

ARMORED CRUISERS.

Their Value as Part of a Navy Demonstrated by Present War.

Japan Saw the Advantage of Swift Battleships in War with China, and Has Been Adding Such Vessels to Her Navy.

As a result of the maneuvers executed by the Spanish fleet under the command of Admiral Cervera, future naval constructors will give the armored cruiser a prominent place in the types adopted for offensive warfare.

This, perhaps, is the best lesson taught up to this time by the war with Spain. Such is the opinion of naval experts since Admiral Cervera, with his speedy squadron, arrived ten days ago at Martinique. It marks the downfall of the theory so strongly advocated by Capt. C. F. Goodrich, now in command of the Yale and formerly professor of the naval war college, that the armored cruiser had no place in modern navies.

"The armored cruiser is nothing more than a swift sea-going battleship. Japan recognizes this fact, and is the only nation that was quick to take advantage of such recognition. Her lesson was learned at Yalu, where her protected cruisers of great speed and equipped with rapid-firing guns drove from the scene of battle the Chinese battleships of slow speed and thick armor."

"That the lesson was well learned is shown by the fact that Japan immediately placed contracts with the Armstrongs of England, for the construction of six battleships of great speed. In order to get the desired speed, 18 knots, with the protection and armament specified by the mikado's government, it was necessary to make the ships of great displacement. Two of them, the *Yashima* and *Fuji*, which are now on their way to Japan, are of 13,450 tons displacement each. On their trials the *Yashima* and *Fuji* developed speeds of 18.5 and 19.2 knots, respectively.

"These vessels are really the development of the armored cruiser type. What would we now give for such vessels under the command of Rear Admiral Sampson. This government in building the *Iowa* obtained a type in some respects similar to the armored cruiser, but her speed is only 16 knots, and under present conditions is probably but 13 or 14.

"Since the war began we have been using vessels for the purposes for which their types unsuited them. For instance, the Indiana and Massachusetts are coast-defense battleships. Yet they have been sent to sea cruising for the enemy, when they were really intended for defensive purposes.

"Then we have been employing harbor defense monitors for blockading purposes and for offensive warfare, the result being to cripple the maneuvering quality of our fleet and handicapping Rear Admiral Sampson seriously in his offensive and defensive operations. Our shipbuilding policy has been all wrong. The country has gone on the theory that a defensive navy was all that was necessary. The present war teaches that an offensive navy is absolutely required."

ALLIGATOR SHARES HIS NAP.

Startling Experience of a Soldier During a Siesta Near Tampa, Fla.

A soldier belonging to the Twelfth Infantry had an unusual and startling experience near Tampa, Fla., the other morning.

The regiment is encamped near some swamps about half a mile from the Tampa Bay hotel. The soldier was taking an afternoon nap in the shade, and had been asleep for half an hour when he was suddenly awakened by a heavy weight resting upon him. He arose sleepy, and was horrified to see an immense alligator quietly lying across his legs. The sanguin made no attempt to attack the terrified soldier, but was seemingly contented to remain quietly in his position.

With the help of the soldier dragged himself from beneath the alligator, ran toward a number of comrades and excitedly told them of his experience. They at first accused him of suffering from an overdose of Tampa whisky, but at that moment they saw the alligator going in the direction of the swamp and started after him.

One hundred men were soon in pursuit. The alligator succeeded in reaching a swamp that had almost dried up, and tried to bury himself in the mud, but a rope was obtained and he was dragged out. He is now fastened by a chain to a stake. There is some discussion as to the advisability of retaining him as a regimental mascot, as mascots are now so much in vogue in the army.

Salaries of European Rulers.
"Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown;" yet some of the wearers of crowns are fairly well paid for their uneasiness. The income of the emperor of Russia for one day is about \$25,000; that of the sultan of Turkey, \$18,000; emperor of Austria, \$8,000; emperor of Germany, \$8,000; king of Italy, \$6,500; queen of England, \$6,500, and the king of Belgium, \$6,500. The president of the United States receives about \$130 per day.

Over the Alps by Balloon.
An attempt to cross the Alps in a balloon, starting from the Italian side, will be made next summer. The intention is to keep at a height of 15,000 feet as long as possible, and to take photographic views and make scientific observations during the passage.

Girls in Germany.
In Germany and Holland girls are chosen in preference to young men in all occupations where they can be advantageously employed.

INSPIRED HIS SPEECH.

Wife of Chamberlain Said to Be Responsible for the Address That Has Shaken Europe.

According to advices received from London all England is talking about the possibility of an Anglo-American alliance, and everybody thinks he knows why "Joe" Chamberlain made his speech for the alliance of Britain and the United States. No peer of the first magnitude, no great party, no mighty financial interest constituted the power behind the throne which resulted in a speech which has been freighted with more political import than anything spoken for years.

A woman, according to the wise ones, is the power that has stirred the secretary of state for the colonies to come out so broadly. It is a little Boston girl, daughter of a long line of Puritan descent, who has succeeded in upheaving all the powers of Europe—Mary Endicott that was—Mrs. Joseph Chamberlain that is.

She is the most talked about woman in England to-day. She has already come off first best in a social fight with the prince of Wales and his set. Now she is in line to turn the same winning trick against the combined hands of Spain, Russia, France and Germany.

Boston is leading London by the nose. And why not, they say. Is not his charming American wife the only person in the world who could make "Joe" Chamberlain give up wearing his famous monocle?

Mary Endicott, the American girl, first showed her firmness and independence by snubbing Lady Brooke, the protege of the prince of Wales, and now the war with Spain! Once more the blood of her fathers tingled in the veins of Mary Endicott. Power after power formally declared its strict neutrality, only to do everything at its command—covertly, of course, in officialdom, but openly as far as the masses went to aid Spain. Only England was left. The snubs there were for Spain—but the great mass of sober, sensible Britons knew which side was right and which was wrong.

And now—Mary Endicott's chance. Her husband would do what she wanted, and so Chamberlain spoke.

This is the pretty story of a Yankee girl's influence that London is talking about.

TRAGIC SIDE OF PERFORMANCE

Italian Actress Gets News of Her Child's Death, But Bravely Acts Her Part.

There was a tragic side to the performance of "La Favorita" at Wallack's theater, New York city, the other evening. Signora Adelina Fenton, one of the prima donnas of the company, was cast for the principal part of Leonora.

When the Bazzotti company left Milan a year and a half ago on its voyage to Mexico, Signora Leonora left behind her a child ten years old. During the months of active work in Mexico and in the Pacific and western states of this country, Signora Fenton's artistic success did not reconcile her to the separation from her child.

The other night, as she entered her dressing-room at Wallack's to costume herself for her part, a letter was handed to her. It bore an Italian stamp, and she gleefully opened it. But the message told her of the death of her little one. She gave one agonized shriek and fell in a faint. A physician was called and restoratives brought back consciousness. The theater was full, and the hour for the rise of the curtain had arrived. The manager made an appeal to the poor mother to sacrifice her feelings for the sake of her associates and the reputation of the company. She consented and the overture, which had been delayed to the audience's impatience, was commenced.

A brief statement that Signora Fenton was ill had been made from the stage, as a plea for indulgence, but the patriotic story was only learned later. The heroic artist went through her part bravely, though her nervous condition was apparent.

ANXIOUS TO GO TO WAR.

Young Mennonites May Upset Terms of the Church-Conference to Decide Point.

Whether the tenets of the Mennonite church will permit its members to fight for their country in the present war with Spain is the question to be decided by a big conference of representatives of that church in session at Newton, Kan. Several hundred delegates are present from all parts of Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma territory, in which sections of the country the denomination is strongest.

The meeting is of unusual importance to the sect, as it will either confirm or do away with some of the bed-rock principles of the church. It is contrary to the belief of the Mennonites for any of its members to engage in warfare or to make resistance to a foe, however great the provocation may be. Attorney-General Sneed, of Kansas, however, recently decided that the exemption law applies only to those who year after year have taken out nonresistance papers. The older members of the church desire to have the old-time principles of the faith upheld, but a number of the younger men would like to see the restrictions removed so that they might join the volunteers and fight for their adopted country. The question will be bitterly contested, and may result in a permanent schism.

MEXICAN BUSINESS MEN.

Traveling Through This Country in Special Car—Buy Extensively of American Products.

Senor Ignacio de la Torre, son-in-law of President Diaz, of Mexico, has been in Kansas City, Mo., accompanied by his brother, Thomas de la Torre, Alfredo Sardine and Juan Gutierrez Lee, Enrique Lariso. All are prominent business men of Mexico. During their stay in that city the members of this party have purchased an entire train load of American products, including 125 blooded bulls, several full-blood Jersey cows and a number of thoroughbred carriage horses and brood mares. They also purchased a big consignment of agricultural implements. The party, which is traveling in a special car, will pay hurried visits to St. Louis, Cincinnati, New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Chicago, after which they will return to Kansas City. Here their coach will be attached to a special train carrying their purchases, and they will go straight through to Mexico City.

The Cleverest Horses.

The broad-headed horses are the cleverest. In the cavalry the horses with broad foreheads learn their drill more rapidly than the others.

Electricity Employs Millions.

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Organ Grinders Come and Go.

About 300 organ grinders arrive in London every June from Italy and leave again in October.

Conditions—Complaints on the Lanes.

Electricity in its various applications is said to give employment to 5,000,000 people.

EXPLORER BALKED.

Mr. Silva White Unable to Reach Jarabub, an African Town.

GOES FROM CAIRO 450 MILES TO SIWAH, BUT IS NOT ALLOWED TO PROCEED FURTHER TOWARDS THE STRONGHOLD.

Another attempt to plant a European foot where a European foot has never been set has failed. In February last Mr. Silva White started from Cairo with the object of visiting Jarabub, the stronghold of the powerful Puritan Mohammedan Senoush sect. Jarabub is on the confines of Egypt and Tripoli, about 130 miles from the Mediterranean coast and 100 miles northwest of Siwa.

The route from Cairo lies past the Natron lakes, Moghara, Garah and Siwa, both Jarabub and Siwa being situated in that great depression which, starting from the Gulf of Sidra, approaches Cairo.

Knowing the risks of his enterprise, White started without telling any of his party the object of his journey. The party, consisting of himself and seven native attendants, with six camels, took 19 days to cover the 450 miles between Siwa and Cairo. Arrived at Siwa, he was cordially received by the Egyptian mamour, or governor, and the chief headman. But the Siwahs, of whom the great majority belong to the Senoush sect, are intrusted with the task of preventing all Europeans from proceeding westward toward Tripoli.

Four years ago a Frenchman, disguised as an Arab, with an Arab caravan, eluded their vigilance, got within a few hours' journey of Jarabub, when he was met by a strong party of horsemen and he and all his company were killed. The Frenchman had his eyes put out and his throat cut.

The mamour informed Mr. White that it would be his duty to prevent him by force from going any further, and the Senoush sheikhs, though cordially friendly, said they would not prevent the Siwahs from attacking him if he persisted in his intention. Under these circumstances, and as all his own men, with one exception, refused to proceed, Mr. White decided to return to Cairo. He was, however, allowed during his week's stay at Siwa to go about freely over the whole of the curious fortress town and to explore parts never before seen, he was told, by Europeans.

Thus he visited the narrow streets leading through tunnels under the houses, the tombs hewn out of sandstone rock, and took 12 dozen photographs. During a single morning's digging five mummies and a portion of a very valuable painted mummy wrap were excavated, and he picked up a copper coin of Ptolemy I, Soter, 311-305 B.C., of which only one other and less authentic specimen is known to exist.

NEED OF CANAL URGENT.

Congress Soon to Be Called Upon to Decide Question of Water Route Over Isthmus of Panama.

Congress will soon be called upon to decide the question of building a canal connecting the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. Chairman Davis, of the senate foreign relations committee, said: "The need for a connection between the Atlantic and Pacific cannot be questioned. Our interests demand it. With a canal between the two oceans in operation now we would have nothing to fear from an attack on our Pacific coast."

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