

GERMAN CAVALRYMEN.

THE UHLAN ONE OF THE MOST PICTURESQUE OF THE LIGHT BODY.

History of the Unique Corps—Its Work As Compared With That of Other Armies—An Officer and How He Looks On Parade.

What the wily Cossack is to-day to the Russian regular divisions; what the treacherous Pandour was to the Austrian columns when they encountered Frederick the Great; what the "Numidian without a bridle" was to Hannibal in Italy; what the restless Partisan horseman was to the huge squares of Darius, the great king—that the Uhlans are to the German military machine. He is the eye of the army, or, to speak more accurately, he and his fellows are its antennae, its feelers. When you think that a modern army marching on a single road is often thirty or forty miles long, and that it needs many hours to deploy into line, you can readily conceive the importance of its antennae, and bodies of light cavalry thrown out in a network along all the roads in front and on the flanks of a marching army perform the same duty as the feelers of the centipede. They are even more essential to its safety.

"That nation which lengthens its weapons shortens its existence," has been said, but the saying is not true. Too many instances exist to prove the contrary. Philip of Macedon won his victories over the invincible Greeks by training his men to use the 21-foot sarissa; the Swiss peasants broke up the all-powerful feudal cavalry by their impregnable array of piked pikemen of equal length, and while the legion with the gladius did eventually overcome the phalanx with the sarissa; while Gustavus's light-armed Swedes defeated the heavy pikemen of the Spanish school, this was in each instance a victory of mobility against unyielding, rather than one of short weapons against long.

The Uhlans are a lance pure and simple, and in the Franco-German war was practically the only horseman who was armed with a lance, though since then his usefulness has caused the extension of the weapon. It was he who did the bulk of the scouting work of the Germans, alone or in company with the hussars, and he earned for his efficient work a most enviable reputation in France. There has, during the war of the last half of this century, been no outcry against military violence louder than that which the French sent up to heaven against the Uhlans during the war of 1870, and yet it is doubtful if he fairly earned the opprobrium heaped upon him. War is not a gentle profession. "My men are not nuns!" once exclaimed grim-visaged Tilly, and it is only within a generation that war has been divested of utter barbarity. Even in Napoleon's day, the passage of an army was tenfold worse than a plague of grasshoppers; the insect spared women and children; no person or thing escaped the hunger or the lust of the soldier.

The Uhlans are a picturesque fellow. In his jaunty uniform, brass epaulettes and gay trappings, and holding aloft his 10-



AN OFFICER OF THE UHLANS.

foot lance, from which flutters a black and white pennant, he fills the eye as a typical light-horseman. Carrying his blankets, rations, ammunition and a few feds of oats for his mount, he and his dapper little steed are ready for a 100-mile march, if need be, before he has to forage. He is not called on to traverse deserts or snow-capped, pathless plains, as our cavalrymen must do; but he may at any moment be hurried at a gallop with information to headquarters in the rear, and he may have many an hour's hunt for the general in command of the van. He was, during the war of 1870, a most excellent scout; and it was part of his business to make his presence felt, to make himself and his ilk well feared. In no other way was his life safe, for he was apt to be waylaid and shot down by franc-tireurs at every cross-road. He was, to the French peasant, the embodiment of malice, the forerunner, the simulacrum of the hated German; the Gallic hill had risen, and no act of his, even in self-defense, but was exaggerated into dire brutality. In French art, the simple-hearted, rose-cheeked Brandenburg lad is pictured with the face of a Vandal of the Middle Ages; which is natural enough; but, on the whole, the Uhlans are no worse than any cavalryman who rides in the advance of an invading army. Small bodies of men, moving independently in an enemy's country, always commit some havoc, in olden times the most cruel, even bestial, acts were looked on as a necessary concomitant of raids. In our day, happily, the soldier is no longer a human brute, but is by force of his own intelligence and decency, as well as by law and regulation, kept within some bounds. So with the Uhlans. "Give a dog a bad name"—and the French gave the Uhlans a reputation he did not deserve.

The Uhlans as a rule are well mounted. His arms and equipments are not heavy—that is, not heavy for a soldier—and he himself is never an over-big man. It would puzzle the outsider to follow him in a day's march. But then the cuirassier weighs, "armed and equipped as the law directs," a full fifty pounds more than the Uhlans does—and fifty pounds on the march is as much as ten pounds in a race.

The Uhlans weigh less—say 140 pounds; and his rig is lighter—say 60 in all. Even this is a heavy weight compared to that of

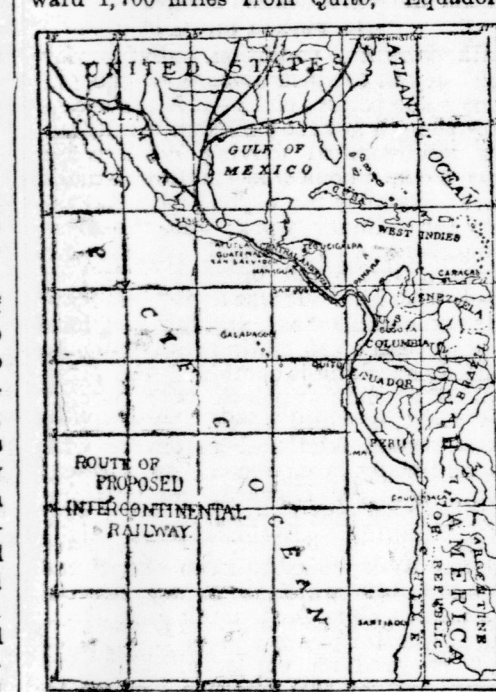
civilians, who add but 15 or 16 pounds to their own avoirdupois when they ride out for their daily exercise. The fact is that no one but a man who has seen service in times of war knows how hard-worked are both the soldier and his steed; nor, indeed, of how much hard work both are capable. The Uhlans and the hussars are the light cavalry of the German army; and for this service are chosen the light and active men, while the heavyweights are put into the cavalry of the line. Not only must the Uhlans be light and active, he must be intelligent to a degree. Of small use would be an Uhlans who was active enough to ride far and discover the whereabouts of the enemy and yet so stupid that, when he had got back to the commander of his party, he could not tell what he had seen. The Uhlans must not only be able to "get there," but he must be of some good when on the spot. He must have keen eyes to see, fair intelligence to understand and a correct tongue to report.

TO JOIN THREE AMERICAS.

Something About the Survey of a Very Important Railroad.

The final official reports of Uncle Sam's great railroad survey through Central and South America, for a line to connect the "three Americas" by rail, are soon to be issued to the public. There will be three volumes, printed in English and Spanish together, profusely illustrated. One volume will be devoted to each of the three government expeditions that were sent into the field in 1891.

Of these three separate parties, corps No. 1, under Lieutenant M. M. Macomb, surveyed a line from Ayudon, on the southern frontier of Mexico, 800 miles south-east through Guatemala, Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica to the Savegre river. Corps No. 2, under Engineer William F. Shunk, surveyed northward 1,700 miles from Quito, Ecuador,



MAP OF PROPOSED ROUTE.

through Colombia and Costa Rica to the lower terminus of Lieutenant Macomb's survey. Corps No. 3, under Engineer William D. Kelly, surveyed 1,734 miles southward from Quito, through Ecuador and Peru to Cuzco, the ancient capital of the Incas. The whole line, consisting in loops already projected or in process of construction, will measure 4,500 miles, extending from the lower border of Mexico, to which the Mexican railways now run, clear down to the upper boundary of Argentina. Engineer Kelly completed his task first, and although his corps was No. 3, his report will constitute the first volume of the report of the intercontinental railway commission. Engineer Shunk's volume will follow shortly after, and Lieutenant Macomb's will conclude the series. Each volume, brimming with beautiful photographic reproductions of life and scenery in the tropics and among the snow-capped Andean ranges, besides descriptions and incidents of adventure and practical engineering data, will be of absorbing interest, as the advance proofs indicate, and will show that an intercontinental railway such as is proposed can without question be built whenever the various American republics or individuals set about doing it. All three of the expeditions report that the respective governments and people of South and Central America received them with open arms, treated them as proteges and rendered them officially and personally every assistance and attention in their power, showering upon them courtesies and civilities without stint, so keenly are the Spanish-Americans south interested in the execution of the grand project.

The route pursued by corps No. 1, being comparatively level, presents no problems whatever. The territory traversed by the second and third corps, however, in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia, is much more difficult, involving numerous steep ascents and descents, with vast yawning chasms between. The cost of construction, it is estimated, would vary from \$20,000 to \$60,000 per mile, according to the physical and topographical character of the country. But the total average would not exceed \$35,000 per mile, and at that rate the aggregate cost of a standard gauge line would fall considerably below \$148,000,000. Works of greater magnitude in railroad building have been executed in our own country between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans than are involved in establishing connection between North America and the southern republics. Russia's new 7,000 mile railway across Siberia is itself a much more stupendous achievement than this would be, and, except politically, it promises no such desirable results, as may be imagined when the population of Mexico, Central and South America is on a conservative estimate placed at 45,000,000.

No Kick Needed.

"Why don't you get a boy to keep your desk in order?" inquired the caller. "It looks awfully littered up."

"I keep it this way," said the man at the desk, "to show that I'm always busy."

"But why—Oh, I see! Good day."—Chicago Tribune.

Asking Her Hand.

Suitor—I love your daughter, sir, and I come now to ask her hand.

Father—Well, what do you want to do?

A ROYAL BALLOONIST.

THE GERMAN EMPEROR HOPES SOON TO MAKE AN ASCENSION.

The New Air-Ship Tested at Berlin—It is Built Upon a Unique Principle—Toy Balloons Steady It—Filled With Compressed Gas.

The Pall Mall Gazette says the German Emperor is ambitious to be the first crowned head to make a balloon ascension, and the aeronautic section of the German army is now experimenting in Berlin with a new-fangled balloon of the captive kind, which will have the honor of elevating His Majesty to a higher altitude than he has ever yet achieved.

The correspondent in Berlin witnessed the initial experiments with the new balloon at the great Tempelhof Grounds a week ago, and procured an accurate picture of the new aerial monster, which also shows how it is managed.

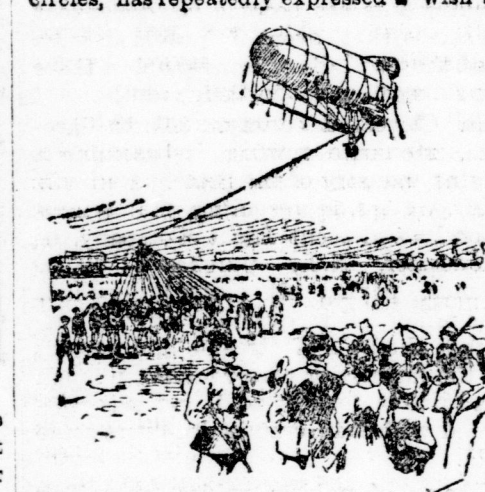
It is an invention of one of the chiefs in the aeronautic section, and consists of a balloon having the shape of a cylinder boiler. On one end of it are two smaller round balloons, and beneath them hangs the basket, which, by numerous ropes, is fastened to the balloon proper.

The correspondent asked one of the officers assembled what advantages were expected from the new form of the balloon. He answered that the peculiar shape was chosen in order to steady it. The small, round balloons have been added for balancing purposes. They can be regulated from the basket.

At the time when the balloon was tried a strong wind was blowing, but it seemed to have little effect on the air-ship, which was frequently lowered to give different officers a chance to investigate its advantages. They went up with instruments for making observations and measurements, and all reported their entire satisfaction with the new air-ship.

The balloon was fastened by a strong cable to a windlass and carriage and was allowed to rise to an altitude of 3,900 feet. Thirty soldiers on as many ropes united in bringing it down when the command was given.

The Emperor, it is said in Berlin army circles, has repeatedly expressed a wish to



A GERMAN BALLOON.

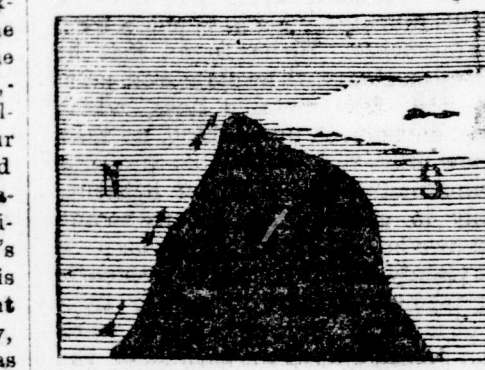
make an aerial journey, but up to the present time the commander of the aeronautic section has persuaded His Majesty to desist, as the balloons in use did not guarantee absolute safety. The Kaiser, though courageous enough, followed this advice, principally because he did not wish the commander to assume unwarranted responsibilities. The new balloon, according to the tests just completed, seems to be just the thing for an imperial aeronautical expedition.

The German army, in anticipation of the Kaiser's new passion, has of late paid especial attention to aeronautics. Army balloons are now filled in a novel way from dasks containing compressed gas, which by an ingenious process is turned into hydrogen gas in very short time, and by a process simple enough to be managed by ordinary soldiers. The compressed gas is transported in steel flasks made out of a whole sheet without seams. This is a most important invention, as it does away with the principal objection to the use of balloons in war time, namely, the difficulty of procuring the material for filling.

Another achievement of the German army in the balloon line is the destruction of balloons by shrapnel at an altitude of nearly ten thousand feet. The other day balloon shooting was carried on at the artillery yards near Berlin, and of a hundred shots fired only one missed.

The California Snow Banner.

One of the most magnificent natural phenomena is a Californian snow banner. When a northern storm sweeps over the Californian Alps, which run from north to south, one can sometimes see a brilliant white cone-shaped banner streaming before the wind from each mountain top. The banners are often several miles long, and are formed of the fine snow from the mountain crevices, loosened by the storm and swept up over the north side of the mountain top and



blown toward the south. When the sun illuminates this snow dust its brilliancy is extraordinary.

This phenomenon is rare. Its cause is to be sought in the peculiar regular formation of the mountain top and sides. These latter are slightly curved on the northern side, probably by ice action. This curvature hurls the snow up against the top of the mountain, where it is shaped in the peculiar manner by the action and force of the wind. Translated from Nordstjernen, Copenhagen.

Origin of a Phrase.

"Fugitive trains" was added to railroad nomenclature during the big strike. It applied to freights that started out for a certain destination not knowing whether they would "get there" or somewhere else.

THEATRES OF OUR ANCESTORS.

Gestures, Moans, and Cries Were Prominent in Their Days.

In the Revue des Deux Mondes of the 15th of December, M. Jusserand, the well-known authority on mediæval England, describes the theatre in mediæval England and how they went to the play. The great object of early English dramatists and actors was to make their audience laugh, and gesture was thought highly of, both in places of amusement and in church. The very preachers, we are told, essayed to express their thoughts more clearly by imitating the groans and cries of those martyrs whose deaths they were describing. The people, observes one historian, when going to church thought they were going to the theatre; instead of thinking of their prayers, occupied themselves with looking at the antics of the preacher.

The Irish wags seem to have had many a predecessor in "Merrie England." Extraordinary scenes used to go on in the churchyards both before and after a body was laid to rest. The Bishop of Winchester had to issue an order forbidding "dishonest games in the cemeteries, especially on high days and holidays." Both in villages and cities there was a craze for pageants; a death, a wedding, a departure for the Holy Land, was made an excuse for bringing out the finest clothes and uniforms, and organizing a procession, of which giants, dwarfs, gilded animals and flower-bedecked cars formed part. As all the world knows, the first plays ever acted were miracle plays; they took place during four great church feasts of the year, especially at Christmas and Easter. In Chaucer's time these "Mysteries" were immensely popular, and there is constant allusion to them in the "Canterbury Tales." For centuries every drama was composed from some incident in the Bible or in church history, and each scene was laid either in Rome or in Palestine, or in the Garden of Eden, for Adam and Eve, the serpent and the angel, were very popular dramatic personae. It was during the fourteenth century that a fresh kind of play styled "Moralties," began to take the place of the religious drama. These comedies were still supposed to have some good end in view, and were befitting their title each dialogue had a moral tucked away in the tail of it. Yet the miracle-play did not cease to exist in Europe till much later. William Shakespeare was already 15 years of age when the Archbishop of York forbade the further performance of the "Mysteries," which had at one time made the towns of London and Mowbray already been dead three years when religious dramas were forbidden in France by orders of the king, Louis XIV.

Fashions Among the Ainus.

The dress of civilized nations is often sufficiently ridiculous, but our own oddities do not render us less disposed to laugh at the oddities of other people. This being true, we can afford to be amused by Mr. Howard's description of the clothing worn in cold weather—by the hairy Ainus, those strange little inhabitants of farther Siberia and part of Japan.

The only material of which they ever have a complete suit is fish skin. Such a suit is sometimes elaborately, though coarsely, embroidered. The resemblance between this embroidery and that of North American Indians is remarkable.

How the fish-skin is prepared is still a puzzle to me. Though pretty skin, it is very tough, and has more pliability than might be thought possible. Shoes even are made with it but not exclusively of it; it generally forms the linings of the uppers. The thicker clothing is grotesqueness itself. For medium garments, especially for the covering of the back and chest, birch bark is used, other materials being stitched to it. For the coldest weather the clothing is made of the oil of the Eskimos and the Kamtschadales. The grotesqueness of it arises not so much from its shapes as from the variety of the materials.

In one of these Joseph's coat dresses were mixed patches of sable, bear, deer and fox-skins, including the tails, in haphazard fragments, while behind and before there was underneath all these a large piece of birch bark. The coat I afterward found, was intended incidentally as a protection against accidental shots from poisoned arrows, which the Ainus use more in winter than in summer in their hunting excursions.

A New Phase of The Great Fair.

In the last number of the Entomological News Professor Smith refers to a grave danger that the Columbian Exposition has menacing the farmers with. His point is out the fact that the grain in the "Palace of Agriculture" was seriously infected with the grain-moth, and that from this centre the whole country may be invaded by this pest. In the New Jersey exhibit we are told that "every jar of grain was simply a nest of moths and larvae, and everywhere the same appearance prevailed; that in fact the whole building had become one vast breeding ground for these insects. In view of the fact that not only this but other, perhaps equally injurious, insects have found in the same manner a centre from which to scatter, he wonders whether the results may not yet lead some to pronounce the Fair an unmitigated nuisance. Some of the foreign plants may have been the means of introducing new insects that, by finding in this country favorable habitats, will scatter and multiply to the disgust and annoyance of agriculturists generally. New weeds may also have in this way gained entrance. As ministry is a marked human characteristic it will not be surprising if the vices of other nations are not copied here and an epidemic of new forms of immorality prevail.

A Word to the Unwise.

Care should always be observed in washing children's faces not to let the soap get into the eyes. A physician writes: I think it cruel to allow the face and eyes to be washed over with soap in the coarse and rough way in which I have often seen it done. Some nurses appear to take a sort of morbid delight in its employment in this way. Even to wash soap in the eyes is a very painful ordeal to go through; in the end it inevitably produces chronic, sometimes acute ophthalmia. Children should be spared this barbarity. In washing children's faces with soap a fine flannel, a sponge, or the corner of a towel should be used.—Hall's Journal of Health.

Pure Gold.

The finest specimen of native gold ever found was in a Ural nugget, which gave nearly 99 per cent. of gold, the balance being silver and copper.

A Thin Sheet of Iron.

In a Welsh tin factory has been produced the thinnest sheet of iron ever rolled. It would require 4,800 of them to make one inch in thickness.

TAKING A FRIEND'S ADVICE.

Mr. Thomas Adams Tells the Happy Result That Followed.

He Was Suffering From a Severe Attack of Rheumatism—Would Have Given Anything to Secure Relief—How a Cure Was Brought About.

(From the Brantford Courier.)

A brief statement in respect to the recovery of Mr. Thomas Adams, of St. George, will no doubt be of considerable interest to suffering humanity in general and particularly to those who may profit somewhat by the experience hereinafter set forth. Mr. Adams is a stonemason by trade and resides about a mile east of St. George. At present he is operating the Pattern Mills and is well known and respected in the neighborhood. In order to gain all the information possible concerning the circumstances of the cure, a representative of the Courier proceeded thither to investigate the case. Mr. Adams was found at work in his mill. He is a man of about 35, healthy and vigorous, a man whom one would not suspect of having had any ailment. When interviewed he cheerfully made the following statement: "About three years ago when at work at my trade I contracted, through over-exposure, a severe attack of muscular rheumatism, which confined me to the house for three weeks, during which time I suffered the most excruciating pain, being hardly able to move. I was so bad that I could not lie down, had to just let myself fall into bed. When attempting to rise I had to turn over upon my face and crawl up, there being only one position from which it was possible for me to get up. I had given anything at this time in order to secure relief. My first thought was to call in a regular practitioner, so I procured one of the best physicians in the neighborhood, but he did not seem to get control of the malady. After treating me for some time he left of his own accord, saying he could do nothing for me. About this time a friend of mine persuaded me to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. Finally, I decided to give them a trial. I soon experienced a decided improvement and was mending rapidly, the terrible pain left me and I had considerable relief and was able to get around with the use of a crutch. After the further use of the Pink Pills I was so far recovered as to be able to resume work and since that time have been free from the complaint. I do not now feel any of the soreness and stiffness of the joints, I can get right up in the morning and go to work without any feeling of uneasiness whatever. I have every confidence in Pink Pills and heartily recommend them. I believe them a good thing to take at any time to get the blood into good condition and if I felt any illness coming on I would, instead of calling a doctor, send at once for a box of Pink Pills."

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Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are manufactured by Dr. Williams' Medicine Company, Brockville, Ont., and Schenectady, N. Y., and sold in boxes (never in loose form by the dozen or hundred, and the public are cautioned against numerous imitations sold in this shape), at 50 cents a box, or six boxes for \$2.50 and may be had of all druggists or direct by mail from Dr. Williams' Medicine Company at either address.



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