

**TO PROFIT BY WAR.**

**United States Will Get Part of Russian Trade.**

St. Petersburg, Nov. 19. 2:05 a. m.—America is likely to profit, both directly and indirectly, from the execution of the large naval programme which Russia is now elaborating. The vital importance of sea power has been Russia's bitterest lesson of the war, and the government is fully determined that the maintenance of the empire's position in future as a first-class power will be impossible without an adequate navy. If the losses the Pacific fleet has already sustained should be followed by disaster to Vice-Admiral Rojestvensky's squadron it will be necessary not only to rebuild the whole navy, but to increase its strength.

The immensity of the task seems to be fully appreciated. While some of the contracts will be placed abroad, owing to the limited facilities of Russian yards—and it is expected that at least one big ship will be constructed in America—the Admiralty's plans will be directed toward ultimate divorce from dependence upon foreign shipbuilders by the organization at home of vast shipbuilding, armor plate, ordnance and kindred industries.

For this purpose, it is realized however, that foreign builders and specialists must be attracted, and some alluring prospects are likely to present themselves. Nickers Sons and Maxim and Armstrong, Whitworth & Co., Limited, of England, have already made advances, but owing to the anti-English sentiment, British firms are not meeting with a very cordial reception. The disposition is to turn toward France, Germany and the United States, and a great plant at Libau or on the banks of the Neva, directed by American brains, and possibly in association with French and German enterprise, is one of the possibilities of the near future.

Among the Americans here negotiating with the Russian government is J. Wilson, who is trying to sell an invention of smokeless powder perfected by a Scotchman named Archbold, who once was a resident of the United States. The particular merit of the powder, it is alleged, which is adapted to heavy artillery, is a quick drying quality, ordinary smokeless powder taking several months to dry.

Theodore S. Darling, who has options on the dynamite guns at San Francisco, which were recently sold by the United States, is trying to negotiate their sale to Russia with a view to their shipment to Vladivostok.

**Henry Meldrum Found Guilty.**

After little more than 30 minutes' deliberation, the jury which heard the evidence against Henry Meldrum, ex-United States Survivor, who was charged with forgery in the United States Court, returned a verdict of guilty as charged on a 1 of the 21 counts.

The Meldrum trial began Thursday and the speed with which the trial was conducted and the verdict reached marked the first of the convictions in the land-fraud cases now pending before Judge Bellingre.

The testimony given by the Government witnesses was most damaging, while, on the other hand, those who testified in Meldrum's behalf were few, and beyond testifying to the former good character of the prisoner, they helped little to clear away the charges of forgery.

**Fine Horses From Europe.**

Eugene, Or., Nov. 17.—A. C. Ruby has just returned from Europe, where he has been for several months, and has brought with him over 30 of the finest horses he could find for breeding purpose. He left the horses in Pendleton for the winter.

According to Attorney General Crawford, the state will get \$10,000 inheritance tax from the estate of the late Mrs. Amanda W. Reed, of Portland.

**ODD SECRET SOCIETY.**

**Indiana Women Have a Secret and Won't Tell It.**

**Men of the Town Have Been Trying for Twenty-Two Years to Learn the Meaning of S. T. J. M., But in Vain.**

A peculiar society, which for 20 years has been a standing contradiction of the old belief that a woman cannot keep a secret, exists at Westfield, Hamilton county, and bids fair to prosper for another 20 years, despite the shafts of ridicule which from time to time have been hurled against it, reports the New York Sun.

Twenty-two years ago a number of the men of the village formed a literary society. Just for fun they decreed that no woman should ever become a member. A clubhouse was built, meetings were regularly held and the leading periodicals were read and discussed. The organization limited its membership to the intelligent class and soon began to exercise a decided influence.

After the first year some of the women in the community applied for membership, but none was ever admitted. It was always explained that it took a unanimous vote to elect a new member, and that there "was just one dissenting voice" when the name of the woman applicant was presented.

Two years later a company of ladies met and formed the S. T. J. M., and they decreed that the meaning of these letters should never become public. Each member was solemnly pledged not to reveal the secret, and for 20 years the S. T. J. M. has been in existence, and there is not a man in Westfield who has any idea what the four letters mean.

From time to time the membership has changed as the women married and moved away and other members have been added, but no one yet found, be she mother, wife, daughter or sweetheart, has revealed the meaning of the mystic symbols.

When Mrs. Sarah Jackson applied for a divorce, charging neglect, and the husband contested the suit, alleging among other things that she had concealed from him the meaning of the letters S. T. J. M., and had spent too much time at the meetings of the society, it was thought that the mystery would certainly be solved at the trial. But Mrs. Jackson refused to state what the letters stood for and the court ruled that the name of the society was not material to the testimony.

Mrs. Jackson got a divorce and all-mony, and her ex-husband declared that the letters stood for the "Society of Tatting, Jabbering Matrons." But this definition was not accepted by any but the soreheads of the community.

Several years ago a young man named Crawford went to Westfield and was employed in one of the stores. He invested his earnings in a horse and buggy and was the envy of many of the other young men because they could not afford such a luxury and the newcomer could command the company of any young lady or a Sunday afternoon drive. But when Myrtle Taylor turned away from him and married John Wingate, a farmer near the village, the other boys taunted him by asking him how he liked the Society of Thankless, Jilting, Maidens.

For years this was the accepted name of the society among the younger class. Every initial in the name has been tortured into something derogatory to the society, according to individual taste. "J" has been made to stand for jealous, jaunty, jilting, jabbering, jaundiced; "T" for treacherous, tattling, teasing, troublesome, tiresome, and "M" for mothers, matrons, maidens, misanthropes, makeshifts, martyrs, match-makers and the like.

But the name is still a secret, and no amount of coaxing or threatening has sufficed to induce a member to reveal it.

**UNIQUE BALLOONING**

**Views of the Antarctic Regions from Overhead.**

**Important Results of Expedition to Southern Polar Seas Unique in the Annals of Aeronautics.**

Balloon ascents for military reconnaissance are common enough. Some day they will be extensively employed for geographical exploration, perhaps. There is talk of using captive airships for enabling tourists to view Alpine scenery easily. But for polar research they have thus far been practically neglected. Poor Andree hoped that in a free balloon he might drift steadily northward from Spitzbergen several hundred miles, but he paid for that error with his life. The trial which was made in the Antarctic seas from the British ship Discovery is practically unique in the annals of aeronautics. Never before was a successful ascent made under similar conditions, says the New York Tribune.

Leaving Lyttelton, New Zealand, just before the close of 1901, the British expedition passed steadily southward, heading for Cape Adair. The ice barrier which skirts the Antarctic continent extends almost continuously along the sixty-fifth or sixty-sixth parallel of south latitude. By far the

most remarkable break in the coast line occurs to the southeastward of Australia. There is an enormous recess, 500 or 600 miles deep, and fully as wide, called McMurdo bay. Along its western shore lies Victoria Land. Its eastern boundary is poorly defined, and is represented only vaguely by ice. The southern side is almost straight and extends eastward and westward fairly close to the seventy-eighth parallel of latitude.

Touching first at Cape Adair, of the northwestern corner of the bay, Capt. Scott skirted Victoria Land and reached the southwestern corner, near the volcanoes Erebus and Terror, turning eastward on January 22, 1902, he worked his way slowly along the ice barrier, which for more than 500 miles has a height of from 50 to 280 feet. Apparently the ice had receded somewhat from the limits noted by Sir James Ross, who explored the region in 1845. During the next few days Capt. Scott saw land off to the eastward of him which has never before been chartered, and also observed that the ice barrier itself practically disappeared, and was replaced by sloping ice, which doubtless covered land. The barrier proper is a frozen pack, is generally level in spite of its roughness, and is thought to overlie sea.

It was just after turning back after these observations toward Mount Erebus that the balloon ascent was made. The ship was still under control, the season corresponding to mid-summer. An inlet through the ice, which reached further southward than any other to which the Discovery could penetrate, was now utilized to study the land. Hydrogen, compressed in cylinders and brought from home, was used to inflate the gas bag. Owing to the low temperature of this region, a much greater quantity was required than would have been needed in temperate climates. The cable which held this floating observatory captive was 750 feet long. No satisfactory landing place was discovered, but an admirable view of the region was had. This occurred February 4, 1902. Then the Discovery pushed on westward, found a satisfactory anchorage in McMurdo strait, close to Mount Erebus, and on March 24 (just after the autumnal equinox) she was frozen in. Subsequently Capt. Scott organized sledge parties which explored the vicinity.

The most important results of the expedition up to the time the relief ship, Moring, left it last winter, were as follows: First—Discovery of new land east of McMurdo bay. Second—Discovery that Mounts Erebus and Terror are on a small island and not the mainland. Third—Finding good winter quarters for a ship in south latitude 77:50, east longitude 166:42, with land close by for a magnetic observatory. Fourth—A record of 92 degrees below zero Fahrenheit.

Fifth—A sledge journey to 82:17 south latitude, and observations of land as far off as 83:30, including peaks and mountain ranges 14,000 feet high. Sixth—Evidence that the vast ice covered plateau which reaches westward from McMurdo bay is in some places 9,000 feet high. Seventh—A large amount of magnetic and biological and deep sea sounding.

**SOME POTATOES.**

**Millions Upon Millions of Acres Are Raised in Europe—The Product of Different Countries.**

It will astonish most people to hear that 28,856,637 acres are annually under potato culture in Europe, and that the total yield therefrom is estimated at 2,329,211,560 hundredweight. The Gardeners' Magazine states that in the matter of area Russia occupies the highest position, with 9,645,869 acres; Germany ranks next, with 8,964,225 acres, and France occupies the third place, with 3,818,378 acres. The potato areas in the other countries of Europe are as follows: Austria, 2,802,677 acres; Hungary, 1,477,164 acres; United Kingdom, 1,203,184 acres; Italy, 516,000 acres; Holland, 386,043 acres; Sweden, 331,973 acres; Belgium, 348,398 acres; Denmark, 133,387 acres; Norway, 90,661 acres; Roumania, 26,642 acres; Serbia, 15,549 acres, and Bulgaria, 4,481 acres.

In the matter of yield, Germany is first, with 855,277,805 hundredweight; Russia second, with 549,045,932 hundredweight, and France third, with 236,469,441 hundredweight. The yields of other countries are: Austria, 234,100,082 hundredweight; United Kingdom, 118,398,389 hundredweight; Hungary, 95,412,205 hundredweight; Holland, 77,929,500 hundredweight; Sweden, 54,821,800 hundredweight; Belgium, 47,083,147 hundredweight; Norway, 21,906,132 hundredweight; Denmark, 21,177,681 hundredweight; Italy, 13,818,293 hundredweight; Roumania, 2,495,314 hundredweight; Serbia, 835,083 hundredweight, and Bulgaria, 416,755 hundredweight. These figures illustrate the great difference in the yield per acre in the different countries. The United Kingdom, which is sixth in area, is fifth in yield, heading Hungary by nearly 23,000,000 hundredweight, although having an area of about 273,000 acres less.

If you take this paper and the Weekly Oregonian you won't have to beg your news.

At Parkridge, N. J., a burglar blew the postoffice safe and got just \$2. It is estimated that his expense, including dynamite and diamond drills and other tools, all left behind in his hurried flight, was nearly \$400.

Another discovery of coal has been made in Camas valley near Roseburg.

The proposition to issue \$20,000 in bonds to build an armory at Tacoma failed to carry.

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