

**Naval and Seaboard Weakness of the United States.**

The outbreak of war with Chili would have disclosed the weakness of the country. Before an army could have been transported from California to Valparaiso, a fleet of transports would have been required, and owing to the decline of the American commercial marine, these would not have been available. No maritime nation can be considered in a proper state of preparation for war, offensive or defensive, unless it has a fleet of fast merchant steamers which can be converted into an auxiliary navy. If hostilities had arisen Chili would have employed the fine vessels of its national line as cruisers and transports, and the United States would have had no merchant vessels on the Pacific seaboard equal to them for war purposes. If there should be a similar emergency on the Atlantic side, there would be no merchant fleet under the American flag available in a war with any European maritime power.

If an army, moreover, had been sent to Chili and the American naval resources had been concentrated in that quarter for active operations and blockade duty, the California coast would have been defenseless. San Francisco exposed to attack from the most formidable Chilean war ships, and the Atlantic ports without adequate means of resisting long-range fire from such battle ships as the Pratz. Coast defence would become an issue of paramount importance in any foreign war. It has seemed impracticable during the last decade to arouse public interest in this question or to secure wise and comprehensive action from Congress upon it.

A great nation, with unprotected cities on three seaboard, invites war by its lack of preparation for it. The United States not only ought to place its chief ports in a proper condition of defence, but it ought also to have a fleet of cruisers and battle ships large enough to meet any requirements of foreign warfare, a military system well ordered for sudden emergencies, and an auxiliary navy of requisite speed and tonnage in its merchant marine. With these preparations for national defence, the risks of war would be hardly worthy of serious consideration. Every one of these measures can be advocated in the interests of peace. The barbarism of war, which Americans justly hold in unspeakable abhorrence, cannot be averted by conditions of helplessness and insecurity produced by systematic neglect of comprehensive measures for national defence. —N. Y. Tribune.

**The Wild Man of Monroe County.**

Mason Evans, the much paragraphed "wild man" of Monroe County, is dead. The fatal grip took him off. Evans had been a great curiosity in this section for more than forty years, during which time he had roamed in the woods, apart from the comforts of civilization, subsisting on roots and herbs dug from the earth, with an occasional fowl surreptitiously taken from some convenient barnyard. He was captured several times, but always managed to escape. Seven or eight years ago he was captured by some fearless fellow with an enterprising turn of mind, for the purpose of entering him in a dime museum as the "Wild Man of Borneo." When taken his body was as hairy as that of a bear and covered with filth and vermin. His eye gleamed like the eye of a maniac and he had almost lost the power of speech. For twenty years he lived in a cave of the Chilhowee Mountains, and was never known to have spoken a word during that time. He lived in a state of nudity and was fond of raw meat. Those who know his history say that he was born in Monroe County, near Hiwassee College, in 1827 or thereabout. He was of a good family and received a splendid education. At about twenty years of age he was engaged in teaching school, and in the meantime fell in love with a handsome young lady of his neighborhood. She received his attentions with apparent favor. One night he called and asked her to become his wife. She said "No." He went out into the darkness and it was many years before he was seen again, and then he fled from his fellow-men like a frightened deer.

Ann French of Belfast, Me., a widow aged 90 and worth \$100,000, has created a sensation by marrying Herbert C. Plavey of Amherst, Me., aged 36, an itinerant pedler.

Five brothers named Shoemaker live near Berlin, Ont., whose combined ages foot up to 437 years. The eldest is 92 and still hale and hearty.

Trappers in the States of Washington and Oregon report that the fur-bearing animals are very numerous this winter, the beaver especially. Last week a trapper named Blaine caught a beaver that weighed nearly 100 pounds.

At the conclusion of a mock marriage ceremony in Paterson, N. J., last week, the girl declared that she did not regard the matter as a joke, and stated her determination to compel the man to carry out the latter provisions of the marriage.

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Lot No. 6 north of Bond street and west of Colborne street, in the village of Fenelon Falls, with buildings, engine and boiler—formerly used as a carding mill.

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**—THE— ROYAL CANADIAN INSURANCE COMPANY,**

**vs. THE LONDON MUTUAL, FOR FARMERS.**

The Royal Canadian offers the following advantages over the London Mutual:

1. If a building worth \$1200 is insured for say \$1000, the Royal Canadian is obliged to pay \$1000, if a loss occurs. In such a case the London Mutual is obliged to pay only two thirds of the cash value, or \$800.

2. If a horse worth \$90 is killed in the fields by lightning, the Royal Canadian is obliged to pay \$90. The London Mutual pays only \$60.

3. For a cow worth \$30 killed by lightning the Royal Canadian pays \$30. The London Mutual pays only \$20. For other animals the Royal Canadian pays the full value. The London Mutual pays not more than \$5, no matter how valuable the animal may be.

4. In the Royal Canadian animals are insured against lightning while at pasture anywhere. In the London Mutual they are insured while pasturing on the premises of the insured only.

5. When articles are insured specifically such as musical instruments, the Royal Canadian is obliged to pay the full amount insured up to the cash value of the article. The London Mutual pays only two thirds of the cash value, no matter what the insurance may be.

6. When "ordinary contents" of out buildings are insured by the Royal Canadian ALL implements are included. In the London Mutual only one reaper and one mower are included, no matter how good others may be.

7. When the outbuildings are not joined to each other the Royal Canadian insures under one sum the "ordinary contents" of all building not cut off by a distance greater than 40 ft., the same as if the contents were all under one roof. The London Mutual requires a separate sum on the contents of each building, if the distance is more than 12 ft. This is a very important difference in many cases.

8. In the Royal Canadian it is a part of the contract that standard STEAM THRESHERS may be used without a special permit and without any restriction as to the distance from stacks or buildings, caretakers, piles of water, kind of fuel or direction of the wind. Many of the policy holders in the London Mutual were obliged to run their own risk while threshing last season, because it was found to be impossible to comply with the conditions of their permit. When a farmer pays for insurance he should secure a policy which will hold him safe when it is most required.

9. The Royal Canadian is obliged to pay its losses within sixty days and usually takes much less. The London Mutual need not pay for ninety days, and since it has become so hard up as to be obliged to borrow money largely, it usually takes about the full time allowed.

10. The Royal Canadian policy is subject to the statutory conditions only. It has none of the numerous variations against the policy-holder printed in red ink on the back of the London Mutual policy.

11. As to security, the inspector of insurance reports that the Royal Canadian has \$202,758, the amount he estimates to be necessary to enable the company to carry out all its engagements with its policy holders. Besides this he reports that it has to the good the \$100,000 capital paid in cash by the shareholders, and a net surplus of \$117,607 making in all a total cash surplus of \$517,607 to protect its policy-holders against unexpected contingencies. In addition to these cash items it has a subscribed capital of \$100,000 not called up. Regarding the security of the London Mutual the inspector reports that the amount of unearned premium it should have on hand is \$290,309. To make up this amount in cash a second call would have to be made on the premium notes for a large amount, leaving a surplus of only \$74,218, even if there were no bad debts, and this surplus is made up wholly of the unpaid balance of premium notes already heavily assessed. The company reports the losses adjusted but unpaid at the close of the year at \$6,387, but the Inspector of Insurance finds that the liability for unpaid losses at the end of the year was \$20,286. The cash on hand to pay these losses only amounted to \$13,911.

In view of the foregoing facts farmers will have no difficulty in deciding as to the company in which they should be insured. For insurance apply to

S. CORNEIL, Agent, Lindsay.

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**FOR SALE.**

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