

GREAT DRYDOCKS.

Where the Largest Warships Can Be Repaired in Safety.

HUGE BASINS OF CONCRETE.

Into These the Vessels Are Floated and Shored Up as the Gates Are Closed and the Water Pumped Out—Floating Docks and How They Are Used.

There is no such thing as a perfect anti-fouling composition, and probably there never will be.

By "anti-fouling" we mean a solution which, applied to the bottom of a ship, will keep her clean for an indefinite period.

True, vessels can now keep the sea for months on end without getting foul enough to seriously diminish their speed, but in the long run their bottoms become weed grown, and they are obliged to go into drydock and be scraped and cleaned and repainted.

In old days, when warships were no larger than the steam launches which now hang on a Dreadnought's davits, the seamen did this work themselves. They ran the galley on to some convenient beach, hauled her out, tipped her on one side on the sand, scraped her and caulked her seams.

Even in the eighteenth century Captain Cook "careened" his vessel in a tidal creek on the Australian coast and did necessary repairs. The enormous warships of today require very different handling, and it is for their use that dockyards are fitted with "dry" or "graving" docks of vast dimensions.

A drydock is a huge basin excavated in the ground. It is lined first with masonry of immense thickness, and this in turn is coated with thousands of tons of concrete.

The first great requisite of a drydock is to be dry, and as it is always cut in low, swampy ground, with the bottom far below low tide mark, this is the greatest difficulty before its builders.

The bottom is quite flat. The sides run up in steps—enormous steps, each about a yard high, not the sort of staircase to run down in a hurry.

These steps are known as "altars," and they have two separate purposes: first for supporting the workmen's scaffolds, the second and more important for the fixing of the "shores." Shores are the great balks of timber which hold a vessel upright in drydock.

A drydock does not usually open straight out of the sea or harbor. More often there is a wet dock between. The reasons are that a vessel can then be docked at any state of the tide and also that there is less pressure on the great watertight gates of the drydock.

The actual process of docking in drydock is simple enough. The drydock is filled with water, the ship is floated in, the gates close behind her, then the water is pumped out by means of powerful steam pumps.

Along the bottom of the dock runs a straight line of keel blocks on which the keel of the vessel rests. As the water is pumped away an array of workmen fix the shores in position.

This is a task which requires great care. Not so very long ago a 3,500-ton cruiser which was being drydocked at one of the southern dockyards in England was so carelessly shored up that she slipped and toppled over.

The damage was appalling. The hull of the ship was badly injured. It cost many thousands of pounds to repair her.

There are also floating graving docks. There is one at Portsmouth with an area of two and one-quarter acres and a lifting capacity of 32,000 tons. It is 700 feet long and 141 feet wide. Its cost was 220,000.

The beauty of a floating dock is that if a vessel is badly damaged the dock can go to the place where the ship is to be docked. Also even if the ship is heeling over, so that she could not be passed through the gates of a stone dock, the floating dock can take her.

The floating dock is simply a large cradle built in a series of watertight compartments which can be raised or sunk at will. It was invented by George Renkle in 1895. By means of a floating dock a large warship can be raised high and dry within three hours.

Aboard, life goes on as usual, while the sailors' floating home stands shored up in dry dock. Her docks are just about level with the top of the sides, but between them and firm ground yawns a chasm at least forty feet deep.

During wartime the work of cleaning and repainting the under part of the hull goes on night and day, and a job that usually takes a fortnight may be completed within four or even three days.—Pearson's Weekly.

Saving Grace.
"Pa, what is meant by the saving grace of humor?"

"It means quite often, my son, that when a rascal gets caught in some sort of dilemma he can escape punishment by making a joke out of it."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

A good deed is never lost. He who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love.—St. Basil.

Blamed the Planets.
In the middle of the fourteenth century in Paris a new ordinance enjoining the cleansing of the streets and the shutting up of swine was carefully neglected, as usual, and a terrible plague for the consequence. The faculty of medicine, called upon for a remedy by the king, sent to inform him after long discussion that the plague was the result of a hostile conjunction of the planets Mars and Jupiter.

Carrier Pigeons.
Pigeons were employed in early Egyptian days, navigators taking them on their galleys and liberating them when they arrived at their destination in order to announce their safe arrival to their friends. The Romans utilized them in communicating with each other in wartime.

Revenge.
"Will you marry me, Miss Gussie?"
"No, Mr. Jinks."
"Oh, thank you! I was so afraid you'd say yes, for you see, the fellows were betting no fellow had the nerve to ask you, and I took it up in spite of the risk."—Baltimore American.

Domestic Discord.
"My husband used to call me his lovely lute."
"And now?"
"Now he picks on me."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Where Truth designs to come her sister Liberty, will not be far.—Akenide.

HOW SHOT ARE MADE.

And Why the Pure Lead Has to Be Tempered With Tin.

The manufacture of shot, described by O. C. Horn in Forest and Stream, requires a high tower, a perforated pan, a tank of water and "tempered" lead.

Shot are made by dropping molten lead from a high point to the earth. The lead forms into globules just as the raindrops do when they fall from the clouds. Ordinarily we do not realize that raindrops are little spheres, but under the proper conditions they freeze, and we have hailstones, which may be called shot made of ice.

In the making of shot pure lead is melted and mixed with a "temper" that consists mainly of tin, and then poured into a perforated pan or sieve. The perforations vary according to the size of the shot to be made.

A temper is mixed with the lead in order to make the globules form when the lead falls. If pure lead were used it would fall in the form of little bars instead of round shot.

In order that the globules may have plenty of time to form the lead must fall a long distance, and so towers are built. The towers used to be made as high as 200 feet and even more, but modern towers are rarely over 150 feet.

The perforated pan into which the molten lead is poured is at the top of the tower, and the globules of lead fall through the perforations into tanks of water at the bottom of the tower. The water cools them and also prevents them from flattening out, as they would if they fell on a solid floor.

From the water the shot goes to steam driers. After drying the perfect shot are separated from the imperfect by means of glass tables inclined enough so that the shot when poured on to one end of the table, will roll to the other end. At the farther end of the table are two gutters side by side. The imperfect shot roll slowly and with difficulty, so that they have not enough momentum to carry them beyond the first gutter. The perfectly round shot roll easily and swiftly, and when they reach the foot of the table they jump into the gutter and fall into the other end.

After separation the perfect shot are polished by rolling in plumbago, and workmen then put them in bags for shipment or send them direct to the cartridge filling department to be loaded into shells.

HATS MADE AT NIGHT.
Sunshine Makes the Straw For Panama Too Grille to Work.

Genuine Panama hats are made in Ecuador to a larger extent than in any other country, and the process of manufacture is still not generally known.

The chief centers of the hat industry in the order of their importance are Montefrío and Jipijapa, in the province of Manabí; Santa Rosa and to a limited extent in Guayaquil and Cuenca. Thousands of natives of both sexes are employed at weaving these hats. The work is carried on from a little after midnight to 7 o'clock in the morning, while the atmosphere is humid, for the straw becomes brittle during the day and cannot then be handled.

After much preliminary preparation the straw is very finely divided into little rings by the aid of the little graver or thumb. A bunch of straw is bound in the middle and placed on the center of a wooden mold and the strands arranged radially and equal in distance from each other in pairs.

The plaiting begins at the apex of the crown and continues round and round until the hat is finished, care being taken that no strands are added while the crown is being made. Other strands, however, are added while the brim and border are being formed.

On the degree of nicety with which the strands are lengthened depends the beauty and durability of the hat. Should a strand be broken it can be replaced and so plaited as not to be noticed.

The finishing touches are put on by trimming the brim, edging the border and neatly fastening all projecting ends of the strands so as to be invisible. The hat is washed in clean, cold water, coated with a thin solution of gum and polished with dry sulphur.—Argonaut.

ELECTION DATE PUZZLE.
Why the "First Tuesday After the First Monday" is Necessary?

Nearly all the American world knows that the national election and nearly all of the state elections occur on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, but probably not one in all the millions of voters and nonvoters can tell "why" that date was selected for the choice of electors. The "when" is a matter of discovery, but the "why" is a story. It is always the first Tuesday after the first Monday, but anybody who looks at the calendars of several years in November will see that the date varies almost every year.

Years ago the writer inquired of many of the most learned congressmen in Washington as to the "why" of the mystery. Not one could answer except to say, "Bless me, I don't know." Harry Smith, who for long years was journal clerk of the house of representatives, was almost a magician in dragging to light those little mysteries associated with the history of the country. He sought high and low as to the "why" actually for months and then gave it up.

It is really one of the curiosities of our national legislation. H. H. B. Meyer, chief bibliographer of the Congressional Library, says:

"As to why the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November instead of the first Tuesday in November was fixed for the date of presidential elections, we have to report that no satisfactory answer can be given."—E. W. Lightner in Pittsburgh Dispatch.

Extremes.
The man making money in a small town up the state met a friend not making money in New York—there are a few here in that class—and they were talking of their respective places of residence.

"I tell you what it is," said the rural visitor in a woeful tone, "it's terrible to have a lot of money and live where you can't spend it."

"Oh, I don't know," responded the impetuous city man. "I guess it isn't any more terrible than not to have a lot of money and live where you can spend it."—New York Sun.

Obliging.
Visitor (at seance)—I want to talk with Mr. Brown. Attendant—What Mr. Brown? Visitor—I cannot remember his first name, but he is only lately deceased. Attendant (formerly a department store worker)—Please show the gentleman some of the latest shades of Brown.—Harger's Weekly.

A DUKE'S REVENGE

It Gave to Germany Her Most Distinguished Regiment.

THE DEATH'S HEAD HUSSARS.

Organized Originally by Frederick William of Brunswick, Napoleon's Deadly Foe, the Famous Body of Cavalry Fought Its Way to Renown.

The curt refusal of Napoleon I. to allow Frederick William, duke of Brunswick, to bury the body of his slain father in his native land inspired the organization of the death's head Hussars, the most famous regiment in the present German army.

Deeply moved by the ungracious act of the despotic Napoleon, Frederick William, after his first paroxysm of indignation and rage had subsided, vowed eternal vengeance against the French conqueror, and until the day of his death, which was June 10, 1812, on the field of Quatre Bras, he was Napoleon's most implacable foe in all the German states.

Brunswick being barred to him by the victories of the relentless French invader, Duke Frederick William repaired to Bohemia after his father's death. He was without funds, but through the efforts of his sister, the princess of Wales, English funds found their way to him, and he was enabled to set on foot the plans he had formed to revenge himself upon his enemy.

All Germany was then under Napoleon's foot. His armies had swept away all opposition. Prussia, Brunswick, Bavaria, Saxony, all the states were more or less in the hands of the conqueror of Waterloo. English funds found their way to him, and he was enabled to set on foot the plans he had formed to revenge himself upon his enemy.

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AN ARCTIC SOLOMON.

Didn't Take Him Long to Reach a Suitable Conclusion.

The "floating court" is an institution founded by the United States government for administering judgment in the far north. An interesting example of the unusual problems that confront the court is given by the first judge of the court, told by Mr. Walter Noble Burns in the Wide World Magazine.

One day, at Point Hope, there appeared before the court held on the Thetis, Captain Henderson's ship, an old Eskimo and his wife. They were accompanied by their pretty daughter and two stalwart young men, who were suitors for her hand. In choicest Eskimo that sounded like a series of explosions of vocal dynamite, the venerable father poured a voluble tale into the ears of the interpreter.

"This man, he say," began the interpreter, "these two fellow want this gal for wife. One feller he offer a rifle, ten pound walrus, six walrus tusk, a dog team and seal. The other feller, he give kayak, two reindeer, a bear-skin and six fox skin. This gal the old man's only daughter. He old, and he want good trade. But he not know which he best take. He say maybe you tell him."

Captain Henderson is no Cupid—he stands six feet two and weighs 250 pounds—but he determined to essay the role of Cupid's first assistant.

"You love this girl?" he asked one suitor.

"Yes," replied the interpreter, "he love her."

"And you love her?" the captain asked the other.

"Yes, he love her too."

The captain looked at the girl, who was a pretty little thing, something over four feet high, with coal black hair plastered down over her temples, and blue-black rosy eyes. Let no one doubt the vital beauty of Eskimo maid in the flush of youth and health.

"Here," said the captain to the girl, "which one of these men do you want?"

The interpreter put the question. The maiden's eyes grew brighter, her cheeks a deeper crimson and a coy smile wreathed her lips. She stepped over to one of the young men unhesitatingly and touched him on the arm.

"This one," she said, and there was no need for the interpreter to translate.

"All right," said the captain, with a roar of laughter, "take him!"

And he married them on the spot. Straight from the ship back to the village the newly wedded couple paddled, to set up housekeeping and to live happily, no doubt, ever afterward. The bride's father touched off a few more explosions of vocal dynamite into the interpreter's ear.

"He say," declared the interpreter to Captain Henderson, "he satisfied."

Where Moslem Pilgrims Land.
Jeddah is a most important town for the entire human race, apart from being the principal landing place for pilgrims and another force of alibi.

A regiment had grown into an army the only one Napoleon's troops could not corner and whip. The duchy of Brunswick was invaded and the French garrison stormed Leipzig was surprised and captured.

Until the battle of Wagram the duke and his hussars rode to glory at their head. With their gallant duke at their head they began a guerrilla warfare that was a continual worry to the French army. Von Stein, Scharnhorst and others gave them secret encouragement.

Through Saxony, Hesse and Hanover the troops gathered up and put to the sword French detachments. Guerrillas flocked to them. At Bernau the duke gave battle to the French General Ju not and whipped him. All Germany thrilled at the romantic accounts of the daring of the terrible "Black Hussars."

A hussar army was shipped at Zil and into a brigades in Hildesheim. A regiment had grown into an army the only one Napoleon's troops could not corner and whip. The duchy of Brunswick was invaded and the French garrison stormed Leipzig was surprised and captured.

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A hussar army was shipped at Zil and into a brigades in Hildesheim. A regiment had grown into an army the only one Napoleon's troops could not corner and whip. The duchy of Brunswick was invaded and the French garrison