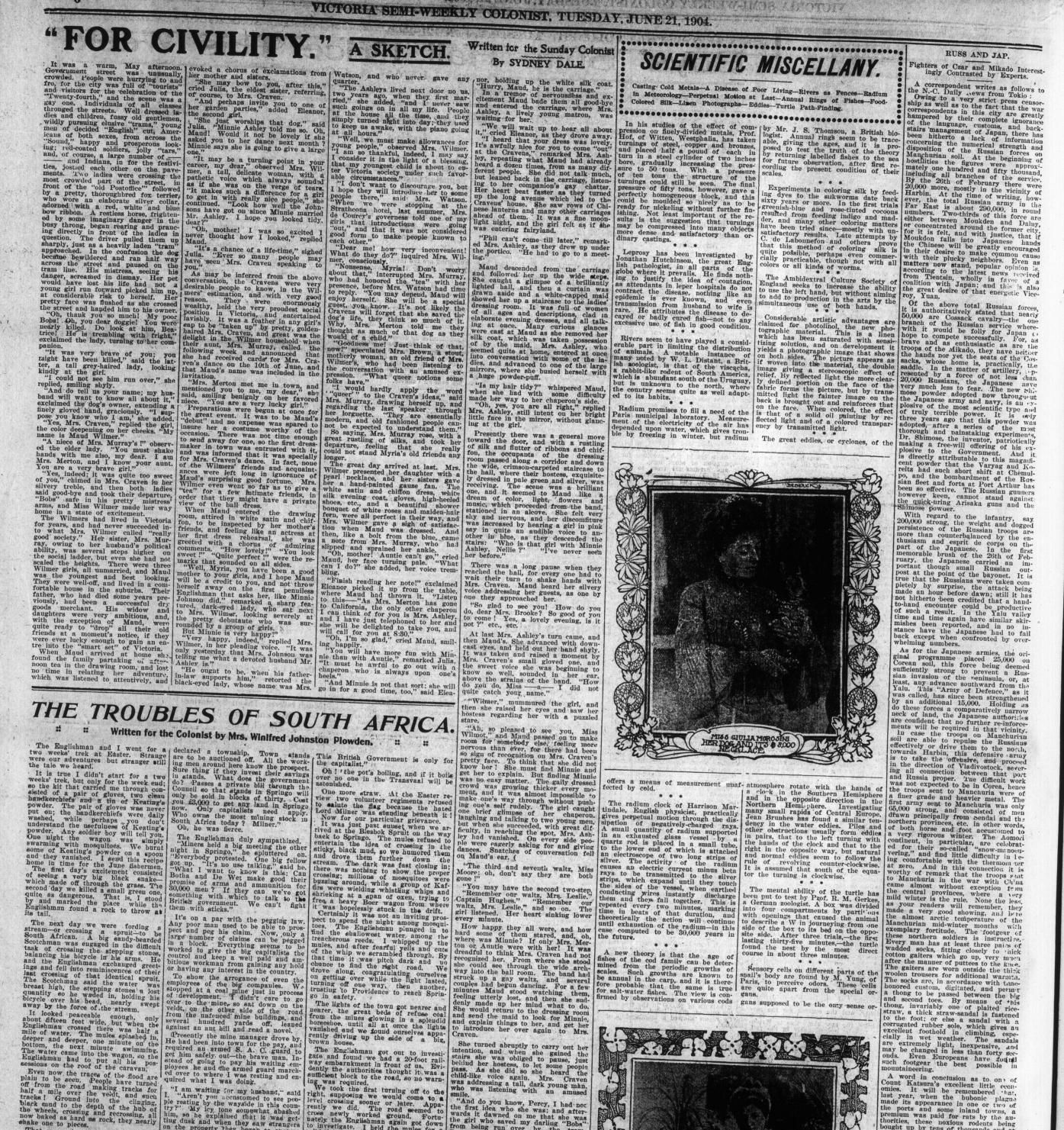
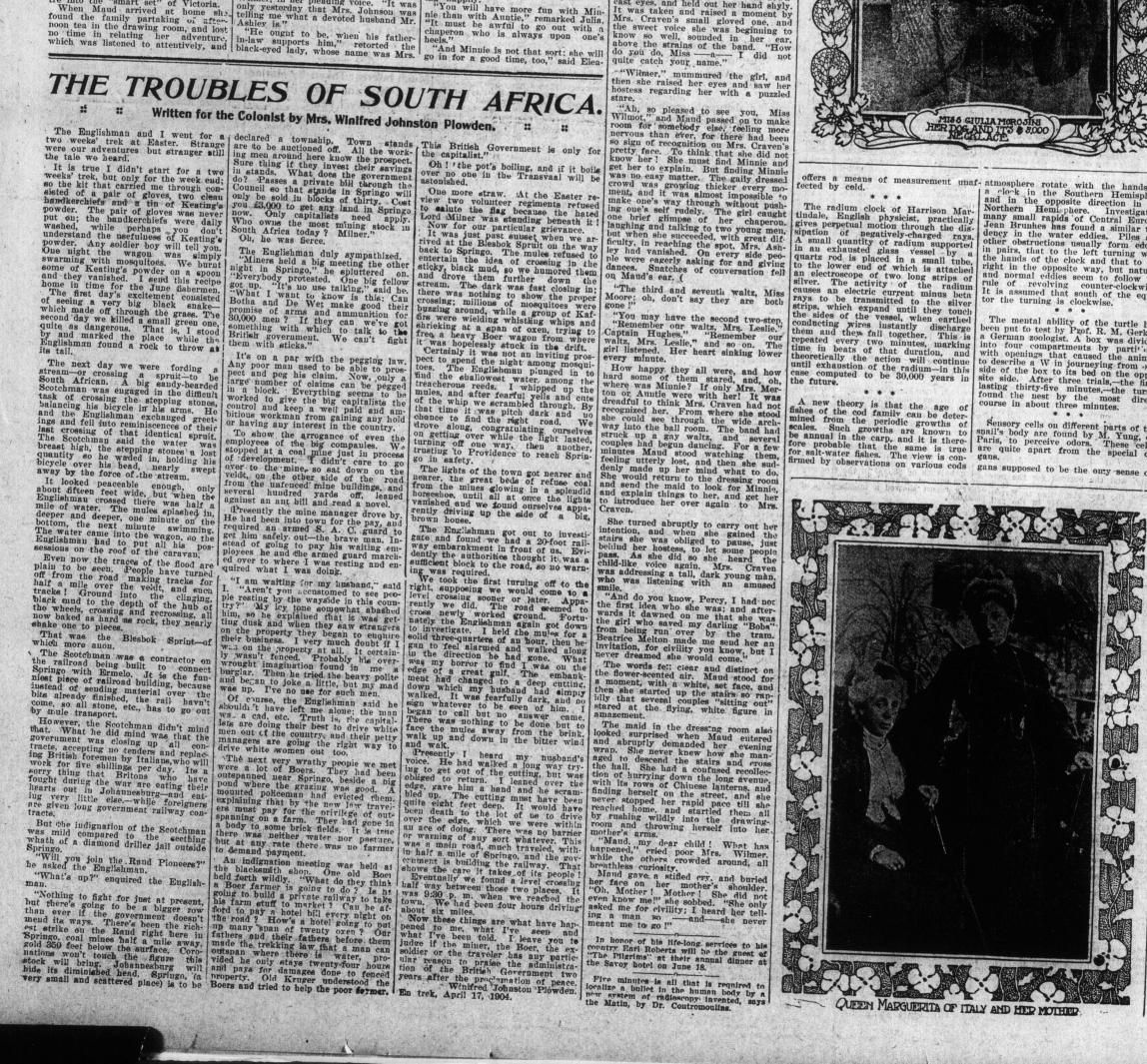
"FOR CIVILITY." A SKETCH. Written for the Sunday Colonist By SYDNEY DALE.

SCIENTIFIC MISCELLANY.





RUSS AND JAP.

onds. Even Europeans have found such footgear the best possible in mountaineering.

A word in conclusion as to one of Count Katsura's excellent little economies. It will be remembered har, last year, when the bubonic plague made its appearance in one or two of the ports and some inland towns, a premium was paid for rats by the authorities, these noxious rodents being bought up by tens of thousands and at "popular prices." Every rat was subjected to expert microscopic examination, with the result that by far the majority were pronounced bacilli-free. And what did the Fremier do but have the rats skinned, their pelts carefully prepared—and turned into enr-protectors for the troops, in anticipation of the coming campaign? Every Japanese soldier now has these indispensable adjuncts of his military toilet!

A feeling of perfect confidence prevails in the capital at the time of writing. Japan has the command of the sea, and firmly believes that she will drive the Russians back across the

SERMON IN BRIEF.

There are two books from whence I collect my divinity; besides that written one of God, another of his servant, Nature, that universal and public manuscript that lies expanded unto the eyes of all; hose that never saw Him in the one have discovered Him in the other; this was the scrinture and theology of the heathens; the natural motion of the sun made them more admire Him than its supernatural sta ion did the children of Israel; the ordinary effects of Nature wrought more admiration in them than its nit he other, all His miracles; surely the heathens knew better how to join and read these mystical letters than we Christians, who cast a mere careless eye on these common hieroglyphics, and disdain to suck divinity from he flowers of Nature.

Sir Tromas Browne.

The population of Greece is said to be necessing faster than that of any other country in Europe at present. The Thames flows at the rate of two Include Victoria in Itinerary.

Ocean Steame

Decline in Trade With Orie Observed Since Start of

Still Doubtful Whether They V

Hill's Mammoth

Whether the mammoth steamers the James J. Hill line will make V toria a regular port of call is one the leading questions at present und discussion in Victoria shipping circle It is by no means certain yet that the big boats will call here on their wout and in, and according to some sidents of the situation, unless transpeffic trade picks up very materially the is little likelihood of those leviathading any business at this port.

It is pointed out that business with the Orient is beginning to show a cided decline since the war starte Nor is it expected to show any signs improvement until something definishapes itself out of the present strugle. Japan before the war stocked with vast quantities of everything neeful, and is new drawing but little those reserve stores. The immense it crop last season, the heaviest ever recorded in the Japanese empire, helped to make the Japanese empire, helped to make the Japanese still mo independent of the importing busines that grain being still the staple of the est.

Then, again, good judges of the Person and in the property of the present that grain being still the staple of the est.

Japanese people from highest to lovest.

Then, again, good judges of the Pecific trade are puzzled to know when Mr. Hill is going to get cargo for hemonster ships. It is, of course, welknown that the vessels now on the transpacific run find it no easy matter to get a full load either way. About the only boats that go out of here wit full loads are the bluestackers and the whitestackers, but as they call at pretty nearly every port two-thirds round the world, there is no difficulty in understanding how it is that they do the business.

It is expected that the first of the Hill giants will arrive on the Soundards.

Ht is expected that the first of th Hill giants will arrive on the Soun next month, and begin collecting a car gor for the Orient. There is, of course the possibility that Mr. Hill, with hi characteristic foresight and shrewdnes has opened up for himself already mar kets in the Orient of which the res of the traders are as yet unaware.

The bell buoy in the Gulf of Georgia entrance to Sand Heads channel, has been moved one-half a mile to the southward of its former position, and is now moored off the northern extremity of the shoal on the outer edge of the Sand Heads.

ATLANTIC ICE.

The United States Hydrographic office, in the most recent notice to mariners, gives the following warning to high-powered steamships on the Atlantic

Information has been received from the Cunard Steamship Company that, in order to avoid the large quantity of ice which is at present in the Atlantic, the eastward bound vessels belonging to the various steamship companies which adopt the modified great circle route across the North Atlantic, would cross the meridian of 47 degrees west longitude in latitude 40, 10 N., and that on and after May 24 the westward bound vessels will cross the same meridian in latitude 41, 00 N.

MAKING LONG TRIP.

The British ship Routenburn is making a long passage from Newcastle, England, to San Francisco, and it is likely that if nothing is heard from her within a few days she will be posted as overdue. The Routenburn is 177 days out on the voyage and has not been spoken. She is loaded with a general targo.

Another vessel that is making a long trip is the British ship Holliswood, which is 105 days out from Newcastle, Australia, for San Francisco. The Holliswood was spoken recently off California by the bark Prussia and at the time she was short of provisions.

HUGE LOG RAFTS.

Number of Mammoth Tows Going From Puget Sound South. Three of the biggest log rafts ever constructed on this coast are to be towed to San Francisco from Puget Sound by the steamer Francis H. Leggett. The Leggett is on her way from Midway island to this coast and upon arriving here, will be despatched north to tow the rafts to this port. One of the rafts has been constructed at Stella, Wash., by the Robertson Raft Company and is said to be the largest craft of its kind ever constructed. The raft is composed of huge piles bound together with iron chains. The raft is cigar-shaped and is over 800 feet in length.

cigar-shaped and is over 800 feet in length.

In the past a complaint has gone up from seafaring men against the practice of towing log rafts. Steps have been taken to have Congress legislate on the matter, but so far nothing has been done. The great fear is that the rafts will go to pieces at sea and menace all shipping interests.

SCIENTIFIC BURGLARS.

It appears that Germans of known bad character are allowed to escape on condition of leaving the country. England is practically the only refuge open to them, so they flock here, and among them the expert German burglar visits us in ever increasing numbers. It is said that Germany is the country of specialists, and the criminal but intelligent Teuton makes a specialty of his business, to which he applies the latest scientific methods. The extent to which the art of burglary has been developed is evideuced by the fact that ingenious housebreaking tools are manufactured, such as portable ladders, portable phosphorus and electric lamps, ratchet drills, sheet are docks and various kinds of skeleton keys. Some of these are, of course, legitimate and necessary tools, not necessarily nor mainly used for felonious purposes. nious purposes.

nious purposes.

Any given house once entered, the scientific German can open the strongest cast iron safe by means of an oxylydrogen blowpipe, which produces a heat so intense as to melt any metal against which it is directed. The following plan is also practiced: A recent chemical discovery has produced a preparation known as thermite. If a portion of this is placed on the top of a safe a heat is generated so powerful that the toughest steel cannot withstand it, and a hole is burned in any desired portion of the receptacle. Doubtless these are the men who are mow crowding into England in such numbers under the designation of German workmen; at the same time those who have been already convicted in Germany often adopt an English name so as to conceal their identity as far as possible.—Westminster Gazette.

New York, June 16.—The Suburban Handicap was won by Hermit by three lengths; Picket was second and Irish Lad third. Time, 2.05 flat.

Throwaway Wins Gold Cup.

London, June 16.—Throwaway won the Gold Cup at the Ascot races today. Zinfandel was second and Sceptre came in third. Four horses started.