

ARTILLERY IS INADEQUATE.

Secretary of War Taft Says Only 20 Per Cent. of Coast Defenses Are Effective.

Washington. Some surprising facts regarding the inadequacy of the coast artillery force were brought out in the recent examination of Secretary Taft by the senate committee on military affairs.

This is exclusive of reserves, supports, etc., and is based upon the actual number of officers and men required for the entire force of coast artillery could be mustered in line and each man marched to his position.

It was also shown that there is an average shortage of more than 30 per cent. in the coast artillery companies, and that less than 25 per cent. of the defenses can be actually manned by troops now in service.

SINGULAR NEW DISEASE.

Man Afflicted with "Soul Blindness" Cannot Read or Recognize Pictures.

Berlin.—The latest thing in the line of diseases is soul blindness, the name having been devised by Prof. Schuster, of Berlin.

It appears that the professor lately had a patient under his care suffering from a lack of mental association.

The man was educated and spoke coherently, but could not read; the printed characters conveyed no meaning to his mind.

He could recognize and name all the subjects around him, but printed words, or sketches of the simplest objects, he was utterly unable to name.

The theory advanced by Prof. Schuster to account for this peculiar condition is, that the connection between the eyes and that particular portion of the brain concerned in the association of ideas has been severed in some manner.

HORSE SAVES A CHILD.

Pet Animal Seizes Little Girl's Dress With His Teeth and Drags Her from Canal.

Jersey City, N. J.—According to a story told by the Jersey City police the other day by Mrs. John Parrino, of 315 Pamroy avenue, her three-year-old daughter Anna was saved from drowning by a horse named Charley, which is owned by her husband.

The horse, which was a pet of the child, was running up and down the field when Mrs. Parrino saw the child topple over into the water.

When Parrino heard his wife's statement he said Charley should have a padded stall and an extra feed of oats every day of his life.

Millionaire Tax Dodgers. The business people of Newport, R. I., are filling the air with lamentations over the departure of the rich New York colony that formerly gave the town its chief claim to distinction.

Mabel did not reply, till a pinch more energetic than usual forced her to look up, which she did very reproachfully.

"What is your papa saying?" asked Grace in a loud whisper.

"Hush," said Mabel, reverently. "Tell me what he says," she persisted.

"He is saying grace," answered Mabel in a low tone.

"Does he mean me?" Mabel told her no, and tried softly to explain matters so she would be quiet.

"Oh!" said Grace, with a very superior air, "you mean he is trying to be polite to Dad."

"Printing Omit in Bank. Linotype machines are being installed at the Bank of England, and in future the addresses on the dividend notices sent out will be printed, instead of written by hand.

RED DEVIL INVADERS.

VIRGINIA TOWN TERRORN INTO A TUMULT BY AUTO.

People of Leisurely Region Do Not Take the Least Bit to the New Fangled Whiz Wagon.

The automobile has appeared in this village, creating almost as much of a sensation throughout Accomac county as the railroad did years ago when it came and drove out of business the big fleet of sweet potato schooners which took Oanacock's chief product up the Chesapeake to Baltimore for transportation to nearly every corner of the land.

Occasionally a machine has been seen rolling serenely over the sandy roads, stretching almost in an unbroken level clear down to Cape Charles, but never before had a resident of this place indulged in the luxury of owning an auto.

The horses of Accomac wear no breeching, as they have no hills to descend. They are strong, but they are not swift, and in these respects they may be likened to their masters.

The auto frightens the horses, and gives them a tendency to run. A running horse would be an innovation in Accomac. The country is so level that even the brooks refuse to run, they simply lounge and ripple.

The oldest residents are particularly shocked by the auto. Their conservatism is equalled only by their hospitality, which is the greatest institution in Virginia.

When the auto was first observed on the main street of the village there were several carriages before the biggest store. The chug-chug of the auto and its strangeness set the horses prancing, and men and women who owned them rushed out, grabbed the bridle and looked with disapproval at the vanishing vehicle.

The news spread fast over the county, and within a week the Accomac imagination in the isolated districts pictured the red auto as a thing somewhat like a trust monster in a comic supplement, and the trade of the village merchants fell off, because the country people were afraid to venture into town.

The driver of the auto is not greeted with the usual cordiality, grandpa Parks, the oldest man in the county, always alights when he sees the machine coming, and, firmly holding his horse's bridle, he bows low, not to the owner of the auto, but the auto itself.

The paying teller has hopes that the people finally will get accustomed to the auto and buy a few themselves, as many of them are quite able to do.

Thought Gentleman Saying Grace Was "Trying to Be Polite to Dad."

"What time is it?" Mabel asked.

"About three, I should think," said the man.

"That is all right, but I think it is about five, I should say."

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MARINE NOISE MAKERS.

Tin Horns, Mechanical Fog Horns and Other Modern Contrivances.

Tin horns, such as vendors bring out by the wagon load in the city's streets on election night, are stock articles of sale the year around in the stores of dealers in marine supplies, says the New York Sun.

Thousands of tin horns of various sizes are annually sold to fishermen, oystermen and men using boats, in many waters, in various pursuits, and such horns are sold, as well, for boats used for pleasure. A big horn of this kind might be heard a mile.

For larger vessels, such as schooners sailing in open water and not equipped with power with which to blow whistles, there are provided mechanical fog horns that can be operated by hand, and that can be heard three or four miles away.

With the multiplication everywhere, within recent years of pleasure craft there have been introduced still other sorts of noise makers. One of these is a bellows horn, with the horn attached to the top board of a trimly-finished bellows of oblong shape, to the top board of which also is attached a handle.

A still smaller bellows noise maker has in place of a horn an air whistle. Another whistle contrivance has a small upright metal cylinder in which air is compressed by means of a handle worked like a plunger.

While these later sound producers, designed more especially for yachts and launches and tenders and other pleasure craft, are rather more elaborate, they are used for precisely the same purposes as the old tin horn, namely, to give warning in case of fog, for signaling in crowded waterways, for blowing for landings or for bridges.

Indulgent Pater Fixed the Clock to Help Maggie Deceive Particular Ma.

"Have fathers changed, do you think?" inquired the old maid stenographer just after lunch, relates the Chicago Inter Ocean.

"Why?" asked the smart Aleck bookkeeper. "Does everybody work but father at your house?"

"Oh," replied the O. M. S., "it isn't anything like that, but I eat at one of those girls' lunch clubs where you help yourself, you know. Today I was standing in the middle of the floor with my tomato soup and caramel ice cream, wondering where to sit, when I saw two such sweet, innocent, young-looking things that I couldn't resist sitting down at the same table with them. I just wanted to hear them talk and to imagine myself young again."

"It was hard work, wasn't it?" inquired the smart Aleck bookkeeper.

"Well," went on the O. M. S., taking no notice, "this is the conversation I heard."

"Did you go to the dance last night, Maggie?"

"Yes, and such a time. I asked if I could go, and she said I could if I got in by 12 o'clock, but I didn't think I would be the very last dancer I should go to. I knew I couldn't get home by midnight, or anywhere near it, but I didn't tell ma that. So I went over and got Lizzie and we went. We had the sweetest time! And I never got home until four o'clock in the morning. I took my shoes off outside the door and went in the back way. But they had changed the furniture around, I guess, for I fell over a chair, the clock struck four, and out come pa. I said: "Su, don't tell ma," and pa said: "You just leave it to me."

"So what did pa do but turn the clock back three hours, and then it struck one. "What's that noise," ma boomed.

"Oh, you're dreaming," pa says.

"What time is it?" says ma. "One o'clock," pa says. "Is Maggie in?" ma says. "Sure, she's in," says pa. So I went to bed and pa got up again and fixed the clock right and ma never knew anything about it. I tell you, pa's a peach. He always stands by ma like that."

"Say, she knows how to work father all right, all right, don't she?" said the bookkeeper, admiringly.

A Buffalo man stopped a newsboy in New York, saying: "See here, son, I want to find the Bank national bank. I'll give you half a dollar if you direct me to it."

With a grin the boy replied: "All right, come along." And he led the Buffalo man to a building half a block away.

The man duly paid the promised fee, remarking: "That was half a dollar easily earned, son."

"Sure!" responded the lad, "but you mustn't forget that bank directors is paid high in Noo-Yawk."—American Spectator.

A Bargain. Mrs. Knicker—I thought you were going abroad.

Mrs. Becker—So I was, but my doctor offered me such a lovely bargain in appendicitis only \$1,000.—Harper's Bazar.

TROPICAL OYSTERS.

GULF COAST BIVALVES THAT ARE EATEN IN SUMMER.

The Point Isabel Product Is in Season from the First of May Until the First Day of September.

The fact is not generally known, even in Texas, that the tropical oyster, which is entirely different in appearance and habits from the oysters found in the markets of this country, is successfully raised along the extreme southern gulf coast of this state, says an Austin (Tex.) report. F. W. Seabury, speaker of the Texas house of representatives, who has made a study of oysters for several years, says in regard to this tropical breed of oysters:

"The oyster which is grown in the vicinity of Point Isabel and along the gulf coast as far as a short distance below Corpus Christi is a tropical bivalve and of wholly different species from the oysters along other portions of the Texas coast and Atlantic seaboard. The Point Isabel oyster is eaten during the summer season, commencing about the 1st of May, the season lasting till about the 1st of September. This tropical oyster begins to spawn in September, which is just at the time the oysters north of here become fit for eating. The Point Isabel oyster spawns in fall and winter, and the northern oyster, even those at Corpus Christi and Port Lavaca, spawn in summer. The Point Isabel oyster can be eaten in any of the months not containing the letter 'r'. The reverse is true of the other oysters."

"The fact that the Point Isabel oyster has a season entirely different from that of other oysters should make it in demand, and I look for a great industry to be built up in cultivating and shipping these bivalves. The Laguna Madre, where the Point Isabel oyster is grown, affords a splendid place for oyster beds. The lagoon is four or five miles wide, and the water is highly impregnated with salt, which insures the growth of good oysters. With direct railroad connection with the outside world there is no reason why an immense oyster shipping business should not be built up at Point Isabel.

"Of course the people would have to be educated into eating oysters during the hot months of summer, but I believe that could be easily done. I know of my own knowledge that these oysters form a most palatable dish on the hottest days of summer. I have eaten them many times. In Brownsville these oysters are the principal food for many people all summer long. There is a fine opportunity awaiting some enterprising person to plant oyster beds in the Laguna Madre, in the Point Isabel region. It will bring a big fortune to whoever undertakes it. These tropical oysters are far better than the other Texas oysters. They are smaller than the Corpus Christi, Port Lavaca or Galveston oysters, and more resemble the famous Blue Points. Oyster roasts have been a popular form of entertainment for a long time during the summer months at Point Isabel."

The fish and oyster laws contain a provision exempting oysters from a certain point below Corpus Christi from the operation of that provision which prohibits their shipment and sale during the months which do not contain the letter 'r'. This exemption was placed on the bill through the effort of Mr. Seabury. There is, therefore, nothing in the way of the Point Isabel oysters being shipped during the summer months if a market can be made for them.

COMMERCIAL TRAVELERS. In Austria They Must Pay Taxes and Are Classed as Regular Tradesmen.

Commercial travelers in Austria have to pay taxes and are therefore considered regular tradesmen, even if they have no open business places or sample rooms. As a rule, good agents, especially if they have business houses of their own, refuse to represent firms who are not well known unless they can get contributions and warehouse expenses. They will not run any risks for firms which are unknown in Austria, and as there are many firms who will pay liberal salaries if they can get their services, American firms find it difficult to obtain them.

Many Austrian manufacturing firms have branch houses at the capitals, especially at Vienna, but some English manufacturing firms, especially in the agricultural line, have warehouses and even factories throughout Austria, and when a traveler, for instance, leaves the railway station at Prague, the capital of Bohemia, he will soon notice the signboards of well-known English manufacturing firms who do a large trade in Austria and have their warehouses even in provincial towns.

Travelers in Austria are mostly hard working and respectable men, very temperate in their habits and extremely diligent. Nearly all of them travel third class on the railways and with the exception, perhaps, of those in the wine and spirit lines, they are seldom addicted to drinking. A traveler who drinks loses the respect of his fellow travelers.

Crown of Gold. "The late Paul Lawrence Dunbar, the negro poet," said an editor, "once addressed a Sunday school in New York. An odd incident happened, though, at its end, an incident that Dunbar laughed at as heartily as the rest of us.

"Dunbar, toward the close of his remarks, said: "And my little friends, if you do all these things some day you will wear a gold crown. Yes, each of you some day will wear a gold crown."

"A little chap in the front row, catching the poet's friendly eye, piped: "My fader wears one now."

"Not," said the poet.

"Yes, he does—on his toof," said the little chap."

What the Woman Thought. They were talking about the new star in society.

"She never laughs at jokes," said the man.

"Maybe she has no sense of humor," said the other man.

"Maybe she has false teeth," said the woman.

And then the conversation languished.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

PIEBALD CANNIBAL RACE.

Savages Whose Skins Are Brown with Pink Patches Found by Explorer.

Piebald savages are among the interesting people and things of which Mr. A. E. Pratt writes, says the London Mirror.

Papua is a land of which, as yet, no explorers, not even Mr. Pratt and his son, who accompanied him in his expeditions in the virgin mountains and forests of the land, know very much.

"Fifty years ago schoolboys looking at their map of Africa, blessed the dark continent for an easy place to learn," says Mr. Pratt in his opening pages. "A few names fringed the coast. Inland nearly all was comprehended under the cheerful word 'unexplored.'"

"Such in great measure is the case with New Guinea to-day. Its 300,000 square miles of territory, held by Great Britain, Germany and the Netherlands, are destined in the course of the next half century to enrich the world of commerce and of science to a degree that may to some extent be forecast by what is already known of very restricted areas."

It is a difficult country to explore, and that for several reasons. The mountains are numerous and steep, much of the soil is broken in a fashion peculiarly irritating to pedestrians, and the natives, without whose assistance practically nothing can be accomplished, are difficult to deal with.

"You are entirely in the hands of the natives, without whom you cannot stir a foot. All your impediments, your food, stores, scientific implements and 'traded' (material for barter, the equivalent of ready money) must go on the backs of your cannibal friends, a people without organization, who are hard to collect and hard to persuade to follow you.

The different tribes which populate the island differ widely in language and character, but all appear to be more or less warlike. The men are well-knit, strongly built fellows, capable of immense endurance, and at odd moments of much hard work.

Among them are a number of curious people whom Mr. Pratt is inclined to take as a hitherto unknown human family, although as will be seen from the following passage, he is not yet quite certain of this:

"An interesting feature of Hula was the presence there of a piebald people," he says. "For the most part their bodies were brown; but they were marked with pinkish patches unevenly distributed. This marking might be due to a disease, contracted from a toxic animal fish diet; but if it were a disease I could not discover that it gave any discomfort."

"Against this theory must be set this fact, that I observed one man in whom the light markings predominated. In fact, he was quite fresh colored, like an European, and had light hair."

TURBINE AND OIL FOR NAVY. England to Spend \$159,347,500 on Warships — New Type of Engines and Fuel Adopted.

London.—The British naval estimates for 1906-07 propose a net total expenditure of \$159,347,500, being \$12,500,000 less than the estimates for the present fiscal year.

In his explanatory statement the first lord of the admiralty says that for the present financial year ending April 1 there will have been completed three battleships, eight armored cruisers, one second-class cruiser, eight scouts, 16 torpedo boat destroyers, and 15 submarine boats. On April 1 there will be under construction six battleships, ten armored cruisers, 1 coastal destroyers, five ocean going destroyers, including one which will be the fastest of its type, one royal yacht, and 15 submarine boats. It is proposed, the statement continues, to begin during the coming financial year four armored vessels, five ocean going destroyers, 12 coastal destroyers and 12 submarine boats.

It has been decided to adopt turbines for all of the vessels provided for during the present year. Oil will largely be used in the British navy in future, experiments having proved that it is most successful, and installations are in progress in all new vessels and appliances fitted in some old ones, such as the battleships Caesar, Majestic, Magnificent and Victorious, while other vessels are being brought up to date.

Heaven a Material City. That the new Jerusalem is a material city was the contention of Rev. William C. Brown, in a sermon at Macon, Mo., the throne of God is the very center of the universe, he says, about which all the planets revolve. This place, declared the preacher, soon will be discovered by scientists. The sermon created a sensation among the church people.