

ENGLISH "NAVAL PIGEON"

Costs Fifteen Thousand a Year to Maintain the Service.

BIRDS USELESS TODAY

Training Carried Out With Great Care—Cannot Fly at Night—Weather Conditions Must Be Favorable—Officers and Laymen Protesting Against Needless Expense.

English statesmen are jubilating over having reduced naval estimates to the extent of some millions, and yet have overlooked the fact that many obsolete departments are still in full swing, says the Pittsburgh Dispatch. One section of the service after another has been, to use a naval term, swept by broadsides, and yet the antiquated pigeon service—first instituted by one Noah of Ark notoriety—still remains in being. A number of protests have been made, through the press and privately, against keeping up this branch of the service, yet the naval board clings to it as if wireless telegraphy were a mere figment of the imagination.

According to recent estimates, the birds employed by the English navy for carrier purposes, number no less than 1,000; and cost, approximately, something like \$15,000 a year to keep in training. Pigeons are kept at each of the four home naval ports, Portsmouth, Chatham, Plymouth and Pembroke, and besides these, birds are installed at Malta and Gibraltar.

The training of these birds is carried on with great care and the services of many skilled officers—whose attention might be devoted to some more up-to-date part of the naval service—are employed in this work. This branch of the service is specialized and staffs are appointed at each of the points mentioned to keep the service efficient. Each bird has a pedigree and history sheet, with a complete record of performance. A good deal of "office work" is connected with "keeping tabs" on the various birds, and both naval officers and laymen are asking—what's the use in maintaining at such expenditure both of money and brains an institution that is far behind the times? Perhaps, however, this is quite according to the fitness of things, for there is a fairly well grounded belief that the famous British navy is, after all, not what it is cracked up to be.

The pigeons are especially trained to fly certain distances in given directions, and each bird, is, of course, instructed to seek out, in flight, one particular point of objective. Birds are taken at an early age and flown in distances divided between 100 and 150 miles, the distance being gradually increased as the bird learns more of the service and its muscles harden for longer flights.

In coming naval maneuvers it is said that "naval pigeons" are to be much in evidence, and it will then be proved whether or not they are of much use, either in time of peace or war. In the first place, the birds are not trained to fly at night, and, as their distances are limited, it is difficult to see just where they would come in from a ship moving two or three hundred miles in a few hours. In addition to the fact that the birds cannot fly at night, it has been found out that weather conditions must be favorable for the best results, and besides this, the wind must be in the direction in which it is intended to fly the carrier. In the event of war breaking out and birds being placed on regular "boardship" coops for them, and no seamen trained to arrange the messages they would have to carry. At present all the flights have been arranged from shore to ship, and none from ship to shore—the birds being kept at the naval bases already mentioned.

It is a rather singular thing, and is arousing not a little comment in naval circles in England—and abroad also—that, while the naval estimates have been smashing dealt with, no one has blue-penciled this obsolete and inefficient branch of the service in the alleged "best navy in the world."

The Most Lucrative Business.

Some astonishing figures relating to the enormous growth of life insurance in this country are presented in a significant article in Harper's Weekly. The figures which illustrate this growth are almost incomprehensible. Within the last sixty years American life insurance companies have issued almost 70,000,000 policies; have paid to policy holders more than \$3,000,000,000; and now hold, in gross assets, \$2,518,091,782. The premium receipts in one year amounted to more than \$400,000,000. The following figures will give some idea of the prodigious growth of the business of life insurance within the last half century: In 1859, the companies reporting to the New York Insurance Department had outstanding insurance amounting to \$141,497,977. On January 1, 1906, the insurance in force in all American companies—assessment societies and fraternal orders—was \$20,801,788,753—a percentage of increase since December 31, 1859, of 14,248.

Manufacture of Jewsharps. Jewsharps are made principally in Boccaccio, the seat of the industry since the sixteenth century. A good workman can make 7 dozen in a day, and, simple as the little instruments are, no fewer than twenty tools are employed in their manufacture.

GREAT IRRIGATION WORK

It Has Reclaimed Ten Million Acres in the Southwest.

"American irrigation was old when Rome was in the glory of its youth," says C. J. Blanchard in "The National Geographic Magazine." The ancient aqueducts and subterranean canals of South America, extending for thousands of miles, once supplied great cities and irrigated immense areas. Centuries before the venturesome Norsemen landed upon the bleak and inhospitable shores of New England a large population dwelt in the hot valleys of the far Southwest. From the solid rock, with primitive tools of stone, they cut ditches and hewed the blocks for many chambered palaces, which they erected in the desert or on the limestone ledges of deep river canyons. These voiceless ruins, older than the memory of many centuries, tell the story of a thrifty, home loving and semi-civilized people, concerning whose fate history brings us no word. In these palaces and in many miles of canal we may almost read the story of another Egypt—a people toiling under the burning sun of the desert, wearily and patiently executing the commands of an American Pharaoh.

In the last quarter of a century a crop producing area of 10,000,000 acres, equal in size to the State of Massachusetts, has been wrested from the desert. Irrigation canals long enough to span the earth twice and representing an outlay of \$90,000,000 have been built. Every year this area returns a harvest valued at nearly twice the cost of the irrigation canals. The United States is today the largest owner of the Great American Desert—no doubt, as Mr. Blanchard explains, because it was not considered worth stealing. For many years the sentiment has been growing that the government should make this vast empire habitable, and this sentiment crystallized into the Reclamation law, signed by President Roosevelt on June 17, 1902.

The first of the great irrigation works undertaken by the government is in Nevada. In the bed of ancient Lake Lahontan and embracing what was long known as Forty Mile Desert, the most desolate and arid spot on this continent except Death Valley, the engineers completed the plans for an extensive irrigation work involving some rather novel engineering features, the greatest and most important of which is that of lifting the waters of the Truckee River into the great canal, which will carry them over into the Carson River Reservoir, whence they are diverted into laterals and carried out upon the desert. When completed the Truckee-Carson works will cost more than \$9,000,000 and render productive more than 400,000 acres now absolutely worthless, but which, when irrigated, will sell readily for \$30,000,000 it is estimated.

Helen Smolke, who fought with the Russian army in Manchuria and was decorated for



bravery on the battlefield; afterwards entering a cavalry regiment. The Empress of Russia tried to dissuade her from this course, offering to adopt her as a ward of the state.

Deadly Herb Smokers.

Mexico's War Department has found it necessary to issue orders strictly prohibiting the selling of marahuana, the deadly herb which grows wild in parts of Mexico, to the soldiers. This action was taken because many soldiers became insane through smoking the herb.

It was discovered recently that the soldiers continued to get hold of the herb and an investigation revealed that many women were engaged in the practice of gathering the herbs and secretly selling the poison to the soldiers.

The smoking of marahuana gives a pleasurable sensation that is almost indescribable. If the practice is kept up for a few weeks the user becomes violently insane. Although the fatal power of the drug is well known to the people of the country there are many who cannot resist smoking the herb occasionally.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

JOURNEYING TO JERUSALEM

Impressive Ceremonies Observed by Christians and Hebrews.

It is in Jerusalem that the Easter celebration of the Christian world attains its apotheosis. The strange, old holy city is surrounded with native Christian tribes, among whom the ages of faith still prevail. They believe absolutely that their feet are treading the sepulchre of Christ, that their kisses fall upon the very marble which held His form, and that their prayers are breathed upon the earth which supported His cross. So they come from desert and mountain fastness of Asia Minor, and from Italy and Spain and Egypt, and even from far away Siberia.

In addition, Jerusalem is the second holiest city in the world to the Moslem; and, seeing that a pilgrimage thither comes next to one to Mecca, and that there is hope of excitement and financial gain among the throngs, many Mohammedans gather in Jerusalem at the same time. And still further to mix the races, this is Passover week, and the Jews of Palestine go up to Jerusalem to celebrate it, just as they did that week when the stupendous Passover sacrifice of the Christian world was offered.

Jerusalem, with its forty thousand population, is built on three hundred acres of ground. Probably not a village of five hundred people in America occupies so small a space.

The Greek patriarch of Jerusalem has charge of the ceremonies, and the soldiers of the Sultan are there to preserve order among the jealous Christian sects, who have sometimes fallen afoul of each other upon the very steps of the sacred tomb.

The Church of the Sepulchre is the place to study this seething mass of humanity during Holy Week. Built by Emperor Constantine seventeen hundred years ago, the people believe that this vast edifice of yellow stone covers the very spot on Calvary where the Saviour died. Entering the great square vestibule one sees a slab of rose colored marble resting on supports. It is said to be the stone on which the body of Jesus was laid to be prepared for burial. Around it the pilgrims kneel and weep and pray all day.

There is an Armenian peasant in his sheepskin coat and beside him a well garbed man from Italy. There is a Syrian woman with her child and beside her a Russian pilgrim from the borders of Siberia. Some lay their rosaries upon the stone that the heads may be blessed. Some burn cakes of incense upon it. Some bring webs of linen and measure and cut pieces the size of the stone, which they rub over the sacred surface. These are to be their winding sheets, that they may rest softly in their last beds.

In the center of the great rotunda is the sepulchre itself, a marble structure, thirty feet high. In its wall is a recess, made by two slabs of marble, the very receptacle, it is said, in which the body was laid. And here all the week long the people are kissing these things and praying and creeping around the sepulchre on their knees.

All the week the pilgrims are busy seeking out the holy spots of the city. They toil painfully up the Via Dolorosa to Calvary, stopping to pray and tell their beads at each of the seven stations.

Cooking as well as praying is going on in the open air, and at all times, trading. Shrewd Oriental vendors line the streets, and the rugs of Bokhara unroll themselves beside the faces of Smyrna and the dates of Arabia and a thousand quaint and characteristic bits of Eastern handiwork, which in the shops of the Occident would be costly trifles.

One of the ceremonies is the washing of feet, in imitation of the act of Jesus at the Last Supper. The vast rotunda of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre is crowded for the ceremonial. The Greek patriarch of Jerusalem, always a stately and imposing figure, with the comeliness of the Greek race set off by his splendid vestments, removes one by one his silken robes, crusted thick with gems and gold thread. He takes off the magnificent jeweled miter, the great chain of gold wound around his neck, the great cross of blazing diamonds, six inches long. At last he stands forth clad in a simple white robe, in imitation of the poverty of Jesus.

He pours water from a gold pitcher into a gold basin, and goes from one to another of the twelve priests who represent the disciples, and who have been busily getting off their shoes meanwhile. He washes a foot of each, drying it with a towel, and kissing it. The last of all represents Peter, and, as Peter did, he objects to the Master's degradation in washing his feet. He refuses to allow the rite, stands up and gesticulates violently. The patriarch brings the Testament and shows him the passage describing the original ceremony, and finally Peter submits amid the applause of the audience.

Czarina's Easter Collection.

Among the present Czarina's collection is a large golden egg, enameled in rose color, containing a small perfect model of the state carriage, in which the young couple were driven to the Cathedral of Moscow on the day of their wedding. The model is made of solid gold, with red enamel cushions, and little silver curtains are suspended from the carriage windows.

Lobsters, frogs, fishes and other living things are closely imitated by the candy artists.

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WANT AMERICAN HUSBANDS.

Wealthy Foreigners Here Declare They Are the Better Kind.

"While our matchmaking mammas are doing their best to marry their girls to titled foreigners," said a woman who teaches English to the wealthier members of a certain foreign quarter in New York, "I find that the ambition of the foreign mothers who have come to America is to have their girls marry Americans."

"No, it is not for the sake of any business advantages which might accrue from a thorough knowledge of the language and customs on the part of the husband. All these things, they acquire with remarkable rapidity. It is simply because they are impressed with the kindness of the American men in their family relations, his civility to women."

"There is the mother of one of my most recent pupils, for example. The family are wealthy foreigners who have been here but six months, and I doubt if they number more than three or four American families among their acquaintances; yet it is already decided that Etelka when she marries must get an American husband. Etelka is only 11, so you can see that the maternal provision is looking far ahead."

"Only the other day Mrs. W. said to me in all sincerity: 'It is my desire—very much—that Etelka should know the little Americans; those of gentle birth, as friends, more than our own people. She is young yet, but the years slip by and when she is 18 and of age to marry, I much hope it will be an American. I will use my influence to have it so. Ah, these Americans! They are so kind to their wives—so gentle! A woman is happy. In our country the men are less kind. My husband, now, he is a good man, but vehement. Half I am afraid to invite Americans to our table lest they see how do the foreign men in their homes. If anything goes not just right, oh, such a fuss! No, I look at these American men. It is my desire that Etelka shall marry one.'"

The Secret of Long Life.

Sir James Bawyer, a noted physician of Birmingham, England, has been talking recently to an audience in that town on longevity. Its secret, he thinks, lies in keeping the nineteen commandments following: Eight hours' sleep. Sleep on your right side. Keep your bedroom window open all night. Have a mat at your bedroom door. Do not have your bedstead against the wall. No cold tub in the morning; but a bath at the temperature of your

body.

Exercise before breakfast. Eat little meat and see that it is well cooked.

For adults: Drink no milk. Eat plenty of fat, to feed the cells which destroy disease germs.

Avoid intoxicants, which destroy those cells.

Daily exercise in the open air.

Allow no pet animals in your living-rooms; they are likely to carry about disease germs.

Live in the country if you can.

Watch the three D's: drinking water, damp and drains.

Have change of occupation.

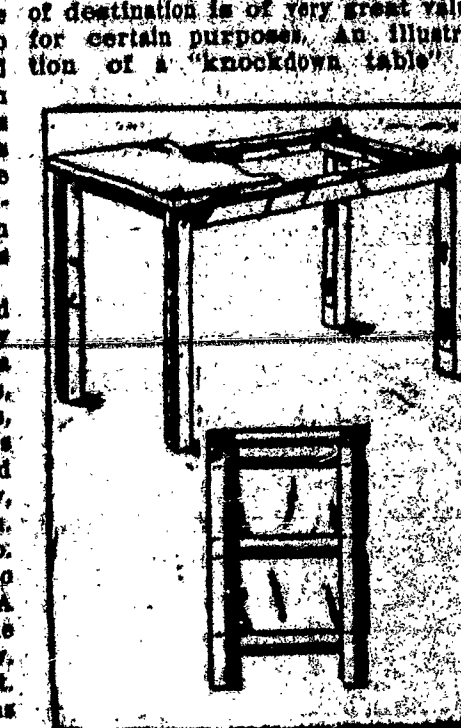
Take frequent and short holidays.

Limit your ambition.

Keep your temper.

Knockdown Furniture.

"Knockdown furniture," or furniture which can be quickly taken apart for transportation and as quickly assembled again at the next point of destination is of very great value for certain purposes. An illustration of a "knockdown table" is



Used as a Table.

shown here. It is strong, durable and efficient and can be readily assembled without the use of nails or screws.

When taken apart it can be packed within a small space for shipping or storage. On the inner side of each of the legs of the table is a metal locking plate. At regular intervals on the plate is a series of keyhole slots, recesses being formed in the rear of each slot. At the upper end the locking plates are bent at right angles over the post. The crosspieces are made with plates projecting at the ends, these plates fitting over the plates at the tops of the corner posts and held in place by lugs. If desired, additional crosspieces can be added and drawers in

serted between them. The top of the table is made with channels under surface, these channels fitting into grooves on the upper surface of the plates.

HOME COOKING.

Beef Loaf.

Chop fine 1 pound round steak and 1/4 pound salt pork; roll crackers fine and pour boiling water over them to swell them; add eggs, salt, pepper and poultry seasoning to taste; bake in buttered pan 1 hour.

Coddled and Chopped.

Boil 1 pound of codfish and 1/2 very fine. Make a cup of butter, add white pepper, salt and fish, mix well, pour into a hot dish, scatter fine bread crumbs on the top and brown slightly in oven.

Chick Potatoes.

One pint of peas, 1/2 cup salt, 1/2 pint milk. Boil the peas, add the milk and salt the milk well. Then add the peas and as many cream as you wish.

Rice Mashed.

One cup cup milk, butter and salt, 1 cup cooked rice, 1 teaspoon 1/2 cup flour, 1 teaspoon 1/2 powder, pour into well buttered pan and bake 15 minutes.

Labor in New England.

Labor in New England is not so well paid as it was in 1870. The Government of that time has asked the High Commission in London to find in England and out 1,000 laborers for the New England States.

There is also great demand for labor in the West.

Underground Telegraph.

There is now an underground telegraph line between London and Scotland. The ground between the two cities is covered with a network of wires.

Result of a great storm.

Paris in 1870. Up to 1870 Paris had not a single electric street car. It was not until 1875 that the first electric street car was run.

Magnetism in the air.

In the Wisconsin State Fair, 1890, there was a contest for the best electric light. The winner was a man who had a light that would burn for 100 hours.