

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 Harrell's 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 arm-



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 overcome. 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 landroll class that agitated the war as some would have us think. People in Europe are many millions of dollars behind in their rent.

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 overcome. 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 landroll class that agitated the war as some would have us think. People in Europe are many millions of dollars behind in their rent.

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 suggested 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. Then he did what everybody considered a foolish thing. For a brief period he considered it a foolish thing himself. He courted a nice girl, proposed to her and was accepted.

The morning Tom Buford awakened after the bliss of receiving the answer he had considered essential almost to his life he lay wondering what had possessed him. Had he been in his senses or had he escaped from a lunatic asylum? Unable to maintain himself respectably, he had invited a girl to share his inability. More, he would probably bring children into the world with the prospect of starvation before them. Either this or they would grow up to get a living as best they could and would likely turn out jailbirds. But it was too late now to go back. He had spoken. The contract was signed, sealed and delivered.

"See here, old man," he said to himself, "you've got to get a move on you."

He arose, dressed himself and went to the office. The city editor said to him:

"Buford, last night a steamboat on the Mississippi was blown up and sunk. Somebody's got to go and get the facts. You're the only man available, and you're too slow. You'll get every paper in town got the story and we have nothing. Just you try me."

The editor looked up in surprise. "Very well; you can get the afternoon through train. But mind, you must send me something for tomorrow morning's issue—not later than 2 a. m."

Buford hurried to the station without calling for baggage and caught the express. But no sooner had the train started than he learned that it didn't stop within many miles of the point he wished to get off. He told the conductor that he must stop for him, but the conductor declined. However, later on he told Buford that a division superintendent was on the train, and if Tom could get an order from him to stop it would be all right. Tom did so and late at night was put off at the station at which he wished to stop. Luckily the telegraph office was open, and, rushing into it, he asked the operator if he would remain there till he came back from the scene of the disaster, which was several miles away. The operator promised, and the reporter started to walk the distance.

Reaching a point where a number of the survivors were to be found, he found several of them out of bed, got the "story" and walked back to the telegraph office. It was dark as Erebus. The operator had got tired waiting and gone home.

The prospect of sending his matter in time was as dark as the telegraph office. He must get into the office and get an operator. Without both all his work would be for nothing. He walked about in the village and, meeting a man who knew, was told that the operator lived some miles away. There was no way of getting him and no time to spend on doing so.

Tom returned to the station and walked back and forth in a frenzy. Presently he saw something leaped up against the side of the station. He went up to it and saw that it was a tramp asleep. Tom kicked him and awakened him.

"Get up," said Tom, "and go for the telegraph man and I'll give you a five dollar bill."

The man got upon his feet.

"Do you want an operator?" he asked.

"Yes, I do, as quick as I can get him."

"I was an operator myself before you got me down. If you can get in here I'll send you a message."

"You will? Good."

Tom looked about till he found a heavy stick, with which he smashed the glass of the window. Then they crawled in, lighted a lamp, and the tramp sent the message. When the last word had been dispatched Tom looked at his watch. It was half past 11 in the morning.

He went to a hotel and to bed. The next day at the station, before he departed, he left enough money to pay for damages and the message, then started for home. He reached the office in the afternoon.

"We got your story," said the city editor, "and we were the only paper in town that had any account of the disaster."

Tom told him about his aspirations, and when he had finished the editor said:

"What's the matter with you, anyway? Where did all this sudden display of energy come from?"

"I've got a girl."

"Oh, you have, eh? Well, I guess you'll need a raise. I'll speak to the owners about you."

Tom got his raise, and he got something better than a raise. He got a sensible, frugal wife, who was an excellent manager in every way. Between his newly excited energy and the wife he made a success. He now owns the newspaper.

IN THE WORLD OF SPORT

Howard Drew, Fleet Negro Sprinter.



Photo by American Press Association.

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. 26. Drew, who was formerly called from Springfield, Mass., is now a resident of California. He is studying to become a lawyer.

ADVENTURES OF OLD KING PETER

Brave Monarch Insisted on Sharing Army's Dangers.

THE vallant old king, Peter of Serbia, has found a warm welcome in Greece, where he has arrived after many adventures. Some of them are described by Signor Fraucoroli, 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 Topala. 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.

The king resisted at first, then he seemed resigned. "Very well," he answered the doctor. Two days later he left without telling the doctor. He arrived in Nish in a motor car and went to find Pasitch in his bare study of the palace and ask him permission to visit the front. Pasitch was amazed to see the king so ill and anxious, with eyes like burning coals, the face thin and drawn. And the question astonished him. Why should the king ask for a permit? "I am a soldier," explained King Peter. "There is a volovde in command of our armies; hence I must ask for permission." They telephoned to Krug-vezat. Putnik was still in Krug-vezat. The doctor was also summoned. The volovde begged the king to go, but he went nevertheless. Perhaps the old king was hoping for another miracle. Last December



Photo by American Press Association.

KING PETER AND SERBIAN OFFICERS.

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 Serbia." Then he lifted his rifle and fired. The words of the old king who had left his bed of pain to fight in the trench electrified the soldiers. They threw themselves forward without hesitation, and twelve days later not an Austrian was left on Serbian territory and Belgrade was retaken.

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 Kragevo.

At Kragevatz he saw the car which was carrying the Generalissimo Putnik, the old, never beaten volovde, whom all Serbian soldiers call affectionately "grandfather." Putnik was coming from Kragevatz, which the Germans were on the point of entering, and the old volovde, ill like the king, but untiring, had to abandon the place. The two cars met and came to a stop. At the time Krusevatz was stricken by the fear carried like a contagion by the columns of refugees from Nish and from the north. The road was obstructed by the people, the peasants' carts, the oxen. Some one recognized the cars, and two names passed along the crowd. "The king, the volovde!" And suddenly that crowd was silenced as if by magic. They made a road for the cars to pass, lifting the sides. The men lifted their caps; the women looked on with heavy, fascinated eyes. None said a word. Not a cry was uttered. The two motor cars moved so slowly, and it seemed as if a funeral procession were passing.

SIRES AND SONS.

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

Percival 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 Writers.

The name of Stanislaw Praybmowski, 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.

Current Comment.

Will pan-Americanism ever pass another year?—New York Sun.

Will our house and senate be known as the Sixty-fourth or the safety department 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 any 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.

America will not begrudge Europe an industrial boom immediately after the war if it enables the prompt payment of the enormous sums that will be due neutral countries.—Washington Star.

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 warmers 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.

Under present conditions Europe sees nothing paradoxical in the simultaneous promotion of a war loan and a mortuorium.

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 hot number to be useful.

NEW WARDEN OF SING SING.

George W. Kirchway, Noted College Professor, is on the Job.

George W. Kirchway, former dean of the Cornell University Law School, is now Warden Kirchway of Sing Sing prison, New York. He will serve at least until after the trial of Warren Thomas Mont Osborne, who is under



Photo by American Press Association.

indictment on various charges by the Westchester county grand jury. Mr. Kirchway is a friend of Mr. Osborne and it is likely that he will carry out many of the ideas of the latter regarding prison reform and the treatment of prisoners. These have attracted the attention of penologists throughout the country.

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 nearly nine million of the sixty-six epoch making inventions—England, seventeen; 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 moistened 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.

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.

Athletic Council Needed.

The Athletic Council, an organization comprising many prominent physical directors, advocated at its annual meeting at New York city recently a national council to control amateur sports in the United States. A special committee which has studied this question for a year reported that such a federation should be representative of each national organization interested in athletics. The report recommended that such a council should establish national standards of amateurism; promulgate rules and adopt an honor code for all branches of sport; serve as arbiter in disputes between members; pass upon reinstatements in cases of violation of the amateur code; conduct a bureau of records for all sports; decide and administer questions relating to the representation of the United States in international bodies connected with such contests as the Olympic games.

British Football Scandal.

A sensation has been caused in football circles in the north of England by a report issued by the commission of the English Football association on the result of the game between Liverpool and Manchester United, which was decided last April. The report shows that the game was prearranged between the players for the purpose of betting and winning money. The committee found that sums of money had changed hands on the result of the game and that the players profited considerably. The football association has permanently suspended four Liverpool players—Sheldon, Purcell, Miller and Kirton—and three Manchester United professionals—A. Turnbull, West and Whalley—from taking part in playing football or football management, and they are also barred from entering any football ground in England in the future.

British Oarsman Killed.

R. C. Le Blanc Smith, the famous Cambridge university oarsman, has been killed in action in the recent fighting in northern France. He represented the Cambus three times in the university boat race. At Eton he met with many successes and twice represented the college at Henley. He rowed in the Cambridge four in 1910, 1911 and 1912 and captured the Colquhoun sculls in 1912 and, with C. V. Duxson, won the Magdalen pairs in 1913. His death makes the sixteenth Oxford and Cambridge oarsman to fall in the war.

Winter Tennis Tournament.

Miami, Fla., will hold a winter tennis tournament this year, which it is expected will attract many of the best players of the country. T. R. Pell will be one of the contestants in the event, which will start Feb. 22 and continue to Feb. 26. Carl C. Fisher of Indianapolis has offered a challenge cup, which becomes the permanent property of the contestant winning it three times.

Bresnahan Gets Galvin.

Manager Bresnahan of the Cubs has succeeded in signing Malcolm Galvin, the Wisconsin university star, who quit the Badger eleven when his eligibility was questioned. Galvin is a pitcher, and Bresnahan thinks he will help the Cubs. The youngster will go south with the Braves next spring.

Canada's Champ Enlists.

Johnny Henry, heavyweight champion of Canada, has enlisted for active service with the Sixty-fifth Overseas Battalion. A. W. Madden, formerly a jockey well known on American tracks, also has enlisted.