

WAS THE PERSIA AN ARMED VESSEL?

A Vexed Question of International Law.

One of the most perplexing phases of the sinking of the P. and O. liner Persia is the fact that the Persia mounted one 4.7 inch gun. This was disclosed in a dispatch from United States Consul Garrels' statement at Alexandria, Egypt. The consul, however, did not state where the gun was mounted. The Hague convention provides that a merchant ship may carry a gun mounted on the stern for purposes of defense without being considered an armed ship.



The application of the principles of international law to the limited armament of merchant vessels has been defined by our state department as follows. A merchant vessel of belligerent nationality may carry an armament and ammunition for the sole purpose of defense without acquiring the character of a vessel of war.

It is explained that the caliber of the guns must not exceed six inches, that they be few in number and that no guns shall be mounted on a forward part of the vessel.

NEW WARDEN OF SING SING.

George W. Kitchway, Noted College Professor, Is on the Job.



George W. Kitchway, noted college professor, is on the job as the new warden of Sing Sing prison, New York. He will serve at least until after the trial of Warren Thomas Mott Osborne, who is under indictment on various charges by the Westchester county grand jury.

SHORT AND SHARP.

European affairs are one war loan after another.

On all sides the food for powder supply seems to be unlimited.

Bags are going up in price, but nobody is wearing them blatantly.

When you talk of maintaining a principle be sure that it is not a prejudice.

The man that feels like being kicked seldom allows another the pleasure of doing it.

Unless all signs fail, this year will be a record breaker in the making of world history.

Next June will give both Chicago and St. Louis new opportunities to pose as summer resorts.

Everything can be overdone. Many a fellow has been fired with enthusiasm by his boss.

The drug shortage is so acute now in England that many chronic invalids are rapidly becoming convalescent.

If every man who was "a little odd" had to be arrested there wouldn't be enough men at liberty to enforce the law.

Saying the right thing at the right time is equivalent to keeping your mouth shut when you have nothing to say.

In another year the nation will again be giving earnest thought to the question of whether there is going to be any inaugural ball.

It couldn't have been the landlord class that agitated the war as some would have us think. People in Europe are many millions of dollars behind in their rent.

Political Quips.

No lack of preparedness anywhere for presidential nominations' Atlanta Constitution.

Politically speaking, the rising temperature bulletin is already out for next June. Washington Star.

Some of the presidential candidates now in the race won't get much for their run except the exercise. Philadelphia Press.

It is wonderful how clearly a public officer can see what ought to be done after his term of office is over. Pittsburgh Post.

Ohio has six native sons in the United States senate, not to mention the long waiting list for the presidency. Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Science Siftings.

Jupiter has a mass nearly three times as great as the combined masses of all our other planets.

There are five quarts of blood in the human body. One-half of this can be lost before death is inevitable.

The United States produced twenty-nine of the sixty-six epoch-making inventions of the last century. France ten, Germany five, Italy two and Brazil, Austria and Sweden one each.

When a man breathes he uses his muscular strength to draw in the air, and it is afterward forced out automatically. With insects, as a German investigator has just discovered, this process is just reversed.

Electric Sparks.

An electrical process is being tried in Russia for the manufacture of gold leaf, heretofore made only by hand.

In a new electrical device for medical purposes, the current is registered by passing it through a moisture sponge enclosed within a glass tube.

German electricians who experimented decided that they obtained better results by placing the carbons in arc lamps horizontally and one slightly below the other.

Insulated with a specially prepared paper, an electric cable carrying 10,000 volts in England was found in perfect condition after more than twenty three years of service.

Chips From China.

Thus far Emp Yuan has given no indication of an intention to introduce the open house in China. Washington Post.

The former boy emperor of China is said to be a rather dull young man. He must be if they've noticed it in China. Detroit Free Press.

China may get so weary of trying governments of its own that any suggestions Japan may have to offer will be welcome. Washington Star.

Emperor Yuan wants a new constitution for China. A constitution seems to be about the most useless thing China could have. Pittsburgh Dispatch.

Town Topics.

Boston's population is now 745,439, compared with 670,585 in 1910. The sacred codfish has put on 74,854 new scales. New York Sun.

Chicago can't show such a mighty gain in the next census, being bordered on the south by the Indiana state line and on the north by Evanson, which remains equally inflexible. St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Pittsburgh reports that every building that can be used as a factory is now being put to that service, and there is a growing fear that Pittsburgh may become more vulgarly prosperous than ever. Indianapolis News.

Tom Buford's Awakening

By ALFRED TOWNE

There is nothing that will start a man so quickly and so thoroughly to make a push forward in the world as finding himself engaged to be married with little or nothing to marry on. Tom Buford was a reporter on a western paper, but he barely managed to hold his position. He said he didn't like reporting; it wasn't a pleasant occupation; it required a man of cheek, and he was of a retiring disposition. Some day he meant to get out of it.

When Howard Drew, the phenomenal negro sprinter, finished last in the century dash of the A. A. U. at the Panama-Pacific exposition last August he announced that he had quit running for good. Now he has changed his mind. He is to meet Joe Loomis of Chicago, who beat him for the national sprint title at San Francisco, in a special match race at Madison Square Garden, New York city, on Jan. 20.

IN THE WORLD OF SPORT

Howard Drew, Fleet Negro Sprinter.

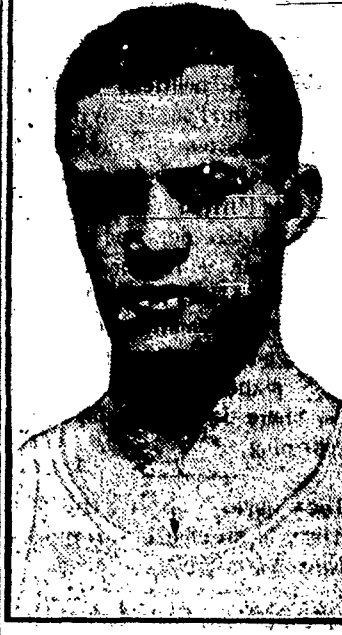


Photo by American Press Association.

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ADVENTURES OF OLD KING PETER

Brava Monarch Insisted on Sharing Army's Dangers.

THE vallant old king, Peter of Servia, has found a warm welcome in Greece, where he has arrived after many adventures. Some of them are described by Signor Fracaroli, the correspondent of a Milan paper, who says: King Peter was ill even before the war. It is because of his illness that the supreme command of the operations had to be intrusted to his son Alexander, the heir to the throne. The king was undergoing medical treatment at Topola. As soon as he felt convinced that Bulgaria would attack the old king, ill as he was, declared his intention to proceed immediately for the frontier against the Bulgars. His physician opposed him and forbade him to go.



Photo by American Press Association.

It was he who had put new courage in his soldiers when they were retreating before the dense masses Austria had poured across the Danube and the Save. He had to be carried to Lazarevatz, in the first line of Stefanovitch's army, where he went into the trench of the Second regiment, the famous "Iron Regiment," helping himself along with a stick. There he exchanged the stick for a rifle and said to his soldiers: "My children, I know you are very tired. You have fought like heroes. But our country is in danger. He who can resist no longer can go home again without fear of being punished. But the country is in danger, and I have come here with you to die for our country. Let those remain who wish to die with their king for Servia."

Now, the king was hoping for a repetition of the miracle. Again he visited the first line trenches, remaining with his soldiers for two hours, lifting laboriously the rifle to fire. But he appeared very sad on his return to Nish. The ministers had already departed. He decided to return to Kraljevo.

At Kruzevatz he saw the car which was carrying the Generalissimo Putnik, the old, never beaten vojvode, whom all Serbian soldiers call affectionately "grandfather." Putnik was coming from Kraguyevatz, which the Germans were on the point of entering, and the old vojvode, ill like the king, but untiring, had to abandon the place. The two cars met and came to a stop. At the time Kruzevatz was stricken by the fear carried like a contagion by the columns of refugees from Nish and from the north.

Under present conditions Europe sees nothing paradoxical in the simultaneous promotion of a war loan and a moratorium. A German has invented an instrument which measures the temperature of a second. The trouble is that after it is measured it is too much of a late number to be useful.

SIRES AND SONS.

Colonel P. W. Gunder, eighty-five, Brooklyn, is still actively practicing law.

Perdval Lowell, the noted astronomer, is a brother of the president of Harvard. With him astronomy is a profession, a business, as it were, but for pastime he delves into Japanese occultism.

Dr. Wu Ting Fang, former Chinese minister to the United States, is now seventy-five years old and recently, after announcing his intention to live in the age of 100, declared that the remaining seventy-five years would be given over to literary pursuits.

Judson Harmon, candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1912, was country born. He earned school money by picking blackberries at 5 cents per quart. He harvested during the vacation. While in college he worked for a collection agency.

Dr. Peter Cooper Hewitt, one of the men whose work has contributed to make possible the achievements of wireless telephony, is a native of New York. His grandfather was the philanthropist, Peter Cooper, and his father was a member of congress and a mayor of New York city.

The name of Stanislaw Praybmawski, the Russian writer, is pronounced Pance-be-shoff-sake.

Herman Bernstein, back in New York from Europe, refers to the war as "panic in a madhouse."

Dr. Charles W. Eliot, president emeritus of Harvard university, has been awarded, by unanimous vote, the gold medal of the American Academy of Arts and Letters "as a recognition of special distinction."

Sir Gilbert Parker, the novelist and playwright, wavered between two or three professions in the early days of his career. He has been in turn professor at a deaf and dumb institution, lecturer in English literature at a Canadian university, associate editor of an Australian paper and a writer.

The Writers.

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Current Comment.

Will pan-Americanism ever pan out?—New York Sun.

Will our house and senate be known as the Sixty-fourth or the safety first congress?—Brooklyn Eagle.

When the time comes that everybody will ride in automobiles—and it is about here—there will be nobody left to get run over.—Philadelphia Press.

What we need worse than a law making "America" the national anthem is stern legislation that will enforce the proper time among those who try to sing it.—Washington Post.

Automobile Runs.

The number of automobiles registered in the United States the past year was more than 1,700,000.

An automobile jack that is now in use automatically lifts all four wheels of a car clear of the floor when they are run upon a track.

When a recently patented automobile fender touches an object, it shows the power of the car to which it is attached and drops a curtain to prevent the object being crushed by the wheels.

Echoes of the War.

The European war loans are launched easily enough, but none of them float very long.—Houston Post.

What a glorious time European cities will have later on in boasting of what their population was in 1914.—Washington Post.

BRIGHT BRIEFS.

Inventors of excuses seldom require the assistance of a patent attorney.

If it takes two to make a quarrel it also takes both sides to keep the peace.

A good many fellows can grasp an idea without being able to hang on to it.

It is better to lose than have the fruits of victory leave a bad taste in one's mouth.

Some folks are so used to looking for trouble they don't recognize joy when they meet it.

Europe has long been noted for cheapness. Now she has made herself the cheapest thing.

Even New York has borrowed \$100,000 in New York. Pretty soon everybody will be owing us.

Occasionally the charity that begins at home never gets through warmen its shins at the radiator.

Nearly all of us do without things we actually need in order to be able to afford a luxury now and then.

Prince Firman Firma is the new Persian premier. There should be nothing unstable about his government.

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