

SIX

THE STAR, ST JOHN N. B. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 1909

WHEN THE ADMIRALTY IS PLAYING WITH FIRE

What it Costs for Heavy Gun Practice

Aged and Infirm Warships Sacrificed for the Efficiency of Gunners.

It was no little shock to the theorists when, at Portsmouth the other day, the gallant little *Perseus*, a torpedo-boat destroyer of obsolete pattern, burst through the so-called "impregnable" boom.

Consisting of heavy banks of timber 20 feet long, 2 feet square, and pointed, fastened together by strong steel hawsers, the boom looked an exceedingly formidable affair. Indeed, the idea that any vessel charging the construction would first be skidded by its sharp teeth, and then have her decks swept of funnels, guns, and men by the 6 inch hawsers on the upper surface, seemed justifiable.

As the task was supposed to be one of great danger to the men taking part they were a volunteer crew, and though it was arranged that all should come on deck before the moment of impact, the brave fellows elected to remain at their posts. At full speed the destroyer went through the boom.

THIS HERO SACRIFICED. The Admiralty, in order to check theory, has resorted to practice of a most realistic nature. Only about eighteen months ago the battleship *Hero*, which cost £450,000 twenty years before, was sacrificed partly to prove the efficiency of modern armor-plating against modern projectiles, and partly to test whether the fire-control platform, upon which the entire management of the up-to-date ship in action depends, would survive the first few minutes of firing. It is not difficult to understand that if once the voice pipes, and electric telegraph and telephone communications between the control platform and the various gun positions are destroyed, the modern battleship is almost helpless.

After four bombardments, which did terrific damage, and left the water between wreckage and dummy men, the *Hero* sank. She had proved that her armor-plating, with which she had been specially fitted, could not be pierced, but the experiment also revealed an important weakness. The *Hero* had been sunk by a shot—a high-explosive shell—which had descended a few feet under the edge of the water-line armor, striking a vulnerable spot which had been considered only open to torpedo attack.

2300 A MINUTE. Some idea of the cost of these experiments may be gathered from the figures of the *Bellona* tests, carried out about seven years before those of the *Hero*. After eight minutes' firing from the guns of the *Bellona*, the *Bellona* was a total wreck and almost unrecognizable. Practically all the men—represented by dummies—had been "killed"; the wood-work of the ship pulverized as if by dry rot; all the boats, except the wreckage of one, had absolutely disappeared; the funnel had been blown away, and her two masts were tottering. The bill was:

From 12in. guns, 15 projectiles	2,450
From 6in. guns, 200 shells	1,000
From 12-p. guns, 400 shells	50
From 8-p. guns, 150 shells	40
	1,885
	£1,840

As the firing lasted only from six to eight minutes, the cost for shells and gun wear alone will be seen to work out at about £300 a minute. The first vessel to be put to a test similar to those above described was the armor-clad coast-service vessel, *Glatton*, but she remained in service long after the experiment. With a view to testing the effect of a shot on her turret, she was used, as far back as 1875, as a target for a 600 lb. projectile from one of the 25-tonners of the Hotspur.

The shot failed to penetrate the 12in. armor, and the turret was afterwards found to revolve, and the guns to work as perfectly as ever. It is believed that some live sheep and rabbits were placed in the turret to undergo the ordeal which the gunners have to face in actual warfare; but they came out unscathed.

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STRENUOUS METHODS OF SUFFRAGETTES

Asquith and Gladstone in Tussle With Women

Venturesome Woman Head Through British Premier's Window and Afterwards Breaks Glass.

LONDON, Sept. 23.—In the interest and excitement aroused by the news of Commander Peary's discovery of the North Pole such things as the flings of the London suffragettes escaped attention. It might have been supposed that the doughty ladies had "cooled" from troubling and were at rest. The facts, however, were very much the reverse, for recently a party of suffragettes carried their militant campaign to the point of actually assaulting and striking a member of the British cabinet, Herbert Gladstone, and "molesting" and striking the premier, Mr. Asquith.

Mr. Asquith and Mr. Gladstone had gone to pass the week-end at Lympe castle, near Hythe, on the south coast of England, and as they were leaving church after the Sunday morning service were rushed at by three women, one of whom struck the premier repeatedly. Mr. Asquith had to flee into the church. There was another scene in the afternoon, when the two ministers motored to a nearby golf club.

One of the suffragette trio, Miss Kennedy, tells the story as follows: "We stationed ourselves near the entrance to the clubhouse on the golf course and waited until the golfers began to leave. Almost the last to go were Mr. Asquith and Mr. Gladstone and some other men. The place was almost deserted, and everything was quiet. The sun was setting; it was the time when people were just beginning to think about dinner. The prime minister's party approached the clubhouse and we saw Mr. Asquith's motor car drive around to the entrance. "Undetected we stood close to the clubhouse, and as the prime minister was descending the steps one of us sprang forward and caught hold of his arm. He turned and simply ran up the steps, and we ran after him. It was quite a chase and as he reached the top step one of my companions caught him in the doorway. He tried to push her away, but she was too quick for him and caught hold of his collar. The real fight ensued. Mr. Asquith called Mr. Gladstone, who came rushing out.

"It was a real old joke. There they were, trying to push us out, and we were endeavoring to get in. Blows were struck and Mr. Gladstone fought like a pugilist. It got more serious; Mr. Gladstone was hit and staggered. For us, for we were determined not to be pushed down the steps by them. I do not think the prime minister received any bruises, but Miss Howie's arm was scratched. We all came down the steps somehow, and by this time we women were out of breath. A man held us, and Mr. Asquith and Mr. Gladstone entered their car and drove away. Before they went I shouted out to Mr. Asquith: 'Worse will happen to you unless you stop heaping these indignities on women.'"

Mr. Asquith was entering the main door of the clubhouse when the three women rushed after him into the clubhouse and again molested him. Mr. Gladstone, who happened to enter the passage leading to the entrance door, saw what was happening and, coming quickly up, forced the three women outside the double entrance door, only to find that they were open. He stood there and prevented the women from re-entering the clubhouse. Beyond that he used no force, and, needless to say, struck no blow.

KNOCKS GLADSTONE'S CAP OFF.

"One of the women, who was dressed as a hospital nurse, knocked his cap off and repeatedly tapped him on the shoulder. After a minute or two he was joined by Mr. H. Asquith, and the women were quietly removed from the doorway to the lawn. Mr. Gladstone and Mr. H. Asquith were joined by other members of the party, and, entering the motor, left the clubhouse."

Now was this all. The official account continues:

"About 10 p. m. Mr. and Mrs. Asquith were sitting in the dining room with their guests when two large stones were thrown through one of the windows, and a woman and the others with her then ran away, and, owing to the darkness of the night, were not seen again. In the hurry of their flight they left a small bag containing a light rope."

Of this portion of the day's events the suffragette version is as follows: The suffragettes rowed along the canal to Lympe castle, and, leaving their boat concealed under the bank, climbed the castle wall.

"We helped each other up," said Miss Kennedy, "and we had a lot of slips and scrambles, falls and tumbles. At last we reached to within a short distance of two open windows, from which light streamed. We judged by the sounds of the table furniture that the party were at dinner, but I cannot say whether Mr. Gladstone was there. We did not listen to the talking, because we would do nothing dishonorable—we simply went about our work at once."

DOES THE 'PEEPING TOM' ACT.

"One of us was hoisted up to a window and peeped through and saw them at dinner. She reported her observations, and standing on the wall, we decided upon our plan of action. Up again we hoisted her, and, thrusting her head through the window, she cried, 'Mr. Asquith, we shall go on pestering you until you give women the vote.' And then the window was smashed with stones."

"How we got down off the wall and scrambled over the fences and through the ditches I don't know. We heard a commotion behind us in the castle, and a man's voice on the terrace cried out, 'There they go, down the steps.' We

DR. COOK'S PHOTOGRAPH OF THE NORTH POLE



The Star presents to its readers today a picture of the most notable photograph ever made—the photograph of the North Pole, the goal of explorers for centuries. This photograph was taken by Dr. Frederick A. Cook at the North Pole, April 21, 1908, and shows the American flag flying on top of the ice hut erected by Dr. Cook at the polar apex. In this hut Dr. Cook lived for two days. Standing on each side of the hut are the two Eskimos who accompanied Dr. Cook to the Pole. At the right can be seen the sledge in which Dr. Cook made the journey. The day was dark and hazy and naturally the photograph reflects these conditions. Every reader of the Star can see for himself just what the top of the earth looks like.

I.R.C. SUBURBANITES WILL HAVE IMPROVED SERVICE

Messrs. Brady and Tiffin Announce Winter Schedule.

While E. Tiffin and F. P. Brady of the Intercolonial Railway board of control were in the city yesterday, they received a request for a hearing from representatives of the suburban residents of the I. C. R. as far as Hampton. The delegation was heard in the commissioners' private car during the afternoon. It was not until the meeting had broken up, however, that the commissioners, upon consulting Station Master L. R. Ross, decided as to what should constitute the suburban winter time service for 1909-10.

The suburbanites were anxious to have the winter schedule remain almost the same as that in operation during the past summer. Their request was that a suburban train be run from Hampton every morning to return in the evening.

Instead of this there is to be given a morning train which will arrive in the city at 7.45, and a suburban which will leave here for Hampton each day, except Sunday, at 1.15 p. m. The evening train will be provided in the afternoon, which will be started at 6.30 p. m., instead of 6.40, and which will make all local stops between the city and Hampton.

The suburbanites present were Allan Schuchard, John McAvity, J. H. Northrup, R. Patterson, J. S. Gibbon, Walter F. Emery, T. E. G. Armstrong, E. S. Carter and Geo. W. Ketchum.

While the railway has not granted their requests with exactness, the suburbanites are yet pleased with the fullness of the service which they are to receive. The change is considered to mean something of an improvement over last winter's arrangement, when a morning train, an evening train out, and an accommodation in the afternoon were on the schedule.

Winter on the Intercolonial will date from October 15th, the change of timetable taking place just two weeks later than in the case of the C. P. R. With the exception of the slight changes which will be necessary to accord with those on the C. P. R., only one difference from the summer timetable will exist. Trains No. 3 and No. 4, the Point du Chene, arriving here at 6.50 p. m., and the Boston leaving here at 11.20, will be dead-lettered.

BORDEN BACK FROM ABROAD

Declines to Talk Defence Congress—To Report First.

QUEBEC, Sept. 23.—Sir Frederick Borden arrived here at noon today on board the White Star Dominion liner *Laurentis*, and took the train this afternoon for Ottawa. "I cannot talk now," said Sir Frederick, "nor a word of the imperial defence conference. Lots were said and printed about it, but I feel my first duty is to report to Sir Wilfrid Laurier and my colleagues before delivering any message to the country."

"Anyhow I believe very strongly that every Canadian citizen and voter will be satisfied with the way Canadian interests were handled and protected by the Canadian delegates."

When questioned about the Blosby and Ross rifle, Sir Frederick said that Canadian crack shots were the admiration of the empire, and that all the criticism of the Ross rifle had been answered.

THAT IS THE DIFFERENCE.

"Now, then, boys, if you had to address a large box of tea on the one hand and a schoolmaster on the other, what would be the difference in your form of salutation? Of course you will reply 'We don't know.' Well, we will tell you. A large box of tea you would address as 'thou teachest,' and a schoolmaster you would salute with 'thou that teachest.' This is the difference, you see."—London Scraps.

got quietly into our boat and looked behind us. The glare of lanterns—yellow, red and green—flashed about the castle grounds, and voices called. But they never thought of casting the light on the canal or looking for us there. And so we got away."

KILLS HIMSELF BY HIS WIFE'S GRAVE

E. B. Hamilton Found Dead by the Care-taker of Cemetery.

OTTAWA, Sept. 23.—Lying across the grave of his young wife in Beechwood cemetery, with a bullet hole through his brain, E. B. Hamilton, a former resident of Ottawa and lately employed in New York by a boot and shoe company, was found dead this afternoon by the caretaker of the cemetery. A revolver lying beside him on the grave told the story of the tragic suicide. Hamilton's wife died a few months ago, after they had been married less than a year. Yesterday he came from New York to look at her grave in the cemetery here. At noon today he called on the clerk at the cemetery and asked for the bill for the care of the plot. A few moments later a pistol shot was heard near the grave of Mrs. Hamilton, and the lifeless body of the despondent husband was found a few minutes later stretched prone over the grave. The deceased was 35 years of age and was formerly a member of the Ottawa police force. Chief Constable Hamilton is an uncle.

Chippendale was reviewing his work. "True," he declared, "I have built some pretty good furniture, but I never made a bureau the collar-button couldn't roll under."

Hereupon he wept to think how little real use he had been to mankind. "Capt. Kidd was on his deathbed. 'What a fool I was,' he muttered, 'to bury my treasure when I could have incorporated it into a watered stock company.'"

Realizing too late the beauty of this scheme, by which he could have made the money disappear entirely, he turned over to die.

Lord Chesterfield was complimented on his politeness. "Yes," he explained, "you see I have never had to ride on the elevated road or use a telephone."

Thus is shown the baneful influence of environment upon the lives of the unhappy multitude.—New York Sun.

STEADY DECREASE IN CATCH OF LOBSTERS

Commissioner Wakeham Here After Summer of Investigation.

Commissioner Wakeham of Gaspé, who during the past summer has been investigating the condition of the lobster fishery of Canada, has completed the collection of evidence. The last territory to be covered by the commissioner was Charlotte county, from which he returned yesterday. He left last evening for his home in Gaspé. C. A. Matthews of Ottawa, who has been acting as secretary to the commissioner, leaves today for Ottawa via Boston and New York.

Commissioner Wakeham states that the evidence collected in Charlotte county, like that obtained in other parts of Canada, is very conflicting. One thing is true of all districts, however, the catch of lobsters is steadily falling off. This falling off is due to the catching of undersized lobsters and to the destruction of berried lobsters. The only remedy is legislation increasing the size of the lobster which can be legally caught.

About half of the evidence taken by Commissioner Wakeham has been printed. The other half will be put in the printer's hands as soon as possible in order that the evidence may be ready by the time the house of commons sits in November.

THE REMEDY.

The Grand Duke of Mecklenburg was one day gambling at the Dohern tables and was betting on the same numbers as a rich master potter who stood next to him.

Both having lost their money, the grand duke inquired, "Well, potter, what shall we do now?"

"Oh," replied the master potter, "your highness will screw up the taxes, and I shall make pots."

CAPITAL PAIR A BIG SUCCESS

The Attendance Breaks All Records

Reaches 30,016—Yesterday Last Day—The Stock Left Last Night for Halifax.

FREDERICTON, N. B., Sept. 23.—The best exhibition ever held in the capital of the province closed this evening, and it is the opinion of all that the management deserve the congratulations of the public in their great success. President Campbell of the Agricultural Society, in conversation with your representative this evening, said he wished to express his thanks to all who had so energetically worked in behalf of the exhibition. With the exception of the secretary every man had given his time and ability free of charge. He visited especially to thank the people of the North Shore and those of the St. John Valley for the interest they had shown and from the encouragement received he promised that the exhibition to be held two years hence would be even a greater success than the present one. The attendance today was 1,006, making a total of thirty thousand and sixteen and 4,500 in excess of the exhibition held two years ago.

At the close of the exhibition this evening the exhibitors of live stock got busy and at a late hour a special train of twenty cars left for Halifax with live stock.

The Normal School students, on the invitation of the management, visited the exhibition. During the afternoon, with the exception of one day the Fredericton brass band provided music, and the band came in for much favorable comment from the thousands of visitors who have been in the city. The organization is one of which the city may well feel proud and that part in the programme added much to the attraction of the exhibition. The manager, Mr. W. S. Hooper, could not have fulfilled the duties of his office more satisfactorily. Ever obliging and working night and day, to the untiring work no little credit is due for the success the exhibition has attained.

At a meeting of the directors of the Fredericton Park Association, this afternoon, Ald. H. C. Jewett and J. D. Black, the secretary, were elected to represent the association at a meeting of the truck managers on Thursday, Sept. 30th, when the preliminary work of the formation of the Maritime Circuit of 1910 will be taken up.

The first delegation of local horsemen left here for Halifax this evening, including W. K. Allen, L. B. C. Blair and A. H. Jewett, owners of speed.

Fredrickton will have a big representation at the Halifax meeting this year.

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his mother, addressed to Blaine, Del., asks her forgiveness. Another to the local chief of police provides for the disposition of the body and other details.

Mr. Gjerds when he returned home Wednesday stated that he and his wife had met Hill in New York several years ago. Since that time he had visited their home several times, stopping each time for but a few days. His visits were regarded as those of a friend.

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