

# FITTING OUT REVOLUTIONS

**UNIQUE BUSINESS CONDUCTED  
ON  
BROADWAY WITH  
A STORAGE  
ISLAND UP THE  
HUDSON**

equipped with battle axes, pikes, swords and shields, greet you. Around them, in vivid contrast, are rows of shells, cartridges, gunpowder, gun barrels, gun ridges for rapid-fire machines. Then there are wagon loads of miscellaneous guns and pistols, from the bell-mouthed blunderbusses of Shakespeare's day to the long, highly ornamented guns of the Bedouins and Madagascar pirates, supplemented with the up-to-date government rifles used by every nation—Mauritius, Remingtons, Mausers and derringers, and other semi-automatics.

The armament of that lock weapons from little fellows not six inches long to the big horse and dueling pistols of Colonial and Mississippi days is most interesting. There are enough of these weapons from the old English match locks to the big 16-inch guns as long as a railroad car to fill the Museum of Natural History.

#### An Old, Old Story.

The story of a vast business of supplying countries and revolutions with arms and ammunition in a legitimate way is interesting. The story begins 40 years ago, at the close of the civil war, when the late Francis Bannerman Sr. of Brooklyn returned home from service in the United States navy, and with his son, attended the auction sales of naval stores at the Brooklyn navy yard. It occurred to them that there might be money to be made in selling surplus arms to foreign governments, in addition to foreign governments.

The venture proved a success, and for 20 years a thriving business was done over there, in Atlantic avenue. Next came an establishment in Broad street, near Front, and finally Broadway, near Broome street, was occupied with the business, where it now flourishes.

It is well known that the government sales of surplus were supplied from time to time. Thus it was that when fifty thousand of the old Springfield rifles were put up at auction the Bannermans bought them. One day a man came along and purchased them for a foreign government, he said. How to get them out of the country was easy enough, though the Bannermans do not deliver cannon and ammunitions outside of the United States.

#### Arsenal in Broadway.

How the agent managed to reach South American revolutionists with the guns is another story. The usual way is to make a bluff of shipping them to Germany or elsewhere and later transferring them to whatever part of South America they are most needed. Thus the business of selling war material in New York has thrived, and the present young Mr. Bannerman, a Princeton graduate, who is actively in charge of the business, says they are obeying the letter to the letter.

It is an amazing spectacle to enter a Broadway store and find yourself in a veritable arsenal of various kinds of every kind. In Brooklyn the Bannermans have two acres of storage buildings with cannon, guns, shot, shell and other war material, while the Broadway establishment is not only devoted to samples of war implements for sale, but contains a collection of ancient and modern arms covering every country and age since the Crusades. At the entrance figures in armor, helmeted and



ing of 200,000 guns, 30,000 revolvers, 10,000 saddles, 15,000 swords, 50,000 canteens, 100,000 belts, 50,000 cartridge boxes, 20,000,000 cartridges, 50,000 stirrups, 150,000 cartridges, 15,000 uniforms, sold when the franchises closed; also hundreds of tons of gun barrels, "parts" and equipments. Gatling guns of all kinds, cannon from the old Parrot guns to the late armor-penetrating guns of modern expensive make.

#### Has Dewey's Battle Flags.

"There is also a surprising lot of flags and ensigns," says young Bannerman. "All the flags used in decorating our store, are regular government flags worn out in service. British battle flags, British flags from South Africa, flags from the Boer War, flags from the battle of Seven Pines. All the signal flags from the Olympia were sold to us by the United States navy department after the famous battle of Manilla bay, and which were used by Admiral Dewey in giving orders to the fleet to engage the enemy. Hail off for breakfast! Renew battle! Remember the Maine, etc."

The collection has Admiral Dewey's bamboo chair and chairing, which was originally an admiral's chair and was obtained from the admiral's widow. It is a fact that the discarded arms which the American government has sold at auction were at the time good enough for American marksmen in the field. So it is not difficult to imagine that the agents who bought these arms in New York for shipment to foreign countries had no difficulty in supplying the revolutionists in South America and elsewhere with superior weapons of war.

The ordinary reader has little idea of the various kinds of material included under the name of "munitions of war," beginning with the harness for the artillery, field guns and all the accoutrements for fitting out the artillery. A few government auctions meant the sell-

Shells From Warships.

"Collection of pistols and revolvers from the ancient match lock, wheel lock, flint lock down to the latest product of American armories. Also shells from Spanish warships of Santiago and Manila bay.

"From the battleship Maine we have the captain, wire cable, 6 mm. magazine rifles, Springfield rifles, a six-inch rifle shell, the only shell recovered from the Maine that the government has offered for sale.

"Our chief prizes for the year have

been the purchase of the collection of army civil war projectiles collected by the late Colonel Silas Crispin of the ordnance department, United States army, who was for many years in charge of the sales of ordnance stores, and therefore had a splendid opportunity to gather together this fine collection, which came near being sold as old iron and metal. We have it up to 200 rare pieces, giving us, along with the United States navy collection and those we have collected individually, what we can truly say is the most complete collection of American projectiles."

As charges of violating the law in regard to supplying revolutionists with arms have been sometimes made and bitterly discussed I asked Mr. Bannerman what he had to say about it. He replied:

"We are law-abiding Americans proud of our country and its flag, and like merchants, we are in business honestly and have conducted our affairs by the rules of strict legitimacy. Here is what the editor of the Army and Navy Journal has to say under this heading, which covers the whole ground:

#### Replies the Insinuation.

"When it was charged that the United States government instigated and encouraged the revolution in Panama which led to the secession of that state from Colombia it was reported that thousands of rifles suspiciously like the Mausers captured from the Spanish forces in Cuba had been placed in the hands of the revolutionists, the implication being that they had been supplied with the consent of the authorities in Washington. Representative Hardwick of Georgia introduced a resolution in the house calling for information regarding this charge.

"In reply the secretary of war submitted a statement which shows that of the 21,154 rifles and carbines captured in Cuba and Porto Rico 20,220 were taken at auction, one gun dealer, Francis Stevens, of New York, taking 18,200. His last purchase was made after the revolution in Panama, and his latest previous purchase was made 10 months before the revolution. What he did with the weapons the government has no means of knowing, but the insinuation that it knew they were to be used in the revolt in Panama is both ludicrous and contemptible."

Since this feed began to be used,

In crude form, sold at 20 cents a gallon, cottonseed oil produces a revenue of \$14,280,000 a year. And this, too, from only one third the crop, as the remaining two thirds does not go to the oil mills, but is sold back on the farm for feed and fertilizer.

With the Southern Cotton association organized to prevent over-production, to promote judicious distribution and maintain prices, with the planter adopting improved methods and using his by-products for stock and dairy purposes, and one billion of the human race awaiting to be clothed, fully or in part, it is evident that King Cotton, undoubtedly, has come into his own, and that the scepter of supremacy will be firmly kept within his hands.

#### BIRD MIGRATIONS

The birds that are surest and swiftest of wing, as the swallows, do not hesitate to travel by day. Those less strong of wing and of conspicuous plumage dare not risk the daylight.

But the night migrations have their special dangers, too. The gas and electric lights of cities and towns, with the network of wires in their vicinity, to say nothing of church spires and lighthouses, are the causes of many bird disasters during migration time.

These same lights prove a friend to many of our night foraging birds during the insect season, when good meal is always easily secured in their vicinity.

Many screech owls have been seen around those lights in town in the present summer, says a writer in Good Health. Their whereabouts during the day was always easily traced by the excitement of the birds in that locality.

One morning we were awakened by a clamor among our birds, the special cause of trouble seeming to center in two large maple trees. This continued all day and the best we could nothing could be discovered to warrant such alarm. The mystery was solved when dusk came on and a number of screech owls began making investigations in our birdhouses.

We captured one of the owls and kept it long enough to observe some interesting things, chief of which was the double set of lids with which nature has provided these particular birds. The under lids look as if they might have been made from meat and are edged with a little skin-like hair. These serve to subdue the strong light of day, which is so trying to owl eyesight. The outer lids close only in sleep.

Alas! The True.

From the Philadelphia Record.

When a girl begins to call a fellow by his first name it generally indicates that she has designs on his last.

# Government Office Place of Rest

By H. F. Tate.  
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It is rather an odd coincidence that on either side of the English channel an iron-handed, masterful man is earning the admiration of taxpayers and incurring the enmity of officialdom by efforts to introduce efficiency into a great government department which, until the advent of the statesman, had been conducted in a fashion more suggestive of a rest house than an important branch of the public service.

The man on the English side is the "Oliver St. John" is John Burns, the mechanic and fiery socialist orator of other days who is now president of the local government board and the hardest working member of the British cabinet. The man on the French side is Georges Clemenceau, the "Woolly" of French politics and the maker and breaker of governments who as minister of the interior, is demonstrating his capacity rigid disciplinarian.

Between him and John Burns is a strong physical as well as a mental resemblance. Rather below than above middle height, with a squarely built, strong but elastic figure, a fine head and capacious forehead, with coal-black eyes of almost dazzling brilliancy, Georges Clemenceau with his close-cropped hair is veritably a French edition of John Burns.

Little was known of the no-easy methods and general heedlessness of discipline which were the order of the day in the ministry of the interior when Clemenceau took office and which still holds sway in other departments of the public service in Paris. Hardly a day passes that some fresh discovery of official shirkings is not brought to light by the tenacious minister, who has said he will not rest until he has ousted a goodly proportion of the drones and parasites who fatten on the public exchequer.

#### All on Sick Leave.

Quite recently M. Clemenceau found a surprisingly large number of junior clerks away on "sick leave," and he promptly demanded doctors' certificates. None was forthcoming. Then he asked to see the two physicians who are attached to the interior department. Both proved to be off shooting. Then M. Clemenceau, iron hand descended. The two doctors are medical attendants of the department no more and their pleasant billets have been abolished. In reality, however, the cases just mentioned are ones of efficiency and conscientiousness itself compared with other "grafts" which have been unmasked.

M. Clemenceau had been installed in office on the first day of October, and staff of the ministry of the interior in the Place Bourse were thrown into a state of consternation by the following circular, signed by their chief himself:

"The offices of the ministry of the interior are open from 9 a. m. to noon and from 3 p. m. to 5 p. m.

"All functions belonging to the central administration must be at their posts at the opening of the offices and remain until closing time."

The order which is still in force, no exception could be made to the rule unless by the special permission of the heads of departments, and that of offenders would lay themselves open to reprimand, degradation and, finally, dismissal.

The American reader will doubtless fail to perceive anything particularly startling or revolutionary in that order. To enlighten him on the subject I must make a digression.

#### A Place of Rest.

The civil service has at all times had a strong attraction for French fathers and mothers who like to have their young hopefuls "functionnaires." The work is not excessive, either (it must be added) for the commanding salary is but 1,800 francs (\$360) a year, and if promotion does not come, it remains at that figure. There is, however, a small pension at the end and it sounds well to say, "My son is at this on that ministry, and this is a tick to consideration when the young man is an aspirant to the law."

The consequence is that the public departments, the ministries especially, are crowded with officials, young and old, whose only "raison d'être" appears to be to draw their salary regularly and help to swell an already enormous budget. The staffs could probably be reduced by one-third or even one-half without seriously deranging the service, setting aside the worse from the point of view of work accomplished.

Now, it is not to be supposed that these civil servants and "attachées," these "chair-warmers," as they are irreverently termed, are inferior in mental and intellectual capacity to their brethren who have chosen other careers. They are the product of a system of education which consists in setting two men to do the work of one, both being underpaid in consequence.

Hundreds of them turn an honest penny in and out of office hours. This worthy paternosters has no sooner reached his little home in the suburbs than he develops into an accountant or a copier. That correct ministerial functionary (who would not profit if rises at 4 a. m. and is an invalid) or a half-witted attaché, who is fond of a bad girl, who consorts with her, does not mind around.

Not a functionary was absent Days off for burying grand-aunts and christenings have become regretted memories of the past.

#### Officials Were There.

M. Clemenceau's reforming zeal has extended even to the prisons. His first visit was not encouraging. The porter of St. Lazare prison in the Rue du Faubourg St. Denis opened the gate one morning to a little old gentleman. The office of a theatre and acts as "contrôleur" and so on.

"What do you want?"

"I wish to visit the establishment."

"Have you the prefect's permission?"

"No; I am the minister of the interior. Go and call the governor."

The porter, a tall, dignified-looking man, went to the office of the prefect, Monsieur le Directeur.

"Well, then call the chief warden."

Again came the stamping reply that the chief warden was out also.

The same was the case with the sister superior, and finally M. Clemenceau interviewed the clerk. For weeks the governor, chief warden and sister superior hardly ventured outside the prison gates for fear of another surprise.

It is impossible to wade into the limits of an article like this, but the chief warden, M. Clemenceau during the short period he has held the portfolio of the interior.

It began with couriers. The awful

mining catastrophe by which over 1,900 lives were sacrificed occurred, as will be remembered, in March, almost immediately after the formation of the Sarrien ministry. Between 60,000 and 70,000 miners under the influence of revolutionary agitators struck work, and for a time the situation was extremely grave.

M. Clemenceau repaired post-haste to Lorraine, the headquarters of the miners, and Brumothous, their colonies, the latter being open to revolutionaries.

The minister first of all interviewed the Basque miners, whose leader is the mayor and parliamentary representative of Lorraine, and then to the utter dismay of prefect, mayor, police and all official



M. CLEMENCEAU  
AT HIS DESK

dom, announced his intention of interviewing the Brumothous miners. A minister in the resulting court, never had such a thing occur in France before. What if his excellency were seized and held hostage?

#### In the Lion's Den.

Nothing daunted, the little man, in bowler and lounge suit and unstranded, walked into the Brumothous' den, headless of scowling, suspicious glances, and announced his intention of addressing the miners.

"Bonjour, citoyens. Bonjour, citizen ministers."

And then, when silence had been obtained, M. Clemenceau told the miners that he had come to inquire into their case, and exhorted them to be calm and avoid disorder, promising them that if

he could not do so, he would be held responsible.

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