

MAY LEAD TO A BIG WAR.

ENGLAND IS BURDENED WITH THE LION'S SHARE.

While the Powers All Snarl Like Dogs Over Their Bones—Nearly Every Country Has Its Sore Spot, Which Could Be Very Easily Inflamed Into War.

Plunged, as Britain has been, into a war which can have but one issue. It may be interesting to bestow a passing glance at other existing causes that may lead to war in which she may become involved.

On the Continent the general impression seems to be that John Bull is always spoiling for a fight, and that he can't be happy unless he has a few "expeditions," not altogether in the interest of science, afoot somewhere or other.

But although there have been, in England's relations with Germany, Russia and France within most recent years, causes enough to have let into war, nothing untoward happened. A flying squadron collected and dispersed again. Russia was checked in China. France on the Nile was persuaded to "quit it;" the fashoda fever ran its course without any undue rise of temperature of either country; and a few other minor disputes were more or less amicably "arranged."

The Venezuelan boundary dispute, which so seriously threatened to impair the friendly relations between the Lion and the Eagle, has been settled, as no doubt the Alaskan frontier question will also be.

England's attitude during the war with Spain, which did much to prevent a European continental combination, has made war between Uncle Sam and John Bull improbable for some time at least.

The conquest by railroad of Manchuria by Russia, and the seizure of Port Arthur seemed at the time likely to issue in war; but a more effective barrier against Russia was erected by a simple declaration that the Yangtze Valley—the largest, richest, most populous and accessible part of the Chinese Empire—was within the exclusive sphere of British influence, and it was an international surprise that Russia acquiesced.

The effective support since given to British railway and mining concessions, and the vetoing of the proposed Russian railway to Peking, render it very unlikely that any further attempt to partition China will lead to war with any European Power.

In the Indo-Chinese peninsula, Siam is now the only "buffer" state between England and France. France has hustled Siam out of large and rich tracts to the east of the Mekong, and still remains in possession of the important Siamese port of Chantabun. But any further advances by France or an attempt to establish herself permanently in the Menam Valley would certainly be regarded by England as an "unfriendly act."

POSSIBLE CONFLICTS.

The possible transfer in the near future of Italy's costly and unprofitable colony of Eritrea, on the Red Sea Coast, to England, or its annexation to the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan Province, may possibly result in conflict with Menelik, the Abyssinian, or some of his turbulent satraps, but this will be "pie" for England.

News has also come to hand recently of the dispatch of a Congo State force into the Bahr-el-Ghazal—Emin Pasha's old province—that rich and fertile territory which Marchand's march to Fashoda was designed to bring under the aegis of France, and thus complete the French belt right across Equatorial Africa from the Gabon to the Gulf of Aden. France, it should be remembered, has an option on the Congo State whenever King Leopold tires of his hobby, and Belgium refuses to support the "black elephant."

British possession of Gibraltar is an ever-felt "sore point" of Spain. English sovereigns, centuries after Britain had lost every inch of territory in France, continued to pose as titular "Kings of France," and Spain, although she lost "the Rock" 199 years ago, to this day includes Gibraltar in her official returns with the naive note: "Temporarily occupied by the English."

In a general European war, Spain would naturally do her utmost to oust Queen Victoria from her command of the Atlantic entrance of the Mediterranean. She has a few "presidios," Ceuta, Tetuan, etc., on the opposite coast, but any attempt by France or other first-class Power, except America, to share the control of the Straits of Gibraltar would instantly result in an ultimatum from England, and that is why barbaric Morocco has not passed under the European yoke like Algeria and Tunis.

ITALY AND FRANCE.

Ever since Rome became, in 1870, the capital of Italy, France has regarded her Mediterranean neighbor with a jealous eye, but the Triple Alliance forbids any violent manifestation of the dislike that undoubtedly exists between the two chief Latin peoples.

Italy's sorest point against France is, undoubtedly, the "rushing" of Tunis in 1881, ostensibly to punish the Kroumir marauders, but in reality to secure a new base for the French navy in the now impregnable port of Bizerta.

By a series of such "progressions" France has scored heavily in Northern Africa and any day we may hear of a descent on the still nominal Turkish province of Tripoli. The extension of the Algerian railways eastward would bring France within striking distance of Egypt. To any move in this direction England would probably respond by annexing the Nile Valley, sealing the Suez Canal, and possibly creating at Port Said a second Valletta point of support on her highway to the East.

Austria-Hungary is a hot-bed of causes that may issue in, at any rate, civil war. Count Baden's famous language ordinance, allowing the use of Czech in Bohemia and Moravia, led to most violent scenes in the Austrian Parliament, and provoked bitter conflicts between the Germans and the Czechs. In fact, the German Austria now looks to Berlin for political salvation, and not to Vienna. In Hungary, also, the Kossuthite party is working unceasingly to sever the connection, slight as it is, with Austria. So many discordant elements in the dual monarchy is bound to result in war.

SCANDINAVIAN TROUBLES.

The other dual monarchy in the Northwest of Europe is in a somewhat similar predicament. The Norwegian demand for greater independence is so bitterly resisted by Sweden that war will break out the moment either country considers itself thoroughly prepared for it. Norway, if successful, would declare itself a republic but both countries doubtless feel that Russia is too near and too powerful a neighbor not to come into the quarrel and probably "attach" another Finland or two to the west of the Baltic.

Japanese irritation and anger were smoothed down by Russia's slim withdrawal from Korean affairs; but when the Czar has consolidated his power in Manchuria and made Port Arthur impregnable, his influence in Korea will be re-established, and the rising power of Japan will be destroyed, or the "England of the East" will become a subservient dependent if—England does not intervene.

The "United States of Central America"—a most euphonious name given in 1828 to a union formed in 1823, and then called the "Greater Republic of Central America"—has fallen to pieces, and the five mutually spiteful little republics are again free to indulge their craving for a little wild excitement. Interstate wars and "revolutions" will occur again and again, until the United States, having lightened their grip on the Nicaraguan Canal, insures a state of peace on this physically and politically restless region.

The Spanish republics in South America in the formation of which England played so great a part—not politically but financially—have always been in a chronic state of unrest, and are in reality as far off an assured peace as ever. Argentina and Chile have, however, referred their boundary dispute to the arbitration of Great Britain. Peru has never recovered from the Chilean "visitation" of 1881; while Bolivia, thrust back from the sea, has apparently cooled its fiery aspirations among the Andean snowfields.

But these countries and Brazil are not really republics. They are simply oligarchies under military dictators, each one of whom is the cause of a "revolution." These "Transvaals of South America" do not, however, attract the Anglo-American in sufficient numbers to become a factor in wars in which England or the United States is likely to be involved.

SEARCH-LIGHTS AT FIRES.

An electric search-light, mounted upon a wagon resembling, in general appearance, an ordinary fire-engine, is to be added to the equipment of the New York City fire department. An engine and dynamo, carried by the wagon, supply two lights, each having an 18-inch lens. The light can be either concentrated on a particular point, or spread over a wide area, and if necessary, the lamps can be carried to a distance from the wagon, the electric connection being maintained with insulated cables. The object of the search-light engine is both to illuminate dark streets and corners where the firemen have to place their hose and to throw light into windows and upon roofs where people are to be rescued from the flames and smoke.

EARLY MARRIAGES.

Royal personages almost invariably marry young. The Queen of England was not quite 21 when she married Prince Albert; the Prince of Wales was not 22 when he wedded Princess Alexandra; the late Czar of Russia was only 22 when he married Princess Dagmar, sister of the Princess of Italy was 21 when he married the seventeen-year-old Margherita, and the Emperor of Austria was 23 when he wedded the lovely Princess Elizabeth, who was only 16. The King of the Belgians was first married at the age of 18; the late King of Spain was married first at the age of 19, and had a second wife when he was 22; and the German Emperor was only 21 when he married Princess Augusta Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein-Augustenburg.

SPREADING HAPPINESS.

I have but one rule that I follow absolutely in this life, and that is to make other people as happy as possible. Well, she replied, you ought to be gratified, then, at what I heard a young lady say the other day. What was that? She said that whenever she saw you dancing she had to laugh.

JOTTINGS ABOUT THE WAR

ITEMS THAT WILL BE READ WITH INTEREST AT THIS TIME.

The Boys on the Battlefield and Those on Their Way to the Cape—What is Going on in South Africa and Elsewhere.

Fifteen officers and 120 non-commissioned officers and men of the Trinidad Volunteer Light Horse and Infantry have volunteered for active service in South Africa. The whole colony is most eager to prove its loyalty and take a part in the struggle.

A grocer at Poole, who informed a customer that all the British soldiers ought to be hung, very quickly had his shop mobbed by 1,000 people. In spite of the police protection afforded him, a blue-jacket managed to get in, and, jumping over the counter, gave him a black eye.

After Elandslaagte two troops of the Imperial Light Horse were ordered to occupy a small house beyond the ridge. As they approached they were fired at, but their captain would not allow them to return the fire, fearing that women and children might be in the house.

A large quantity of ammunition has mysteriously disappeared from the Jersey Ordnance Department. Some persons incline to connect this loss with the sailing of a reputed American ship, which put in to refit, and then sailed to France to load "potatoes" for South Africa.

According to the Novoe Vremya, the English Government has bought 1,000 horses for cavalry remounts in Southern Russia. They will be shipped from Odessa this week. British agents are now in the Government of Odessa buying up another 2,000 horses, and are offering £50 apiece for good ones.

On the guardship at Simonstown is one old Boer of 65. An Elandslaagte he shot five of the Highlanders dead one after the other. At last one of them reached him as he was re-loading and put his bayonet against his breast. "Kill me," said the old Boer. "I am satisfied with having killed five of you rascals." But the Highlander spared him.

For their splendid dash at Talana Hill, the Dublin Fusiliers have been christened "The Fighting Devils."

Numbers of Belfast firms have intimated to the leading Paris houses that their patronage of them will be curtailed as far as possible.

After Elandslaagte one of the captured held up his gun and said: "Look through this. I have not fired a shot, I am a Britisher. They forced me to come."

One of the most important posts on Lord Methuen's staff is that of signaling officer; and it is filled by one of the gallant young fellows in the service, a son of Lord Loch.

A French woman at St. Peter's Port, Guernsey, put up in her shop an offensive French cartoon of the Queen. Threatening crowd assembled, and she was quickly made to remove it.

The object of the Boer deputation to Delagoa Bay was not peace, but the organization of a weekly service for the Transvaal between Delagoa Bay and Europe by German steamers.

It was not only from Australia and Canada that offers of contingents came. The Malay States offered 3,000 Gude, Lagos 300 Hausas, and Hong Kong fifty men and four Maxim's, but all these were regretfully declined.

According to a correspondent of the Westminster Gazette, when a man is hit in the arm by a Mauser bullet the first thing he feels is a numb sensation creeping down his arm. There is no pain, no feeling of shock, but he begins to feel stupid, and there is a strange singing in his ears.

Natal contributes in all £28,000 per annum to her Majesty's navy and Imperial troops, and it is made up as follows:—Contributions to her Majesty's navy, 12,000 tons colonial coal, £2,000. There is also an allowance of £1,000 to her Majesty's troops. A sum of £12,000 per annum is also set aside for import duties to the Imperial troops and rebate of customs duties on goods supplied to the troops in the colony.

The 1st Dutch Red Cross Ambulance for the succour of the Boer sick and wounded arrived at Naples in charge of Prof. Kontevog, who has with him five surgeons, all Dutchmen, one Swedish and three German doctors, 32 hospital attendants, and seven nursing sisters.

A member of the 31st Company Royal Engineers, writing to his mother and sister at Kelsall Hill, near Chester, from the transport Gascon, at Madeira, says: "There are about 2,000 on board this boat. Anyone unacquainted with Tommy would find him a strange study under present circumstances. With his sublime indifference to and total ignorance of maritime matters he is comfortable so long as he has his pipe to console him."

Col. Templeton, C. M. G., F. I. A., managing director of the National Mutual of Australasia, and formerly commander of the Infantry Brigade in Victoria, has volunteered for active service in South Africa.

The Central British Red Cross Committee have named the hospital train for service at the front the "Princess Christian," after her Royal Highness, who is president of the Mayor of Windsor's local committee.

About a thousand pounds' worth of provisions have been destroyed by water on board the Juno, one of the ships forming the special service squadron, through the accidental opening of a valve.

AUTOMOBILES IN AFRICA.

The Horseless Wagon is Being Introduced in the Interior as a Freight Carrier.

The Congo Free State is inquiring into the advisability of introducing horseless wagons to carry freight in thickly settled regions where white settlements have been built and the water-courses are not navigable. The French have already taken the initiative in sending automobiles to Africa for transport purposes and though the value of their experiment remains to be proven the Congo State will probably follow their example.

The French now have a line of stations along the upper and middle Niger. Freight for these stations is carried on small steamers up the Senegal to the head of navigation at Kayes. It is then transhipped to the railroad, which is completed as far as Badoube, about forty miles, and from that point porters carry it to the Niger, and are about two weeks on the journey. The growing importance of these inland stations makes this slow freight service really embarrassing, and as the railroad will not be completed to the Niger for several years the distinguished French explorer, Felix Dubois, conceived the idea of utilizing automobiles.

Fifty-five wagons, each of nine or ten horse power with a maximum speed have been built in Paris for this service in inland Africa. The utmost attention has been given to details of construction and they have been as fully adapted to the peculiar conditions of the service as is possible at present. They are now being sent to Senegal and will take their place on the routes between the upper and middle Niger and the terminus of the railroad. It is expected to send every week from each end of the line from four to ten of the wagons, each able to carry about 4,500 pounds of freight. One of the wagons will have accommodation for a dozen passengers.

It is intended to keep the routes in good condition for travel, but during the rainy season the service will be suspended, because the roads will then be almost impassable. It will take only four days to cover the distance between the railroads and the river. As the railroad advances the automobile routes will be shortened, and after the completion of the railroad the wagons will be transferred to the other side of the Niger, which will be connected by automobile routes with such important places as Sikasso, Koungou, and other towns in the rich western Sudan, where the primitive portage service is still the only means of transport. It is said the new transport service will be much cheaper than human portage, and that a great deal of cotton, skins, gums, honey and other articles that cannot now be transported will be taken to European markets when this cheaper service is fairly established.

THE EXACT MEANING.

You say, said a judge to a witness, that the plaintiff resorted to an ingenious use of circumstantial evidence. State just exactly what you mean by that.

Well, said the witness, my exact meaning is that he lied.

NOT OUT ANYTHING.

Silius—He is rather liberal with his religious views, isn't he?
Cynicus—Of course; any man can be. They are about the only things that never cost anything.

A MAN OF BREEDING.

She—You are the most exasperating man on earth. Here I sold you for half an hour, and you won't answer. Why don't you talk?
He—I never use strong language in the presence of a lady.

THE VEGETARIAN'S HEART.

The heart of a vegetarian beats on an average 58 to the minute; that of the meat eater, 75. This represents a difference of 20,000 beats in twenty-four hours.

QUEER ACTIONS.

First Horse—Just look at that automobile!
Second Horse—I should say so! The clumsy beast is getting ready to roll.

THE OLD TROUBLE.

Alexander gave his wife a piano. Ah, so she would stay at home more?
Either that or so he would have an excuse to get away oftener.

CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE.

You don't mean, said Dolly, that her color is not genuine?
Oh, I wouldn't breathe a word against her," replied Madge. But you know her father is a painter and decorator.

HIS ACTIONS EXPLAINED.

What's that song you are singing, daughter?
"Tis Home Where'er the Heart Is."
Ah! That's the reason your young man acts as if he wanted to board here all time, is it?

TUGELA RIVER BATTLE.

MR. BENNETT BURLEIGH DESCRIBES THE ACTION.

How and Why the British Attack Failed—Heroism of the British Soldiers—The Loss of the Guns.

The first account giving any adequate explanation of General Buller's defeat at the Tugela River comes by mail from Mr. Bennett Burleigh. The Daily Telegraph's correspondent, says a London despatch. It appears that the battle orders, drawn up by General Clery, provided for the effective support of the artillery by General Buller's and General Buller's brigades. These were never completed, General Buller missed his way, Lord Buller failed to support, and General Buller got part of his forces in an untenable position. Colonel Long, with the artillery, occupied the crest of the guns, and they were lost. Briefly, that seems to be the story of the Tugela River; but through graphic columns there continually recurs the discovery of unexpected entrenchments and awfully fusillades from hidden bores and gaily such as has seldom marked British battlefields.

A HURRICANE OF LEAD.

After describing how the British forces began their advance at daylight and how the Boers let them absolutely unopposed, the correspondent says:—At last there suddenly burst an awful crash of Boer musketry upon the batteries and advancing infantry. The rattle of the Mausers swelled, and was maintained as one continuous roar. From the buildings and lines of trenches south of the river and from the river bank itself the Boers fired at our gunners and footmen, and from the trenches on the northern side of the Tugela River and from a sort of wide and elsewhere they sent out a hurricane of leaden hail, and the bullets venomously rained upon the ground in all directions, raising puffs of dust and tearing through the air with shrill sounds. Few have ever seen so heavy and so deadly a fusillade; but neither the British gunners nor the infantry hesitated or wavered. Cannon were wheeled into position, although many of the horses and men were shot down ere the manoeuvre was completed, and our indomitable soldiers walked erect and straight onward. Not even those in their palmiest days ever possessed more devoted sons. As the gladiators marched, proud and beaming, to meet death, so the British soldiers doomed to die, stepped forward to do their duty—glory of the grave. Anglo-Saxon soldiers always advance that way. I asked an American who had seen warfare at home, in Cuba and Manila, if his own countrymen generally did this, and he answered:—Yes; it is marvellous, but wasteful!

Closer and closer walked the soldiers to the Boer trenches, until within 400 yards of the nearest rifle pits. Then, lying down, they returned the fire, but there was little of nothing to aim at.

HEROISM OF THE IRISH.

By 7.5 the Irish brigade had driven the Boers to the north bank of the Tugela. They found that the enemy had planted the ground with barbed wire entanglements. Even in the bed of the river barbed wire was laid down. Into the water went the Dublin Inniskillings, Borderers and Comaughts, but it was found at the ford that the Boers had cunningly dammed the river, and there was ten feet of water where ordinarily it is but knee deep. They strove to find the crossings, and many a fine fellow, with his weight of ammunition and accoutrements, was drowned. It was a desperate and serious situation. The attack upon the right was making no progress, and the hearts of the men had reached an apparent impasse. But there were furious and angry Irishmen who had resolved to get across somehow. By dint of scrambling from rock to rock and swimming, a number won thro' her side. Yet not of them found that they had but passed across a winding spruit. The Tugela still lay in front, and all the while the murderous fire of cannon and Mauser crashed and comrades fell weltering in their blood.

In the meanwhile Colonel Buller had lost his guns, and Generals Buller and Clery with their staffs and escorts had ridden to the scene.

TRIED TO SAVE THE GUNS.

The spouting hail of lead and iron snuffed and spluttered, and the dust snapped more than ever. Lord Robert's son, with Captains Schofield and Congrove, volunteered to ride out and endeavor to save the two field batteries in the open. Readily other volunteers were found. Corporals from the lines and drivers of the ammunition waggons, taking spare teams, galloped out and men and horses again began falling on every side. Young Roberts' horse was blown up by a shell. Congrove was hit with a bullet and his clothes were cut by other missiles. Schofield alone escaped untouched. Across that valley of death quickly the surviving animals were rounded up and the guns were booked and dragged away.

Again and again that day attempts were made to haul off the remaining guns, but the Boer fire was incessant and withering. At four the battle was over. General Buller abandoned the guns and retreated.

Every cloud may have a silver lining, but the average man is satisfied if his pocket is lined with silver.

HINTS FOR THE FARMER.

ROUGH HANDLING.

Careless and rough handling of laying hens cause many breaks in egg yields. Occasions are constantly arising in the poultry yard when it needs to exercise all his powers self-restraint to keep from doing things of which he will afterwards be ashamed. Hens can be very aggravating, and cannot be coerced, gentle force or mildly corrected. Most domestic animals are. A thrashing movement, though carried further, will often put every hen in a bad state of fright; in a continuous house the panic runs wildfire from pen to pen. A distance of any kind measurably affects the egg yield.

The poultry keeper who is no novice knows that a dog or other familiar animal, or a boy of wild and very objectionable near the quarters of laying hens. Not all poultry keepers know that they themselves are unknowingly cause laid disturbances. They see the disturbance, but are unable to account for it. To interrupt a pen, to run past it, to go in wearing clothes different from those usually worn, or carrying an unfamiliar object, will often send through a whole flock.

Changing the quarters of laying hens is a thing to be avoided, if possible, unless it can be done without making a disturbance. The best way to move hens short distances, driving. If this is done carefully production may not be affected. If the hens must be carried, should be very carefully handled, moved only at night; not caught by the feet. Making short distances, they can be carried in arms, one at a time, or under arms, two at a time. When this method of handling is too tedious, the transfer should be made in coops. Gentle handling the bad effects of laying are diminished. During the natural laying season laying is less influenced by disturbances at other times.

GROWING ORCHARDS.

The practice of planting quick early bearing varieties of apple among those which are later in coming into bearing, has been commended it. For this purpose well to use for "fillers" such as bear young and heavy. Ben Davis, Missouri Pippin, and Yellow Transparent. These can be removed when they crowd the other trees.

This practice, however, has much to commend it as many for the reason that the growth between the trees can be used for purposes in growing crops which pay nearly if not quite so well as corn and potatoes are grown. Besides, when such trees are grown, the expense of growing orchard is not so great as on the whole, it is generally satisfactory to start with the making the apples the more grow corn and potatoes between as long as they can be fully grown, and then give them up to trees. Then a proper time comes the orchard seeded to grass and pastured sheep or hogs, or the grass between the rows and through trees as a mulch. The grass cut and thrown around the June or July and the orchard during the latter part of season.

MANURE WASTED IN THE YARD.

I have estimated that there are enough wasted in the barnyard every year to keep to three acres of ground fertility several years, and for whom I have talked agreeably writes John Chamberlain a matter of saving labor. Is a great waste of labor should go to the field it is made. By this system at least one handling of waste by evaporation or work is by this method when there is no rush of manure. When the time comes master courage to rebuild they will be put all in a with a feeding floor of stable floor will be of a gentle slope to a wall that can be backed up. This is the only way to manure and do it at a The difficulty with us is that it is a hardship to rebuild stables that are old style calls for. It will, though, right away. builds anew look into the will discard the old stables.