

The Herald

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As it Was in the Beginning

It is a commonplace to say that the war has been full of surprises. Among these, none has been more striking than the reversion to early and long-abandoned forms and practices of warfare.

We all remember the prediction, based upon the operations of the Boer War, that because of the range and accuracy of the rifle fire, frontal attacks in massed formation would no longer be made; that the advance would be made in widely extended order and that the decisive tactics would consist almost entirely of flanking or turning movements. It was predicted furthermore that the tactical necessity of fighting at long range would lead to the abandonment of the bayonet and that rarely, if ever, would the combatants commingle in hand to hand fighting.

All of which apparently well-founded predictions have been falsified by the event. For nigh upon twelve months some four millions of men have been facing each other upon a battle-line several hundred miles in length and in such close contact that a rush of less than one hundred yards has been sufficient to precipitate the bloodiest hand to hand struggle with bayonet and hand-grenade.

And the mention of the hand-grenade brings us down to our text; for this is but one of several medieval and ancient forms of fighting which the exigencies of the present war have revived and established firmly as part of the tactics of modern warfare.

The fundamental cause of all this is to be found in the extraordinary development of trench or what might be called field-siege warfare. The hand-grenade formed in early days an important weapon of attack in the assault on permanent fortifications and so efficient was this weapon that special bodies of men were trained in its use and carried the name of grenadiers.

Where the weight of the bombs or the distance to be covered demands it, recourse has been had to the catapult, a device which is as old as the recorded history of warfare itself.

In the poison gases, so-called, of the Germans we recognize at least in principle the "stinkpot" of the Chinese and the "Greek fire" of the ancients.

Only recently in our columns we illustrated a steel helmet that has been introduced among the French troops which is strongly reminiscent of the medieval casque; and a further revival of medieval warfare is to be found in the use of steel breastplates and of movable shields pushed forward in advance of the attacking troops.

That the use of armor in siege warfare, such as that which has been carried on in France, is likely to be extended, is suggested in a dispatch from London to the Associated Press, which says that the value of a light protective armor is attested in several recent articles in the British medical journals. According to the New York Times Doctor Devraigne, a French army surgeon, who discusses in the Lancet the result of his tests of the new French helmet, gives it his unqualified endorsement. He says that the soldier who wears a helmet escapes light wounds of the head, and even wounds that would in ordinary circumstances have been severe, have been greatly mitigated. The helmet frequently turns off the bullet, and in other cases dents or stops it, and even when the helmet is perforated, it checks the velocity of the bullet so that hair and dirt are not driven into the tissues of the head.

Lastly, the return to primitive methods of fighting is seen in a late report from the Italian campaign that thousands of the enemy have been killed and wounded by stones and rocks hurled upon them by the Italian mountain troops—Scientific American.

Why Is A Legislature?

Why is a legislature? The American people as a whole have not got to that question as yet, but the New York Times thinks it hears the whispering of something of the sort. It appears that the question has been actually asked in Arizona, and the New York paper experiences at least the suggestion of alarm over the possible pervasiveness of the idea that comes out of the West.

Let us acknowledge the gyves of convention, and admit without discussion that to ask that question now would be damnable heresy. Yet we may with interest, if not with profit, turn to the consideration of certain facts regarding legislatures which the New York paper is moved to cite by reason of this irreverent Arizona query.

It is the gist of those citations that some states have much more legislature than others. Georgia, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Rhode Island each have as much again as any other state in the Union except Alabama; and each four times as much as that state. In other words this Atlantic Coast group has annual sessions of the legislature; the other states biennial sessions, while Alabama manages to get along with a spasm of law making every four years.

If legislatures are as good in one state as in another; if, for example, the legislatures of Massachusetts average as good as those of Alabama—and in the spirit of puritan pride and culture God forbid it should be otherwise—ought not the land of the Pilgrim fathers have four times as good government as the "Land in Which We Rest?"

Does it appear that Georgia is better governed than Minnesota, Kansas or Idaho? If one were to put his finger on the state that in its laws and government is truly representative of the most

advanced democracy in this country, would he stop when he ran down the list to New York, or again at Pennsylvania?

We have not yet got to the question: Why a legislature? Perhaps we are not even on the road to it; but we might consider the use and value of the legislature from this quantitative viewpoint, and from that there is no telling where the conclusions would lead. There is no accounting for the irreverent inquisitiveness of the American mind.—Telegram.

Pendleton intends to score a big hit this year with its round-up and has contracted to ship all the horses and cattle used at the round-up to San Francisco where a five day's exhibit will be put on October 17 to 23. Exposition visitors will have the privilege of witnessing a real wild, Western show.

The last year has lowered the price of automobiles very much. In some instances as much as twenty-five per cent. Many of the factories are using all their facilities in supplying European nations with auto trucks and munitions of war. When the war's demands cease there will be another readjustment with the prospect of prices going much lower.

A crab apple is all right, and likewise a grape, but if either made pretention to anything else there would be trouble. There is a difference in being and pretending.

Which is the more agreeable, the vacation or the joy of coming back?

Last Monday was Labor Day and so far as our knowledge goes every body observed it by keeping at their usual occupation.

Search for Tin in America

In view of the interest in an adequate tin supply for the United States and the discussion of the smelting of Bolivian ore on the Atlantic seaboard, and possibly on Puget Sound, the publication by the United States Geological Survey of a special bulletin on tin mining in Alaska is opportune. It is noteworthy, too, that specimens of stream tin were collected by Survey geologists in Alaska in 1900, before this metal was known to occur in the Territory. Soon after that time prospecting for stream tin became active, and two years later a commercial production of tin ore was made.

The Survey was also closely identified with the finding of lode deposits of tin. In 1903 two prospectors brought to Survey geologists in Alaska some specimens of float from Lost River which they thought might be tin ore. All the specimens but one were worthless. From this one the geologists obtained tin by smelting it in a teacup in their cookstove, after which both the geologists and the prospectors went to Lost River and discovered a vein of lode tin. This lode on Lost River has since been extensively mined. Some of the Alaska tin ore has been reduced at Seattle, Wash., within the last two years.

The report just issued presents a review of other work by the Geological Survey and the re-examination of the more important tin deposits by Geologist

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The total tin production for the period 1902-1914 amounted to 526 tons of metallic tin, valued at \$380,000. The Alaskan tin ores have heretofore been shipped for reduction to Swansea (Wales) and Singapore. A copy of the report (Bulletin 622-B) may be obtained on application to the Director, United States Geological Survey, Washington, D. C.

Dr. M. J. Butler

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