

ENGLAND TO AUSTRALIA FLIGHT IS COMPLETED

Australian Aviator is Winner of the Rich \$50,000 Prize.

Port Darwin, Australia, Despatch—Captain Ross Smith, the Australian aviator, arrived here to-day from England, thus winning a prize of £10,000 offered for the first aviator to make the voyage.

Under the conditions laid down by the Australian Government when it offered a prize for making a flight from England to Australia, the distance of 11,500 miles had to be covered within thirty days.

Captain Ross Smith left the Hounslow aviation field, near London, at 9 o'clock Nov. 12, on his flight to Australia. On Nov. 18 he reached Cairo, and on Nov. 19 he continued his flight, and on Nov. 23 reached Delhi, India. From there he continued east until he reached Rangoon,

turning southward at that city, making a number of stops along the Malay Peninsula and in the islands of Oceania. He arrived at Bima, on Sumbawa Island, near Java, Monday night.

Port Darwin is near the northernmost tip of Australia, being near the town of Palmerston.

An interesting phase of the latter part of the flight was the international contest developed between the British Captain Smith and Lieut. Etienne Poulet, the French military aviator. Poulet left Paris for a flight to Australia on Oct. 14, nearly a month before Captain Smith started from London. The Englishman caught up with Poulet in India, however, the aviators meeting in Rangoon on Nov. 20, and both leaving for Bangkok on Dec. 1. The two airmen started off nearly together from Bangkok the day following. No reports have been received, however, as to the whereabouts of the French aviator after leaving Bangkok.

Crusoe and His Island

Any person with a bowing acquaintance with history, actual, literary or otherwise, could not doubt call to mind offhand a number of stories which, in spite of their being hopelessly fictitious, have implanted themselves so firmly in the popular fancy, that all the King's horses and all the King's men could not, by this time, budge them. Three, all taken at random, will serve, and curiously enough, Defoe is the plaintiff in the case of two of them. They are the confusion of Crusoe's island with Juan Fernandez, the Ride to York, and the existence of the original Old Curiosity Shop. It is of no avail to insist that Dickens himself declared that the Old Curiosity Shop was no more; that the ride to York was good, or bad, history two centuries before Turpin was endowed with it; and that no one who had ever read Robinson Crusoe could confuse the famous island with Juan Fernandez. The man in the street, ignoring that caustic phrase of the great Birreller, "What in the name of Bodley has the public to do with literature?" smiles indulgently, and gets along with his mistake.

Yet, in all seriousness, the question must arise, why should men waste their time arguing as to the original of an island in a story written early in the eighteenth century. The answer is very simple, because men love to be amused. Dr. Johnson once declared that there were only three books in existence which the ordinary reader would rather see lengthened than shortened. Robinson Crusoe was one of them, and if the aforesaid ordinary reader does not perchance know what the other two are, the opportunity is open to him for his amusement. Anyhow, Dr. Johnson's famous contemporary, the Frenchman Marivaux, was equally explicit. "Robinson Crusoe," he said, "is the first book I ever read with exquisite pleasure; and I believe every boy in Europe might say the same thing."

About a century later, a critic, with an overpowering attraction to the banal, summed up the attractions of the book in a couple of sentences, which should be preserved in the interests of the gayer of nations: "If it be inquired by what charm it is that these surprising adventures should have instantly pleased, and always pleased, it will be found that few books have ever so naturally mingled amusement with instruction. The attention is fixed, either by the simplicity of the narration or by the variety of the incidents; the heart is amused by a vindication of the ways of God to man; and the understanding is informed by various examples, how much utility ought to be preferred to ornament; the young are instructed, while the old are amused."

Even so brilliant a writer as Mr. R. H. Dana joins the worshipping throng, and, in a delightful description, in "Two Years Before the Mast," tells how, as the brig Pilgrim left the "deep blue cloud" of the island behind it, he "gave a parting look and bade farewell to the most romantic spot any eyes had ever seen."

All of which is very good, but from Juan Fernandez to the mouth of the Orinoco happens to be some 3,200 miles, measuring from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and with all South America in between. And it was "near the mouth of the Great River of Orinoco," as Defoe is careful to insist, on the frontispiece of the first edition and in the story itself, that Crusoe's island lay. Indeed, in order that there should be no mistake whatever about the matter, Defoe brought out, in a conversation between Crusoe and Friday, the fact that the land and the former "perceived to the west and north-west was the great island Trinidad on the north point of the mouth of the river."

How, then, did the wonderful mud-die arise? It is all extremely simple. Defoe, like Shakespeare and innumerable other writers, borrowed his plot ready made. Seven years before Captain Worder Rogers had published a book, in which he had told the story of how he had rescued Alexander Selkirk from his self-imposed maroonment, if the word may be coined, on the island of Juan Fernandez. The idea appealed to the

fancy of Defoe, just as later it did to Cowper and many others. The effect on Cowper was seen in the well-known poem beginning, "I am monarch of all I survey," on Defoe, in Robinson Crusoe, which, be it said, owes nothing at all but its idea to Selkirk or to Rogers.

Still, when the eighteenth century was young, every man knew all about Selkirk, and every boy had read Crusoe, and new that Crusoe was Selkirk. As time went on, what followed became inevitable. Crusoe was Selkirk, Selkirk's island was Juan Fernandez, therefore Juan Fernandez was Crusoe's island. Post hoc, propter hoc, what more could anyone demand? But, Defoe explains, carefully, that it was not. Yes! but so did Dickens explain that the Curiosity Shop had been pulled down, and Defoe, again, that Novinson rode to York. The fate of the Curiosity Shop, the position of Crusoe's island, these are details which are forgotten as soon as learned. Our business is with Codlin and Short, Dick Swiveller and Marchioness Sally Brass and Quilp, with Crusoe and Friday, and all the other puppets. The positions of islands, the sites of shops, such things are the affair of the surveyor and the hydrographer. As for the Ride to York, the Circus settled all that decades and decades ago.

NEW LOW RECORD FOR THE POUND

New York Despatch—Rates on sterling exchange continued their downward course to-day, checks being quoted at \$3.80 1-4, or 1 1-2 cents lower than the lowest quotation reported yesterday.

France also declined to a new low record, checks being quoted at 11-52 for the dollar, off 32 centimes from yesterday's closing prices. Lire checks also dropped 17 centimes, and were offered at the rate of 13.47 for the dollar. The German mark, worth \$3.8 cents before the war, has dropped so less than two cents, quotations being made at 1.98 cents.

CANADA'S DEBT.

Total Net is Now Placed at \$1,817,839,000.

Ottawa Despatch—Ordinary expenditure by the Dominion last month exceeded ordinary revenue. Expenditure was \$43,486,000; revenue, \$31,618,000. The heavy expenditure, however, is largely accounted for by a large payment on November 1 of interest on war loans. During the eight months period closing with the end of November ordinary expenditure, \$202,536,000. Increase in net debt during November was \$32,963,000, as compared with \$20,394,000 in November of last year. The total net debt of the Dominion is now \$1,817,839,000.

Resumption of public works following the armistice is reflected in increased expenditure on capital accumulated during the eight months period. Capital expenditure on public works, including railways and canals, was \$28,607,000; during the corresponding period last year it was \$10,120,000.

Current revenue during the eight months period was \$215,027,000. During the corresponding period last year it was \$193,932,000.

EVEN TORTURED U.S. ENLISTED MEN

Officer With German Name and Characteristics

Is Under Court-Martial for Brutality.

New York Despatch—Brutal treatment, and even deliberate torture, of enlisted men of the American expeditionary forces are charged against Capt. Karl W. Detzer, formerly commanding officer of the 308th Military Police Company, whose trial by court-martial opened at Governor's Island to-day.

Evidence will be submitted, it is said, by officers familiar with the case, that will rival the sensational developments of the trials of Lieut. "Hard-boiled" Smith and Sergt. Ball, who are now serving prison sentences for brutality to American soldiers in Paris.

Among the documentary evidence prepared for Capt. Detzer's trial are depositions made by Lieut.-Col. Wm. L. Culbertson, formerly acting Inspector-General of the A. E. F., after investigating at Le Mans, France, charges made against the captain. The deposition declares that "beyond a doubt" men who were under Capt. Detzer's control "had been cruelly and brutally mishandled."

Capt. Detzer, who was formerly a Fort Wayne, Ind., newspaperman, had charge, under the assistant provost marshal, of all criminal investigation at the American embarkation centre at Le Mans. Capt. Detzer faces 28 specific charges charging him with violation of three of the articles of war.

WED HIS RESCUER.

British Land Girl Drove Bull From Farmer.

Uckland, Eng. Cable—(Correspondence of the Associated Press)—Peggy Fisher, the young land girl who recently saved the life of a young farmer who was being gored by an infuriated bull, is now the wife of the man she rescued. Peggy attacked the bull, and kicked it with such force on the head that it cleared off in time for the young man to escape. For this deed she received the Land Distinguished Service Bar.

Other land girls, as the English girl farmers are called, have shown their pluck in many ways, and six more Distinguished Service Bars have recently been awarded.

Heart is Busy Organ.

Your heart is a very busy organ. While you breathe once, it beats four times. At each beat it sends four pounds of blood through your veins and arteries. The weight of the circulating blood is 23 pounds. When you run, your legs and the other parts of your body need more blood, so your heart must pump faster. It is a ceaseless worker.

Die when I may, I want it said of me by those who knew me best that I always plucked a thistle and planted a flower when I thought a flower would grow—Lincoln.

China Clay Used in Paper.

The fact that an amalgamation with a capital of £2,000,000 has been formed to control the richest and best clay-fields in Devon and Cornwall, where alone china-clay exists in Great Britain, recalls the story of one of the most interesting and historic industries in the country.

China-clay is the fine white clay used in making the porcelain articles we are handling every day. It's great virtue lies in the fact that it is of a pure, or nearly pure, white, both before and after being fired, making it of great value in the manufacture of porcelain. It is also used to a great extent by papermakers, and in less quantity in the making of some chemical products.

Technically, china-clay is known as kaolin, derived from Kaoling—"high ridge"—the name of hills in China where the clay was first discovered and used in the manufacture of porcelain. Jesuit missionaries introduced it to Europe, and in the middle of the eighteenth century the clay was discovered in Cornwall and later in Devonshire.

The total output represents nearly half a million tons per annum.—Tit-Bits.

SEED GROWERS IN CONVENTION

Ontario Body Holds Annual at Guelph.

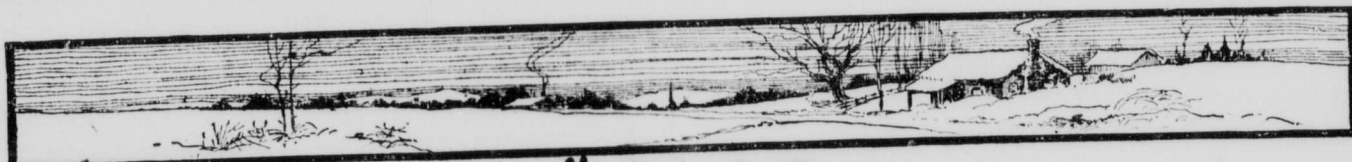
Officers Elected for Ensuing Year.

Guelph Despatch—The annual meeting of the Ontario Seed Growers' Association was held in the City Hall to-day, and matters connected with the improvement of seed grain were discussed at great length. E. D. Eddy, of the Dominion Seed Branch, stated that his department would in the future institute much more severe restrictions with regard to the introduction of new varieties of grain, and Prof. C. A. Zavitz asked that these restrictions be made to apply also in the case of alfalfa with respect to place of origin.

Mr. Newman, Secretary of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association, described the work being done in the western provinces for the improvement of seed wheat and especially the success obtained by Seager Wheeler, with the varieties Klitchener and R-1 Bob. He told of the Canadian exhibitors' success at the recent Chicago show, and predicted a large number of seed entries at the Chicago International next year. He asked for support in developing interest in showing across the line from all the provinces, as the reputation made by this year's exhibitors was sure to encourage a demand for our seed and there is a great chance for the trade to be developed to a tremendous extent.

The following directors were elected: F. A. Smith, Port Huron; Dr. F. G. Hutton, Charing Cross; J. C. Duke, Ruthven; J. S. Moore, Bellamy; W. J. Squirrell, Guelph; R. R. Moore, Norwich; H. L. McConnell, Port Huron; A. S. McLennan, Toronto; P. L. Fancher, Chatham; T. G. Gaylor, Ottawa.

Advice is like snow—the softer it falls, the longer it dwells upon and the deeper it sinks into the mind.—Coleridge



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