroff. He and his followers have left their villages and sought retired places in the woods and in the remote steppes. Many of them have already disappeared, either committing suicide or allowing their coreligionists to kill them.

It is believed that Makaroff's sect, is a recrudescence of a widely spread organization which the police suppressed early in the '50's. The bodies of several of these fanatics have been found. The police are doing their utmost to stamp out the sect, which already numbers hundreds.

Railroad Pastry.

The great railway across Siberia will be a rich pie to eat, says the Chicago Tribune, if Russia is to spend \$15,000,000 on its shortening.