

WOULD FLOOD HOLLAND

Entire Defense Scheme Based Still on Land's Low Level

An attack on Holland from the sea is theoretically almost impossible. The coast for the most part is low and sandy with a great stretch of shallow water which prevents large boats approaching nearer than half a dozen miles. The few openings at the ports are protected with cunningly planned forts where great guns could pound a hostile squadron to pieces without themselves being in serious danger. But the unique features of Holland's defense system is on the land. If attacked from the east the Dutch would almost immediately abandon the eastern half of their country. No large cities stand here and the land is of little value compared with the western half. Wilhelm's armies could retire behind what is known as the New Holland Water Line. A stretch of country starting from the south shore of the Zuider Zee and extending south and then west until it reaches the Holland Deep just west of the mouth of the River Meuse (or Maas) would be flooded to a depth of one foot. On the west edge of this gigantic moat stands a line of strong fortresses commanding it. The only ways across this moat are roads, railway lines and river banks. These are higher than the sea level, while most of the land is well below the sea, in some places as much as twenty feet. All these causeways could be raked by a harrowing fire from the barrier forts. The Dutch could flood the country much deeper, but they do not wish to do so. A foot of water prevents navigation even in flat bottom boats. It also prevents wading for several reasons. The ground below the water becomes a soggy mass in which the feet sink and are held. The country is cut up with many canals, ponds and other depressions into which soldiers of an invading army would fall and perish. The Dutch have plenty of men to defend this line—for an enemy could only use a few men against them. Even if the enemy, with incredible labor could build enough passageways across the water line to storm the defenses in the rear the Dutch would not have to yield. They would then retire to a second and stronger water line, starting at the same place as the first and making a great circle to the westward and northward to terminate on the Zuider Zee again. Amsterdam is about in the centre of this water line.

ANARCHISTS FOR FRANCE

War to End War is Hope of Strange Classes

Germany not only made the Apaches disappear from Paris; she also transformed all anarchists into patriotic Frenchmen. As a matter of fact, practically every known anarchist turned patriot, not unwillingly, but with the greatest enthusiasm. A Paris paper began to investigate what had become of the anarchist leaders and found that with the exception of those too old to be accepted even as volunteers, they were all in the trenches. One of them, formerly a professor and a champion of the most violent anarchistic doctrines, wrote the following letter from a trench in the Argonne, in which he has won promotion for himself by exceptional bravery: "There have been moments when I have asked myself why I am here, and I have answered: First, because I had to go; but, later on, because I realized that it was my duty, and now nothing but death or victory will make me quit. I have won promotion and I, who a year ago would have despised the stripes on my sleeves, am now proud of them as I am proud of the sixty men under my command. I have sixty comrades, sixty friends, the soldiers confided to my care. "A little more patience and this dreadful war will be over. I am sure that it cannot last much longer. War is even more horrible than I imagined, but not for a single moment have I doubted who is to blame for this war. My hope is that it will be the last, and it is our hope that our children will never have to engage in another which inspires me with an almost superhuman strength and a firm determination to endure until the end."

FANCY BATTALIONS OLD

George Third Nicknamed "The Devil's Own" of Lawyers

What are known in the army as "fancy battalions," such as, for instance, the "Navvies," Sportsmen's, Public Schools, Bantams, Footballers' and Bankers' are not quite the novelties that some people imagine them to be. So long ago as 1703 a Miners' Battalion was enlisted for service under Marlborough, and did good work during the siege of Tournay, where immense subterranean works were constructed by both sides. The 14th Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment, popularly called "The Devil's Own," used to be composed entirely of members of the legal profession. "What!" exclaimed King George III, one day when reviewing them; "all lawyers, are they?" Then call them "The Devil's Own." And the Devil's Own they have been from that day to this. "John Company's Quildrivers" was the unofficial title of a battalion of clerks who, in the early days, banded themselves together for the defence of Calcutta. The old 10th Foot, now the Lincolnshire Regiment, traces its origin to a Sailors' Battalion recruited entirely from amongst the local sailors and fishermen. In memory of its inception the regiment was for a long time permitted to wear blue tunics, at a period when all the other battalions of the line wore scarlet ones.

Portugal's Wealth

Three-fifths of the people of Portugal are engaged in agriculture. The chief exports are wine—of which the British Isles import about \$5,000,000 worth—and France a similar quantity—corn, cattle, sardines, fruit and copper. Portugal's resources, which are very rich, remain unworked because of the scarcity of coal.

MEND ROADS OFTEN

The proper maintenance of roads after they have been constructed is quite as important as the construction itself. There is very little wear on the surface of a smooth road from the rolling of a wheel if there is no pounding or jolting action present, no matter of what material the surface is composed, whereas if a shallow hole or a slight obstruction such as a stump or stump exists the jarring action of wheels as they drop into or away from it soon causes a hole to form. A hole which will serve to hold moisture that falls on the surface of the road becomes softened through this in the bottom and the larger it becomes the more rapidly it will increase in size. This action is very noticeable at each end of a bridge or culvert where wheels leave a hard surface and strike the softer surface of the approach. The action is proceeding at many places in the road where it is not so noticeable, and the more uneven the surface of the road the greater the results of the action will be. From the above it will be seen that the best condition in which to keep a road to prevent injury to it from the traffic is as smooth and hard as possible so that none of this pounding action can take place. The sooner any slight depressions are fixed and the closer attention it receives the more cheaply it will be kept in good repair.

MYSTERIES OF NIGHT

Strange Sounds Alarm Many Races and Cause Legends

In Ceylon the devil bird is a constant source of alarm. No one knows what species of bird it is, but throughout the whole night its cries are horrible and blood curdling. The natives regard the cry of this mysterious bird as a sure presage of death. In the desert of Gobi, which divides the mountainous snow-clad plateau of Tibet from the milder regions of Asia, travellers assert that at night they have heard sounds high up in the sky, as of the clashing of arms and sounds of martial music. If travellers fall to the rear, or get separated from the caravan, they hear themselves called by name. If they go after the voice they get lost in the desert. Sometimes they hear the tramping of horses, and taking it for the caravans, are drawn away, and wandering from the right course are hopelessly lost. The people believe that these sounds are produced by the spirits that haunt the desert. The Irish banshee may be traced to the owls, as the description of the cry is so familiar to that of the owl, which completes the identification. Most of the weird sounds that are heard in the air at night seem to have superstitious terrors, and are often magnified and altered by those who hear them.

STRAWBERRY NOSES

Operation Now Removes This Very Annoying Blemish

That most distressing of facial deformities which doctors call rhinophyma, characterized by a much swollen and reddened tip of the nose, making this look like a huge strawberry or a piece of cauliflower that has been dipped in beet juice, may be cured by a simple operation. Sir William Milligan, of the Royal Infirmary, Manchester, describes this in the "Lancet." The operation consists in cutting off all the hypertrophied tissue, while the nasal passages are kept extended with absorbent wool in order to preserve their contour. Care is taken to avoid injury to the lateral cartilages, and only two insignificant blood vessels require tying. The raw surface is covered with two thin grafts of skin cut from the patient's thigh, over which a sheet of gold leaf is placed and a dry dressing fastened with adhesive plaster. It should be possible to remove the dressing in five days.

PRIDE IN BICYCLES

Owners Should Realize Difference in Quality of Machines

There is one thing every cycle owner, worth his salt, would gladly see improved, and that is the old fashioned pride in ownership. Bicycles have become common, and it automatically appears to follow that owners should show little care of them. It seems now that some people are quite satisfied if the wheels will go round, however complainingly, and disregard the fact that the extra labor involved in propulsion is the penalty paid for neglect. This studied carelessness has led to a large extent been responsible for the cheap bicycle, and the foolish suggestion often heard that all machines are alike. If we could only eradicate this neglect, we should soon be able to prove that only the best in bicycles is good enough; is really the cheapest, and worth care and attention.

New Brakes Needed

One automobile expert writes: If the connections have been fully taken up and have gotten to the end of their tether when full force of the brake is required, or are anywhere near it, either new brake blocks are required or the band needs retinning. This is a thing that, for the sake of safety, should not be put off to that indefinite to-morrow which may never come. In testing the efficiency of an adjustment, little dependence can be placed on the method of jacking up the car and hauling a wheel around by hand against the brake. Such a method might be effective if a ten or twelve-foot lever could be applied to the spokes, but the best course is to see how it acts on the road against the engine and to see how great a distance is required to stop the car from a speed of twenty or twenty-five miles an hour.

It may save time to drive the cows to the barn at a trot, but it is a poor and ill-timed economy.

ALFALFA IN HEAVY CLAY

East and West, Alfalfa Takes Good Hold and Stays

Of the possibilities of alfalfa on stiff clay soil W. D. Albright of Grande Prairie, Alberta, writes as follows: In an able article on alfalfa I noticed the endorsement of one very common but erroneous idea to the effect that alfalfa is disinclined to a retentive subsoil. My experience with this splendid crop was gained largely in Southern Ontario where there is clay stiff enough and waxy enough to pack lumber wagon wheels almost solid from hub to felloe in the spring of the year when the frost is coming out. Some of this land is quite level. In other sections the surface is rolling with nice loam on the tops of the knolls, hard clay on the slopes and black soil in the hollows. In scores if not hundreds of cases I have seen alfalfa sown on these rolling fields. It would make the best showing the first season on the medium to lightish areas; on the clay it would start somewhat slowly and thinly, although it did start when seeding conditions were right. The first winter it would usually kill out in the bottom of the hollows and very often be killed or badly heaved and thinned on the loamy knoll tops. On the clay slopes it would very seldom heave or kill out, and here there would be good crops of three cuttings per season for 10, 15 or 20 years, while on the other soil types it would generally be supplanted by grass within two or three years. Time after time I have seen this and invariably with the same result.

As for penetrating retentive subsoils, I have known alfalfa roots in a field several years seeded to be found abundantly in cellar excavation at a depth of eight or nine feet in the hardest kind of clay. To be sure it will not permeate such subsoils so rapidly as more open ones, but give it time and it certainly will go down. It is not quite so easy to get a catch on this hard clay, but once secured it lasts. Other things being equal alfalfa prefers a rolling contour to facilitate drainage, yet on the flat clay lands of Haldimand, Ont., I was surprised on a visit to find that alfalfa had come in as a rather extensive and successful crop. That, too, despite the fact that it has to fight the hardy perennial, Canadian blue grass. My experience has been that on hard clay land alfalfa will resist the encroachment of its arch enemy, grass, better than on lighter soils. In Grande Prairie we have quite a retentive subsoil coming rather close to the surface in places. On such a soil I have been trying it on a very small experimental scale, and so far results are very encouraging indeed. Although the winter wheat was considerably injured and the red clover completely blackened, after an exceptionally hard winter here the alfalfa of two different strains (Orinam and Liscombe), sustained very little injury, on May 5 showed green shoots from almost every plant.

A WIDELY POPULAR AUTHOR

George Barr McCutcheon Has Written Many Successes Since His Big Maiden Effort.

Few authors have stepped as quickly into great popularity as did George Barr McCutcheon, the author of our new serial, "Black Is White," and very few have retained it in such undiminished measure.

A facile writer and a born story teller, McCutcheon wanted to emulate the examples of his brothers, John, the celebrated cartoonist, and Ben, an editor, and that of George Ade, intimate friend of the family, but his excessive modesty held him back, and for a time he did not attempt anything. Finally he wrote "Granstark," but underrating



George Barr McCutcheon.

his effort he did not try to find a publisher. His brothers, however, and George Ade, instantly recognized the worth of the manuscript, and having induced the author to submit it for publication they had the satisfaction of bringing out of obscurity one of the literary successes of the year.

The successes of the several stories that followed is common knowledge to every lover of good fiction. "Brewster's Millions" is another of his big winners, and "The Hollow of Her Hand" has also met with wide popularity. Today the name of McCutcheon attached to a story is all that is necessary to assure its quality and secure a reading from those who appreciate and enjoy good fiction.

Before putting a cork in a bottle, put a few drops of glycerine on it. The cork will then be easily removed.

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The Greatest Bargains ever offered

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McWILLIAMS.
Too late for last week.
The weather still continues wet and cold. The meadows are looking fine, and prospects are good for a heavy hay crop.
Mr. Jack Arnett and Miss Nina McFadden spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. W. Lawrence.
Mr. and Mrs. Angus Hooper spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Philip Lawrence.
Born.—On Thursday, May 25, to Mr. and Mrs. Crawford Harrison, a daughter.
Mr. and Mrs. John Lawrence, Jr., accompanied by Mr. Lawrence's father and mother, are away on an extended motor trip to Welland, St. Catharines, and other points. We wish them a pleasant trip.
Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Watson and Mr. Geo. A. Watson, attended the funeral of their aunt, Mrs. Donald McKay, at Walkerton, on Sunday Mrs. McKay was a sister of the late Wm. Watson, who died in March. Another sister died last November, this being three of the family in seven months.
MARRIED.
PINKERTON—McPHAIL—At the Manse, Priceville, by Rev. J. A. Matheson, on June 6, Isaac Pinkerton to Euphemia McPhail.
DIED.
ROBERTSON—At his late residence, 39 Hewitt avenue, Toronto, on Sunday, June 11, 1916, James McKenzie Robertson, beloved husband of Flora Wilson.

Large Sales Small Profits

McKECHNIE'S WEEKLY NEWS

SPRING is here again, and with it comes the need of good Footwear. We have it, and lots of it, for men, women, boys, girls and children, having bought it nearly a year ago when prices were lower, thereby giving everyone a fair chance to buy good shoes at the old prices.

We will quote prices on a few of our lines:

Men's Heavy Split Blucher, a good serviceable shoe.....	\$2.35	Men's Heavy Reinforced Elk Shoe, a snap while they last.....	\$3.00
Men's Ext. Heavy Split Blue, guaranteed to be water proof.....	\$2.75	Men's Heavy Tan Elk, one of the best on the market.....	\$3.50
Women's Pliable Chrome Bals, good and comfortable.....	1.75		
Women's Heavy Grain Bals, guaranteed waterproof.....	2.00		
Women's Heavy Grain Bals, plain and A1 stock.....	2.15		
We have a special Shoe for men for heavy wear, built on the military last. Don't fail to see it when you call. It sells at.....	\$3.10	If you have a weak or sore foot try a pair of our double E Dongola Shoes. They will sure give you comfort. The old price.....	\$2.35
Boys' Heavy Split Blucher, plain and very soft stock.....	\$2.10	Boys Heavy Split Blucher, toe cap.....	\$2.15

We have full lines in all Children's Shoes, Buy your Shoes now, it will pay you.

Highest price for all kinds of Produce

G. & J. McKechnie

Departmental Store Durham

TALK, BUT DON'T BORE

Good Rules For Success in Conversation and Life

To talk well is an art almost as neglected as that of listening to the talk of others. There are several elementary principles to be borne in mind. If you quote a brilliant or clever remark of another person, always tell who said it. Do not wear stolen jewels of conversation. They will but make your own paste look duller. "It never rains but it pours"; "Every dog should have his day"; "I think man and woman are each dependent on the other"; is the style of conversation that will cause people to flee your presence as they would the stagnant pool of a swamp.

FOWL AND GARDEN

One Helps the Other in Many Important Ways

A plot of garden land run over by fowls between the cropping seasons will yield, under right cultivation, such crops as will surprise the cultivator. The finest crops of vegetables grown on some farms are produced on plots over which fowls have been allowed to run for several months of the year. The reason for this is not far to seek. The fowls manure the land, rid it of injurious insects, and by daily scratching keep the surface in an open and friable condition. Whenever the weather is dry and the fowls are able to disperse with the scratching shed, the grain food is well forked into the soil, and the birds get healthy outdoor exercise. Speaking from personal experience, it is safe to assert that the tenement garden plot—say a hundred square yards in extent—can account for double the profit by cultivating it in conjunction with poultry keeping. Let us suppose that the fowls are to be housed on the intensive plan, the owner will, unlike the back yarder, experience no difficulty in disposing of the periodical collections of manure from the roosting houses, and the fouled litter from the scratching sheds, as such can either be dug into the land right away or stored for future use.

At one time in England people were prohibited by law from making hals of anything except beaver.

Always handle cows carefully. The cow will more than repay any kindness shown her.

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