

THE OLD LAND.

Many Interesting Happenings Reported From Brit.ain.

The experiments on the hull of the old battleship Hero, which have been carried out by the Channel fleet to test the effect of shell fire from modern guns on the fire-control stations and crews of warships in battle, were brought to a conclusion on Saturday off the Kentish Knock.

Certain selected battleships of the Channel fleet opened fire at 7,000 yards, which is the range usual in battle practice, and the firing continued all the day, the old ship receiving a terrific pounding. The shooting was extremely accurate. The unarmored portions of the hull were completely riddled. Owing to the extensive damage caused to the Hero it is not expected that she can be salvaged and brought back into harbor. The Hero actually sank, but as she had only two feet of water under keel, this fact was not noticed until a close inspection was made.

The Hero's funnel went overboard at an early stage in the proceedings, the fighting top was wrecked, though the battleship's one mast survived the fire. The fire control stations, fitted with dummy telephones and speaking tubes, were swept away.

One of the first shots found the base of the turret, and by blowing off the muzzles put out of action the two 12-inch guns it contained. The turret suffered severely, the armor being torn about in places like so much tin. The excellence of British shooting was exemplified by a performance done by the armored cruiser Duke of Edinburgh, one of the vessels in Sir Percy Scott's squadron. With her guns directed from the fire-control stations, she made hits at 13,000 yards, or seven and a half miles. The battleships Hibernia and Dominion fired armor-piercing projectiles from their big guns, but they failed to pierce the armored portion of the Hero.

The experiments have thus confirmed the results observed in the Russo-Japanese war, and shown that at the present time a battleship's armor is capable of resisting projectiles at all practicable ranges.

The armor of the Hero is compound, or iron faced with steel, and is 8 in. to 12 in. thick. Twelve inches of compound armor are about equal in power of resistance to 8 in. of modern Krupp steel. This is employed for recent battleships. The Hero's armor has 9 in. of Krupp steel, and the Dreadnought 11 in. The latest British battleships should therefore be absolutely impervious to an enemy's shot and shell. Outside the armored portion in the recent battleships there is nothing vital, and there will be but few men stationed in battle. Only the fire-control positions on the masts must be greatly exposed, since it is a matter of extreme difficulty to give them protection, and this though they are vital to the good shooting of the ship.

KAISER'S TEA PARTY.

The Kaiser is reveling in the delights of his stay at Highcliffe, and apparently none of his experiences has pleased him more than the happy tea-party he gave to the village school-children on Saturday evening.

The tea-party and entertainment in Highcliffe National School had been eagerly looked forward to by the children for days.

Shortly after 4 o'clock in the afternoon the children, numbering 170, and wearing rosettes of the German colors—red, white and black—were assembled at the school. It was a place transformed, German and British flags draped the walls and long tables took the place of the school desks.

On the centre table stood the Emperor's cake, a work of art turned out by the chef at Highcliffe Castle. It stood six feet high, and, covered with sugar icing, rose in terraces to a pinnacle, which was a design in British and German flags.

All the little guests stood up as the vicar, the Rev. E. S. Carpenter, and his daughter received the Emperor, who, with a smile, took the bouquets presented by two tiny scholars, Ian Barrett and Ian Young. Then, looking again at the children, he said, "I am so glad to see them so healthy and well." The Emperor frankly enjoyed himself, and so did the children. They refused to be oppressed by any idea of rank and class, but met their host on the friendliest terms.

Presently the Kaiser stood down to where the great cake stood, picking up a knife, cut deep into its heart, breaking into its terraced glories. Teacup in hand, he afterwards expressed his appreciation to those about him of the appearance of the children and their bright and alert looks.

When his Majesty left the schoolroom after about half an hour's stay, the children gave him three hearty British cheers.

KING ALFONSO'S DISGUISE.

King Alfonso paid a surprise visit to the Soldiers' and Sailors' Relief Society, in Brompton road, on Thursday, to the amusing cartoons of the various British regiments, by Mr. Henderson, late of the Buffs.

The King wore a bowler hat, and turned up the collar of his black overcoat so that it half covered his face. The King had thus sufficiently disguised himself, he entered the front shop. Just then Major Tudor Craig, the secretary of the society, came in, and at once recognized the King, who shook hands and laughingly admitted his identity.

The Majesty, who was accompanied by the Duke of Alba, told Major Craig that he had seen one cartoon, entitled "The Kaiser's Own," and he wished to have one of his own regiment (the 16th Lancers). Several of the little colored sketches were shown to the King, who said he would like to purchase the whole collection, containing one example of every British regiment in every kind of uniform, and also caricatures of his own regiment—the 16th Lancers in their five different uniforms, about one hundred and twenty in all. His Majesty expressed his particular desire that they should be amusing. Fortunately his wishes in this direction could be met, and he bought the pictures for £25.

Having made this purchase, King Alfonso then went upstairs to the work-shops, where forty men—all disabled soldiers and sailors—were engaged in their skillful occupations. His Majesty spoke to every man in turn, "I am so glad to see you wearing your medals," he said to the men. "It shows what a pride you take in them and in your country."

SCHOOLBOY SOLDIER HERO.

Reigate Grammar School is justly proud of a tiny thirteen-year-old member of its cadet corps. This schoolboy soldier has achieved fame for his remarkable

true. If the experiment is successful, or is found to be a cure for insomnia, there is not the slightest doubt that his example will be followed elsewhere. The notion of starting the first performance of a new play at half-past twelve at night occurred to Mr. Stuart owing to a combination of circumstances. In the first place, he had arranged to produce on December 31 a new two-act comedy by Mr. George Glendel, entitled "Four in Family," for a series of special matinees at the Court Theatre, and on or about the same time he wished to give a supper party to celebrate Christmas. Well, he thought, why not provide the guests with the performance of a play too. The idea was splendid, but his house was too small for the entertaining of 250 guests, and so there and then the midnight play idea occurred.

FORTUNE SQUANDERED.

Harold Collings, of Colchester House, Maidenhead, a young man of twenty-four, who came up for his public examination in bankruptcy Court, explained how he squandered a large fortune. He had, he said, carried on business as a bookmaker under the style of "H. Collard," and had lost money at that. At the age of twenty-five on August 21 next—he would have been entitled to £22,000 under the will of his father, but he had mortgaged it and anticipated the income he would have received.

From the age of eighteen up to the present time he calculated that the average rate at which he had been living was about £4,000 a year.

Most of his money had gone in motor-cars. "I have paid as much as £1,000 for a motor-car," said Collings, "and whenever I bought a new one I sold the other for considerably less than it cost me. I don't know how it happened, but I am convinced that a motor-car could be kept and run at £200 a year. A 40-h.p. car will cost £800 to £1,000 a year to run."

He was in need of assistance from friends, and at the present time acting as "a gentleman chauffeur for a gentleman who gives me a present now and then."

KILLED AT DIABOLO.

Dr. Wynn Westcott, coroner, held an inquest at Hackney on Saturday on the body of Rose Annie Page, aged eight, the daughter of a general dealer of Mortimer-road, Dalston, who died from an injury sustained while playing "Diabolo."

The mother stated that the child was perfectly well up till Sunday last. In the afternoon she was playing "Diabolo" in the garden. After a time she went indoors and said that she had thrown the "spindle" up and that it had struck her on the left side of the head.

About 2.30 the next morning she was seized with vomiting and convulsions. She was seen by a doctor and then removed to the Metropolitan Hospital, where she died on Tuesday. Compared with this country, however, America is more strenuous both for good and evil. In some respects the Americans are better. In one sense they have more religion.

There is another side to the affair, however. The American people are like a human maelstrom. Here if a man, after years, makes a thousand a year, he probably buys a villa and settles down to a happy domestic life. There a man's sole thought is to turn the thousand into two thousand, the two thousand into ten. Then there is more frantic effort, and finally he cuts his throat. That, of course, is not quite literal, but it expresses what I mean. In America there is a suicide every ninety minutes and a murder every seventy minutes.

WRETCHED WIVES.

Discussion of the position of women in Great Britain, with the moral that the lot of the German woman is better, is frequent in the German press at present, following on a lecture by the Young Men's Union of Berlin by the Mr. Lindenstedt.

After informing his hearers that there are in Great Britain 8,000 women teachers, whose social position is below the German standard, Mr. Lindenstedt proceeded to put the actual situation of British women in a nutshell.

British women, he asserted, are light, Beauty in British womanhood is true, he says, only of young girls. In marriage they lose their charm. In France and Germany a woman's life really begins with her marriage; in England it ends with it. The British woman, he said, is a creature of the housekeeper or man-servant. Had she not, he asked, better improve her own position in the family before she strives for the rights of men? The bad position of British women is due to their treatment by their husbands. The British regards his wife as his chattel, a piece of his belongings that can be treated as he likes. Cases of wife-beating were referred to.

Sales of wives are not uncommon, Mr. Lindenstedt concluded.

SERVANT-GIRL EMIGRANTS.

The Australian demand for healthy British domestic servants is steadily increasing. On Jan. 24, 1908, under the auspices of the New South Wales Government, over 200 English girls will leave for Sydney arranged with the Orient Royal Mail Line, the New South Wales Government will only charge each girl £3 for the passage. The girls will travel by the steamship Asturias, which starts on her maiden voyage to Australia on Jan. 24.

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Explains Cause of Pimples and Tells How to Cure.

You're not satisfied with your looks. How can you be with such disfiguring pimples, such rough uneven skin? Blood is full of humors and it's no wonder you look and feel poorly. You are languid. Appetite is miserable. Sleep is hard to get. Snap at all rim are lacking.

High time to improve matters—but what's the proper remedy? Experience proves that Dr. Hamilton's give instant effect. They tone the entire system, fortify the blood and impart a feeling of new life in a few days. Unlike strong purgatives, Dr. Hamilton's Pills are exceedingly mild. They are made from concentrated vegetable

extracts such as Mandrake and Butter-nut, and can be taken by young or old with absolute safety. "I learnt something very valuable after using Dr. Hamilton's Pills," writes Miss Effie Thomson, of Meriden. "I used to have ugly pimples that much embarrassed me. The tonic and purifying effect of Dr. Hamilton's Pills completely restored me to my healthy and my complexion a great credit to this marvelous medicine."

Let your medicine be Dr. Hamilton's Pills. They cure so thoroughly. Sold by all dealers, 25c per box, or five boxes for \$1.00. By mail from N. C. Polson & Co., Kingston, Ont., and Hartford, Conn., U. S. A.

NEWS OF THE CHURCHES.

The Baptists of Virginia in the financial year just ended raised \$151,150 for missions and relief work.

The Church of England, Waifs and Strays Society has a deficit so far this year of about \$38,000.

The benevolences of the Central Congregational Church of Brooklyn, for the year amounts to over \$58,000.

The Wesleyan Missionary Society of England has drawn \$50,000 from its reserve fund for erecting a plant in China.

The vicar of Combe, near Woodstock, Eng., has found in his church a great silk velvet pulpit cloth bearing the date of 1634.

The laymen of the various denominations in Atlanta have pledged themselves to raise \$100,000 for foreign missions during the coming year.

An average of four Sunday schools a day established for every day of the last 83 years is the record of the American Sunday School Union.

Sixteen Mormon elders from Utah have invaded Iowa to try to start a church in one of the cities and thence to spread the belief over the State.

Of the \$1,400,000 so far raised for the construction of the Liverpool Cathedral about \$825,000 remains unexpended and will probably suffice for the next five years.

All meetings of the Colonial and Continental Church Society's meetings in England moving pictures are used to show what is being accomplished, especially in Canada.

The Defted and Greenwich Mission, of London, preaches about 3,000 persons every Sunday, making it one of the largest in that city, despite the fact that it is but four years old.

There are but 65 parishes and missions in the 90,000 square miles which make up the Province of Ontario, of which light Rev. Charles Scadding has just been consecrated bishop.

A committee from the Colonial Missionary Society, of England, has just gone to Jamaica to consider the best method of using the \$8,000 raised to repair the earthquake damage to the churches.

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The Bowery Mission of New York has so far this year supplied over 233,000 meals and nearly 11,000 lodgers to homeless men and boys, its daily morning bread line being one of the most pathetic sights in the world.

The private chapel in the palace of Chichester, Sussex, England, is to be beautified as a memorial to the late Bishop Wilberforce, the money to be subscribed by those who were confirmed and aided by the Bishop.

A holy well dedicated to St. Anne and possessing great curative powers has been rediscovered at Caversham, Oxfordshire, England, having been lost since the Middle Ages, and it is now to be marked by a marble tablet.

With all but two months of its financial year gone, the Wesleyan Missionary Society of England has received but one-fourth of its income and the bank rate is so high that interest makes borrowing almost out of the question.

The First Bahai Assembly, a religious association, has been chartered in New York to teach original and fundamental Judaism, Christianity, Mohammedanism, "as promulgated through the divine teaching of the high revelation."

A school for the training of lay evangelists is to be opened in New York early in January, with 30 of the leading laymen and pastors of nearly every denomination as instructors, the intention being to keep it strictly unsectarian.

A new institutional church is nearly ready for use in Seattle, the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church having spent over \$500,000 erecting a building that shall afford every facility for the work of a thoroughly up-to-date religious organization.

The All Embracing Church" is the name of a new faith which is to be started at Seattle, Wash., by Walter A. Cogswell, and which will include every creed and color, with a Bible made up of excerpts from all the leading philosophers and teachers since the mind of man has been capable of evolving ideas.

A diver is working indefatigably from 16 to 24 feet of water putting in a new foundation for Winchester Cathedral, in England, and it has been suggested that when he completes his work room should be found somewhere for a statue of him minus his helmet.

At the headquarters of the Society of Friends, in London, were shown recently some manuscripts of great historic interest, among them being the Oliver Cromwell proclamation of liberty to many imprisoned for conscience sake, including John Bunyan, and the fine original manuscript of the journal of George Fox.

But the tendency to outrun the fashion could not be resisted. The brims became so wide that they had to be looped or cocked up on one side, which led toward a less effective settling for a handsome person, the three-cornered hat.

Incidentally, a few colloquialisms are given to our language: "Knocked into a cocked hat," or, in other words, "licked out of shape." And it would appear from a passage in "Fanny Hill" that a psychological significance might occasionally attach to the twist of a man's hat. From this period onward the beautiful in headgear has been, alas! the prerogative of women.

In the closing years of the eighteenth century a near approach to the shapes of the present day is observable. Round hats of two kinds appeared, either of moderate height in the crown, or tall and conical with small or moderately broad brims. The high beaver began to give way to the dik hat about 80 years ago, the latter coming to England by way of Paris.

RIDING IN A WHEELBARROW. A Common Method of Transit in China—The Fare is Half a Cent a Mile.

Probably more freight and more passengers are transported in China by the wheelbarrow than by any other land method.

The wheelbarrow there used differs from that used by us in the fact that the wheel is set in the centre and thus supports the entire load, while the handles are supported in part by a strap or rope over the shoulders of the man who operates it.

As a result, says the National Geographic Magazine, the wheelbarrow is a very ancient vehicle, nearly half a ton on his vehicle. Wheelbarrows are much used in the country, where the roads are but little developed, and it is said that passengers sometimes make the entire trip from Shanghai to Peking, a distance of 600 miles, by barrow.

A two passenger barrow will make about twenty miles a day, and the coolie is content with a pay of about twenty cents a day, or an average of about one-half a cent a mile for each passenger.

On the level, well kept streets of the foreign quarters of such cities as Hong Kong, Shanghai and Peking the wheelbarrow coolie will struggle along with a load of six or even eight people.

Other strange methods of transportation in China are the junks, sampans, houseboats and river crafts, which crowd the rivers, harbors and canals of that densely populated empire.

Many of them have peculiar marks, resembling an eye, painted on either side of their bows, which are really intended to represent eyes and are provided in the firm belief that they actually aid the vessel in finding its way.

The junks and sampans are the freight carriers along the coast and in the harbors. Houseboats are found everywhere, but especially in the waters adjacent to the great cities, and it is estimated that several millions of the people of China have no other home than these floating residences.

They are supplied with the simple requirements for cooking and daily life of the home, the pigsty at the rear, the tiny flower garden at the front or upon the roof, and are often sculled from place to place by the mother, with her children playing about her and her youngest strapped upon her back.

The traveller often sees these Chinese and Japanese boat women selling their wares and are often sculled from place to place by the mother, with her children playing about her and her youngest strapped upon her back.

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