

### A Chemical Test of Ocean Currents.

During a recent expedition on behalf of the Carnegie Institution, Dr. A. M. Mayer noted that in the tropical Pacific, whenever the ship met with a decided counter-current running in an easterly direction against the prevailing westerly drift, the water became relatively acid. This easterly current is often encountered in the region of such low-lying coral islands as Palmyra and the Phoenix or Union groups, and is dangerous to vessels at night, as there are no lighthouses, and the vessel may be driven on a reef before the presence of the current has been noticed. Whether the water is relatively acid or alkaline can easily be determined by the use of some such indicator as thymolsulphonphthalein. One has only to mix the water with a few drops of the dye, and the mixture is greenish-blue. It is alkaline, while an approach toward acidity produces a more nearly yellow color. This method may also be used to determine when a ship passes out of a current of tropical origin, which, being warm, is alkaline, into another

current of colder water, which, on account of its low temperature, is less alkaline than the sea-water of the tropics.

### Prince a Mason.

#### INITIATION CONDUCTED BY DUKE OF CONNAUGHT.

With elaborate ceremony the Prince of Wales was initiated into the craft of Freemasonry at a special "emergency" meeting of the Household Brigade Lodge of Freemasons, held at Prince's Hotel, Piccadilly. There was a large and distinguished attendance, including Prince Arthur of Connaught. When the Lodge opened the ceremony of initiation was conducted by the Duke of Connaught, assisted by Lord Amhurst, pro-Grand Master. In thanking the Lodge for the honour conferred upon him, His Royal Highness complied with the traditions of the Household Brigade Lodge by compressing his speech in the five words, "Worship Master, I thank you." In thus entering the ranks of Masonry the Prince of Wales fulfilled a wish expressed when he was at Oxford. It would undoubtedly have reached accomplishment

earlier but for the war, and now the fulfilment of His Royal Highness's intention has given the greatest satisfaction to all members of the craft. The initiation ceremony was followed by the usual dinner. The initiation of the Prince of Wales is the continuation of the close connection between the reigning house of Great Britain and Ireland and Freemasonry, which has existed now for nearly 200 years. Masonic tradition has it that King Athelstan granted a Charter to Freemasons in A.D. 926, that Edward III. revised the Constitution in 1358, and that Henry VI and William III. were both initiates of the Order. In 1737 Freemasonry leaves tradition and enters the realm of history, and, since the initiation of Frederick, Prince of Wales, father of George III., in that year, every heir apparent, with two exceptions and nearly

Every Prince of the Royal Blood has been a member of the Craft. It is exactly 51 years since the grandfather of the Prince of Wales, King Edward VII., was initiated, and 45 years since the Duke of Connaught became a member of the Order. The keen interest taken by King Edward

VII. in the Order is still the subject of pleasing reminiscences and conversation whenever Masons of his period foregather. He was elected Grand Master in 1874, and enjoyed a most prosperous and popular rule until his accession to the Throne, when he was succeeded in the rule of the Craft by the present Grand Master, the Duke of Connaught. The late Duke of Clarence was initiated in 1885, and two years later was appointed active Senior Grand Warden of England, becoming so as the "Grand Master of Berkshire" in 1890. Although King George V. did not follow in his father's footsteps and become a member of the Order, he, on his accession to the Throne in 1910, immediately signified his wish to become Patron of both the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys and the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls. Prince Arthur of Connaught was initiated in 1911 in the Royal Alpha Lodge, No. 16, which dates back to 1722, and is not infrequently referred to as the "Grand Masters' Private Lodge," owing to the fact that its few initiates are always of distinguished rank, and the Grand Secretary of England is always the Secretary of the Lodge. This was the Lodge chosen by the late Duke of Clarence for his initiation. The Household Brigade Lodge was founded in 1896. Its founders were officials and others personally connected with the Royal Household. All its members are of distinguished rank, and it is one of the few Lodges in which the office of Master is held permanently by the Duke of Connaught—the Deputy Master, who is appointed annually, exercising his functions in his absence. It was in this Lodge that Prince Arthur of Connaught went through his initiation in May, 1912.—News of the World.

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### Cannibals of Australia.

Lowest in the human scale of all existing peoples are the "black fellows" of Australia. They are rather monkeylike, with protruding jaws, wear no clothes whatever, have no habitations and subsist from day to day on what they can pick up or kill. In former days white settlers in the island continent hunted them down like wild beasts, regarding them as a kind of apes. Some excuse for this was found in the fact that they were hopelessly treacherous, chronic thieves and professed cannibals. Prof. Karl Lumholtz, a Norwegian scientist, made a trip of exploration through their country, and it was a marvel that he got out alive. The natives whom he employed as helpers and baggage carriers, and whom he liberally paid with tobacco and pipes—they knew nothing of money—were constantly plotting to kill him.

One of them, named Mangoran, who looked more like a great ape than a man, and whose mouth extended almost from one ear to the other, would, says Dr. Lumholtz, "when he talked to me, grin widely and rub his belly, as if the sight of me made his mouth water."

He soon found that it was dangerous to allow one of the black fellows to walk behind him. To be liberal with them was a perilous mistake, for they attributed his generosity to fear, and went so far as to demand as gifts his weapons and the trousers he wore.

His chief protection came from their belief that he possessed supernatural power, and that he never slept. Also they were particularly afraid of his revolver, which they called the "baby of the gun," and which they thought could keep on shooting indefinitely.

Human flesh was the food they relished beyond anything else to eat. To get it, they were always ready to murder. For drinking cups they used skulls usually.

To celebrate events that merit rejoicing—such, for instance, as the capture of human prey for killing and eating—they hold a "corroboree," the principal feature of which is a dance with singing. Their bodies painted in ghastly fashion, they caper about a huge bonfire, waving spears and firebrands.

The boomerang is their chief weapon. But the kind that returns to the thrower is used as a plaything. The boomerangs employed in the chase do not return.

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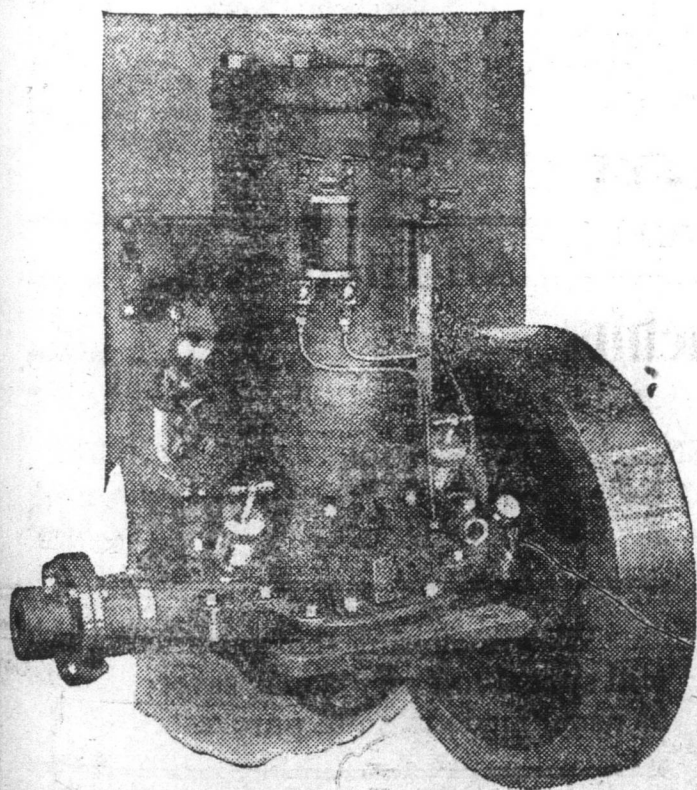
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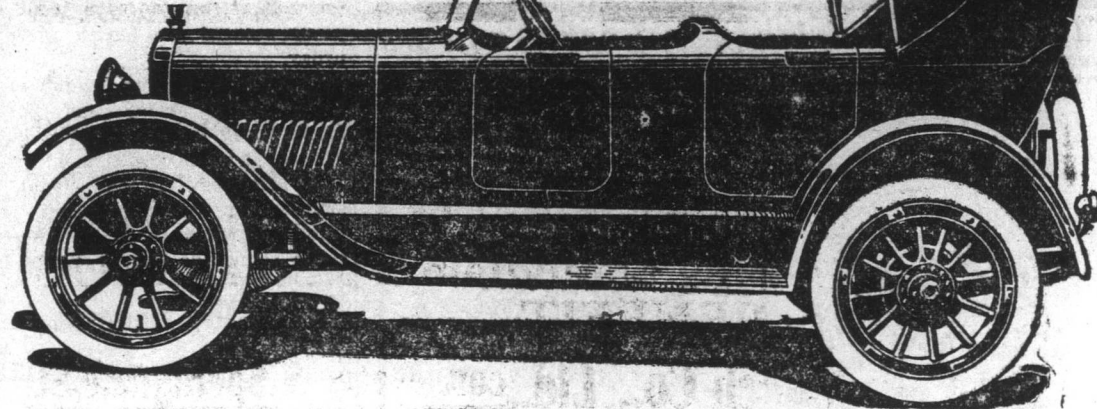
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