

NEW TARGET FIRING

Warships to Fire at Actual Boats Instead of Canvas

Orders issued to Prepare Three of the Old Torpedo Craft of the Reserve Division for Service as Target Vessels.

Washington.—The Atlantic fleet in target practice this fall and next spring will make several important departures. These include: Firing at actual torpedo boats instead of canvas targets in night practice.

Firing actual torpedoes, minus explosives, at real ships.

Firing on the old San Marcos wreck at short instead of long range.

Heretofore the fleet in practice fired at targets made by hoisting screens of canvas on masts erected on rafts of heavy timbers, which were anchored on the range at various points, their exact location being unknown to the firing vessel. These screens were painted dark gray, with a white streak at the foot, supposed to represent the bow wave of an oncoming torpedo boat.

There were usually four targets, and the firing ship was directed to steam along a certain prescribed course. At a certain point, marked by anchoring another vessel, brightly lit up, on the range, the firing ship was permitted to turn on her searchlights and begin hunting for the targets, of which there were usually two on each side. When she found them the ship had a certain number of minutes allowed her in which to hit all four targets.

The targets this year will be genuine torpedo boats. Orders have been issued to prepare three of the old and out-of-date torpedo craft of the reserve division for service as target vessels. They will be built up amidships to give them the high free board and as nearly as possible the general appearance of a modern destroyer, and will be filled with cork to keep them afloat as long as possible, even though riddled with rapid-fire shells.

One ship from each class of vessels, that is, one dreadnaught, one battleship of the Connecticut class, one of the Georgia class, and so on, will do the actual firing. The entire fleet will form in column to come on the range. As shown in the diagram (No. 1) the point for commencing fire is marked by a station ship. But, to assist in reproducing as nearly as possible the exact scenario of a night engagement, a flotilla of destroyers will be sent out ahead of the fleet to act as a screen, precisely as would be done in time of war, and these destroyers are expected to discover the "enemy" and report their presence just as they would under real battle conditions. The only difference will be that the destroyers themselves will not open fire.

The guns of the broadside battery will be allowed five rounds of ammunition apiece for this practice, and in addition a few rounds of the new 12-inch shrapnel will be distributed for use in the turret guns. Shrapnel consists of a thin steel shell filled with a great number of steel balls, which are arranged around a small charge of powder called the "bursting charge." A fuse is attached, timed so that just before the shell reaches the target it bursts and scatters the steel bullets.

BEAUTIFUL LANTERN SLIDES.

A very beautiful work is being done at the agricultural department which is bound to be of benefit in public schools and ought to be copied abroad. Interesting teaching in nature study and botany is taught by Miss Susan Eipe in the public schools and demonstrated in a lecture with colored lantern slides. They are the most exquisite things the writer ever saw. The slides contain pictures of tulips, narcissus, several species of iris and also orchids. Other lantern slides give you hollyhocks, stocks, cherries, wisteria, asters, chrysanthemums and many others of the same class. The first complete exhibition of these flowers was held in a lecture at the agricultural department, with Jack Hillers at the lantern and Mr. E. L. Crandall, photographer of the bureau of plant industry, who took the photographs and made the slides. These slides were photographed from the growing plants and many of them colored from the same models. The colorist is Mrs. Catherine Mayo Richardson. It is impossible to describe the infinite care with which the work has been done nor how exquisite these blossoms are as presented on the slides. Usually it would be a wonderful help to the schools of the country if they could be supplied with similar collections. At the exhibition which was given some 30 or 40 department experts and specialists were present, and they were united in declaring these lantern slides a splendid study for young children especially.

KINGBIRD EXONERATED.

Uncle Sam has granted a certificate of good character to the kingbird, sometimes known as the bee martin, a species of flycatcher which inhabits pretty nearly every part of the United States. The kingbird has been under indictment in many sections as a destroyer of bees and a foe to apiarists. Department of agriculture experts fully exonerate the bird of the charge of being a destroyer. They say that it kills only the drones and the useless bees, and is therefore a boon to bee raisers.

MADE GOOD ON HASH

Still Little Wife Had Doubts About the Matter.

Dinner a Success, According to Mr. Roberts, but in the Background There Was Mrs. Roberts to Consider.

"Where are you, Frances?" It was half-past six, and Paul had just returned from business. As no answer came he repeated his call. "I've brought Roberts home to dinner with me. Where are you?" "In my room," came a muffled voice from above, and Paul, with a word of excuse to his guest, bounded up the stairs.

"Are you sick? Is anything the matter?" he asked breathlessly, pushing open the door.

Frances met him with a tragic face. "No, I am not sick, but for the love of mercy, why did you bring that man to dinner without sending me word?"

Paul's countenance assumed the hang-dog look peculiar to the husband who has brought home unexpected company and found it inconvenient.

"I just met him coming out on the train and he seemed forlorn—said his wife was away—"

"I wish yours was, Paul. There's not a thing for him to eat!"

"What were we going to have?" "Corn beef hash—I know you don't mind it for dinner once in a while—"

"No vegetables?" "Yes, of course, stupid! Rice and eggplant. But hash for dinner; I can't put a man down to that!"

"I'll bet Roberts would love it!" "I don't care if he would! I'd be mortified to death to have any one know we had hash for dinner!"

"Well, I wouldn't! What's good enough for me is good enough for Roberts or anyone else. Why, Frances! You're not going to cry?"

"How do you know I'm not?" quavered Frances. "I could do it without any trouble at all!"

"Come, dear, don't be silly. I'll tell Roberts you're not well and take him out somewhere and get a bit—"

"You won't do anything of the sort," said Frances, dabbing a little powder on her reddened nose. "If you can stand that hash I'll try to bear it."

"Is there enough of it?" "I'll have some poached eggs on top of it to help out."

"Is this what you call a pick-up dinner and apologize for?" asked Mr. Roberts an hour later. "I consider it a banquet."

The meal had begun with tomato soup, continued with the egg-topped hash and vegetables, followed by branded peaches and wafers—Frances having raided her emergency cupboard—and concluded with black coffee.

"Hardly a banquet with hash as the principal dish!" laughed Frances. "I'm not so sure of that!" returned Mr. Roberts. "If my wife could make such hash as yours I'd insist upon always having it for company dinners!"

"Now, aren't you ashamed you cried?" teased Paul, after their guest had gone.

"I didn't really cry—I only sniffed. And your friend, Roberts, may say what he pleases, but I bet his wife will sniff in a different way when she hears we gave him hash for dinner! But I don't care, so long as you are satisfied. If you sniffed I couldn't stand it!"—Los Angeles Express.

Why He Refused a Raise. Congressman Lamb of Virginia has an old "befo' de wah" dinky working on his place, whom he pays a dollar a day. The old man is not very fond of work, and loses a day very often because of his alleged infirmities.

The other day the congressman told him he was going to raise his wages from \$6 a week to \$7. The old dinky emphatically refused the raise, and when his boss asked him why he answered:

"It's lak dis, Mister John. When I loses a day from work now, I kin count mah money; but if you gib me a raise an' I loses a day, I won't know how much I see got comin' tuh me."—Judge.

When the Punster Announces. The story was told of the late Justin McCarthy—Mr. Punch's "Justin MacHearty"—of the English officer who, at a reception in Dublin castle, announced the man who claimed to have made his riding breeches as "Major Riding Bridges."

But this was nothing to the cruel case of Count Paravicini, who, at an assembly in Paris, was ushered in by the funkey as "Monsieur le Comte de Paul et Virginie!"

In a London drawing room, too, Count Beust, the Austrian ambassador, was once announced to his hostess as "Count Beust," and he was followed by his German colleague, Count Munster, as "Count Monster."

His Need of the Clock. A young man in Washington, who many months ago hung up his shingle, "attorney at law," had not yet been overwhelmed with clients. A friend, entering the office the other day, observed on the desk a cheap alarm clock.

"Taking it home, eh?" he observed. "Good thing this time of year. Every one's liable to oversleep these mornings."

The lawyer smiled. "I have not purchased this clock for the reason you mention. I bought it to wake me up when it's time to go home."

HOW SHE MADE A HIT

Really Simple When You Get the Combination.

Young Woman "Stocked Up" When She Realized She Had to Face a Party of the Literary High-brows.

Her fluffy golden hair and a pair of dimples didn't look the least bit literary, nevertheless the highbrows one by one dropped out of the contest with her, ceased to spout poetry and only could sit humbly around gazing in wonder at the wealth of her knowledge of belles lettres. Even her most intimate friend, when the studio party was over and they were homeward bound, said: "I had no idea you knew so much about books and writers."

"I don't," responded Miss Fluff promptly and shamelessly.

"But—why—you know more than all those people put together. They all had to quit trying to talk about literature for fear you would see how little they know."

"Want to know how I did it?" Miss Fluff was of an obliging disposition, as dimples usually are. "It's quite simple when you understand. I went to a public library station, found a nice girl who didn't look too tired and told her I'd give her a dollar to make me up as long a list as she could afford for the money of the least known authors in the world, sprinkling in a few quotations. Then I went to a man I know who writes book notices for a publishing house and got a list from him of books that are hardy on the press yet. That was to make me seem terribly up-to-date. I studied real hard one night on those two lists when I knew I was to do this studio party, for I didn't want those highbrows to have anything on me. When they spoke of Maurice Hewlett I said, you may remember, that he had taken many of his ideas from Ingomar Devrell of the 12th century."

"I don't know a thing in the world about Hewlett nor if there really was such a person as Ingomar Devrell, but neither do these highbrows. When they mentioned Mrs. Humphry Ward I languidly referred to that remarkable woman of the Alexandrian library, Flavella Somolia. Of course there never was such a person. In fact, the wilder I became in my statements the safer I was, for nobody present knew enough to trip me up. I soon became quite independent of my list, except the new books. Even those, however, were too new for the highbrows, so I think I gave them all the run for their money they will want for some time, don't you think? It's very easy to do literary talk if you don't get scared. Same with art and music. Just get the lingo and the names of a few pictures and artists that nobody knows anything about and you can make the biggest kind of a hit."—New York Press.

Has Unique Spider Web. The largest spider web in the world was spun not by a spider, but by human hands. It stands on the lawn of a Chicago man's country home, and is of such tremendous size as to startle the passerby when he first sees it.

The creator of this interesting oddity conceived the idea of attempting to see how closely an actual spider's web could be reproduced with rope. Selecting two immense trees on the lawn of his home, he spun between them this spider's web, 40 by 60 feet, which is so strong that a boy may easily climb to the center or top of it.

The web faces the main thoroughfare which passes the house, and is one of the most fascinating country ground decorations ever seen. The spinner could not attain the minuteness of the actual spider's work, but came so near to it that the illusion is almost perfect. The uniqueness of the undertaking catches and fascinates every eye.

How He Saved the Day. Three bright young men were spending their vacation in camp, and they had agreed to draw lots to determine which one should do the cooking. It was also agreed that if anyone should complain about the food, he should be required to take the cook's place. In the drawing, Slash, the young doctor, lost, and cheerfully set about his culinary duties.

When the toast was placed on the table McAfee, the law student, gave it a look and yelled:

"Ye gods and little fishes! This toast is burned to a charcoal on one side." Then, recollecting the penalty in store for complainers, he hurried on to say: "But that's the very way I like it, though—fine, fine!"—The Pathfinder.

Near Biography of a Great Man. The subject of this sketch was born of poor but honest parents. As a youth he worked in a grocery store for \$7 a week until he owned the store. In the meantime, like many another young man, he fell in with dissolute associates and learned to gamble. However, he eventually made up his mind that there was nothing in being a cheap crook, and began the study of law, and was in due time admitted to the bar. Twenty years later he was elected to the United States senate. Thus we see what ambition, coupled with a knowledge of poker and an inkling of the law, can accomplish.

KING OF ITALY ASPIRES TO TITLE OF CAESAR

It has been announced in Rome that King Victor Emmanuel of Italy has decided to assume the title of "Emperor of Rome" in the near future.



Should Victor Emmanuel assume the title on his own motion the title "Emperor of Rome," he will invest himself with a designation that even Julius Caesar, its first wearer, took only after it had been voted him by the senate. And if there is anything in a name, the Italian monarch will push farther into the center of history's spotlight than Tiberius and Claudius, who, politicians of acumen, refused to prefix "Emperor" to their names.

Were pre-Caesarian Rome alive and should Emmanuel take the field personally and administer a thorough whipping to the Turk, the title undoubtedly would come to him in due course by the hand of the comitia curiata.

In the earliest usage the title first was awarded magistrates. In strictness it was more an epithet than a title. Toward the end of the Roman republic, however, it had become rather a special title of honor bestowed by the acclamation of a victorious army on their general, or by vote of the senate for distinguished services.

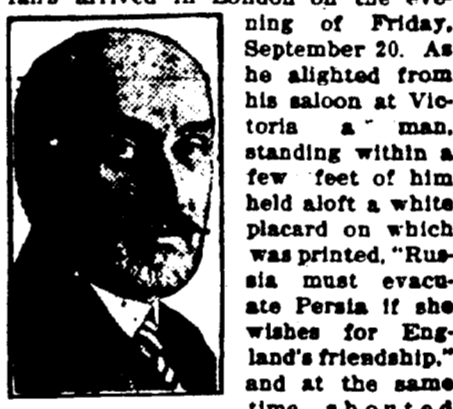
The last man to wear the imperial crown of Rome with any degree of legitimacy was Romulus Augustulus, who assumed it A. D. 475, and beset by the barbarian invader, was glad to cast it aside in the same year.

Thereafter many adventurous persons, by various rough and uncouth means, managed to establish themselves for brief periods in the Eternal City and dub themselves emperors, but most of them shared their power with representatives of "the people," as denoting their personal followers.

Such was Louis the Bavarian, who in 1225, after whipping Henry VII., managed to have himself proclaimed emperor, but whose turbulent incumbency was a matter only of months.

FOREIGN MINISTER OF RUSSIA VISITS ENGLAND

The Russian minister for foreign affairs arrived in London on the evening of Friday, September 20. As he alighted from his saloon at Victoria a man, standing within a few feet of him held aloft a white placard on which was printed, "Russia must evacuate Persia if she wishes for England's friendship," and at the same time shouted:



"Down with Russia! Clear out of Persia! Down with Russia!" The demonstrator was promptly removed from the platform. On the following day, M. Sazonoff, with the Russian ambassador in London, visited Sir Edward Grey at the foreign office.

On the same evening the British foreign minister left for Scotland. M. Sazonoff, Baron von Schilling, and Count Beckendorff started for Balmoral on the following Sunday evening; arrived at Balmoral on the Monday evening, and drove to Balmoral castle in motors sent for them by the king. Sir Edward Grey, who had broken his journey, arrived at the same time. It is generally assumed that the "conversations" are concerned chiefly with the interests of Great Britain and Russia in Persia, and also with the near east problems.

Filipino Matrimonial Agency. We observed that at night all the Igorrote unmarried women occupied a large hut near the center of the village. They call this institution an olag. It is a sort of social hall, where the young people of the tribe meet at night to do their courting. When an Igorrote girl takes a fancy to a particular man, she will steal his spear, or shield—in fact, any portable chattel—and hide it in the olag. To recover his property the young man, of course, must go in person to identify it. So all Igorrote look on the olag as the natural matrimonial bureau of the tribe. And once the Igorrote man and woman are thus mated, they observe the marriage bonds as faithfully as they are kept in countries where the ceremony is not so simple.—Christian Herald.

A Harmless Scrape. The trap drummer chuckled joyfully. "Gonna be some fun in a minute," he said.

"Whass matter?" asked the troupe-leader.

As soon as he could compose himself sufficiently the trap drummer replied: "I just rubbed soap on the bass fiddler's bow."

Convincing Argument. A Chinese cook and a Japanese waiter served Father Vaughn at an Alaskan dinner with caribou steak, moose tenderloin, leg of mountain sheep, wild duck, salmon, crabs and brook trout. After that and a few other things he decided the United States drove a good bargain when it purchased Alaska for \$7,000,000.

MUST COURT AGAIN

Mrs. Sickles Gives General Terms of Surrender.

Names Conditions Under Which She Will Resume Place in Home She Left Twenty-seven Years Ago.

New York.—In a quiet, old world manner and a voice supernally soft, despite a catch that occasionally crept into it, Mrs. Daniel Sickles unsealed her lips to tell for the first time the story of the trouble between herself and General Sickles.

Mrs. Sickles declared quietly that only upon certain conditions would she become reconciled to the picturesque old warrior with whose life hers had been linked for forty-one of its fifty-nine years. These conditions are:

First—The general must come courtin' just as he did in the old days back in Madrid when he was American ambassador to the court of Spain and she was a dark-eyed, raven-haired slip of a girl.

Second—The general must agree immediately to dismiss his housekeeper, Miss Eleanor Earl Wilmerding, at whose door Mrs. Sickles and her son Stanton place a large part of the blame for the present unfortunate conditions of affairs.

Mrs. Sickles strove to make it plain that the general himself must make the first overtures.

"There is little to say," she said. "It is not true that the breach between General Sickles and myself is impassable. I am not seeking a reconciliation; no, it must not be construed so. But the general is getting very old. Eight years more and he will have reached the century mark. He is feeble, too, and his life is narrow. He needs—"

Here the gentle old lady's emotion overmastered her and she could speak no more.

Stanton Sickles said his mother had given the general about \$47,000 in the past seven years without any security whatever, and that his father held \$50,000 in trust for him, given to his by his grandfather.

PRAYERS FOR THE MOSLEMS

Christians Asked to Join in Observing Martyn's Hundredth Anniversary.

New York.—Leaders of mission movements in England and America are asking the Christian people of both countries to observe Oct. 16 next as a day of prayer for the conversion of Islam. The date is the one hundredth anniversary of the death of Henry Martyn, a pioneer in attempts to convert followers of Moslem. The appeal to America comes from both established church and nonconformist in England, and is endorsed by leaders of all religious bodies in this country. Private prayer, family prayer and the holding of public meetings for general prayer are asked.

The appeal points out the decadent character of political states holding to the teachings of Mahomet, and states that Henry Martyn's work, regarded as hopeless in his day, has by no means gone for naught. Persia, Egypt and Turkey have changed. There is a stirring race for leadership in the Sudan, between Christianity and Islamism, and a Christian propaganda that has been carried on for twenty years in Arabia is being removed to Cairo, the central city of Islam.

It is declared that some conversions have been made, and that Mohammedans are far less bitter against those of their number who change than formerly. Hospitals and medical dispensaries are being employed as powerful missionary arguments.

CHEAPENS COST OF PRODUCE

Scientist Says Ammonia, Extensively Used in Fertilizing, Can Be Made From Air and Water.

New York.—An announcement of special interest to farmers in that it may cheapen the cost of fertilizers, was made here by Prof. Hofrat Bernthsen, an eminent German scientist, lecturing before the Eighth International Chemical congress. He explained that a system has been discovered in Germany for the synthetic or artificial manufacture of ammonia by the uniting of nitrogen and hydrogen. The ammonia is prepared, he said, by passing the gases through a tube containing a substance for promoting reaction, at a temperature of about nine hundred degrees Fahrenheit, and under a pressure of 150 atmospheres.

As ammonia is extensively used in the manufacture of ice and in the preparation of fertilizers, notably ammonium sulphate, Doctor Bernthsen predicted that its synthetic preparation was an important step forward in scientific achievement inasmuch as its components, nitro and hydrogen, may be obtained from water and air respectively at a negligible cost.

The world's consumption of ammonia for 1911 was estimated in value at eighty million dollars.

Esperanto in Geneva. Berne.—In few European countries do so many people speak Esperanto as in Switzerland. In Geneva, for example, last year 17,530 people took lessons in Esperanto. Information of one kind or another was supplied by the central Esperanto office in Geneva to 10,475 persons and, business houses.

More than thirty-four thousand letters in Esperanto were received.

TO STOP COUNTERFEITING.

Robert O. Bailey, assistant secretary of the treasury, is trying to compile a list of the ten greatest men in American history, to carry out a new idea in the manufacture of paper money. Under his plan the face of some famous American would appear on a certain denomination of bill. His face and none other would always be there.

It has been the experience of the treasury department that bill raisers and counterfeiters always have the most trouble with the faces of men on the bills. The new plan would make the raising of a bank note above its denomination an impossibility. No one could put a beard on the picture of Abraham Lincoln and make it look like that of Grant.

As there are ten denominations of United States paper currency, Mr. Bailey needs ten famous Americans. He made out a tentative list, and then came another rub. Should the greatest of the great be placed on the bills of larger or smaller denomination? Mr. Bailey decided that since the smaller bills, although not the more popular, were more frequently handled and were infinitely greater in number, they should contain the engravings of the best-known men.

Here is the list as it stands now: George Washington goes on the \$1 bill. The next most handled bill is the one of the \$5 denomination, and Abraham Lincoln is down for it. Jefferson is slated for the \$2 bill. Coming down to more modern men, Cleveland gets the place on the tenth-of-a-century note; Hamilton, the father of our financial system, goes on the \$20; Jackson, on the \$50; Franklin, on the \$100; Marshall—not Governor Marshall of Indiana—on the \$500; Clay, on the \$1,000, and Grant, on the \$10,000 bill, the largest in denomination. This list, of course, is only tentative and is subject to change.

Under the new plan, we can expect to see the words "a one," "a five," "a fifty," and the like, to become obsolete. Instead we will be paying "a Washington and a Jefferson for a \$5 pair of shoes, or will be asking for change for "a Lincoln." Five or ten "Grants" would put us in Easy street.

LANDMARK TO GO. Plans for the erection of a business block at the corner of Twelfth street and New York avenue will remove one of the most memorable landmarks in Washington. The landmark is a toy store where President Lincoln was wont to take his little son Tad.

The same little jumping jacks, the same little arks with Noah and his wooden family, and the same little horses and monkeys occupy the windows of the toy shop at 1208 that avenue, as when, half a century ago, it was the favorite resting place of President Lincoln.

It is the Stuntz toy shop, the goal of little Tad Lincoln's desires. Here, when the burdens of the greatest war the world ever saw seemed too great even for his broad shoulders to bear, the president would go, taking little Tad by the hand and stealing forth from the White House by the back way, and here he would forget his cares of state, watching Tad and the genial proprietor exploiting the various toys, oftentimes taking a hand in the play himself.

TO ASK FOR \$13,000,000. Appropriation of \$13,000,000 will be asked of congress this year to cover the District's expenses. Last year \$12,429,935 was asked, but congress cut the estimates to \$10,675,833.80. About \$150,000 will have to be pruned from various estimates by the commissioners during the next few days. The budget was in the hands of the secretary of the treasury by October 15.

The largest item is the amount asked for public schools. The board of education and the commissioners agreed that \$3,100,000 would be the smallest amount to be demanded for the educational system. This includes an item of \$250,000 for beginning the construction of the new Central High school at Eleventh and W streets northwest, the total cost of which is estimated at \$1,350,000. About \$1,150,000 will be asked for the board of charities.

Supplying Relic Hunters. The relic hunter is still abroad in the land and his desire for the unique is fully met by several factories in this and other countries whose business is to supply the demand of those who will not be "satisfied until they get it." Tomahawks by the thousands are turned out in Kansas City and are sent to the Indian reservations in the west, where they are sold to tourists, especially to foreign tourists. The manufactured article is said to look more staid than the tomahawk made by hand. There is a relic factory at Valley Forge that runs night and day at this season turning out in a continuous stream broken swords and rusty gunstocks, pepperbox pistols, corroded bullets, blood-stained knee breeches, shot-riddled haversacks and other relics dear to the tourist's heart.

Family of Prominence. A monument has just been unveiled in Mecklenburg-Schwerin bearing the following interesting inscription: "To the Knight Godfrey von Bulow, authentic ancestor of all the Bulows." The family has given Germany many distinguished sons, including not only the ex-chancellor, but also Hans von Bulow, the pianist, the first husband of Mme. Cosima Wagner, and they all claim to be cousins, more or less distant.