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MIRAMICHI ADVANCE

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BUSINESS NOTICE

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The "MIRAMICHI ADVANCE", having its large circulation distributed principally in the counties of Kent, Northumberland, Gloucester and Restigouche, New Brunswick and in Bonaventure and Gaspe, Quebec in communities engaged in Lumbering, Fishing and Agricultural pursuits, offers superior inducements to advertisers. Address

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Chatham, N.B., Sept. 24, 1898.

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She—Then it's all over between us?
He—Yes. All that remains now is to go back to the ones we were engaged to before.

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7 lbs. English Boiled and Raw Oil, Pure.
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VARNISHES, Elastic Oak, Carriage, Copal, Demar, Furniture Hard Oil Finish, Pure Shellac, Driers.
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75 Kegs Wire Nails, $2.45 per Keg.
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White Mountain Ice Cream Freezers. $1.90. Clothes Wringers, $2.50. Daisy Churns, $3.75.
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Mower Sections, 70c. doz. Heads, 40c. each. Knife Heads, $3.00.
" " Guards, 35c. each, Rivets, Oilers.
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Come and see our Work and compare it with that of others.
Miramichi Advance Job Printing Office
CHATHAM, NEW BRUNSWICK.

RULES OF ETIQUETTE.

Parties wishing to enter the printing office at this season should be governed by the following rules: Advance to the inner door and give three distinct raps or kick the door down. The "devil" will attend to the alarm. You will give him your name, post-office address and the number of years you are owing for the paper. He will admit you. You will advance to the centre of the room and address the editor with following countersign: Extend the right hand about two feet from the body, with the thumb and fingers extended, the thumb and index finger clasping a $10 bill, which drops into the extended hand of the editor, at the same time saying: "Were you looking for me?" The editor will grasp your hand and the bill and pressing it will say: "You bet!" After giving him the news concerning your locality you will be permitted to retire with a receipt for an obligation properly discharged.

MECHANISM OF A SHELL.

How It Is Timed to Explode Over the Enemy.

The Difficulties of Timing the Fuse Showing How the English Have so Far Excelled the Boers in Accuracy of Firing and Bursting.

Scarcely one person out of every hundred or more knows the exact manner in which a shell is made to explode at a given distance in its aerial flight.

In reading the war news in your daily paper recently, you have doubtless seen it stated that the British gunners worked their guns with the most deadly effect, "timing their fuses with great precision," whilst, on the other hand, the Boers have in many instances—more particularly in the bombarding of Ladysmith— been doing little better than wasting valuable ammunition, their shells failing to explode in innumerable instances.

The case of the Boers is brought about partly by defective ammunition and partly by rank carelessness in firing.

The accompanying diagram will show at a glance what is known as the time fuse, or percussion cap of a shell. It is a wonderful piece of mechanism, and, although the workings are delicate, it is surprising how reliable it is when handled by trained men. The drawing we give is on the most simple scale possible, a few technical details having been left out as being unnecessary to those who want only an elementary knowledge.

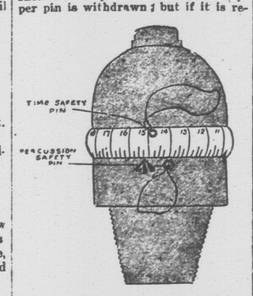
We will presume that a battery of artillery has got into position and the officer in charge has ascertained by the range-finder that the enemy ois 3,000 yards away. Orders are given, generally, at the outset to fire "common shell," which is filled with powder. The object would be to fire at a 3,000 yard range, and then, by the volume of smoke which would arise from the explosion of the shell at the range, the officer in command would be able to tell if his calculations were correct and adjust them longer or shorter accordingly.

Having found the range, it is probable that "shrapnel shell" would be ordered. This is a terribly destructive shot, the case being filled with bullets with a small charge of powder to "open" the shell, and send the contents on their death errand.

It might be incidentally mentioned that "case shot" is used mostly in bombarding a town, or against a big obstacle, such as a fort. It is filled with small balls of iron, well arranged, and the explosive force is greater. Shrapnel would be used against an army in comparatively open ground.

Orders having been given, say, for "Shrapnel—3,000 yards," the man in charge of the ammunition would take a shell in one hand, and with a key extract a piece of brass which is screwed into the head. Having removed this, he would take a time-fuse, of which an outline drawing is given, and would screw this tightly into the head of the shell. The fuse is about three inches high, and the exterior is of brass. He would then proceed to unscrew the top nut or cap, thereby loosening the numbered ring, which is moved round to a certain point. The numbers on the ring indicate so many seconds, and a rough scale is that a shot travels 200 yards a second, varying, of course, with different guns.

So that in 3,000 yards range the number 15 would be brought precisely over the lower broad arrow shown on the fuse. The two pins are of vital importance. If it is required that the shell shall explode in the air the upper pin is withdrawn; but if it is required to explode on impact the lower pin is taken out.



Outward appearance of a time fuse and percussion cap.

It is believed that the Boers have been careless as to these pins, which, in some measure, explains away the bad results of some of their artillery fire. So as to make certain of the shell exploding, our men frequently withdraw both pins, so that if the shell should meet an obstacle before the limit of the time-fuse expires, it would immediately explode.

The pin or pins having been withdrawn and the time ring moved into the desired position, the nut on the top would be screwed down tightly and the shell given to another man who would place it in the breech of the gun. Immediately before doing so, however, the officer in charge of the gun inspects the fuse to see that it has been correctly set.

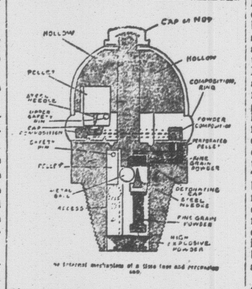
Having explained how the fuse is set, we will, in as few words as possible, undertake to make clear the internal workings—"the brains of the shell."

The mechanism in the top left-hand side of the fuse, shown in the second drawing, is the part that acts when the shell is required to explode whilst in flight. The safety-pin having been withdrawn, the pellet with steel needle attached is jerked backward when the shell is discharged from the gun. The needle strikes a cap, which explodes and ignites a slow burning powder. The latter is arranged almost round the cap, and burns until the time it is set, at, say, fifteen seconds for 3,000 yards, when it will have reached the perforated pellet shown on the right-hand side of the diagram. It will then flash down the perforated pellet and ignite fine grain powder, and in a series of minute flashes, which all act in less than a second, the powder within the shell will become ignited, and the explosion will take place.

The details on the right-hand side of the lower part of the fuse act when an explosion is desired on impact.

The safety-pin having been withdrawn the pellet is jerked back on the discharge of the shell from the gun. It falls into the recesses—shown with the dotted line—and the metal ball, beside the needle, having nothing to hold it in place, rolls out, and falls on top of the pellet. The steel needle is free to act, but it is kept in place by the rush of the shell forward. Immediately on impact, however, the steel needle jumps forward, as a necessary consequence to a sudden stoppage, strikes a "detonating cap," and the flash from this passes down beside the needle and ignites the "fine grain powder," which in turn catches the "high explosive powder. The latter bursts open the shell, and scatters the contents.

There are many other complications about a fuse, such as gas escapes, very fine and important wires. In fact, the fuse of a shell is a delicate mass of complications, and the reader can well imagine the difficulties under which artillerymen work when such intricate work as setting a fuse has to be done under heavy fire. The decimal part of an inch out in the setting probably means the waste of so much ammunition, and when nuts have to be screwed down tight, it is no mean task to keep the parts precisely as wanted.



An internal mechanism of a time fuse and percussion cap.

In addition to the difficulties of a fuse, those in charge of guns have to make allowances for the wind, from whichever quarter it is blowing and what is of great importance see that the gun-carriage is on a level. If on a rough ground one wheel is slightly above or below level, a precise allowance has to be made for this in the sighting of the gun.

Then again, it is well known, that on leaving the muzzle of a gun, the shell is set in rotation, just as a bullet is when discharged from a rifle or carbine. The effects, of rotation on a shell are large compared with those on a small bullet, and so allowances have to be made in the sighting.

It will be understood that the above has nothing to do with the discharge of a shell from a gun. This is altogether another thing, but is too well known to need description

DIFFICULTIES OF ARTILLERYMEN.

Although many wonderful range-finders have recently been invented, they cannot always be trusted, and the gunners have often to trust to their judgment of the distance.

But the same distance seems different under different circumstances. When the sun is at your back things seem nearer than they are; when it is in your eyes they seem farther. Looking over level ground, water, or snow, they seem much nearer than when looking over broken ground. In misty weather and in the dusk of evening they seem both larger and farther than they really are.

Here are some of the distances at which certain objects can be seen with good eyesight, as measured by the military authorities.

On an ordinary clear day you can distinguish:
Roof-tiles at 250 yards.
Window-panes at 500 yards.
Single-posts at 1,170 yards.
Chimneys at 3,500 to 4,000 yards, or 2 to 2 1-2 miles.
Men's features at 300 yards.
Soldiers' head-dress at 600 yards.
Movement of legs and arms at 1,000.
A good artilleryman ought to be able to judge accurately how far any of these things are up to 4,000 yards.

WHEN BULLETS FALL.

Falling bullets kill many men, even when they are lying sheltered behind trenches. If a bullet is fired in the air it falls with as much force as it goes up. But, curiously, there is a certain limit of height, beyond which a bullet gains no more falling force; the reason being that when the motion is very rapid the resistance of the air balances the attraction of gravity. In the siege of Sebastopol—and, in fact, during every campaign—a great many men were killed by falling bullets. And the terrific force with which they come down is shown by a case in which the bullet entered the shoulder of a cavalryman, passed down through his body, and penetrated several inches into his horse's back.

A curious instance occurred not long ago in India. While a native was cleaning boots in the open air, he was seen to drop dead without a cry. On examining him, they found that a bullet had entered the top of his head. No shot had been heard, and the person who fire it must have been a very long way off. The French reverse our names, and while they call rifle-bullets "balles," they call cannon-balls "boulets."

THE COW AND THE GOAT.

I have the best cow in these parts, said Bragg; she gives a pail of milk twice a day and the cream from each pail makes two pounds of butter.

An you think that's pretty good, do you? Guess you never heard of Mary's goat?

No.

Well, it turned to butt'er.

Lines to the afflicted and unprotected. Ah, simple man! when a boy two precious jewels were given thee, time and good advice; one thou hast lost, and the other thrown away.

The Home

CARE OF THE BABY.

Are Infantile Maladies Compulsory Ills?—No, certainly not. There is no law of nature that compels a baby to have thrush, or take convulsions whilst teething, and after that to run the gamut of complaints from measles to scarlet fever. I say emphatically that disease can be avoided, but it rests wholly and solely with the mother. If she looks upon her offspring as nuisances or necessary evils, good-bye health, and welcome to doctors and disease; but if she is a sensible, womanly woman, and loves and respects her babies, the medico need be an unknown quantity, and illness will be conspicuous by its absence. Teething, with ordinary care, need not be a time of anguish and tribulation of spirit; there is not the slightest need for your child to suffer from convulsions, or to sleep badly.

How to Avoid Them—The way to avoid illness in your home is by practising Care, Caution, and Cleanliness. These are the important necessary factors for successful life. Recollect there are two words that must be unknown to us, and they are Trouble and Fatigue. We must hound them out from our vocabulary, for they are impossible words in a well-regulated household. Of course the mother must not lie in bed of a morning; she must be up and about, quick, active and alert.

Three Things That a Mother Must See to Herself.—No matter how good and careful a nurse you may be blessed with, there are three things that it behooves every mother to see to herself. She must bathe her baby every day; she must see that his bowels are regular; and, above all, be scrupulously particular in seeing that all the articles used for the preparation of his food are epotiessly clean. Dirty bottles and unclean saucepans are largely the cause of the great infant mortality which is such a disgrace to us as a nation. I have known in several cases, the most painful and dire results ensuing from a careless nurse feeding babies from dirty bottles. It is carelessness in this respect that so frequently causes "thrush." Faulty as the nurse may be, how much more to blame is the mother; for it ought to be her proudest privilege to see herself after these matters. A careful mistress makes careful servants, and vice versa. It is impossible to expect strangers to be particular if an example of neglect and thoughtlessness is set them.

The Importance of Cleanliness.—The greatest factor to health is absolute cleanliness. It is impossible for a baby to be healthy and sweet tempered unless he is thoroughly clean. He should be bathed every day of his life from head to foot, and allowed to splash and kick in the water to his heart's content.

SQUASH GRIDDLE CAKES.

It is hardly worth while to cook squash purposely for griddle cakes, but often a portion will be left over, not enough for another dinner, but it may be utilized in many ways, and reappear at the breakfast or luncheon table.

For one cup of dry, mealy squash add one cup of scalded milk and mix thoroughly. Stir in while still hot one rounded tablespoonful of butter, one rounded tablespoonful of sugar and one-half teaspoon of salt. While it cools mix two level teaspoonfuls of baking powder with one cup of flour, and beat one egg yolk and white separately. Add the yolk to the squash mixture, stir in the flour and beat well, then add the white. As the squash will vary, it may be necessary to add more milk or more flour to make the usual griddle cake batter. Drop by spoonfuls on a well-greased hot griddle and turn when brown.

BEEFSTEAK AND ONIONS.

Broil the steak, which should for this dish be at least one and one-half inches thick; butter and season it and place it in a hot covered dish. Over the steak you will place the onions, prepared as follows: Slice very thin a half dozen onions and fry slowly in pork fat half an hour; then add half a cupful of boiling water; cover tightly and simmer for half an hour longer. While cooling season with salt and pepper. Allow the steak covered with the onions to stand in the dish tightly covered for five miutes before serving.

DON'T WASTE COLD FISH.

1. Fish Fritters.—The remains of any boiled fish can be made into tasty cakes or fritters, as follows: Remove all bones from the fish, and put it in a pan, beat it up with a fork, and mix with it a small quantity of grated bread-crumbs, a little very finely-chopped onion and parsley, pepper, salt and a couple of well-beaten eggs. Put some lard into a frying-pan, and, when quite boiling, drop the mixture into it in small cakes; fry them a light brown on both sides. They can be eaten hot or cold. Tinned salmon, treated in the same way, make delicious fritters; of course, the liquor in the tin must be drained off before using the salmon. As half the contents of the tin will make a good dish of fritters, the other half can be utilized by pouring spiced vinegar over it, when it will keep good for some days.

2. Cod Fish Cutlets.—Melt one ounce of butter, add one ounce of flour and a quarter of a pint of milk—let it boil and thicken. Then stir in the flouring—lemon juice or vinegar, salt, cayenne, a little anchovy sauce. Last of all add about a breakfast-cupful of cold cooked fish, cut small. When cold, shape into balls, egg and bread-crumb them, and fry in lard.

BAKED MUSHROOMS.

Select fresh ones—the size should be nearly uniform—cut off nearly all the stalks and arrange the mushrooms, neatly, gills up, in a pie plate. Sprinkle with pepper and salt and lay a bit of butter on each. Bake about half an hour, basting often with butter and water so they will not dry up. Serve in the dish in which they are baked with maitre d'hotel sauce.

TO PRESERVE A BROOM'S USEFULNESS.

Every housewife knows that the broom is damaged as much by sitting in the corner and behind the door on the brush end as by use. And yet a string in the end of the handle is always breaking, and to set it with the brush end up means that it will tumble over inside the next five minutes. I saw a device the other day that was quite ingenious. A couple of large spools were fastened to the wall just far enough apart so that their flange would not allow the handle of the broom to drop out from between them, yet would readily allow it to pass between them. They were placed just high enough from the floor to allow the bottom to hang, inverted, of course, upon them and not touch the floor. The broom is quickly and easily inserted and removed. The idea can be carried to the stable for the accommodation of pitchforks, and to the toolhouse for shovels, spades, axes, sledges, etc. No tool will be lost or in the way if given this kind of a rest. The spools are fixed to the wall by means of large spikes whose heads will hold the spools in place, yet not so large but the spools will act as a pulley upon them.

WHAT HE SAW ON THE COFFIN.

An Expressman's Story About Carrying a Corpse on the Front Platform.

"I do not believe in ghosts, nor am I particularly nervous," remarked the express messenger, "but I once was so positive that I saw a spectre that I was troubled with insomnia for many nights and I thought I never would be able to quiet my nerves again.

"It was back in the 80s when I was running. We made a small station one evening about dusk and found on the platform, as I had been advised, the grewsome pine box, telling its story of some unfortunate who had gone to the mountains in a vain search for health. It so happened that my car was full and plan as I might I could find no place for the box. The train conductor came up to find out what was the cause of the delay. I told him of my predicament. He was equal to the emergency in an instant.

"'Put it on the front platform,' he said. The suggestion was a good one and in another moment our dead passenger was aboard and we were rolling over the prairie.

"It so happened that I had a car with a door at the end. About 10 o'clock snow began falling and I tell you it came down thick. It was midnight when I thought of the corpse. It would never do to lose it and the jolt of the train might jar it off the platform. The night was clear. I opened the door. As it swung on its hinges I looked out. Then I slammed the door with a bang and jumped back in the car. I was perspiring from every pore and trembling like a leaf.

"What had I seen? Why, sitting bolt upright on the coffin, with his hands clasping his knees, was the whitest ghost any man ever saw. I stood in the centre of the car, irresolute. I looked at my Winchester, then I realized it would be of no use against a spook.

"Suddenly the door opened and there stood my ghost. It was a tramp covered with snow from head to foot. He stood there blinking at the light for a moment and then said:

"Say, Willie, you've ketched me, anyhow, can't you let me get warm afore you turn me off?" Did I let him ride? Well, I guess. If I'd been going to New York he could have gone with me I'm the last man in the world not to show appreciation and gratitude."

LYDDITE AND MELINITE.

The Claims of Lyddite and the High Explosives to Which It is Related Have the Poisonous Effects Which Some Suppose.

It is very frequently stated that the lyddite shell contains a certain compressed poisonous gas, which, when exploding, means death to any living creature within a radius of 100 yards (some even say 400). This is an additional life-devouring agent to the ordinary destructive powers of the shell. This statement is no doubt an exaggeration, as the use of such shells would be in violation of the rules of civilized warfare. The composition of lyddite is held secret, and it is therefore impossible to give any details regarding it. Competent authorities, however, have no doubt that it is only a modification of melinite, the authorized explosive used in the French and German armies. This much is known, that lyddite stands between that explosive and thorite, a newly invented compound. They are all compounds of picric acid or trinitro-phenol, a pale, yellow, crystalline powder, with an intensely bitter taste, and possessing marked toxic qualities. Picric acid is an old compound, having been discovered in 1788 by the German chemist Hausman, who obtained it by acting on indigo with dilute nitric acid. At present it is largely manufactured by treating carbolic acid with strong nitric acid. Since the early fifties chemists have experimented with this substance in the hope of producing an ideal explosive. Boslinette's famous powder, compounded of the ammonium salt and potassic chromate, was made in 1869, but found to be too sensitive. Fontain's mixture, in 1869, caused a lamentable explosion, which led to its being discarded as a military explosive. Designolle was more successful, producing a mixture which was favorably received, and is still in use in the French army, though largely supplanted by melinite. This last famous explosive was invented by M. Eugene Turpin, and consists of a mixture of fused picric acid and nitrocellulose dissolved in ether and alcohol. M. Turpin has produced many patent modifications of this mixture, of which lyddite is one. The alleged fabulous properties of the English explosive are probably only imaginary. When melinite was first put forward, equally astonishing powers were claimed for it by General Boulanger, but these have not been justified. Luddite has not been effectually tried in warfare, and authorities declare it to be little different from melinite, with which the Boers are well supplied. By the decomposition of the picric compounds by explosion carbonic acid gas, not per se a poisonous gas, is evolved. In a small and inclosed space this gas will probably suffocate animals, but it is difficult to see how it can have any death-dealing properties in the open veldt. Owing to the terrific explosive force of the compound the shells will have a wide range, certainly a radius of 100 yards.

AN OLD STORY.

Have you heard about the three eggs?

No.

Too bad!

A gentleman in telling it said: Wat you tink of the little story about dose tree eggs. Two of dem was rotten.

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