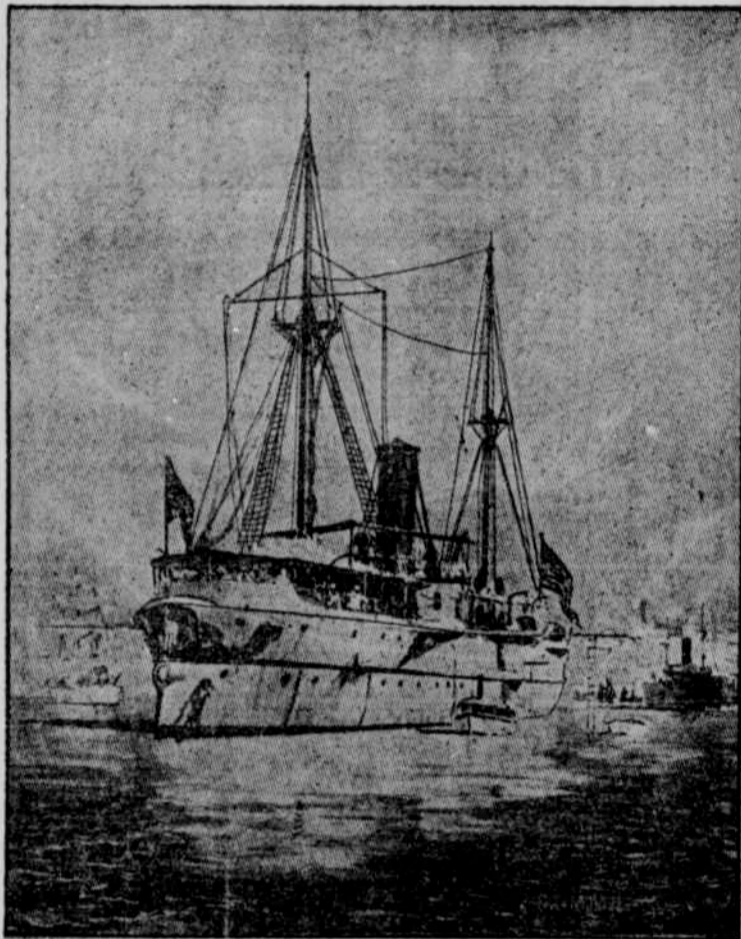


THE BENNINGTON DISASTER.



THE U. S. GUNBOAT BENNINGTON.

The explosion on the United States gunboat Bennington at San Diego, in which one officer and more than fifty men were killed, has been attributed to a defect in the boiler. The discussion of the disaster shows a tendency toward putting the blame on a bad system rather than upon mere accidental carelessness of individuals, says the San Francisco Argonaut. It is pointed out that the act of 1899 amalgamated engineer officers with line officers in response to a general demand, inspired by social considerations. Engineers didn't like to be called engineers, and so a law was passed transforming them to ensigns, lieutenants, etc. But those line officers soon showed tendencies toward shouldering the more practical duties of their positions upon their subordinates, the warrant machinists, they themselves merely bossing the job. But good warrant machinists are scarce; trained engineers are scarce. In six years the number of trained engineers has diminished from 181 to about 120. Fifty-seven of these are on shore duty. Thus, it is said, the engine rooms of our vessels are under-manned. Eight years ago the Bennington carried two trained engineer officers, one of whom had had twenty-three years' experience. The officer in charge of the Bennington's engines on the date of the explosion was a youth not yet 26, graduated from Annapolis in 1902. It is said, further, that there were no warrant machinists on the Bennington—only machinists' mates, who get \$40 to \$70 a month. The Army and Navy Journal admits that the law of 1899 has "impaired engineer efficiency throughout the navy."

Popular Science.

It is reported in German newspapers that the Chinese government has recently granted its first patent. It is for an electric lamp invented by a native of Nanking, who claims that he has far outdone his foreign rivals, and who calls his lamp, with that touch of poetry which is more common to the Chinese mind than people who know only the "John Chinaman" of America imagine, "bright moonlight."

The recent classification at the British Patent Office shows that cooking is the popular subject of invention, having been the subject of 3,575 British patents in forty-eight years, or an average of seventy-three a year. Umbrellas brought out 1,457 inventions and hats 1,411. Invention tends to run in grooves, 1896 and 1897 reflecting the enormous development in cycles, while motor vehicle inventions have doubled since 1900.

Much interest has been awakened among naturalists by the discovery of a species of white or polar bear living inland in the northwestern part of British Columbia. A mounted specimen has been in possession of the Carnegie Museum for nine years, but only lately was its true character recognized. It had been regarded as an albino black bear, but William T.

Hornaday has shown that it is really a species of the white polar bear. The specimen is 4½ feet long and 27 inches in height. No living bear of this species is in captivity, but efforts are now making to capture one or more for the New York Zoological Park.

Tea drinking is an acquired habit, and M. Jules Rudolph expresses the belief that it would not be difficult to transfer our liking for Chinese tea to any one of various infusions having the same effect in aiding digestion and stimulating the nervous system. Some of these infusions of leaves and flowers have been known to us as medicines. Camomile, veronica, sage, ambrosia, horsemint and wintergreen are among the locally well known of many common plants yielding agreeable teas, and Paraguay tea and false tea are already much used in South America. M. Rudolph looks upon Roman camomile as an especially promising tea substitute. He has found the unknown tea of the tarragon to be very pleasant, and it is useful in stomach weakness.

Optimistic View.

Rev. De Kloth—My misguided friend, don't you know that hell is yawning for you?

Colonel McTyde—Glad to hear it. Gettin' tired o' waiting for me, eh?—Cleveland Leader.

When it comes to getting money the lawyer takes fewer chances than the burglar.

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An effort made for the happiness of others lifts us above ourselves.—L. M. Child.

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F. J. CHENEY & CO., Props., Toledo, O.
We, the undersigned, have known F. J. Cheney for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out any obligations made by their firm.
WEST & TRUAX, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O.
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Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Price 75c. per bottle. Sold by all Druggists. Testimonials free.
Hall's Family Pills are the best.

Ignorance, when it is voluntary, is criminal, and he may properly be charged with evil who refuses to learn how he might prevent it.—Johnson.

If noiseless powder ever comes into general use you'll not hear it.

Mothers will find Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup the best remedy to use for their children during the teething period.

Nothing is more friendly to a man than a friend in need.—Plautus.

Professor C. W. Kitt, lately vice president of the Gregg school, of Chicago, and for a number of years of the Soule college of New Orleans, the leading business college of the South, has just joined the Multnomah Institute, of Portland, Oregon, as associate proprietor. Professor Kitt is one of the best known commercial teachers of the United States.

A French professor is the owner of a collection of 920 human heads, representing every known race of people on the globe.



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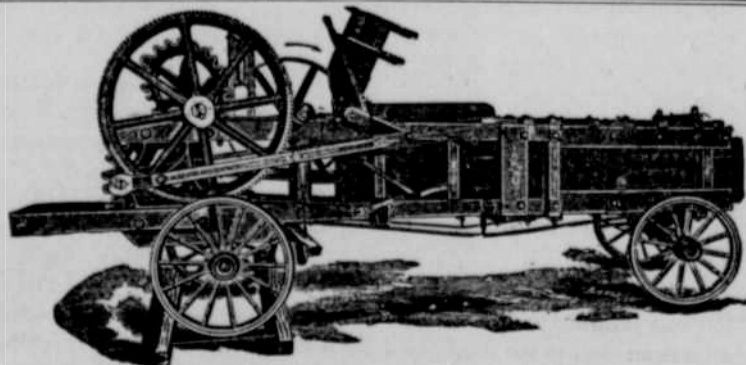


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