

An American Gibraltar

L. William Thavis, writing in Popular Mechanics tells of plans for the building of an immensely strong strategic point at the mouth of Chesapeake Bay on the Atlantic Coast. He says:

For several years the military and naval authorities have argued that the present protection at this strategic point is wholly inadequate and should be strengthened. They hold, as does President Taft, that it is impossible to effectually guard the entrance of the bay with the biggest guns at Fort Monroe. Plans and estimates are being prepared, and this winter President Taft will strongly urge Congress to take action. The plan involves the construction of artificial islands of stone and concrete between Cape Henry and Cape Charles, a distance of about 18 miles from Fort Monroe, upon which is to be placed the powerful batteries.

The board on coast defense has recommended the island fortification, and asks \$2,600,000 for the construction of the islands and breakwaters and \$6,102,871 for the fortifications. These figures also include the cost of an auxiliary fort on the shore of Cape Henry.

President Taft is keenly interested in the proposed work and says he will push the project with his strongest effort. While secretary of war, he recommended it and in an address before the deeper waterways convention at Norfolk, Va., said: "You are here at the end of Chesapeake Bay, which is the greatest strategic point of naval rendezvous in the United States. We have a very heavy and very formidable coast defense at Fort Monroe and all about here; but if we want to protect this coast, we ought to protect, with as much emphasis as possible, the entrance to Chesapeake Bay. Now, that can be done in one way—by erecting an island on the middle ground between Cape Henry and Cape Charles and placing thereon a fort that should be impregnable. That is what I want."

It may surprise the average intelligent American to learn that any point on our country's coast is practically defenseless. It must be a shock to most of them to realize that its most important locality is utterly lacking in means to repel the invasion of an enemy. In estimating the possibilities of a successful attack by a foreign navy, there are two factors for consideration. First, the vulnerability of the defense; second, the strength of the enemy.

At the outset, it may be promised that no single power could effect a widespread or continuous occupation, but it is sure, according to our naval and military experts, that any of several foreign powers might dominate one of our most important strategic positions—Chesapeake Bay—and inflict immense damage, before the nation could gather sufficient forces to expel him.

President Taft says: "Commercially and strategically, Chesapeake Bay is today, as it always has been, of the very first importance. With the entrance as it is now, unfortified, a hostile fleet, should it gain control of the sea, can establish, without coming under the fire of a single gun at Fort Monroe, a base on its shores, pass in and out at pleasure, have access to large quantities of valuable supplies of all kinds, and paralyze the great trunk railway lines crossing the head of the bay."

This is a positive statement, and it is not exaggerated. If our coast is scrutinized from Maine to Texas, from Lower California to the northernmost limits of the State of Washington, we can find no point which is more vulnerable than Chesapeake Bay, and none which offers to a strong enemy such opportunities for inflicting great damage. The very factors which make the Chesapeake Bay section such an invaluable naval base for the nation, cause it to be a superlative menace if held by an enemy.

To leave the entrance to the Chesapeake unfortified is not merely a mistake, it is a crime. Cape Henry is the logical Gibraltar of the United States. It can be made impregnable and impassable. It is the key to the most important of our strategic situations. Its protection would insure to the nation the preservation of its finest naval harbor and its most important base of naval operation. It is contended that in the event of war, Cape Henry, unfortified, would require a fleet of battleships for its defense; fortified, it could rely upon itself and leave the navy unhampered.

The ports of New York, Boston and Galveston, representing our geographical as well as commercial poles, lie almost within gunshot of the ocean; and they would require, in addition to their present defenses, a considerable naval reinforcement. The American navy is none too large when the immensity of the country's coast line is considered; and to invite a serious drain upon its strength is folly.

Against a hostile fleet sailing up the Chesapeake Bay, the guns of Fort Monroe would be absolutely powerless. According to military and naval authorities, a squadron could pass these sentinels day or night and be hulled down on the horizon. Even if stacks and smoke should betray the location of the craft, the distance would insure immunity for all except the most fragile object, and the lighter craft might obtain protection behind the heavier. It is true, however, that the 14-in. gun can penetrate 7-in. Krupp armor at a distance of 25,000 yards; but even this monster weapon is admitted to be ineffective against 12-in. armor at more than five miles. It is

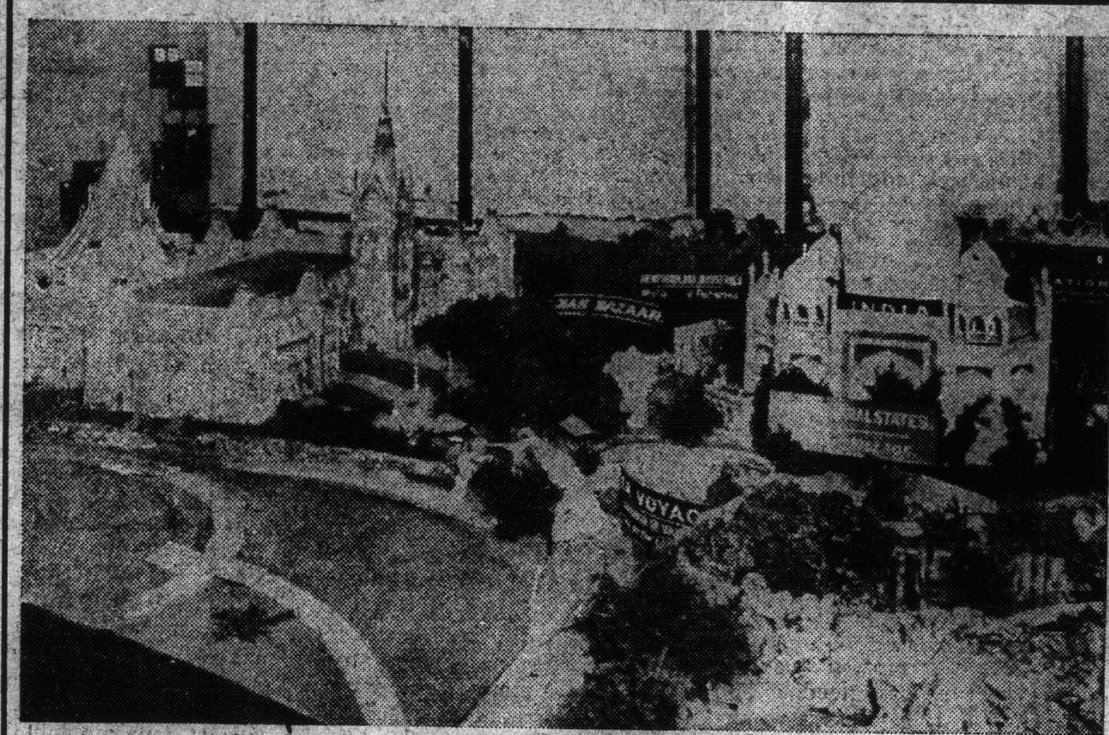
confidently contended that a fleet can pass Fort Monroe on its northward journey up the Chesapeake without approaching nearer than 22,000 yards or 12 miles.

In the matter of channel way, Baltimore, Norfolk and Newport News are accessible to weapons of the Dreadnought type. Vessels of that class may easily enter the York River 25 miles; the Potomac, 35 miles; and the Patuxent, 18 miles. Annapolis may be approached within a mile, and many harbors on the eastern side of the Chesapeake Bay may be entered. Forming the four main peninsulas on the western side of the Chesapeake are the James, York, Rappahannock, Potomac and Patuxent Rivers, which may be utilized by large warships for distances varying from 40 to 100 or more miles inland. Such possession, of course, would involve only naval offense. But a power that controlled the entrance to Chesapeake Bay and the peninsular territories could, at will, land great forces of

cannon to perforate the heaviest battleships. The total distance between the Virginia capes is approximately nine miles, but a large proportion of this expanse is "shoal" water. There are two distinct channels, one is near Cape Henry; the other, a break in the shoal water nearer Cape Charles. This north channel may be navigated by ships drawing 24 ft. but the passage is, owing to narrowness, broken soundings and shallow places, dangerous to attempt, particularly under conditions of war which would place the voyagers under the fire from the not more than five miles distant Cape Henry.

Strategically, Washington is removed from the ocean only by its distance from Herring Bay—about 24 miles. Baltimore is nearer than the mouth of the Patuxent, practically accessible. Leisurely and without concern as to their safety, hostile ships, once in control of the entrance to Chesapeake Bay, could without hindrance traverse the 8 miles to the Potomac or the 140 miles to the Patuxent and proceed with the destruction of Washington or Baltimore. Fort Monroe, admittedly, could guard the approaches to Norfolk, Newport News and Richmond, but the fort would undoubtedly be subjected to a concerted sea and shore attack which might result in its loss, a calamity which would leave the points

The Empire Festival of Next Summer at Crystal Palace



Model of Empire Festival

One of the great attractions of next summer, and one that will, in common with the Coronation, appeal to all British subjects, will be the great Festival of Empire, which will be held at the Crystal Palace. Recently the Canadian Parliament voted a sum to be expended upon the Canadian exhibit at this great show, which will bring together all the far-flung ramifications of the Empire on which the sun never sets. Canada has voted about \$300,000 to secure a proper display of her resources, and these will be housed in a building which will be a fac-simile of the federal buildings at Ottawa. Already preparations are well under weigh for the construction of the many exhibits. The Festival as a whole will be a monument to the greatness of the British Empire, the Motherland and her wonderful colonies, and the exhibition will be so constructed that one may make a trip over the entire Empire in a short space of time by the All-Red route. The illustrations show a portion of the exposition in course of construction, and a large model of the grounds which is being shown in the temporary building erected in London. This model shows the governmental buildings from the colonies represented very accurately. From the model it is easy to obtain a good idea of the All-Red route, which the passenger will travel during the season at



Exposition Grounds Under Construction

troops, debarking or shipping them at pleasure.

An attempt to force the Chesapeake under present conditions, would, it is contended, necessitate the employment of a large quota of our navy as defender. A successful entrance would demand the immediate mobilization of the flower of our army to prevent the seizure of vital points. A naval victory leaves in its wake derelicts, and the nation would be compelled to face this situation—its army placed at a disadvantage before an enemy which could choose the battleground and its navy depleted by the loss of some of its necessary units.

With Cape Henry fortified, there would be real security. The navy would be free to perform its normal functions, without having superadded to these the care of a strategic point which could well be protected from the land. An impassable fortification at the cape is considered a sure solution of the problem. Every physical and strategic condition favorable to defensive tactics is there. North-northeast of Cape Henry, the distance across the channel, from the beach to the farther limit of the five-fathom line, is only three statute miles. To pass this point, a hostile fleet would not likely risk taking less than seven or eight fathoms of water, as a close approach to the north would render grounding imminent; such a course would bring the warships within 2½ to 3½ miles of Cape Henry—a range which would permit its 6-in. guns to penetrate the lighter armor, and the larger

beyond Hampton Roads at the mercy of an enemy. Battleships could not navigate the James for any considerable distance, but gunboats can reach Richmond.

With adequate fortifications, a comparatively small number of artillerymen could hold Chesapeake Bay safely against attack, without these defenses the protection of the bay and its circumjacent lands must inevitably demand the services of fleets and forces. To avoid a wholesale sacrifice of our soldiers, to afford commercial security and to insure national prestige is the duty of our government; and by no single act can it better fulfill that duty than by placing an impregnable fortification at the country's chief strategic point.

GASTRONOMIC FEAT OF A BOA CONSTRUCTOR

By reason of their peculiar anatomical formation snakes are able to devour other animals much larger in circumference than themselves. Recently in India a huge boa constructor was made to demonstrate the above fact. A full-grown pig was given to the snake and the boa swallowed the animal with ease.

A COMMON ERROR

"What was the greatest mistake you ever made in your life?" asked the youthful seeker after knowledge.

"It happened when I was a very young man, and consisted in thinking I couldn't make any," replied the old codger.

The Advanced Mother

The advanced mother is full of theories. She loves novelties. Everything that is new is adopted by her, often without preliminary investigation. Nothing is too far-fetched or too impractical to merit a trial, and the trial-grounds are the minds and bodies of her children. Before her marriage she might have been described as an "advanced girl," for she studied and carried out as far as possible the novel theories about which she read or heard. This was the outcome of being left very much to her own devices, her mother being of the indolent, indulgent type which takes but little trouble with her children, and does not oppose their doings in any way, provided they cause no worry. The advanced girl not caring much for the ordinary social routine, turned her energies to novelties of all descriptions, from patent babies' food to aeroplanes, and when she married she rejoiced in the thought that she would be able to put her theories into practice upon children of her

been advertised in writings that are sufficiently convincing, but more often she follows the opposite method, and keeps her child on a milk diet long after it is old enough to assimilate other kinds of food. Everything the least old-fashioned is rejected simply because it has been for many years the custom. If she mingles wisdom with her advanced views, she engages a well-trained nurse for the management of her little one; but otherwise she hires an inexperienced girl, who will be more amenable to her teachings. She belongs to many societies for studying children, but she mixes their teachings with those of various cults and cranks, and produces a marvellous hash, which, while sometimes innocuous, is often disastrous in its consequences when applied. One of her principal tenets is that every child has its own individuality, and should be allowed to exercise and develop this to the utmost without any interference. Its ideas should be allowed to run in their special grooves without any attempt to direct them to conventional paths. She calls this a return to Nature, forgetting that by going backwards down the line of evolution one arrives at primitive man and animals whose habits and manners are scarcely desirable in civilized society of the present day.

The advanced mother has many good points; among others, her unselfishness and desire to devote herself to her children during their early years, for, as the old-fashioned mother believes her children to be something like chattels, so her advanced sister considers hers as having innumerable rights, but no duties. As the child emerges from babyhood, it is encouraged to exercise its individuality to the fullest extent. Its diet is very much a matter of its own choice, as Nature will instruct not only what to eat, but when to stop eating—a hopeless fallacy. Actions are left unchecked, and any amount of noise is allowed. If by chance the master of the house mildly objects to racket and the invasion of his sanctum at all hours, he is told that child nature must not be thwarted. Children are encouraged to talk at times, in season and out of season. Their conversation is applauded and laughed at, but never guided into special channels, and the wildest baby ideas are left uncontradicted. No sort of spiritual or religious training is allowed, as such would be considered to bias their judgment, while occasionally (to the great detriment of the child mind) any sort of training or education is postponed until the seventh or eighth year. Under favorable conditions the child goes to a kindergarten, where it will gain some idea of order and obedience. Luckily, modern theories of education are all in favor of schools rather than of home teaching. Therefore at an early period the children will be sent to educational establishments.

It will be fortunate for them if there are boarding schools, for there they will learn, all too late, discipline and obedience, which virtues are wholly absent from their home routine; but if day schools are selected, these most valuable attributes will not be enforced. Schools where co-education is the rule will be all probability be chosen, and certainly preparatory schools of this description have proved their value for children of both sexes. The girls, having plenty of open-air games and exercises, become robust and healthy, but their home training often results in an aggressive manner, with a total absence of control to their elders and want of consideration for those around them. They certainly possess the virtue of truthfulness, for never having known correction or punishment in childhood, they have no fear of the consequences of their misdeeds. It would seem as though the advanced mother believed in some special virtue in ugliness, for her daughters are clothed most unbecomingly. Corsets, however light and easy, are "taboo," shoes are of a fearful and wonderful shape, and the various kinds of hygienic material used for outer garments are not conducive to vanity.

Boys usually pass from the area of their mothers' influence at an early age, particularly when they go to public schools; but probably they will continue at a co-educational establishment until they are old enough to go to university or to study for a profession. They remain longer within the range of maternal influence, although they are encouraged to lead their own lives and follow whatever course seems best to them. Although their independence frequently makes for their future well-being and is infinitely preferable to the narrowness of lives lived by the daughters of old-fashioned mothers, yet they are allowed to start upon their own devices too soon, and thus miss the home influence so valuable to most girls. Although instructed theoretically in all phases of humanity, they are in need of a guiding mind, and often through want of experience, form undesirable acquaintances, which lead to marriages the reverse of happy. From such pitfalls the sympathy and advice of a wise mother would have saved them.

Left in early middle life to her own devices (her children all intent on their careers), the advanced mother has many pursuits with which to occupy herself. The numerous associations to which she belongs fill her days, and she is, happily, not aware that by reason of her methods she has missed much of the confidence, gratitude, and attention shown by sons and daughters to less advanced mothers.

IN THE V

No woman, not though the book a than the masculin ferested and amu "Eve's Second H will accept Eve's the male sex, alth condemnation, aln but there are not had experiences s these are they who philosophical acce

The following of the tenor of the er than a story:

"You can save, from the consequ cannot reform hin own moral likeness name of man. He woman, but he ha common to us, ju common to him. E the totals are abou woman begins to 'anguish' and 'resig her own little sniv living with her hus ceased to be his b on her crown of role of martyrdom. she has really turne most common form ter a young wife pas glamor of the first is more apt to be in the head off. Her her mind does not, period that she mak ing her heart again veloped scandalous lover never showed, born neck and weep to 'Stop!' It is bes first place, you can ward righteousness whom you could not there. But he has m and once he learns the legs of his disposit traces, you have sin race. He balks and the dashboard of y ond place, a man's n a fiction anyhow; an portant duties of a band discover this f a noble, false impre you are shrewd en about it, he will do then to live up to it making history now capitalists and eng preachers, editors a only those who are f them. . . . And all Gaul in ancient ti parts.' The first is t she has in children, with naive simplicity husband wants her t being what is easies ing himself unmodifi Almost any young wi by her husband than tinkling beatitudes at his 'ideal.' As a matt is yet a man in creat ideal wife ought to be drastic, difficult perso not sowed and carry hand generally.

"The second per comes the mother of set of responsibilities, and shows her real na ing her young angel-way, and by getting life for which she was ed—that is, the nursi children, even if she and her husband to ac

"The third and las is all over; after the ceased to idealize each each other literally, w more foolish hopes for of peace and of eas, lences between them. longer needs to be cult tears and reconciliation this middle-aged husb far more dependent up were in their youth. .

"And marriage is a much queerer than tho to get into it—and bei it is not so everlasting lovers suppose it is. Blue-eyed, romantic lo outside is the wise lie into the yoke of it. Ne Because in that case to marriages would be su merely a 'contract,' S Socialists claim. It is a —only nearer. You m or sacrilegiously, or wit foolishness about not one hour after the glory past. But when eith gets out, is divorced, b They experience a dea member, like love. I hav