

Peasemeal Battle of the Aberdeen Students



This is not a scene following an explosion. It is merely a scene photographed during the annual rectorial election battle in the quadrangle of the Marischal college, Aberdeen university. The peasemeal battle between the Unionists and the Laborites among the students results in just such a scrap as is seen in the picture.

World Flyers Are Back in the Ranks

Lose Their Bars Through Army Regulations.

Washington.—Although the plaudits which greeted the return of the triumphant army flyers from their spectacular flight around the world have hardly ceased, one of the six lieutenants who gained enduring laurels for the United States is a non-commissioned officer in the ranks and another is wearing the garb of a civilian mechanic at a flying field in Dayton, Ohio.

Furthermore, it is said that there was nothing that the army could do about it. It was pointed out that it was army regulations issued under the national defense act and only congress can go beyond that. The fate of the two members of the expedition who happened to be reserve officers instead of regular army officers is up to congress.

It's Up to Congress. Just what congress will do is still a question, but there is no doubt a bill will be introduced in the house of representatives this session to give proper recognition to the world flyers. The two men affected are Civilian Mechanic Henry Ogden, now assigned to McCook field, Dayton, Ohio, and Technical Sergeant John (Happy) Harding of Selfridge field, Mount Clemens, Mich.

When the flyers left the shores of the United States, Harding, who was a second lieutenant in the officers' reserve corps, was called to active service so he could receive sufficient money to bear his increased expenses. Ogden was allowed to fly as a sergeant. However, when the flyers arrived at Shanghai, China, Ogden also was appointed a second lieutenant in the officers' reserve corps and placed on active duty.

Army officers said army regulations, as set forth in the national defense act of 1920, forbid the promotion of any man to the grade of a commissioned officer except through regular channels. In other words, these two men, in order to become officers, would have to pass their examinations the same as any other man seeking a commission in the regular army. They are allowed, however, to hold their rank as reserve officers. Even President Coolidge cannot intervene to make either Sergeant Og-

den or Mechanic Harding commissioned officers in the regular army. Army officers explained that it was largely to provide against possible misuse of power that the system of promotion provided under the national defense act was devised. To relieve the congestion in the grade of captain it was suggested by General Pershing in his final report as chief of staff that the act be amended to permit the promotion out of regular order of captains who showed signal ability.

Weeks' Hands Tied. Secretary of War Weeks, it is said, would welcome both Ogden and Harding as officers of the regular army, but he is powerless to act.

One officer said all the secretary can do is to write each of the officers a letter of commendation, but Secretary Weeks has gone further. In his report this year to President Coolidge he recommended that the present system of promotion by seniority be modified. In this connection he said:

"It should be possible to provide for special promotion, one grade at a time, of some portion of the officers of the army as long as such promotions do not exceed 2 per cent of the promotions by seniority. Such a system would find room for all officers who have particularly distinguished themselves in the service of the United States. I therefore recommend the adoption by congress of an amendment to the national defense act whereby the President might be authorized to promote, not to exceed one grade, any officer below the grade of colonel who, by some conspicuous act of service, has demonstrated his special fitness for such promotion."

SAYS SUN AND STARS ARE OVER BILLION YEARS OLD

Princeton Astronomer Accepts Theory of Britisher.

Princeton, N. J.—Ten thousand billion years probably are no longer than the life of a star, Henry Norris Russell, head of the department of astronomy in Princeton university, said when he voiced his agreement with the theory recently advanced by Professor Eddington and Doctor Jeans, English astronomers.

"The sun has undoubtedly shone for more than a billion years," Professor Russell said. "Assuming as Professor Eddington does that matter in the interior of stars may be gradually converted into energy to supply these losses, the life of a star probably exceeds ten thousand billion years.

"Having accepted this, a serious difficulty regarding the origin of the solar system is removed. The best hypothesis so far is that which assumes that planets owe their existence to eruptions from the sun produced by the close approach of another star to the sun. This was first suggested by Professors Chamberlin and Moulton of the University of Chicago."

Professor Russell explained how it could be demonstrated that the ap-

Capt. Eagle and Priv. Hawk Real Birdmen

Washington.—Capt. G. I. Eagle, late of the office of the chief of air service of the War department and now of Bolling field, whose name has been used in many puns upon the air service, has at last found companionship. It appears that there is a Private Hawk in the air service, too.

British Woman, 106, Is Looking for Mate

Tiptree, England.—Mrs. Betsy Pennick, who was a debutante when Victoria became queen of England in 1837, is on the lookout for a husband. She is 106 years old and still going strong. Having just recovered from a period of illness, she says she wants someone to provide for her for the rest of her days.

Mrs. Pennick was married 80 years ago, but has been a widow for 40 years. She is thought to be the oldest of King George's subjects in England.

Six Years After War Mines Still a Menace

Copenhagen.—Recent reports disclose the presence of drifting mines in the Baltic as a menace to shipping and it is evident that official reports as to the clearance of mines in these waters are not to be wholly trusted.

It is believed that any storm might dislodge the units of some mine field laid during the war, and it is argued that dangerous mines, frozen up in the ice of winter, may well float about until next spring and then reappear in totally unexpected locations.

Dresden Cheers Unhappy With Symphony Concerts

Dresden.—To cheer the downtrodden, a series of free symphony concerts has been given to the unemployed of this city by the League for Musical Culture. The attendance was overwhelming, and the interest of the audience keen, especially when the management provided musical experts as speakers who, previous to each performance, sketched the life of the composer and explained in simple language the underlying musical ideas of the opus.

proach of one star close enough to another to cause eruptions would be an excessively rare occurrence. If the stars have been shining for only a few hundred million years, few indeed would have planetary systems around them, he said, adding that if, as Professor Eddington suggests, the stars have existed 100,000 times longer than this, it is probable that large numbers of stars are attended by planets.

"We have no hope at present of finding out which ones are the centers of such systems, for the planets are so small in comparison with the interstellar distances that no human means of observation could detect the ones like those in our system if they revolved about even the nearest star," Professor Russell said.

"Among a large number of planetary systems there would probably be many planets which were potentially habitable, having the proper temperature and suitable supplies of air and water. We can hardly say what chances there are that life would actually exist on such planets, because we know virtually nothing of how life originated on the earth. The forms which life might take on another planet are of course matters of pure speculation.

"It may be added that although the new point of view makes it probable enough that life has existed or will exist in many places in the sidereal universe we are not yet in a position to say how many of these would occur at the same time. It is fairly likely that the time during which any planet is actually the abode of life is but a small fraction of the life of the star about which it revolves."

Sorrow's Consecration

Great grief makes those sacred upon whom its hand is laid. Joy may elevate, ambition glorify, but sorrow alone can consecrate.—Horace Greeley.

King of Kumasi Is Now Private Citizen

Paramount Monarch of Ashanti Deposed.

Washington, D. C.—Prempeh, last king of the stalwart Ashantis, is returning to his forest-girt capital, but he goes as a private citizen. He will never again occupy the golden stool.

These facts, contained in news dispatches, are explained in the following bulletin from the Washington (D. C.) headquarters of the National Geographic society:

"The capital of the People Who Eat Corn in the City Under the Oakum Trees, which is the translated way of saying that the capital of Ashanti is Kumasi. There are many potentates in Ashanti but, until Prempeh was deposed, the king of Kumasi was the paramount monarch of all the ebon Ashanti tribes. He it was who, in theory at least, maintained the traditional harem of 3,333 wives, drank from the skulls of his would-be conquerors, and immolated relatives of distinguished dead in the Spirit house in the grove so that the departed might have an ample entourage in the next world.

Where Plants Struggle to Live.

"Ashanti lies north of the Gold coast of Africa, between the Ivory coast and Togoland. The country, now under British control, is approximately the size of West Virginia. About half its area comprises one of the thickest, densest, most impenetrable primeval forests in all the world. The iron tree and the bombax, the silk-cotton and the hardwood, bamboos and ferns, and an almost infinite variety of growths engage in a fierce fight for life. Every plant, from slender tendril to giant tree, rises erect, seeking a place in the sun, 'drawn out to an absurdly disproportionate height in its endeavor to force its own head above those of its neighbors.'

"The mahogany, the teak and the ebony, varieties which civilization prizes, here crowd each other for life. Flowers, birds and beasts are excluded from these thicknesses; the plant life sucks in every iota of sustenance from sun and soil. Parasites abound. Velvet moss clings to the decaying trees that have met defeat. There being no more room aloft the lianas, or monkey ropes, festoon themselves from tree to tree and form weird arbors for lesser horizontal growths.

"The white man, even with all the aids of modern medicine, cannot survive long in such a habitat; only the most stalwart of the black men can adapt themselves to it. In the Seventeenth century, or a little earlier, migrating Moslem tribes to the north drove bands of negroes into the country. The newcomers took possession of this forest realm, and, in defending it, developed themselves into a vigorous, clanlike people.

"Tradition has it that a famine drove large numbers of the settlers south, and that these refugees kept alive on herbs, or 'fan,' in the native tongue; while those left behind ate corn, or 'san.' The former, who inhabit the Gold coast to this day, are known as Fanti; while those who remained were called Ashanti. Both tribes speak the same language but the Ashanti, in their isolation, have developed a physical superiority to their southern neighbors.

"In 1807 the Ashantis came into first contact with the British by attempting to invade the realm of the Fantis. Not until a quarter of a century later were the northern driven back from the sea coast. Early in the seventies difficulties arose which caused British forces to undertake the exceedingly arduous task of marching upon Kumasi. The expedition was successful, and it was not until after the elevation of Prince Prempeh to the golden stool in 1888—the same Prempeh who now is returning to his former domain—that troubles arose again.

In Company of Noted Exiles. "Prempeh was enthroned after a

Eat Orange a Day, Keep Baldness Away

Milwaukee.—An orange a day will keep baldness away. Dr. LeRoy Crummer, professor of medicine at the University of Nebraska, is authority for the statement, made at a meeting here of the Tri-State Medical association.

"Science has found that the absence of certain acids in the stomach eventually produces baldness," he declared. "It is also proved that citrus fruits abound in healthful acids that tend to stimulate sluggish stomachs. Eat citrus fruits and you will never be bald."

civil war, and he had to consolidate his power; but, in 1893, he closed the roads of his dominion to traders from the south, so that the British government had to intervene in behalf of their Gold coast protectorate. This intervention resulted in the surrender of Prempeh, three years later, and his exile, first at Elmina, a Gold coast town, and later upon the Seychelles islands. There he spent 28 years and had, for varying periods, the company of such picturesque exiles as Saad Zaghoul, of Egypt; the warlike Kabrega, of Unyoro, and Sayyid Khalid, of Zanzibar.

"When Prempeh returns to Kumasi he will miss the king's palace, a handsome red sandstone building which has disappeared. Gone, too, is the Spirit house, scene of human sacrifices, which used to lie just behind the market place. Instead there is now a railroad station, terminus of the line from Sekondi, on the coast, 168 miles away. And he will find his old political capital transformed into a busy distributing center for the inland Gold coast colony, of which Ashanti now forms a part."

BOTH CHEF AND ARTIST



It is possible to be a famous chef and an accomplished artist, in one. Joseph N. Jacobson has painted magazine covers for publications in the United States, France, Sweden and Russia, and he really doesn't have to be a chef. But he can't stop because he likes it, he says. For twenty years he has cooked. He was head chef in the United States senate, served as a cook with Gen. Joseph Kuhn of the Seventy-ninth division in France, and has been chef in prominent New York hotels. Jacobson does much of his art work in odd moments while in the kitchen.

Saskatchewan Town Debt Threatens It With Ruin

Regina, Saskatchewan.—The little town of Battleford, whose residents are threatened with a possible levy of 5 per cent of their total assessments to the Saskatchewan government to save it from financial ruin. The town owes about \$700,000 to bondholders, of which approximately \$300,000 is overdue. A judgment has been secured against the community by some of the creditors and as a result residents are confronted with a possible levy of 640 mills, or about three-fourths of the total assessment.

Electrons Heard by New Radio Device

One Hundred Thousandfold Amplification Used.

Ann Arbor, Mich.—Experiments by which scientists have been able to listen to the movement of electrons, the smallest particles of matter, were described here by Dr. A. W. Hull of the research laboratory of the General Electric company, at the annual meeting of the American Physical society.

The vacuum tube amplifier in which the amplification is carried to a hundred thousandfold, and with which a millionfold can be reached, makes this possible, Doctor Hull stated. The sound produced by the electrons is caused by bombardment of the plate by electrons, released from the hot filament. It is these electrons which carry the current and which make the operation of the tube possible. The noise is therefore a fundamental property of electron emission, a characteristic of the electron, according to Doctor Hull. The experiments have been conducted jointly by Doctor Hull and Dr. H. H. Williams of the University of Michigan at the university.

Called Schrot Effect.

The noise, due to the electrical oscillation which is set up by the impacts of the individual electrons on the plate, is known as the Schrot effect. The energy of each blow is extremely minute, but, like rain drops, the energies of the many individual impacts add, and their sum becomes very

large. With sufficient amplification, Doctor Hull stated, the blows may produce a roar like that of Niagara.

The electron is the unit charge of electricity and the determination of its value is of the utmost importance. The oil drop method, devised by Professor Milliken in the physics laboratory of the University of Chicago, gave science its first accurate measurements of the charge of the electron. Accurate as the experiments are, however, it is desirable that they be checked by some independent method.

Milliken's method of measuring the charge of an electron is based on the influence of gravity and of electric charges on minute oil "droplets." These droplets are so small that the effect of gravity causes them to fall only a quarter of an inch in ten seconds.

In the formation of these small drops with an atomizer, occasionally one becomes charged through friction; for example it may carry an additional electron. If, then, the droplet is between two electrically charged plates, it will behave differently from the uncharged particles, Doctor Hull stated. Those which are not charged will fall. The charged particles will be attracted to the positive plate. By the use of the proper voltage between the plates, these charged particles can be made to fall more slowly, held stationary, or caused to move upward. If two electrons, instead of one, are held by the droplet, the effect is doubled. Measurements made by this method give the value of the electronic charge very exactly. In recognition of the importance of this work, the Nobel prize in science for last year was awarded to Professor Milliken.

Opens Up New Field.

Doctors Hull and Williams have measured the charge of the electron in a different way, by means of the Schrot effect, and have opened a field for research which promises to add to the knowledge regarding the electron and its properties.

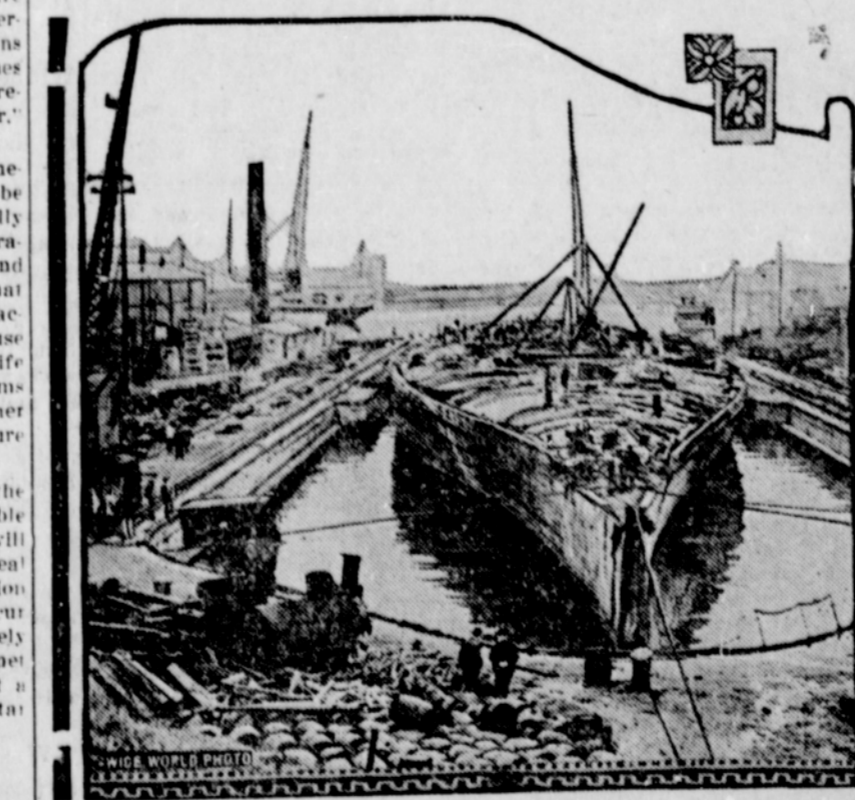
It was not such a long time ago that the electron was unknown, the speaker declared. First scientists had the molecule, itself so small that man's ability ever to see even one of the largest may seriously be doubted. Then came the atom, the minute integral part of the molecule. For a long time the atom was considered as the ultimate particle of matter. But each element presents a different atom. Science was not content to rest. It sought to connect all phenomena, and the electron was the result.

It was discovered that all matter is composed of electrons, the different substances resulting from the different properties possessed by the atoms according to the number and arrangement of the electrons they contain.

Woman Mail Carrier

Lansing, Mich.—For 21 years Mrs. M. Wood has driven a rural mail route here. Mrs. Wood has the second heaviest route out of Lansing, delivering mail to 450 families.

Breaking Up a Famous Warship



H. M. S. Lion in drydock at Jarrow, England, dismantled and being cut in half preparatory to complete demolition. One half was taken to Blyth and the other half to the breakers' yard, Newcastle. The Lion was formerly Admiral Beatty's flagship and participated in brilliant sea service.

REFUSED AS AIR MAIL



Hearing that the government wanted more patronage for the air mail, Chester N. Weaver of San Francisco put \$178.08 worth of stamps on himself and tried to mail himself to New York by plane. But the postal authorities ruled against him.