

WAR MICROBE BUSY

INVENTORS WITH DEADLY DEVICES PESTER CONGRESS.

One Suggests Greasing Sides of Battleships to Deflect Missiles—High Explosive Shells and Military Balloons Offered.

Washington.—Thick as the locusts which plagued Egypt or the grasshoppers which pestered Kansas are the brains and inventors, in whose brains buzz and whirl the bacilli of destruction, who are swarming about the capitol and insisting that congress take up their inventions.

Probably there never has been a time when congress was so beset with such inventors as it is now, and the naval affairs committees and the military committees are beleaguered by them.

Some scientist has advanced the theory that a red corpuscle of a special variety is at work on the human race, exciting it to war and stirring up sanguinary trouble on a great international scale. Evidences exist that this theory is not far off of the way.

At any rate, an extraordinary number of folk haunt the capital nowadays who are anxious to be allowed to demonstrate how large segments of the population can be obliterated by the use of the right kind of weapons.

Inventors of new types of torpedoes are numerous. Indeed, much of the inventive genius of those who would enhance the terrors of war is centered on naval warfare.

High explosive shells are also the subject of much inventive attention. Shells of a type which will crush the armor of a Dreadnought at the distance of six or seven miles as if the armor were an eggshell, have been devised, according to their inventors and promoters.

It is well known that, in recent years, wherever some new defensive idea has been developed in naval construction, a new offensive idea to overcome it has been immediately forthcoming.

Of course, inventors of military balloons and airships are much in evidence. Each one is confident that he has evolved plans whereby it will be possible for the armies of this country to soar up in the empyrean and wipe out all their enemies before breakfast, simply by dropping explosives among them.

One inventor has evolved the idea of a torpedo which carries a gun inside of it. On striking the side of a ship the torpedo explodes and this explosion in turn fires the gun, which is supposed to wipe out the battleship. Then, there is a torpedo with a double explosive capacity, the idea being to make useless the chain of netting protection which is sometimes employed to keep warships from being torpedoed.

A man from California has written to some of the members of the house committee on naval affairs suggesting that if the sides of a battleship were greased it would lessen the ability of projectiles to inflict damage.

This idea has been referred to Secretary Metcalf for what it is worth. The advocate of it found that when his hammer was greased he could not drive a nail, and he thought application of the principle to a battleship may be useful. The application of oil to the sides of a torpedo is another suggestion made. This may prove practicable, as most of the resistance to the passage of a torpedo or a boat through the water is due to the friction between the surface of the moving body and the water immediately in contact with that surface.

The favorite argument offered for the consideration of congress by the inventor of destruction is that it will help to make war impossible. If that not serve the purpose, then there is the argument that high patriotic duty ought to lead to the adoption of the invention in question as a sure way to the discomfiture of all the enemies of the Republic.

Germany Needs Trout Eggs. New York.—To obtain eggs of the rainbow trout, with which to stock the streams of Germany, Dr. Friederich Fischer has come to New York. He is general secretary of the Society of Fisheries of Germany.

Thirty years ago the German government obtained 300,000 rainbow trout eggs in America and stocked certain streams, but the fish are now practically exhausted.

Stray Dog Ties Up a Town. Freeland, Pa.—Every industry in town dependent on electric power was compelled to suspend operations because a roving mastiff was caught in the belt of the electric light plant and dragged into the machinery. Operations were resumed after the mangled body of the dog was removed.

MINCE PIE PARTS COUPLE.

Mamma Gave It to Children Against Papa's Wish.

St. Louis.—Henry J. Pierce, owner of the Pierce skyscraper here and former president of the International Street Railway company of Buffalo, N. Y., and his wife, Violet E. Pierce, fled evidence in his divorce suit here.

Alexander Hellrung, styling himself a medico gymnast, deposed that while Pierce was convalescent at Little Boharshed, N. H., Mrs. Pierce appeared and talked so excitedly and persistently that Pierce fainted, and it became necessary to order her to leave the resort.

Robina Swetman, trained nurse, testified Mrs. Pierce refused to kiss Pierce at breakfast, and insisting he was not to be cheated out of his kiss he seized her hand and kissed it.

Mrs. Pierce claimed he refused to receive her and her five children when they returned from Switzerland in 1907, forcing her to go to her former home in Yonkers, N. Y., where she now resides. Her refusal to receive Pierce once until he "looked less like a shorn sheep" was in just she alleged. Mrs. Pierce wouldn't let Pierce walk with his sister's husband, his sister testified, and gave her children mince pie when he objected.

NINE HER UNLUCKY NUMBER.

That Figure Recurs in All Mrs. Weinstein's Misfortunes.

Philadelphia.—How much the figure 9 can affect the life of a woman was shown when 9-year-old Yetta Weinstein died of convulsions at the Pennsylvania hospital. Her mother, who was Jennie Silverman before her marriage, is one woman who does not believe that the figure 9 is lucky, and the story of her life seems to prove her belief.

Her maiden name contained 9 letters and she was married to a man named Weinstein, which also contains 9 letters. She was born 39 years ago, on the 9th day of the 9th month and is 4 feet 9 inches in height and weighs 99 pounds. She was married January 9, 1888, and her husband died 9 years ago, October 9, 1899, leaving her the infant child, Yetta, who was 9 weeks old.

Mrs. Weinstein was taken sick with fever 19 months later and after 9 weeks of serious illness recovered, but with the loss of her eyesight. With the death of her 9-year-old daughter at 9 o'clock, she was left without relatives and few friends. She lives at No. 533 South street, and in her blindness is dependent upon charity.

MOTOR CAR OUTKICKS MULE.

Jury So Decides Because a Farmer Flew Thirty Feet.

York, Pa.—Something on the morning of October 15, 1907, hit Farmer Leander Blouse of Chanceford township amidships as he was driving along the Chanceford pike near York before daybreak with a load of potatoes. He was propelled over the fence for a distance of 30 feet.

It was left to a jury in Judge Warner's court to decide whether the "great injury to his person" was inflicted by an automobile driven by Arthur Geesey or by Farmer Blouse's own mule. The jury, after deliberating for a quarter of an hour, decided that it was too good a kick even for a mule, and awarded the farmer \$739 damages.

Geesey, who had been making an early start to open the rabbit-shooting season, insisted that he had been on the right side of the road, that Blouse was driving on the wrong side, but that he turned his auto in time to avoid a collision.

His theory of how Farmer Blouse came by his grievous injuries was that the farmer's own mule must have inflicted them.

JOKE FEEDS HUNGRY MOB.

Rich Church Makes False Report Good by Real Break.

Pittsburg, Pa.—Some enemy of the fashionable Second Presbyterian church played a joke with surprising results, by circulating a story that at the Sunday morning service a good breakfast would be served to 150 for the city's service. Long before the time set for service the vestibules and halls of the big church on Eighth street were crowded with the worst looking lot of people who had ever been inside the doors. They were hungry and had come to be fed, though neither the pastor nor any of the flock knew what was expected.

The pastor, Rev. S. Edward Young, soon found out, however, and starting the collection with a dollar, which he said would find breakfast for ten men, he went through the church and soon had enough to feed every one and have a surplus for permanent Sunday morning breakfasts. Now every one is invited each Sunday morning to eat in the basement at the expense of Pastor Young's Breakfast Brotherhood club.

Game Birds Invade Farm.

Almona, Wis.—Jim Stain reports that during the recent heavy snowstorm a large flock of prairie chickens became bewildered and flew into his yard. Two of them, blinded by the wet sleet, flew against a building with such force that they were killed. They were exceedingly fat and dressed 2 1/2 pounds each.

The open winter has proved favorable for wild game birds, and it is hoped the quails and chickens may recover from the setback they have had in the last few severe winters.

MILLIONS IN SIGHT

TWO IOWA WOMEN TO INHERIT BIG FORTUNES.

Bachelor Uncles Amassed \$10,000,000 in Australia Which Now Awaits Distribution—Eleven to Share in Wealth.

Dubuque, Ia.—The sudden transition of the families of Mrs. John R. Needham and Mrs. James Finney of this city from all but poverty to opulence is the prospect that recent developments have brought about.

By the death of two uncles these women will shortly come into nearly \$20,000,000 worth of property left them by adventurous brothers of their parents, who, back during the days of the mining craze, left the old home and made their way to Australia, where they struck it rich, amassing a fortune of \$10,000,000. Attorneys are at work on the case proving the claim. The brothers, both of whom are dead, remained unmarried, contenting themselves with the life in the Australian bush and the accumulation of the vast fortune that now awaits distribution.

Like a fairy tale is the story of the romantic career of the Goodman brothers, who left Iowa in May, 1852, bound for Australia, to try for a fortune, and whose heirs, now residents of Dubuque and vicinity, are about to inherit a fortune of \$10,000,000. On February 29 the heirs of the deceased wealthy miners, residents in Spokane, received word by cable from counsel of the family, who had been sent to Sydney, Australia, to look up the matter, that he had been able to locate the holdings of the men, and that a fabulous fortune was in waiting for distribution among the heirs in America.

Notification was immediately made to James Finney, formerly of Dubuque, now of Cassville, Wis., and he departed for Spokane to hold counsel with the members of the family there and to meet the family attorney, who will arrive there from Australia with the testimonials he has secured proving the claims of the family to the wealth of the Goodman brothers.

"Of course, I do not remember my uncle, who left here in 1852," said Mrs. Mary Needham of 52 Needham place, when seen at her little home, "but I have heard stories of the adventurous young fellows who went out to seek fortune in their youth and about whose lives there hung much of the mysterious and romantic to us children.

"My mother, who was a sister to Lawrence and Owen Goodman, delighted in talking of her brothers, and often have we heard tales of how one May day in 1852 they started for California with a team of oxen. They were bound for the land of Australia and their fortune. It took the boys all summer to reach California. There they set sail for Australia, and, with a few exceptions, the family did not hear from them. The last letter was received in 1876, when my uncle wrote to mother. The letter was from Owen, stating that Uncle Lawrence had been killed in a mine and for 24 hours was buried under 100 tons of earth. Owen, the younger of the two boys, died 20 years ago. From that time until a few years ago we heard nothing. Then my cousin, John Finney of Spokane, Wash., started on an investigation, and eight months ago, he having died, his wife sent her attorney to Australia to determine the facts in the case.

"We have had no notification from my brother James, who left for Spokane, but we expect word any day now telling us exactly how things stand in Australia. I believe the claims are right. The property had been confiscated by a partner of the uncles. But the counsel from Spokane has been able to secure quit claims to all the property. It has taken a long time, but I believe it will come out right yet. I am sure it is a relief to know what became of the uncles who left here so long ago.

"Years and years ago one of my uncles wrote to the Finney boys, telling them to come to Australia, that he would give each a farm and stock the same, that he would pay all their expenses and start them on the road to success. But they refused. And we heard nothing of them afterward.

"We will soon hold a family reunion in Cassville, where other relatives live. There are 11 of us to share in the fortune of \$10,000,000. It is claimed is ours by right of inheritance.

"My mother died in 1885, and it is a regret that she might not have known what became of the young fellows who went away in their youth to seek and find their fortune. She was very proud of them and it was a delight of our childhood to gather about her knees and hear her narrate stories of the two brave young boys who went to seek their fortune in the unknown land."

Woman is Thrashing Machine. York, Pa.—Looking as though they had been disputing the right of way with an automobile, W. H. Ness and Harrison Horn, Yorkers, limped into the office of Alderman Edward J. Kohler to swear out warrants for assault and battery against Mrs. Clara Kohler of York township.

The men claimed that Mrs. Kohler had come upon them as they were fishing from a bank of the Codorus creek, and that, claiming that they were upon her premises, she had fallen upon them with a club. Ness had both arms severely bruised and Horn was beaten about the head. She provided bail for her appearance at court.

HE'S A NAVY MASCOT NOW.

Spitz Dog is Regularly Enlisted and Will Go to Sea with Master.

Kansas City, Mo.—A recruit just 18 inches in height was permitted to enlist in the United States navy, although he weighed just 27 pounds. Ordinarily these qualifications are not considered as the navy's usual standard, but the new recruit was allowed to enlist as a ship's mascot, for he is a dog.

His name is Nick, and he is a white Spitz-Eskimo dog. E. E. Weaver, his owner, explained the dog was called Nick because he was born on the day Nicholas Longworth and Miss Roosevelt were married. Nick has a brother named Teddy and a sister called Alias. They were all born near Fort Leavenworth, the army post, so it is unusual that Nick should be enlisted in the navy. But his master says Nick never liked the army.

Nine thousand miles is a longer distance than most dogs travel. However, that is the trip Nick is to take. Mr. Weaver is a hospital steward in the navy. His home is in Effingham, Kan. He left Kansas City for San Francisco later he will sail for Manila, taking his dog with him.

"Anything for a ship's mascot—a horned toad or a grizzly bear—but few persons are fortunate enough to own a good mascot like Nick," said Weaver.

This is the description on the dog's enlistment papers: Eyes brown, hair white, complexion albino, disposition cheerful, health excellent, wages three good meals per diem.

So no more chasing of cats and barking at wagons for "Nicholas Longworth Weaver."

"When he returns from the islands he'll be able to tell many interesting stories to his fellow dogs," said his owner.

SAYS NORTH POLE IS MOVING.

Englishman Declares Ice is Pushing It Toward Asia.

Victoria, B. C.—That the north pole is shifting and the climate is changing, making the northern territories of this continent warmer and northern Asia colder, is the theory to support which Moses B. Colworth of York, England, has been gathering evidence in Alaska, from where he has returned on his way to England. A curious effect of this change it is said may be a number of boundary difficulties between Canada and the United States. The boundary is fixed by latitude, and if the north pole is really moving, the latitudes change also.

This movement Colworth says, is caused by the immense accumulation of ice along the Canadian shore of the Arctic ocean, and especially in Baffins Land and Greenland.

The incalculable weight of this mass is by the force of gravity slowly pushing the north pole and the arctic circle generally, over toward Siberia. The result is that North America and Europe are getting warmer and Siberia and Asia generally colder.

WEARS MUSTACHE AT EIGHT.

Freakish Boy Also Has Bass Voice of Rare Quality.

London.—The record for precocity probably is held by a son of Joseph Williams, a Malda-vaire painter, who, though but eight years old, has a black mustache and a bass voice of such quality that a church organist in the district, who discovered him, intends to train him to sing in public.

In appearance the boy is big for his age, is very dark and has a rather protruding forehead. He is extremely bashful and scarcely ever laughs. His voice broke when he was seven, and for a time the parents, thinking that his singular vocal production was due to a cold, took him to a hospital every Saturday for nearly two years, during which time he was seen by no fewer than 13 doctors and specialists, who could come to no other conclusion than that the child was a freak of nature. His mother will not allow his mustache to be shaved, but cuts it with scissors.

EAT MICROBES AND STAY YOUNG.

French Scientist Discovers Means for Warding Off Old Age.

San Francisco.—Francis Bonnet of the Ecole Polytechnique of Paris claims to have discovered "good" microbes which will banish old age.

"I believe with Metchnikoff and other famous doctors that old age is brought on by a fermentation of years, body, with the accumulation of years," said M. Bonnet. "I believe that this fermentation in the body is caused by microbes which I call 'bad' microbes. To stop old age from coming on, therefore, all you have to do is to kill these 'bad' microbes. There has been discovered a microbe that will do this, which I call the 'good' microbe."

"Hereafter, to keep from growing old, you need only get a supply of 'good' microbes, take them in your food and within your blood a great battle will be fought. From that day you will never grow older."

Monster Clock is Built. New York.—A clock which, it is said, will be the largest in the world will be finished soon at Thomaston, Conn., for a Jersey City soap factory. The clock will be placed on the company's sign on top of the soap factory, and its face will be visible from the river and the New York piers. It will have a diameter of 28 feet. Philadelphia has a clock with a diameter of 25 feet, and Westminster, London, one with a 22 1/2 foot face.

NUMBERS THAT ARE UNLUCKY.

Two Foundations for the Superstition About Thirteen.

Why is 13 unlucky? It is usually stated that the superstitious objection to sitting 13 at a table in Christian countries was based on the fact of the last supper, when Christ and His 12 disciples sat down to eat together immediately before the Saviour was seized by His enemies. But in the Norse mythology, which is supposed to antedate the introduction of Christianity among the Northmen, the superstition referred to the fact that at the banquet of the gods, Loki, the spirit of mischief, intruded himself, making 13 at the table, wherefore there was a fight, and Balbour, a young hero especially loved by the gods, was killed.

So far as France is concerned, it is the number 13 that has played a conspicuous, and generally portentous, part in her history. On May 14, 1554, the Rue de la Ferronnerie was enlarged by order of Henri II, and four times 13 years later Henri IV was assassinated here by Ravalliac, namely, on May 14, 1610. Henri had lived four times 13 days, i. e., 52 years and five months. Then Henri's son, Louis XIII, died May 14, 1643 (the same day and month as his father). And 1643 added together makes 14. Louis XIV ascended the throne 1643, which, added together, makes 14, and similarly the year of his death (1715) makes 14.

NEEDLE TRAVELED OVER BODY.

For Seventy-Five Years Had Bothered Connecticut Man.

The oldest man in Norfolk, Conn., is Ekbert T. Butler, who is 90 years old, and for 75 of those 90 years has had a needle traveling about all over his body. Although Mr. Butler says that he has never been sick a day in his whole life, he had often been visited with strange pains in various parts of his body. When the pains came in his arms or legs he thought them pleurisy, and when they came in his stomach he spoke of them as a "crick." But the doctor who took the needle from the old man's foot said that all of these pains were caused by the travels of the needle, for surgeons have found out that a needle travels through flesh by going alternately backward and forward, like a railroad train switching. Thus they were able to trace the course of the needle, which passed twice very close to the heart and through the lungs. At last it lodged in his foot, and it was there the doctors found it. "Well, I declare," said the old gentleman when he saw it, and he at once remembered how when a child his mother had been frightened because he had swallowed a needle. It had remained in his body for 75 years.

TOO STRENUOUS A LOVER.

Girls, and all you love sick swains listen to this that happened to Bob McGregor of Brooklyn. He is locked up on Bellevue Island because he persisted in writing love letters to Mrs. Mary Stroker, a pretty typewrist of 311 Broadway. This wasn't so bad, but McGregor got to writing five letters a day and then coming around in the evening to see why Mrs. Stroker hadn't answered all of them. This was too much for Mrs. Stroker and she told the police. The police decided that Bob was indeed too amorous with his messages and that he'd have to restrict the output. Bob declined to listen and after Mrs. Stroker had received more than 100 letters, each getting more fervid than its predecessor, she went to the police again and now Mr. McGregor is locked up to consider the course of true love.

ILLUSTRIOUS BACHELORS.

Among the illustrious of the land who passed through life in single blessedness may be mentioned Sir Isaac Newton, Thomas Hobbes, author of the "Leviathan"; Adam Smith, the father of political economy; Chamfort, the greatest of French talkers; Gassendi, Galileo, Descartes, Locke, Spinoza, Kant, Bishop, Butler, the author of the "Analogy"; Bayle Leibnitz, Hume, Gibbon, Macaulay, Buckle, Pitt, Charles James Fox, Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael, Michael Angelo, Sir Joshua Reynolds, the artist; Turner, Handel, Beethoven, Rossini, Mendelssohn and Meyerbeer.

FISH OR ANIMAL.

All organized living beings are animals, members of the animal (bresthlig) kingdom. The order Cetacea, to which the whale belongs, is higher up in the animal scale than the fish proper, its members being mammals, breathing through lungs, and bringing forth living young, which for a time they suckle. The immediate ancestor of the whale evidently spent part of its time on the land, having limbs where now are found the whale's paddles.—New York American.

DISTRIBUTION OF RICHES.

Wealth is very unequally distributed in this country. About 700,000 people die every year and of these over 616,000 die leaving nothing or next to nothing behind them, while over 50,000 die leaving an average of only \$1,000 each. Over 10,000 die with estates not exceeding \$5,000, which leaves nearly all the accumulated wealth in the hands of about 21,000 people out of 700,000.—London Lippy's News.

THE UNFORTUNATE FACT.

"It just occurs to me that I have not a cent of money with me!" "Oh, that does not matter. You are known here." "Yes, unfortunately!"—Translated for Transatlantic Tales from Flegende Blaetter.

WHAT HE FAVORED.

"Do you favor wider locks?" inquired the man who takes a mild interest in Panama affairs. "I do," answered the bibulous citizen. "Also larger keyholes."

NO MONEY IN THE BUSINESS.

Why Big Company Gave Up the Culture of Microbes.

A couple of years ago a rich company was organized in New York to sell microbe cultures to wine and beer makers, bread makers, cheese makers, etc. At first it looked like a highly profitable business proposition. Many manufacturers became interested. Some took stock. They saw millions in it. The chemist of one great brewing concern was frank enough to say: "Gentlemen, you have a wonderful business, but there is no money in it. I have bought one tube of cultures from you for \$20. I shall never need any more. I can now do my own breeding. That tube will produce billions, trillions, quadrillions in an incredibly short time; therefore, so far as our brewery is concerned, we have an inexhaustible supply. You may sell every brewery in the country \$20 worth, and that will be the end of your business."

The chief promoter of the microbe business said the other day: "I soon learned that the brewing industry of the United States is controlled by chemists. You cannot reach the proprietors of breweries except through their chemists, who are their safeguards. I had to quit selling microbes or starve to death. I could not eat the things."

IMAGERY OF BABY LANGUAGE.

What One Mother Learned About Her Child's Speech.

A mother who has made a careful, although wisely unostentatious, study of her boy's mode of expression, declares that she has been surprised and entertained to see what a wealth of intelligent imagery lies at the root of baby talk.

He met his first emphatic scolding in an adequately defensive manner. In the middle of the maternal monologue, he raised his hand in warning. "Hush!" he said. "I'm shame" as shame can be of you that you don't know what a little boy is made for. He is not made for these hard speakings!"

"Perhaps not," said his mother, cooling down. "What is he made for?" "Made for lovings and for things that are soft and quiet," he said. Then, wookingly: "Now let's be happy."

Pursuing this thought, he pattered out to the garden and soon came back with a pansy, which he presented to his mother, with the explanation: "That's the only most happy flower in the back yard."

"How do you know it is happy?" was her query. "I tell by the pleasant little smile on it," he said, gently smoothing out the laughing flower-face. "Poor other flowers that haven't any smile!"—Harper's Bazar.

TRIES THIRD RAIL CURE.

A few weeks ago we told of a California shoemaker who nearly strangled himself with the fumes of old shoes under the hallucination that it would cure his rheumatism, and here comes along a Tacoma man with another bizarre theory about rheumatism. His name is Jack Smith, and he discovered his novel cure accidentally. He has been an inmate of the county poor farm for some time and recently decided he would kill himself by throwing himself on the "third rail" of an interurban train. Mr. Smith expected to be electrocuted, but instead the current knocked him senseless and he lay beside the track until picked up in the morning. And Jack Smith swears that another one would undoubtedly cure every ache he has. The county authorities think differently and have sent Jack to the Stillacoom insane asylum to get over his belief.—Milwaukee Sentinel.

FORCING THE LILAC.

Cut off some strong branches of the lilac and put in a crock of earth. Put a strong solution of plant food in the earth and set the crock in a deep saucer of water, never allowing the water to dry out. Occasionally pour a weak solution of ammonia water around the stalk. Some try to force the buds by growing them in water, but, while they bud, they soon die and are never fully matured. By adding natural plant food, keeping the plant warm and moist, the flowers will develop nicely. All kinds of fruit blossoms will develop if the branches are kept in jars of water, placed in the strong sunlight.

THE DISAPPEARING PINE.

The standing pine of the three old pine states—Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota—probably does not exceed 20,000,000,000 feet. Last year the total cut of pine in these three states was but about 3,322,000,000 feet. At that rate the stumpage will be exhausted in six or seven years. The original growth in these states was approximately 400,000,000,000 feet. The greater part has been cut off since 1873.

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