

NEW RULER OF AUSTRALIA



William Humble Ward, second earl of Dudley, who has been appointed governor-general of the Australian commonwealth, has crowded a great deal of experience into 42 years of life.

LATEST WAR TERROR

POWER OF EXPLOSIVE PROVED IN TESTS BY ARMY.

Experiments at Fort Riley Show That Ammunition Would Annihilate Infantry in the Field and Silence Other Batteries.

Fort Riley, Kan.—The field artillery board of the army, which is stationed at Fort Riley, has just concluded one of the most interesting and at the same time thorough tests of ammunition for field artillery that have taken place in the United States.

For the last two years the army has been experimenting with a high explosive shrapnel and shell with a view of increasing the killing power of the former and the destructive qualities of the latter.

There were many features of the firing which were spectacular and of great interest to the layman. From vantage points on the reservation and safe beyond the danger zone, the flights of the shells could be plainly heard, and the bursting of the many shells could be seen as they hit about the targets or, striking them, tore them to pieces.

The terrific power of this new ammunition was plainly demonstrated, and the tests, which were conducted under the personal supervision of the members of the board, proved successful beyond the fondest expectations.

The first target to be attacked represented infantry in column on the march. Eight board targets, each 40 yards long, two yards high and of inch planking, were arranged one after the other and 25 yards apart.

Another type of target was a shielded gun and caisson with the caisson chest loaded with shrapnel and shell and with five dummy cannons at their posts.

The rain of well-directed shots literally tore the target in pieces. It was set on fire and many of the shells in the caisson chest were exploded.

The third target on the program was made up of two stone walls, each six yards long, three yards high and one yard thick. It was assumed that these targets sheltered troops and the object was to destroy this shelter as well as to burst the shells over them and reach the troops assumed to be behind them.

Fewer Births in France.

Paris.—Vital statistics for 1907 show a further marked decrease in the birth rate of France, which in a century has fallen from 1,007,000 to 774,000 a year.

QUEER CARGO FROM CHINA.

Firecrackers, Pigtails and Joss Sticks Fill British Ship.

Baltimore, Md.—An unusual arrival the other day was the British steamer Jeseric, Capt. Thomson, from China and Japan, with a cargo of matting and general merchandise from the far east.

The Jeseric is the third steamer to load Chinese products for this port, the first being the French steamer Tiberghien and the second the British steamer Athol.

Young America will be pleased to know that stored in the capacious hold of the steamer are 2,000 tons of firecrackers, which will, however, be discharged at New York, where they will be distributed to all parts of the country in time for the national celebration of the Fourth of July.

When the Jeseric reached port she had practically covered the distance around the world. On August 28 she sailed from New York loaded with ten complete locomotives destined for Manchuria railway.

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"WETTEST" TOWN IN LAND.

Benbow City, Ill., Has 23 Saloons and 18 Voters.

Benbow City, Ill.—Benbow City, the flat town, which has grown up around the Standard Oil company's new refinery, eight miles south of Alton, is the wettest town in Illinois, and because it is the wettest it is also the richest.

It began its corporate existence as a village with 18 registered voters and 23 saloons. Within the corporate limits of Benbow City there are 300 persons and one saloon for each 13 inhabitants.

Payments for the coming year have already been made, and the little village starts out in live with a \$15,000 nest egg. The liquor interests have paid \$50 for each man, woman and child in the village, the per capita wealth of which by reason of this revenue from the liquor interests is greater than that of any town or city in the United States.

Bird Lets Out the Water.

Kalamazoo, Mich.—Because an ambitious woodpecker was determined to secure a worm from a plank in the bottom of a large tank at the Jewish cemetery, the private water system there was put out of business.

ANCIENT PARIS MILL AT WORK.

Longchamp Landmark Again Useful After a Rest of Two Centuries.

Few of the throngs of Americans who go to Paris fail to visit the Bois de Boulogne, so thousands of Americans know the Longchamp windmill, especially those who go to the Grand Prix or any of the other races at Longchamp.

A few days ago Parisians walking or driving in the Bois were surprised to see the wings of this old thirteenth century mill turning in the breeze that swept the Longchamp ward.

The mill, however, has been equipped with four pumps, and now when the wind serves these pumps increase the water supply which furnishes the great cascade of the Bois de Boulogne.

DISPLEASES THE OLD TIMERS.

Prejudice Against Power Transmission Through the Mountains.

Cautiously trilling through some shadowy canyon of the Sierras, perhaps with treacherous footing along the bed of a turbulent mountain stream, sheer, craggy walls of rock rising on either side to 60, 80 or 100 feet, from which every vestige of living green has been torn by the spring torrents and above which again mount 300 or 400 feet of steep, forest-clad slopes, the keen eye of hunter or prospector may sometimes light upon two or three wires swinging in a crescent high above the feathered tops of the pines.

If the explorer is a stranger and unacquainted with the peculiarities of the country his first thought will be of telegraph or telephone. But the old hand knows better and, if a hunter, will probably ejaculate with an oath: "Transmission!"

Bank of England's Graveyard.

Few visitors to the Bank of England are aware that it contains, besides vaults full of bullion and specie, a graveyard. During the famous Garden riots in 1780 the bank was attacked by the mob, and was at one time in considerable danger.

The incident drew the attention of the authorities to the fact that an adjoining church, having the peculiar name of Saint Christopher-le-Stocks, was in a military sense a source of danger, and an act of parliament was passed to enable the directors to purchase the church and churchyard.

The church, a quaint old structure, was pulled down and the churchyard laid out as a garden, now known as the Bank gardens, which boasts the largest lime tree in London.

Curious Double Rainbow.

Of a curious double rainbow an observer says in a letter to the London Times: "On March 14 last, while on the voyage between Jamaica and the Isthmus of Panama at 11 a. m., the sun being then nearly in the zenith, a double rainbow of brilliant coloring appeared, forming a complete circle round the sun, the inner bow being some distance from the sun, the outer bow being about an equal distance from the inner. A clear horizon showed no signs of rain. Neither the captain nor any other soul on board had ever seen a similar phenomenon. The outer bow faded gradually away and then the inner bow."

Not a Single Thought.

"I hope, Mr. Smith," the young man began, "that you share in the confidence your daughter seems to repose in me."

Her father nodded with a receptive air. "I am now getting \$25 a week," the young man continued, "and I want to know if that is, I thought that circumstances—"

"Exactly. I understand your embarrassment. We all go through that. You want to know if \$25 a week is enough to marry on."

The Ashes of Grieg.

An urn containing the ashes of Edvard Grieg has been permanently placed in a natural grotto, situated in a cliff at Troldhaugen, near Bergen. The grotto can only be reached from the water side, as the rocks at this point jut down straight into the fjord.

Fish Food and National Greatness.

There is not the smallest reason to suppose that a meat-eating nation would be superior either in intellect or physique to a fish-eating one. We as a race were never stronger than when we fed on fish to such an extent that the careful guardian of the newly entered apprentice comically stipulated that he was not to be required to eat salmon more than three days a week.

DEALT FAIRLY WITH NATIVES.

Writer Denies That Pilgrim Fathers Oppressed the Indians.

Small wits have a fashion of saying that the Pilgrims, on reaching these shores, first fell on their knees and then on the aborigines. The simple fact is, declares Rev. Frederick A. Noble in "The Pilgrims," that these natives of the land were dealt with in a way to meet at once the conditions of justice and mercy to savage tribes and of the safety and growth to Christian colonists.

The Pilgrims ministered to the Indians in sickness. They arbitrated their quarrels and lessened jealousies and frictions between tribes. They saw that red men who had been employed by white men to do any kind of work were properly remunerated for their services.

Improper advantages were not to be taken of them in trade. When oppressed by cold or threatened by starvation, and they made appeals for succor, these untutored savages were never turned unaided from the doors of their civilized neighbors.

ROMANCE OF BURIED PICTURES.

Long-Hidden Works of Great Artists Strangely Brought to Light.

The romantic story of the picture purchased at a London auction, which on expert examination proved to be painted over a Rembrandt worth \$40,000, is curiously reminiscent of the discovery of a Correggio under similar circumstances.

The picture he offered to Lovers, who, on close examination, found that the new ground sealed off and that underneath were traces of a figure painted in a style that denoted the hand of a master. Replacing the scales, and concealing his discovery, he purchased the picture for little more than the value of the canvas.

Dread of Marble Portraits.

"One peculiarity of human nature that I am reminded of daily," said a sculptor, "is the disinclination of the average man to look upon himself reproduced in marble. The sight strikes him with positive dread. It makes him feel as if he were looking on his own lifeless body. For that reason it is difficult to persuade many persons worth modelling to sit for a sculptor."

Lightning Magnetizes Rock.

When lightning strikes a rock it makes magnets. Magnetized places, that is, spots attracting iron, like the lodestone, often are noticed in volcanic rocks. They have been ascribed by Folgeraiter to lightning, but he knew of no magnetized rocks that had been tested before the lightning struck.

Congenial Occupation.

"I wish my husband could get a situation in the weather bureau," said the discouraged looking woman.

Lightning Rang Bell Before Entering.

The door bell at Alex. McDonald's home in Amherst, Mass., was rung by lightning as the bolt entered and went through the house. McDonald's coach was jerked from under him, a shoe was ripped from his daughter's foot as she was left unconscious and the house was set afire.

APART FROM THEIR FELLOWS.

Peculiar Beliefs Concerning Those Whose Eyebrows Meet.

The person whose eyebrows meet may rest content in the knowledge that he is the possessor of a vigorous constitution. The growth of hair above the nose is as a rule fairly sound proof of good health. That is what the scientists tell you, but the superstitious have much more to say. In the northern part of Aberdeenshire, Scotland, there is a common belief that a "close brood" man, or one whose eyebrows meet, is fated to end a wicked career on the scaffold.

HISTORIAN AN IRRITABLE MAN.

Freeman's Temper Flared Up Over Intellectual Differences.

Freeman, the historian, it was said, was apt to grow irritable over matters of intellectual difference. One day he was at the Macmillans, when the conversation turned upon the subject of Ireland. Mr. Macmillan said that, for his part, he was in favor of granting autonomy.

The Wedding Gift Problem.

"When a girl receives over 600 'numerous and costly' wedding gifts, what can she do with them? If she is to live in a flat, there can be no room for a quarter of that number; if she furnishes a big house with them, what becomes of her individual taste? And if she is not to have any particular abiding place, then only the storage warehouse will be benefited."

Girl Was Not Afraid.

After two men had failed to do it, owing to lack of nerve, Miss Ellie Moody of Rupert, near Wilkesbarre, Pa., climbed an 80-foot slender ladder to a windwheel and repaired the wheel.

Long Ways Around in Scotland.

Scotland possesses several other railway anomalies, of which probably the most notable is that of the stations of Mallig and Kyle, of Lochalsh, which, though only 20 miles apart in a straight line, are separated by no less than 360 miles of rail by the shortest route.

Teardrops.

In Shakespeare's time the belief prevailed in many quarters that the common toad had within its head a stone which possessed extraordinary virtues.

As Amended.

"Time—a year after they had faced the parson together. 'When we were first married you said you thought heaven had sent you to me,' remarked his wife. 'Do you still think so?' 'Yes—as a punishment,' answered the brutal other half of the combline.

HEART BEATS GIVE WARNING.

Irregular Action That Presages Attack of Scarlet Fever.

The scarlet fever heart is a peculiarity lately noticed for the first time, by a German medical man. With the stethoscope it is recognized by a reduplication of the first heart sound, followed by a rough rasping or scraping, and this appears at the onset of many cases of scarlet fever, often when no other symptoms are to be detected.

GUARD FOR GEN. WASHINGTON.

Soldiers So Honored Chose for Their Motto "Conquer or Die."

By general order 11 dated at Valley Forge, March 17, 1778, 100 men were selected from the army to be annexed to the guard of the commander-in-chief. The guard then existing numbered 80 Virginians and for that reason it was ordered that the new members be taken from the troops of other states.

The Girl with the Forehead.

She is almost extinct. Whether it is that the present browless state is due to a revolutionary movement against the beaming foreheads of transcendental ladies or whether it is that some astute woman who had not been granted a forehead followed the tactics of the fox without a tail, and convinced all her followers that it was modish to be without, the fact remains that hardly one woman in a hundred acknowledges that intellectual area.

Long on Practicability.

A Wall street man dropped into a country school and was invited to examine a class. "How much are two and two?" he asked the first boy up. "I don't know." "Who discovered America?" "I don't remember."

Keeping Him in Practice.

"Johnny says he's going to run away and join a circus." "What does he think he can do?" "He says he can carry water to the elephant."

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