

NAVY COSTS MILLIONS

BRITISH SEA POWER INVOLVES
\$184,000,000 YEARLY.

Appropriation Account Shows That
One Admiral Alone Received
\$40,000 for His Inventions
—Other Expenses.

London.—Some interesting figures are given in the abstract of the navy appropriation account for 1904-5, issued as a parliamentary white book. For instance, Rear Admiral Sir Percy Scott, the inventor of many appliances for improving heavy gun shooting and inspector of target practice, receives a grant of \$40,000 for his inventions. A "retired engineer captain" gets \$100,000 for improvements in the Whitehead torpedo, a "naval officer" is awarded \$700 for the invention of a steam steering device, and \$1,000 is divided among the officers and men of the merchant ship City of Cambridge for their praiseworthy behavior in saving life on the stranding of H. M. S. Sybilie.

A gross expenditure of \$184,298,306 is the price of British sea power during the financial year ending March 31 next. Of this total \$172,280,410 has gone toward the maintenance of the active service, and the remainder in such payments as half pay, pensions and gratuities.

The heaviest single item is for contract work under the heading of shipbuilding, to which no less than \$50,000,000 is devoted.

The cost of the active personnel, including the Royal Marines, during the year has been \$32,000,000, and of the Royal Naval reserves \$2,000,000. It is safe to say that no public money has been spent less grudgingly.

Naval armaments cost \$18,000,000. This, of course, not only includes all the guns and mountings for new ships, but also the replacing of the weapons of the Majestic and Ocean classes, about which a titful scare was raised last year.

WEARS PANTS 60 YEARS OLD

Town's Oldest Man Has Many Claims
to Distinction—Oldest Voter
in County.

Phoenixville, Pa.—Col. N. M. Ellis, known here as "The Grand Old Man," has celebrated his eighty-seventh birthday anniversary. He is the oldest resident of Phoenixville. Among other claims that Col. Ellis has to distinction are these:

He is the only survivor of Gov. Packer's staff.
He is the last of the original corps of engineers who surveyed the route of the Reading division of the Philadelphia & Reading railway.

He owns and wears in summer a pair of seersucker trousers, which have been in use for the last 60 years.

He is the oldest Democratic voter in Chester county.
He is probably the oldest active surveyor in the state, and only a couple of months ago surveyed the farm of Gov. Samuel Pennypacker in Schuylkill township.

He was the first station agent and telegraph operator here for the Reading railway.

He is a great-grandfather.
He served many terms as burgess, town councilman or school director.

He was appointed first borough surveyor and made the first map of the town which, with additions, is still in use.

He has a distinct recollection of seeing and conversing with veterans of the revolutionary war, in which his father fought.

Col. Ellis has just received a commission from a resident of the town to make a survey of a large tract of land and make drawings within a short period. He will start on the work at once.

URGES BERING SEA TUNNEL

Railway Promoter Enlists Russia's
Aid in Boring Under Ocean for
American-Asian Line.

St. Petersburg.—Baron Leicq de Lobel has placed before the national defense committee the project of the American-Transasaskan-Siberian company for tunneling under Behring strait and building a railroad from East cape to Kansk to connect with the Siberian railroad. Baron de Lobel offered to make any changes necessary to meet strategic considerations.

M. Toulchinski, chief engineer of the Irkutsk railway, was the principal technical opponent of the scheme, contending that construction of the tunnel was impracticable and impossible on account of the action of the tides. M. Toulchinski asserted that the shifting tundra of Siberia would necessitate the building of extensive dykes and long bridges for protection from spring freshets, etc.

Besides, M. Toulchinski claims that the climate of the region covered by the plan makes it unfit for Russian colonization and that the only result could be the eventual placing in the hands of enterprising Americans the whole unpopulated territory from the Pacific to Kamchatka.

The Horse Must Go.

It is announced that Mrs. Astor has arranged for the disposal of all her horses and carriages, and the man who has been her coachman for 25 years has been retired. An experienced chauffeur will take his place. This seems to be the general tendency in fashionable circles, though, of course, the horses and carriages are not destined to vanish right away. They will always be useful for a change.

NORDICA IS HEROINE AGAIN

Prima Donna Braves Horse's Hoofs
and Sings Her Way Out of Tangle
of Swords and Drapery.

New York.—Mme Nordica, the heroine of sensational happenings at the Metropolitan opera house this season, is a heroine again. Only recently she dodged a massive drop which fell from above the proscenium opening without disturbing her vocal or physical equilibrium. Earlier in the season she put out an incipient fire on the stage at the risk of her flimsy finger. Now she has made her debut as an animal trainer.

The music drama was "The Götterdämmerung," and Mme Nordica was singing the leading role of Brunhilde. In the last act two of the characters, Hagen and Gunther, fight a duel with swords. They are supposed to throw their weapons to one side so as not to incumber the other singers.

But the swords were left in the center of the stage, and when Mme Nordica entered they became entangled in her drapery. She sang her way out of them.

Then the old horse used in the last act was led on the stage. He stepped on one of the steel blades and it flew up, cutting his leg, and he began to kick, plunge and champ at his bit.

The high-priced opera singers ducked before his flying hoofs, but not Mme Nordica. Never once ceasing her singing or avoiding the top note, she made a dash under the horse's hoofs and secured both the swords while the attendants clung to the old nag's bit. Meanwhile the audience applauded.

WASHERWOMAN IN AN AUTO

Raises and Educates Five Children,
Purchases Two Homes and Farm
and Motor Car.

Battle Creek, Mich.—Mrs. Christina K. Huber, a Battle Creek washerwoman, who rides in an automobile purchased with money she earned over the tub, is the most conspicuous motor car enthusiast in the city.

Mrs. Huber does from 18 to 24 family washings a week and makes about \$25 in six days. She is a typical German woman, frugal, and respected in the community in which she lives. For 18 years she has taken in washing, caring for five children and giving them a commendable education. She owns the house in which she lives, another house which she rents, and a farm. Besides this she laid aside \$1,000, with which she bought her car.

When Sunday comes Mrs. Huber enjoys herself immensely riding through the country in her automobile. She says she forgets her home cares and enjoys the woods and the green fields. Then on Monday morning she "makes the rounds" with her machine, gathering the washings. She uses the machine also to deliver the clean clothes.

Mrs. Huber's house is modern and is better than the homes of many persons who earn large salaries.
"That automobile," she said, "is the only recreation and comfort I have. Why have I not the same right to own one as a wealthy person?"

LIVING TOMB OF ANCIENTS

Skeletons and Armor of Warriors,
Supposed to Have Been Buried
Alive, Unearthed.

London.—While digging on land near Frenchpark, County Roscommon, recently, a laborer discovered a cavern with an arched roof, about six feet in depth. From this a narrow winding passage led to an old castle, about a quarter of a mile distant.

The underground passage is well built, and some of the walls bear traces of inscriptions, while at a certain point a number of skeletons and bones were found, together with a quantity of metal, which proved to be armor and weapons, evidently of great antiquity.

An old legend in connection with the castle runs to the effect that ages ago the remains of one of the most powerful of the Connaught clans took refuge in this castle after their defeat in battle, and being driven into the passage it was closed up at either end by their foes and the warriors were thus left to their death.

Woman Recluse Gets Big Sum.

Attorney Charles Speaker and an attorney of Beaver, Pa., have located a woman of 86 years old in the mountains of Pennsylvania, whose name they refuse to give, and who will get the estate of the late Gen. Riley, of Wellsville, O., valued at \$100,000. Gen. Riley left no will. Many came with a claim for the wealth to Administrator Cope of Wellsville, but could prove no relationship. This woman is an aunt of the old warrior.

These Perilous Times.

The latest alarm that has been rung in is that the potato is poisonous, the reason being that the parasite green, with which the plant is sprinkled has settled in the ground and infected the tuber itself. The time is coming when everything you eat will have to be provided with a certificate of good character.

England's Race Horses.

There are over 4,000 race horses in England, Scotland and Ireland whose training quarters are fully known, and they are stabled in 34 establishments.

Long Wait for Death.

Greece possesses a curious criminal law. A person sentenced to death there waits two years before the execution of the sentence.

TELLS JURY BY PHONE

TIME-SAVING DEVICE OF JUDGE
UPHELD BY COURT.

Jurist Gave Instructions to Body Over
Wire and Suit Was Brought to
Higher Court—System Is
Not Urged.

Boston, Mass.—The use of a telephone by a judge in his home to direct a jury in a courthouse nine miles away in the intelligent use of different terms of blank verdicts, while possibly open to grave objections, is held not to affect their verdict, according to an opinion sent down by the full bench of the state supreme court in the case of John B. Whitney et al. as trustees vs. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The suit was for land damages. Judge Bishop gave the jury different forms of issues to decide and instructing them in their use sent them out.

As they had not agreed at the hour of adjournment of court for the day the judge left word with the court officer in charge of the jury to let him know by telephone if they did not understand the use of the blanks. During the evening the court officer called up the judge by telephone at his home in Newton, which was nine miles from the courthouse at East Cambridge, where the jury was in deliberation, and told him that they were in difficulty about the meaning of each of the forms, but had otherwise agreed upon a verdict.

Having satisfied himself that this was the only difficulty, the judge instructed the court officer to escort the jury into the office of the county treasurer, where the telephone was located, and with no one else present but the court officer the judge instructed the jury through the office of the blanks.

The plaintiffs claimed that this invalidated the verdict, but the supreme court holds that no miscarriage of justice resulted, inasmuch as the communication did not relate to the substance of the verdict itself, although the court intimates there are grave objections to any communications with a jury by telephone.

PEDDLES SHRIMPS IN AUTO

Young Men of Millions Hits on a
Plan for Furnishing San Rafael,
Cal., with the Delicacy Fresh.

San Rafael, Cal.—Frank H. Johnson, a wealthy young man, has purchased 12 acres of land within the corporate limits of this city and proposes to try chicken raising upon a scientific and up-to-date plan. He believes that the climate of this city is favorable to his project. All his fowls will be of high pedigree and will be handled by competent chicken men. Toothsome capons will be a specialty, and eggs stamped with the hour and date of laying will be another.

Johnson has another hobby, and that is peddling fresh shrimps within a couple of hours after they have been caught. The other day the business men of this city were surprised when Johnson stepped out of his automobile with a quantity of warm shrimps, quoting them at six cents a pound delivered.

The merchants were at first inclined to take it as a joke, but he showed them that he had 500 pounds of freshly cooked shrimps in his steam wagon. He easily disposed of them, and announced his intention to furnish shrimps every Tuesday and Thursday. Generally the shrimps sold here are 24 hours old and rapidly lose their delicacy. Johnson will drive his automobile to Point San Pedro and get the shrimps as soon as they are caught and then hasten San Rafael with them.

Young Johnson recently married a Miss Selby, of San Francisco. His holdings were appraised at \$980,000 several years ago, and have greatly increased in value since then.

URGE PAPER HANDKERCHIEF

English Doctors Declare Linen Variety
Spreads Disease Germs—
Jap Make Best.

London.—Several leading London physicians are now advocating the use of a handkerchief made of paper. This is not only with the idea of preventing the spread of consumption, but a myriad of other diseases. It is argued that a linen handkerchief which is carried in the pocket and becomes heated is necessarily a disseminator of undesirable germs and with the aid of the laundries, a constant circulation of deadly organisms is kept up. It is customary to many English sanatoria to supply the patients with paper handkerchiefs, which, after use, are placed in receptacles, where they are immediately cremated.

Most of these handkerchiefs used in these sanatoria are of Japanese make, as the English-made have not come into great favor on account of their being much harder in texture than the Japanese.

Bear Has Two Teeth Pulled.

A performing bear traveling with a vaudeville company through Pennsylvania was the patient in a case of dental surgery. The bear had been out of humor for some time on account of toothache and the two troublesome teeth were removed by a Pottstown veterinary. The animal was strapped on his back to the floor and the trainer and veterinary set to work. The tasks were so firm that the job took an hour and a half. The animal performed as usual. There is no similar case on the records of dental surgery.

HAPPY IN ANTICIPATION.

Poet Has a Good Time Until the
Postman Shatters His
Day Dream.

It chanced that the poet was out mooning around for material at the time of the first postal delivery, says Tit-Bits. Thus it happened that instead of the letter itself, he found the slip bearing the intelligence that a registered letter awaited him at the post office upon his return. As he gazed upon the slip a frown of thought gathered upon his forehead. "A wonder what the dickens it is!" he muttered.

Then a smile broke suddenly over his face. "By Shakespeare!" he cried, "I'll bet my poem has won the 'Whirl of Fate' competition. And the first prize, too. They wouldn't send a check in a registered letter if it were for anything smaller."

As a riotous celebration of his happy success he cut his pipe aside and lit one of his cherished cigars. "Let's see," he said, as he sunk luxuriously back in his chair, revelling in the aromatic smoke. "One hundred pounds! My lady shall have the seal skin she's been yearning for all these years, and I'll get a whole new suit all at once, and an overcoat. We'll go for a splendid tour by way of the lakes. I must have a new typewriter in place of this worn-out old thing. And I'll get a bike. My lady needs a lot of new clothes, and, by Tom Hood! I'll get a dozen new shirts and collars and cuffs, so's to be stocked up at once, and an extra pair of shoes. Then I'll lay in a store of a thousand cigars—good ones—and five pounds of tobacco, and a few dozen lead pencils. And Mary shall have a cool £5 to do with just as she likes. Oh, isn't this a windfall? I must write and get her home from mother's right off."

Just as he seized his pen there was a ring at the front door. A glance at the clock told him that it was really time for the second delivery.

"Come in; come in and have a drink, old fellow," cried the poet, flinging wide open the door and attempting to shake hands with the postman.

"Registered letter, sir. Sign here and there," responded that official stolidly, thrusting his book into the poet's outstretched hand.
With trembling fingers the poet dashed off his signature and ripped open the letter. A fragment of cloth first met his eager gaze and then he read:

"Dear John: I send you a sample and I want you to get me three yards like it for a blouse. It is very important, so I send this by registered letter so you'll be sure to get it. Am well. Hastily, your loving wife,"

"MARY."

"Hum!" remarked the poet, staring blankly at the half sheet of notepaper. "Well," he observed, his face brightening up, "I had a grand time thinking of it, anyway."

INTERESTING EXPERIMENT.

How a Strong Cask Is Burst Asunder
with Only Half a Pint
of Water.

That a small quantity of water, say half a pint, may be made to burst a strong cask, seems a startling statement to make, and yet it is true. It is a well known law of physics that the pressure exerted by liquids increases in proportion to their depth. Suppose, therefore, that we have a strong cask filled with water and standing on end. The staves of this cask may be made to burst apart by adding a very small quantity of water to what is already in the cask. As the cask is already full, some way of adding the water must be devised. To do this a hole is bored in the end or head of the cask, and a long tube of small diameter is inserted upright. At the upper end of the tube is a small funnel into which water is poured until the tube becomes full, and when that point is reached the cask will burst.

This seems almost incredible, but it is only a demonstration of the law that has been cited. When the water is poured into the tube it unites with the water in the cask, and the depth of the water is several times as great as that in the cask alone. The fact that there is only a small quantity of water in the tube makes no difference, for it is now one body, and its depth is gauged from the top of the tube to the bottom of the cask.

As a matter of fact, this experiment is only an artificial reproduction of what we know takes place in nature. Some of her greatest convulsions are caused by this very process. Suppose, for example, that there is a great mass of rock, under which there is a cavity filled with water that has no outlet. Suppose, moreover, that there is a crack extending from the surface of the ground through this mass of rock to the water filled cavity underneath. A rock in this condition is a common thing in nature, the crack being caused by some disturbance of the earth, or by its splitting in the natural order of things. Now, when it rains enough to fill that crack, thus increasing the depth of the water in the cavity, the pressure will become so great that the rock will be torn into a hundred fragments.

First New England.

The original New England was on the Pacific coast. Francis Drake, in 1579, at the close of a month's stay, took possession of the country for his sovereign, Elizabeth, and named the new acquisition Nouva Albion (New England, because he thought the white cliffs near what is now Point Reyes, resembled the chalk cliffs near Dover.

WOULD KILL PLANT.

SCIENTISTS TO DESTROY THE
WATER HYACINTH

Chemical Has Been Compounded
Which Does Away with Hindrance
to Navigation—Liquid Is Secret
—Sprayed Upon Flower.

Washington.—For years scientific men have been making every effort to find a means of destroying the water hyacinth. Its growth is most luxuriant, and it spreads so rapidly that it covers vast areas of the waters of southern rivers and becomes a menace to navigation. Various have been the schemes to rid the waterways of this pest, but none have been effective till quite recently.

A chemical has been compounded which has such an effect upon the plant that if it comes in contact with the stem or blossom these portions soon wither. The solution is so powerful, also, that it works its way down the stem, killing the root.

Some of the ingredients are known only to the inventor, but a large quantity of acid is used in its preparation. The process of manufacture is very simple, the "laboratory" being placed upon a barge provided with two tanks. Connected with the tanks is a boiler, in which the ingredients are mixed at a high temperature, which is produced by steam heat.

The laboratory boat or barge used in the work is of light draft, so that it may be towed by the spraying boat. The latter is provided with three reservoirs, which are filled by pumping from the barge.

Pipes lead from the reservoirs to a steam pump, which supplies the spraying apparatus. This consists of three booms. One extends directly in front of the vessel, being supported by a block and tackle attached to the bow deck. The others project from the sides of the vessel. The sprayers consist of hollow tubes, which are perforated at intervals of about a foot, and the holes are fitted with miniature nozzles.

The liquid is forced into the sprayers through lines of hose, which are connected to the sprayers by couplings in the usual manner. The arrangement of the sprayers is such that the chemical can be distributed over a space of 90 feet in width when the boat is moving.

The reservoirs carry a sufficient supply of chemical to cover about 100,000 square yards, and on a portion of the stream where the growth is not too rank the steamer will treat this area of surface in a day. In places where the side sprayers cannot be utilized on account of trees or other obstructions the chemical is applied to the plants by means of ordinary hose operated by members of the crew.

That this method is most effective is proved by the fact that portions of the dead growth which have been taken from the St. John's river, where the chemicals have been applied, showed that the fiber had decomposed at the very roots.

In this state it no longer hinders navigation, for the solution kills the seeds as well as the plants. The best time for carrying on the work has been found to be during the seedling time, and as great a space as possible is covered during that period. The solution used is of such destructive nature that the withering process begins within a few hours after it has been applied, for it penetrates to the very roots.

MOCK UNION WAS NO JOKE

Woman, 50, Insists on Holding Man,
30, to Wedding Vow Taken
in Fun.

Philadelphia, Pa.—A frolic at a social gathering last January is causing considerable uneasiness to several persons in Camden. There was a party given January 27 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Patterson at 800 Spruce street.

During the funmaking Robert Currens asked Miss Rebecca Shindler to become his bride. D. G. Moore, entering into the spirit of the occasion, agreed to act as "minister," so he "united" Currens and the woman.

Unfortunately, the latter thought the ceremony genuine, especially when given a certificate. In fact she has refused to look upon the matter as a joke, and Prosecutor Lloyd's attention will be called to the case. Miss Shindler is about 50 years old, while Currens is not yet 30.

SHOT A 5,000-FOOT CHUTE

Little Girl Makes a Flying Trip and
Escapes Without Hurt in
Episode.

Winsted, Conn.—Marie Rosier, six years old, whose father is a wood-chopper on Canaan mountain, in West Norfolk, had a thrilling ride down the mountain side in the 5,000-foot trough of the Canfield Lime company.

The trough, made as smooth as glass by the wood sliding down it, has a sharp descent and then rises to allow the wood to shoot up into the air and fall into a pile. The girl crawled up into the trough and was coming down feet first when men at the base of the mountain heard her cries.

Like a shot out of a cannon the girl left the trough and dropped 20 feet into the arms of Foreman Michael Tierney, frightened but uninjured.

Man, 103, to Wed Girl of 23.

Out in Colorado a man who claims to be 103 years old is going to marry a lady 23 years old. She must be one of those women who like to gather up and exhibit family relics.

SEA BIRDS LOST IN FOG.

Water Fowl of English Coast Fly
Inland and Lose Their
Bearings.

A kannel or Solan goose, the bird which has made the Bass Rock so famous, has been picked up in an exhausted state in a garden at Billingborough, Lancashire. It is rare, says the London Daily Mail, that a bird so absolutely dependent on the sea for its existence is found so far inland.

Fogs, it has been shown, act as a deterrent to migration, causing the moving hosts to rise above the fog level, and so to pass over places they usually visit, or, overtaking them, they temporarily bar further progress.

The list of British birds owes its continual increase to fogs and other adverse weather conditions. During the last year or two British ornithologists, aided by lighthouse keepers, acting with the consent of the Elder Brethren of Trinity House, have done much to clear up the mysteries of migration.

During heavy wind and rain birds fly low when crossing the sea, barely overtopping the waves, instead of, as was supposed, rising above the clouds. Where lighthouses are stationed the birds fly to the white light in bolsterous weather, and the death rate in consequence is appalling, tens of thousands striking the lantern and falling into the sea.

CHINESE MILLIONAIRE.

Familiar Character with All American
Traveling on Mexican
Railroad.

"While sitting in the smoking vestibule of a sleeper the other day between Porfirio Diaz and Torreón I was introduced to a very familiar character with all Americans traveling over the national lines, writes a Hobart News Republican correspondent. He is a Chinaman, and his name is Poundchuck. He is naturalized, wears short hair and talks better English than a great many Americans.

He owns all the railway eating houses between Diaz and the City of Mexico and is estimated to be worth over a million in gold. He came to Mexico from California 20 years ago with less than \$20 and went to work as cook for the railway construction company. He now owns three truck farms and raises all vegetables used in his line of hotels. He also owns a farm of 11,000 acres in the state of Tamaulipas. He employs 100 Mexicans and 25 Chinese coolies.

"He says the average pay to the Mexicans is 44 cents a day and the Chinese 75 cents. When I asked him why he paid the Chinese more than the Mexicans, he said he could work the Chinese 18 hours a day if necessary, and that it was like pulling teeth to get four hours a day out of the peons. He says the peons live on 72 cents a week."

LOST BETS ON FROZEN FISH

Speculators of Sealy Proposition
Obliged to Part with Their
Cold Cash.

A long pike, frozen in the center of a large cake of ice, caused several dead game sports to lose a bunch of money, relates the Anacondan Standard. The fish and the cake of ice reposed on the back bar of a well-known third parlor and the pile was viewed with curiosity. Finally some one started a discussion by stating that if the fish were released from its prison of ice it would revive and continue to live just as if there had never been any ice. Another gent disagreed with the first and a general argument followed.

One fellow said that that was the way fish spent the winter months, regularly. Like snakes, he said, they remained in a comatose condition all winter and when the ice melted in the springtime they were just as frisky as if summer had continued all winter. The discussion became very heated and bet amounts to several hundred dollars were laid on both sides of the question at issue. The cake of ice was split and the fish placed in a tub of lukewarm water, but at last reports he had shown no signs of life. The backers of the resurrection proposition wouldn't give up the money until an old fisherman came in and said: "Ef you hadn't been a pack of durned fools you would have knowed that feesh was dead before it was ever friz up like that."

Billeted for Death.

Death from snake bite is somewhat rare in South Africa, but a recent case is reported from the veldt. A Boer named Johannes Smit had gone to the mouth of the Selous river to shoot crocodiles, when he had an exciting encounter with a leopard. Smit would undoubtedly have met his death if a large hound, which was accompanying him, had not sprung upon the wounded animal, enabling Smit to fire a second charge. Almost immediately after the incident, as he was passing through thick undergrowth, the man was bitten by a poisonous snake and his death followed within an hour or two.

Problematical.

"Miss Kookoo, if I should call some evening next week might I hope to find you at home?"
"Why, that would depend upon whether or not I knew what evening you were coming, Mr. Thirkull."—Chicago Tribune.

Her Hard Lot.

"Mamma, what is a spinster?"
"A spinster, my dear, is a woman to be envied. But don't tell your father I said so."—Tit-Bits.