

**PHONE
NUMBER
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AN OBSESSION
Petty Officers: "We're close to land, sir!"
Captain Curzon: "Do you mean Ulster?"
Petty Officer: "No, sir, the other sort of land—"
Captain Curzon: "There is no land, except Ulster!"
Petty Officer: "We shall run ashore, sir!"
Captain Curzon: "There is no shore—except Ulster!"
(Lord Curzon in his speech at the United Club on Tuesday night refused to recognize that there is any other question in view except Ulster.)

THE FRENCH HOPE IS IN BLACK MEN

**IMPROVING REGIMENTS OF THE
NEGROES ARE NOW AT-
TACHED TO THE ARMY**

Paris, Jan. 3.—On the 14th of July last the famous black contingent of the French army defied before the President and half a million people on the Long-champs race course. Their appearance was greeted with the same wild enthusiasm which manifested itself some six years ago when the first French military aircraft hovered and manoeuvred over the assembled troops. This was the answer of the French nation to the recent formidable increase of Germany's fighting force. The French people realized that they possessed another immensely valuable adjunct for the future struggle—the "winning card," as they believe is to decide the fate of Europe.

As far as numbers go, the French know that they will always be inferior to their eastern neighbours, but they consider that valor and skill will make up for this deficiency. That a few regiments of black troops might well change defeat into victory, or transform the enemy's retreat into a disastrous rout, is admitted by all those who have first-hand knowledge of the French colonial troops. Col. Marchand, of Faso-da fame, recently said: "Every black soldier of France is a hero; he fights with the fanatical courage of the Mohammedan, and can endure privations that would decimate white troops. Now that skill and discipline have been added to his native bravery, he is the most formidable fighting machine in the world. France will not hesitate to use these troops in Europe when occasion arises."

At the conclusion of his speech, Col. Marchand paid a glowing tribute to Gen. Mangin, who has devoted his whole career to the organization and improvement of the French colonial army. It was Gen. Mangin—then captain—who brought black troops to Paris for the first time in July, 1899. His men have the deepest affection for him, and he is still known as "le pere des tirailleurs." With his energy and pertinacity the black army would still be what it was then—a small contingent of very uncertain value. By hammering away at this question week in and week out for six years, the French public was aroused from its apathy, and Parliament took up the question. The result was the recent significant demonstration at Longchamps, and a black coming increase of 20,000 men in the black army. Its founders efforts were recognized by the commander-in-chief of the French army, who raised him from the rank of colonel to that of general, and awarded the native troops the mark of honor of which they had long been worthy—a flag of their own to fight and die for.

Speaking to the writer, Gen. Mangin gave the following account of his work:—

"In 1871, after signing the Treaty of Frankfurt, France possessed 37,000,000 inhabitants and Germany 39,500,000. At the present time France has 39,500,000 and Germany 67,000,000. The population of France now remains stationary, whereas that of Germany increases by about 1,000,000 a year. From a military point of view, this is a deplorable situation, and can only be remedied by incorporating in our army increasingly large numbers of black troops."

"Our colonies can give us an inexhaustible supply. The most noteworthy feat of colonization and civilization in the 19th century was the division of the Black Continent by the three great European nations. Thanks to the ability and tact of our pioneers, France has acquired the respect and affection of the best part—West Africa—with its population of at least 12,000,000. I have just returned from a long stay in that country, and am certain that we could get 40,000 volunteers a year from West Africa alone. The Governor-General of that country has just confirmed this in a letter to the minister of War. The warlike character of our black troops is well known. The Senegalian rifleman is now one of the most popular types, and his bravery is beyond comparison. He can march for incredible distances under a burning sun, bear hunger and thirst without complaining, and fight for three days without rest."

"They have often been reproached with having no initiative, but this little story shows that there is no foundation for this belief. In 1911 Capt. Cazemajou and Interpreter Olive were sent on a mission into the district between the Niger and the Tchad with a small escort of Senegalian riflemen. They were ambushed by the Sultan of Zinder and assassinated. The native sergeant and half a dozen men were also captured and put in irons. Corporal Kouty took command of the remaining eight men, and at once set about fortifying his camp. He repulsed two desperate attacks the next day, and threatened to burn down the town of 10,000 inhabitants if the prisoners were not set free. He set fire to some huts the same night, and the next day the sergeant and his men were liberated. A successful retreat was made to the nearest post on the Niger, 700 miles away, in 54 days."

"I could quote you many other cases proving that the black soldier has just as much initiative as the white, while he possesses other great qualities. He has no 'nerves' and can sleep at the word of command, even within sound of cannon. Now that armies manoeuvre for several days before getting into position, this is an invaluable quality. While civilized troops are losing their strength by the tension of their nerves and loss of sleep, these hardy sons of the desert are laying up a reserve of energy for the final charge upon which our fate, and theirs, may be depended."

It is easy to see why general Mangin has succeeded in his patriotic task. His enthusiasm for his black troops amounts almost to a fanaticism, and that this is the only sort of enthusiasm that can overcome the inertia of official "administration" whose army of officials smother any attempt to break away from the old routine.

Questioned as to the proposed "unwritten law" against employing black troops on a European battlefield, General Mangin said it was only an invention of those who feared their precedents in history. He stated: "William of Orange used black troops when he landed at Torbay on November 2, 1688; Richelieu at the siege of La Rochelle, and Maurice of Saxony at Fontenoy and Lawfield. Napoleon quartered negro regiments all round the French coast, and they fought on the French battlefields. And our regiments of 'Tirailleurs' who fought so valiantly in the Crimea and Italy contained many black soldiers. But even in France I have encountered considerable opposition. Inertia is often mistaken for prudence, and the term 'common sense' is often applied to that species of intellectual short-sightedness which cannot see the yawning precipice. But France is now alive to the threatened danger, and will no longer neglect its splendid reserves of fighting material."

"Can you give me the actual number of black soldiers in the French army?" I asked.

Gen. Mangin smiled. "You know," he said, "that our army is known as the 'great silent one.' I cannot give you the present figures, but I will willingly give you those of January 1, 1912. They are

as follows:—
1st Senegal Regiment..... 1,416
2nd Senegal Regiment..... 1,816
4th Senegal Regiment..... 1,816
..... 5,048

Cavalry, artillery, sappers (Senegal) 1,722
Ivory Coast..... 1,210
Mauritania..... 1,080
Timbuctoo..... 810
Zinder..... 1,020
Madagascar..... 800
Equatorial Africa..... 6,400
Algeria..... 810
Morocco..... 2,450
French Guinea..... 600

..... 16,682
"Thus we have a total of 21,730 men, but it has since been increased. I cannot say how much, but the augmentation is appreciable, and we have been authorized to recruit 20,000 more in the next four years. We could, however, in case of need, raise 10,000 extra men in Senegal alone, in a few months."

The writer has the highest authority for saying that France will use her black troops in any part of the world where she has her honor or interests to defend. Maurice Bares, the eminent writer, academician and deputy, who has done much to popularize France's colonial army, at a recent dinner related the following anecdote instructing, as he expressed it, "the heroism and incomparable abnegation of our black troops":—

"Three years ago, at the taking of Kani, on the Ivory coast, Lieut. Kaufmann asked for a man to reconnoitre a stockade which appeared to be abandoned. Trooper Baba Toure was the first to volunteer, and started to approach the stockade by creeping through the brushwood. He got quite close; there was no sign of movement. He crept up to the outskirts and stood erect. There was still no sign of life. He was just about to announce the good news when he suddenly caught sight of about 20 of the enemy concealed in a trench. Twenty rifles were leveled at him. He might have saved his life by keeping silence, but that would have been a coward's trick. He raised his gun and fired, so as to clearly indicate the position of the enemy. Twenty shots rang out, and he fell, grievously wounded. Raising his head to catch a last glimpse of the men he had saved from the slaughter, he saw that his action had been misunderstood. His companions were advancing to certain death. Raising himself, by a supreme effort, he offered himself as a target, and shouted: 'Keep back, savages here!' He fell again, for the second and last time."

"Another admirable trait in the black soldier's character is his faithfulness in obeying an order. One of our old forts, Rottembourg, contained a powder magazine. It caught fire through the carelessness of a smoker, and exploded. There were a number killed and wounded, but when the officers reached the place, the un wounded were still standing at 'attention.' One man in particular, a superb Bambara, was pacing up and down, musket on shoulder, on the edge of a yawning chasm hollowed out by the exploding powder. 'You're not wounded?' he asked an officer. Saluting in irreproachable fashion, the Senegalian replied, as he had been taught, 'Nothing new.' It was discovered afterward that he had been blown into the air, had fallen into the chasm, but had escaped injury in some miraculous way. He had, therefore, continued to keep guard as if nothing had happened."

When they fight in their own country, these blacks are always accompanied by their wives, who cook their husbands' food and nurse them if they are wounded. Once, in 1908, when Gen. Mangin's brother was killed at the head of his men, the soldiers' wives opened the cases of cartridges and brought them up to their husbands in the firing line. Their timely action saved a general massacre, but a large number of the women were killed."

When Morocco has been completely conquered and pacified by France, she will have another inexhaustible recruiting ground for black troops—one which she cannot afford to neglect if she wishes to have a fighting chance against her aggressive neighbour. There are now, according to the latest statistics, 2,000,000 French families without children and five times this number with only one child. By increasing the duration of military service from two years to three, and by reducing the age of enlistment from 21 to 20, the French Government has imposed a very heavy burden on the nation. Any further attempt to increase it would lead to a revolution. The development of her colonial army is, therefore, her only way of salvation. Any other policy would be suicidal, and it is being vigorously pursued in spite of the imprecations of the German press against the use of "savages" in "civilized" warfare.

**PERFORMING ELEPHANT
DECLINED TO CONCLUDE**
A check only came when ropes and pulleys were brought and attached to "Bupari." Then, the passage from the stage to the street being cleared, and all hands, including the delighted spectators outside the theatre taking part in the final

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pull, the spoiled favorite of the public was hauled out in spite of her loud and continued protests. The stage properties and scenery suffered severely in transit, but the end was achieved, and "Bupari" how, as the criminal reports used to say, apparently feeling her position acutely, made a bolt for the pantechion, and nursed her bruises—if elephants blush—and her broken heart in solitude.

"Bupari" is a young Indian elephant of the female sex who made her first appearance in public at the Municipal Theatre a few days ago. Great expectations had been formed of her, for she had shown an unusual aptitude in learning her part in a spectacular drama based on Jules Verne's "Round the World in Eighty Days."

The expectations were fully justified. "Bupari" was a most complete success. The house rose at her antics, and showered bouquets and oranges, and cheered her again and again. In fact, she completely outshone the mere human performers, and crowds waited at the stage door after the performance to see her leave the theatre in her own private pantechion. But she did not appear—a was among the onlookers suggested that it was because ladies took so long in dressing—and the disappointed crowd began to melt away.

The explanation of the delay was both simple and curious. "Bupari's" massive, if juvenile, head had been turned by the novel experience of the night. So pleased was she at the pleasure she had given others that she declined to leave off performing, and kept on repeating the tricks over and over again. In vain the lights were turned down, and her mahout tried all his customary methods of persuasion and threats. She would not leave the stage. In vain the full strength of the company, actors and actresses alike, tried to push her off. She was too big to move, she was thoroughly enjoying herself, and doubtless also with the first thrill of professional pride with which she was agitated she had gathered also the first suspicions that professional jealousy had been roused against her.

"THE COONEYTES

"Rural Suffolk is in a ferment caused by the singular doings of the Tramp Preachers who have established themselves in this country. Also known as The Cooneytes and the No Sect, these missionaries of the tattered coat and empty pocket have succeeded in creating such a hubbub in Suffolk that the wildest stories are afloat. Disclaiming denomination, pouring contempt upon all organized forms of Christian worship, and proclaiming that marriage as an institution is to continue no longer, the Tramp Preachers have now fixed their headquarters at Debenham, near Stowmarket. Already they have laid hands upon one of the most prominent tradesmen of the town of Debenham and have created Mr. List, the carrier, Bishop of Suffolk, while another (an agricultural laborer) has been elevated to the dignity of Archbishop of Norfolk."

Although their preaching contains the wildest statements, converts have not been lacking. Many have been young women of that mystical temperament that lends a ready ear to weird teaching, and have been induced to leave comfortable homes. For a time they held meetings at Sudbury, Suffolk, until they were driven from the quaint market town by an enraged army of 3,000 men and women, who alleged that the "preachers" were practising what was virtually a system of "free love." Now, by various and strange means, they have obtained a permanent footing at Debenham, and the quiet countryside is in an uproar. Mysterious midnight meetings have been held in a large tent which the Cooneytes carry about with them, to which all but the faithful are denied admittance. After singing strange hymns the brethren and sisters abandon themselves to a species of religious hysteria. Strong cries of ecstasy are succeeded by fits of what appears to be the impartial madness, while the Cooneytes roll on the ground with dismal screeches and groans. It is declared that many

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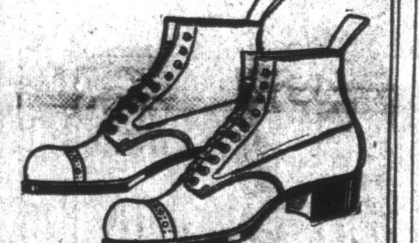


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Good advice for all who have indigestion or stomach disorders.

In his home at Waldegrave, N.S., no one is better known than Sergeant-Major Cross, late of the 40th Queen's Own Hussars. Speaking of the ill-effects of a campaign upon a man's constitution, the Sergt-Major writes: "I served under General French during the late Boer war, in the capacity of Sergt-Major. It was perhaps owing to a continued diet of bully beef, hard tack and bad water, but at any rate my stomach entirely gave out. I was in such a state that I could eat nothing without the greatest suffering. The army doctors did not help me much, and finally leaving the service I have been very miserable. Some few months ago a friend told me he had been a great sufferer from indigestion until he tried Dr. Hamilton's Pills; they cured him. I confess it was without much faith I bought a box, but the first dose made me feel better than I had been for a long time. Dr. Hamilton's Pills completely cured, and now I can eat anything and everything. I have recommended them to others and in every case the result has been similar to mine."

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young girls have joined this sect, wandered about the country, and at last lapsed into immorality. And lastly, the statement asserts that a number of young women have been induced to leave England and have lived immoral lives in South America and the States. After a long discussion was rendered for the plaintiffs for \$500 and costs.

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