

THE UNARMED BATTLESHIP

STEEL PLATING OF NO USE AGAINST NEW GUNS.

Orion's Batteries Can Pierce 12-Inch Armor at 12,000 Yards.

The possibilities of a return to the day of the unarmored battleship is canvassed by Mr. Charles Gaunt in a letter to the London Times. He says:

"At first sight this is an apparently ridiculous matter, and you turn from it instinctively as from the queries of a madman. Yet let us stop and consider the theory now quite often put forward: That the armor plating on our battleships is unnecessary and even dangerous.

While it is startling in its revolutionary nature, the idea is not without a certain soundness. It is based upon the superiority of the gun over the armor plate. From the time of the epoch-making armored French batteries engaged at Kinburn down to the present day a bitter duel has been fought between the gun and the armor plate. Sometimes the armor plate has won, but always the gun has regained the mastery; and this mastery over the armor plate obtains to-day, with the additional factor that for its given weight something like finality has been reached in armor plate resistance. And the big guns of today shoot through this finality with ease.

POWERFUL GUNS.

To-day the 12-inch weapon at ranges under 3,000 yards is credited with a penetrative power to pierce all armor carried by battleships afloat at the present time; while at 3,000 yards the 850-pound projectile pierces no less than 17 inches of Krupp steel. But it is rather to the future we should look. The new 13.5-inch weapon mounted on the battleships of the Orion class and cruisers of the Lion class throws a 1,250-pound shell which pierces 12 inches of Krupp steel at 12,000 yards! To go further, the new German 14-inch gun is credited with a penetration of 49 inches of steel at the muzzle. This gun is of 50 calibre and weighs 93 tons. But this is not all. Rumor credits the appearance of a 16-inch gun in the near future. So much for the indictment of the armor plate.

To-day the heaviest armor carried by super-Dreadnoughts is in England 12 inches, the United States and France the same, while 11 inches only obtains in Germany.

Of course it must be admitted that the armor will keep out the shells of the secondary armament, which, by the way, is largely of an anti-torpedo boat nature. But nowadays battles are not fought with secondary armaments. In the past, for instance, when the Americans smashed the Spanish fleet, the secondary armament did the execution, and on examination of the wrecks of the Spanish vessels after the principal engagement scarcely a trace could be found of the work of the biggest guns of the American warship, the whole destruction being done by the

6-INCH AND 8-INCH WEAPONS.

Truth to tell, shooting with the 12-inch gun was very much in its infancy in those days. But all that is changed to-day. Now one or more hit per minute per 12-inch or 13-inch gun is confidently looked for in the British navy—where three hits in a minute have been attained—and with ten of these guns firing a 1,250-pound shell, and each scoring one hit a minute, it is inconceivable that any armor could keep out for long the concentrated fire of nearly six tons of metal crashing home every minute. Therefore it hardly seems worth while to burden our ships with armor to keep out the fire of the anti-torpedo armament when five minutes' accurate fire of the bigger weapons would reduce the finest battleship afloat to a scrap heap.

Such is the belief, right or wrong, of the anti-armor theorists.

Accepting this very revolutionary theory for the moment, the question arises: What advantage will an unarmored ship have over an armored one to more than balance the undoubted, if only partial, protection of armor? The answer is—greater speed and heavier guns and more of them, the conviction of the anti-armor theorists being that the weight of the armor could be better utilized. The weight of a battleship's armor is certainly not less than 5,000 tons. That transmuted into the propelling and gun power would produce a "capital" ship as revolutionary and epoch-making as that bolt from the blue.

THE DREADNOUGHT.

Imagine a super-super-Dreadnought with a speed of 40 knots and armed with 20 16-inch guns firing projectiles weighing about a ton apiece. Such a ship could destroy a squadron of present-day battleships by reason of the terrible smashing power of its guns and its ability to choose its range and cut-steam and manoeuvre its

opponents. The imagination reels at the conception of the power of its gunfire.

Whether the "no armor" theory will ever obtain acceptance cannot be decided now. It possesses a prima facie and plausible case, well worthy of examination and discussion. Certainly many naval men wear by speed as a protective medium, and no one quite knows what miracles of propulsion the internal combustion engine may possess. That it will revolutionize present-day propelling practice seems certain. The next decade will show us exactly what the motor engine is capable of. But there is little doubt of its success. Whether the unarmored battleship will be contemporary with it remains to be seen. Rumor declares that the British Admiralty is not unacquainted with the theory; and after all it must not be forgotten that destroyers are meant for attacking battleships, and rely upon their speed for protection. Therefore let us keep an open and unbiased mind regarding the theory of unarmored battleships.

ELECTRIC NIAGARAS.

French Scheme for Draining the Clouds of Electricity.

Assuming that electricity in the clouds is the sole cause of the production of hail, experiments are being made in France with apparatus designated as "electric Niagaras" to "drain" the clouds of electricity. In installing the apparatus huge copper points, bound together by bands of the same metal, are placed on the summit of a high tower or chimney, very much in the same way as lightning rods.

These are connected with a copper band, which leads to the ground and ends in a reservoir filled with water. By this route, says Popular Mechanics, the atmospheric electricity flows down into the earth. The first sudden charge is replaced by a permanent one, which empties the clouds, so to speak.

The experiments with "electric Niagaras" have been carried on for some time, but M. Violle, a member of the French Academy of Sciences delegated to judge the results, reports that it is still too early to estimate the practical value. A test on a far larger scale was recently necessary, and quite recently the installation of an apparatus of exceptional capacity was completed on the Eiffel Tower.

Almost at the summit of the tower has been placed a group of points that resemble a huge garden rake. They are bound together with bands of pure copper, and a heavy copper band leads to a tank of water in the ground. During the coming summer this apparatus, it is hoped, will prove the practicability of the idea, but three or four years will probably be required before it is possible to place an exact estimate on the true value of the system.

KNOWS NOW.

Doctor Was Fooled by His Own Case For a Time.

It's easy to understand how ordinary people get fooled by coffee when doctors themselves sometimes forget the facts.

A physician speaks of his own experience: "I had used coffee for years and really did not exactly believe it was injuring me, although I had palpitation of the heart every day. (Tea contains caffeine—the same drug found in coffee—and is just as harmful as coffee.)

"Finally one day a severe and almost fatal attack of heart trouble frightened me and I gave up both tea and coffee, using Postum instead and since that time I have had absolutely no heart palpitation except on one or two occasions, when I tried a small quantity of coffee which caused a severe irritation and proved to me I must let it alone.

"When we began using Postum it seemed weak—that was because we did not make it according to directions—but now we put a little bit of butter in the pot when boiling and allow the Postum to boil full 15 minutes, which gives it the proper rich flavor and the deep brown color.

"I have advised a great many of my friends and patients to leave off coffee and drink Postum, in fact I daily give this advice." Name given by Canadian Postum Co., Windsor, Ont.

Many thousands of physicians use Postum in place of tea and coffee in their own homes and prescribe it to patients.

"There's a reason," and it is explained in the little book, "The Road to Wellville" in pkgs.

Ever read the above letter? A new one appears from time to time. They are genuine, true, and full of human interest.

One cannot resist temptation with mere stubbornness.

Teacher—"What is the wind?" Kid—"Air in a hurry."

A sympathetic man usually sympathizes with himself more than with others.

Many of the Shire horses which are shown at the annual Shire Horse Show, London, weigh over a ton.

NEW MUSEUM IN LONDON

A REMARKABLE SHOW OF ROYAL DRESSES.

One Little Plaid Frock Worn By Queen Victoria When a Child.

Something new in the museum line has just been presented to London inspection. A collection of relics of the great city's past was recently opened there and the interest it has is decidedly keener and more lively than most museums can boast.

This is due to the fact that the exhibits come right down to date and include such recent relics as personal belongings of Queen Victoria, King Edward, Queen Alexandra and the present King and Queen. These collections are of especial interest to women. Most of the dresses have been lent by Queen Alexandra.

Apart from the association many of them have with great public events these beautiful gowns give a review of the fashions of almost a century. It is wonderful how fresh and bright the fabrics have remained. This is true even of the court dresses worn by the Duchess of Kent, mother of Queen Victoria, or that plaid velvet frock which was worn by the little Princess Victoria herself somewhere about 1830.

BEAUTIFUL GOWNS.

Prominent among the dresses of comparatively modern interest is the beautiful wedding gown worn by Queen Mary and carried out in white and silver brocade. The close-fitting bodice and the fairly full skirt are draped with flounces of fine lace and garlanded with orange blossoms. The gloves worn by the Queen, also the lace fan and the handkerchief she carried, are shown too.

Side by side with this wedding gown is Queen Mary's traveling dress made in ivory white Irish silk poplin elaborately embroidered with gold. Another beautiful exhibit in the same case is the white and gold brocade gown worn by Queen Mary at the coronation of King Edward VII. and embroidered in pearls and gold.

A quaint little dress, in tartan velvet with lines of brilliant color on a black ground trimmed on the front of the bodice with small bows of plaid ribbon, is of special interest, says the Lady's Pictorial, as it was worn by Queen Victoria when a child. This is shown in a small case with other interesting exhibits, including the uniform in which Queen Victoria appeared when she reviewed the troops on their return from the Crimea; and the bonnets which she wore at the opening of the 1861 exhibition, and also on the occasion of the first jubilee in 1887, and the Diamond Jubilee ten years later.

Some other exceedingly beautiful dresses have been lent by Queen Alexandra, and are shown in the case opposite the long windows which look upon the Round Pond. Among these is

A HANDSOME COURT GOWN.

worn originally by the Duchess of Kent, and made in a wonderful brocade, patterned with bouquets of gayly tinted flowers and green leaves woven into a background of gold tissue. The court bodice with its long point in front and the full underskirt are of ivory white moire, and the whole gown looks as fresh as though it had only just left the dressmaker's hands.

A gown which comes nearer to our own period is that beautiful dress in which Queen Alexandra made so gracious and lovely a figure at Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. This gown is carried out in pale mauve silk, covered entirely with cream net and lace, glittering with fine silver embroidery and finished with a draped belt of mauve satin ribbon. Equally interesting is the beautiful fancy dress worn at the Devonshire House ball by Queen Alexandra.

In the same case there are a number of other very interesting gowns of the crinoline period, including one in cream silk of the kind which stood alone, the skirt arranged with three deep flounces, each one bordered with a brilliantly colored satin tartan design, and a handsome court gown in ivory moire antique, shot with gold and trimmed with gold lace and bows of blue velvet.

Of special historic interest is the beautiful coronation robe worn by Queen Victoria. The gown itself is of white satin veiled with Brussels lace, and over this is worn a gold mantle and a magnificent "super-tunic" of

CLOTH OF GOLD, brocaded with shamrocks, thistles and roses and lined with bright crimson satin, bordered with gold lace and heavy gold fringe.

A curious contrast to the gorgeous robe of state is shown in a charming little frock worn by Queen Victoria as a small girl of 7 or 8 years old, and made in white silk, veiled with white embroidered net.

The bodice fits closely and is finished at the waist with a band of white satin ribbon. Close to this little dress may be seen a pair of

baby shoes in black satin and a tiny cap in fine white lawn, both of them worn by Queen Victoria.

The evening gown worn by Queen Victoria on her wedding day, February 10, 1840, seems to strike a curiously modern note. It is composed of very rich white corded silk, and arranged with a pleated skirt, the front of which is draped almost exactly in the fashion of to-day, with flounces of white figured net headed by rouleaux of white satin and caught with white satin ribbon bows. Except that the bodice is made with the customary long point in front, it might almost belong to an evening frock of the early twentieth century. The short satin sleeves and the draperies of net which outline the décolletage have almost their exact counterpart in our modern fashions.

VICTORIA'S WEDDING GOWN.

Very dignified in its perfect simplicity is the white satin wedding gown worn by Queen Victoria. The pleated skirt is trimmed in front only with a very deep flounce of lace, while the pointed bodice has a deep lace berthe and short sleeves finished with lace frills to match. With this may be seen the orange blossom wreath worn on the same occasion, and the wedding bonnet, the latter being carried out in a large poke shape covered smoothly with white, corded silk, and finished on one side with a cluster of orange blossoms.

A simple little black silk gown worn by Queen Victoria at her first Council fastens over on one side, and is trimmed with double frills of the same silk. Draped round the shoulders there is a fichu of cream lace caught in the centre with a cameo brooch. The long sleeves are turned back at the wrists with cuffs of white embroidered lawn edged with Valenciennes lace, and exactly similar to those which are worn to-day.

Queen Victoria's dress worn in 1855, on the occasion of her State entry into Paris, might offer some suggestions for the tulle silk frocks of to-day. It is carried out in a lovely shade of blue tulle, and is only very slightly faded. The full skirt is made with three deep flounces, each one edged with pinked out ruffles of the same tulle, exactly like those which are being used by the dressmakers of to-day. The coat bodice has a full basque edged in the same way with tulle ruffles, and fitting closely to the figure. Across the front four ruffles of silk in graduated lengths are arranged over a vest of fine cream lace and muslin.

Other interesting exhibits include the gown worn by Queen Victoria in 1856, on the occasion of the Princess Royal's confirmation, carried out in lilac silk and brocaded with a design representing festooned lace flounces in embossed white velvet; a gorgeous fancy dress of gray brocade outlined with gold gait, and trimmed with Venetian point lace and pearls;

A CRIMSON VELVET CLOAK

belonging to Queen Victoria and adorned with Indian embroideries worked in gold; and a quaint little parasol of white silk covered with black Maltese lace, mounted on a very long ivory handle, and tied at the top with a bow of black ribbon.

In addition to these exhibits there are many others of equal interest scattered through the various cases shown in other rooms, and including small shoes and caps and muslin baby frocks worn at different periods of their lives by those who were afterwards destined to rule as kings and queens.

Kensington Palace, where this wonderful exhibition is installed, has many interesting associations. It was here that the news that the young Princess Victoria was to ascend the throne was brought to her one morning while she was still asleep.

"I will be good!" she is said to have declared to the courtiers who knelt to her. In earlier days she was often seen riding a donkey along the lawn and the paths of the flower garden, and she would say "Good morning, sir! Good morning, ma'am!" to the passersby. The Queen in mature years spoke of her childhood at the palace as having been a very dull one.

Kensington Palace nowadays is a home of comfort, and moreover, as its chief occupants, Princess Louise of Argyll and Princess Henry of Battenberg are past mistresses in the art of making a house beautiful, is second to none in London for artistic taste. Princess Mary of Teck, when she came to live at the palace, now many years ago, had all the Queen Anne handles removed from the doors and substituted, but when Princess Henry of Battenberg took up her residence there after Queen Victoria's death the crystal handles were made to go and Queen Anne's brought back again.

She—"And how did you like the meeting, George?" He—"Fine. Especially the talk by that pretty little Mrs. Featherly." She—"Mrs. Featherly! Why, the silly creature hasn't an idea in her foolish head." He—"Maybe not, my dear, but she's awfully cute." She—"On second thought, George, you needn't go with me again."

UNIQUE CUSTOM IN BRITANNY

All Weddings Are Held Upon an Official Day.

In the city of Plouargat, in Brittany, France, all marriages take place on one and the same day. The men are all fishermen, many of them going as far as the Newfoundland Banks, and are at home only during a few months in the winter. One day in early February is set apart for the weddings, says Leslie's. Little courting is done, but much haggling over the dowry of the girls. They have to bring a certain quantity of linen, chickens, pigs, and vegetables. Frequently a match is broken off because a father refuses to add a sack of potatoes to the dowry.

On the day set the inhabitants of the entire region go to Plouargat. The whole population goes to church to hear mass, to take communion and to witness the wedding ceremonies. Often fifty and more couples are united on the same day. Bride and bridegroom do not walk together until the ceremony has been completed. For the rest of this and the whole of the next day every house is open to receive guests and to provide food and drink for them. On the evening of the second day the young men carry the dowries of the brides to the houses of the bridegrooms. There they dance and frolic until early morning, and after they leave the couples are for the first time together and alone.

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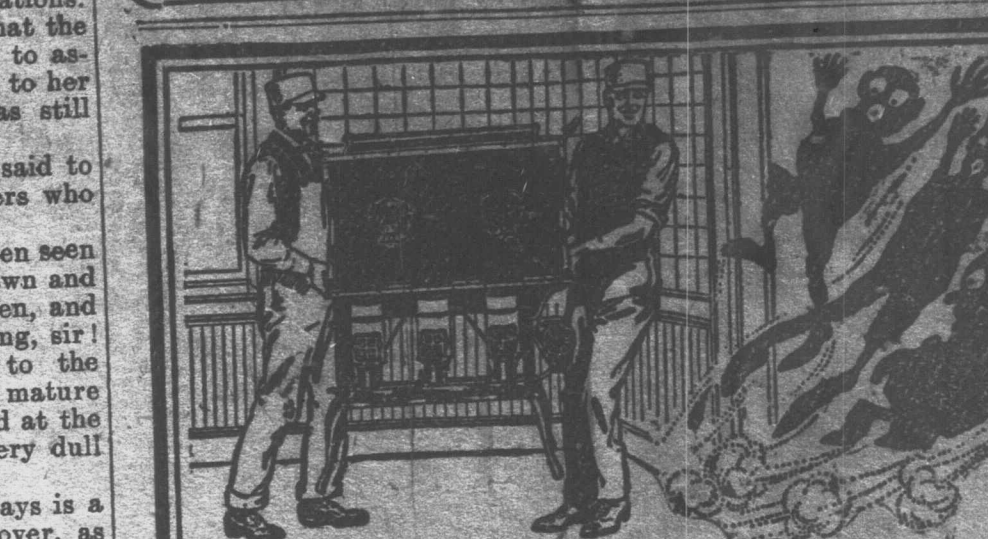
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