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Subdued Hostility Between Different Departments-Always Friction Between the Civil and the

Work Done. A London correspondent, who was formerly in the War Office, writes: The report of the Royal Commission on the conduct of the recent war has undoubtedly caused an immense sen-sation—outside the War Office; inside the air is as undisturbed as ever The employes are as nonchalant and as uncivil as ever and as indifferen to affairs, interior or exterior, as ever. In fact, there is no apparent change. War Office officials always did act as if they conferred an honor upon the country in drawing their salaries. They act in exactly same old way still. The same jealousies exist between the departments. If, indeed, the house is any surety, our War Office is not organic -not a whole, but a series of almost disconnected parts. It has grown with the national needs, no doubt, but it has not kept pace with them, and it retains many marks of its various origins upon it. It is full of useless survivals and absurd anachronisms. I fear that the more years ago it is now, in spite of Lord Roberts and his newer methods. As a matter of fact, I have entered its sacred precincts a hundred times since I left the civil service, and little that I have seen in the departments where my work lay makes me imagine any very radical changes for the better have taken place. Hole and Corner Intrigues.

One may imagine any form of holeand-corner intrigue flourishing in dens and caverns, in peculiar and sombre obscurity, any reforms might struggle to the light as uselessly as a neglected potato in a cellar. lacks homogeneity; there is an conflict within its walls. The civic staff, and relates stories of G, or the A. A. G., or the D.A.A.G. a single "m," or of some soldier stylist suggesting the use of teams of oxen "to surmount a ford. And the military staff still regrets that it cannot on passing occasions give the civil head of a department "sells," and decorate the Permanent Under Secretary with that C. remains "confined to racks." As long as the W. O. exists in its present form, such friction likely to continue. The best one can say for it is that it represents a reasonable equality between the two elements which may prevent either getting absolutely on top as the military element has done France. But it is sad business after

Over and Under-Manued Departments. In my times (and even now I dis cern no great difference), some de partments were overmanned and some were undermanned. The entire staff of some rooms idled and played for days, while another room was overwhelmed with work, half of which need never have been done at all studied to advantage by eminent naturalists in Pall Mall, for the W. O. is full of rudimentary appendages which die very slowly of disuse. The members employed were supposed to compose a staff sufficient for emergencies, but when wars and rumors of wars arose, some gentlemen still consary from 11 till 5, or perhaps lat- boat), had gone to and fro and er. Even when the office was in the found nothing. agony of delivering half a brigade (with half its transport), a staff officer could still be found to write "No remarks" on papers with which his branch had ceased to have anything actual to do for half a century. The were paid for their overtime, continued with a trained intelligence in another Homer the Secretary appearing busy, to put off working State gives back in flood what till overtime began. When they had subordinates send up to him in really done there remained no official por. The military staff comes room I was credibly informed boxing inertia and tradition. extinguishing them by a cannon s ot different. The younger men from a well-trained army rifle. The resulting destruction of candles was departments are all wrong, and tremendous, but it never led to any complaint, owing, possibly, to the fact that some one below stairs made a little on the transaction.

Where Friction Exists. If there was always friction between the civil and military staffs. there was forever some subdued hostility between the different depart- man can make himself young; than ments. A. G. 1, for instance, might a confirmed alcoholic can break his be jealous of A. G. 2, and its meinbers would explain to all and sundry nation, and our War Office is proof that half the work done there was of it! If it be business to do things ing time. The ordnance people were dozen times over, and to shirk every at loggerheads with every one. Busi- present difficulty, then that office ness which should have been worked does business, indeed. But what may together was done through third par- suit the nation, which does tics. We went round the world to know the truth, would ruin any orfrom those who were doing like work. is out. Papers were missing and were then described as "on transit," which meant that Messenger A was having a quiet smoke with Messenger B, or that Orderly X said the job was Orhas something to do with the sur-

Joseph Pominville, of Stillwater, Minn., after having spent over \$2,000 with the best doctors for stomach MYERS' CELEBRATES HOMEMade Mince Meat. Pork Sausages, Tenderlom, Brawn, or Head. Cheese. All
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The description of the same and the sa

to light our pipes before 1 o'clock, No Pride in Their Work

ness there was little. No real en-STITUTION DESCRIBED." couragement was afforded to a worker. The general scheme of the unwarlike operations was that of badly managed school; men ended in trying to do as little as possible The smartest staff officer was the most disliked-it was thought a good Military Staffs-No Pride in joke to hoodwink or puzzle him. Not a room in the whole office but was distinguished by some especial dunce, who probably drew £500 a year for doing nothing, and doing it badly, It was notorious that one man could not write out an original telegram with reference to the paltriest detail of the movement of troops without taking half an hour and half his branch was that he could longer to prepare any given return than any other clerk there, and yet keep up a sweetly dignified appearance of being enwrapped in essary national business. When I was new-comer in my own room. having been posted in tandition, did it in three hours and took it to this gentleman know of the work of his own rooms that he positively declined to receive it on the ground days. This let me into the secret. and not wishing to be disloyal to the sapient chief, "I told you that

> Terrible Stationery Waste. The waste of His Majesty's stationery is an old story, but in the War Office it probably reached its maximum. Few men in the place ever dreamed of writing private let ters on anything but the best Office paper. Some men used it who did journalistic work during office hours, in the intervals of arduous toil; one man who wrote books used Nobody esteemed it wrong to screw up a sheet of extra superfine foolscap to throw across the room at a friend. Any firm that wasted a square yard of expensive paper over every paltry memorandum would probably go into the bankruptcy court, but such waste is only a symp tom of the general disease which af-

fects all Government offices. A real business man going into the War Office (as it was) would have torn his hair. I can imagine clearance which would have made by a real organizer if he to do what the War Office did what it gets, provided he was to ceive the surplus as wages of super

Lost a Regiment for a Week.

Though the military staff was many ways superior to the civil ing responsible positions who were laughing-stocks to the humblest clerks. One staff officer, who was pleasant, amiable and incapable, touched nothing that he did not disarrange. He was not fit to superintend the needle and pin department provincial drapery establish-To him belonged the signal honor of having lost a British ment in England so thoroughly that it took a week to find it. The story would read like fiction, but by ordering this and countermanding that, by doing some things of his own and some through the W. O. and the Admiralty he hid the battalion so thoroughly that its late district said it was in Ireland, while Ireland said it was (let us say) at Colchester, and we in Pall Mail said it was at sea. But the Admiralty knew better, for H.M.S. Assistance (known to some in the navy as the Imperial pig

A Red Tape Minetaur.

The building in which the nation's war business is done typifies the way it is done. To go anywhere one goes up and down and round round. The labyrinth holds a red-e er kindred tribe, the Jutes, whose "writers," or copyists, who alone tape minotaur; the virgins of reform are strangled in high places. to check them, and another hour's fresh and goes out asphyxiated. With overtime at tenpence an hour was the keenest sense of the evil lengths made, as they sat round the fire to which pure militarism can go it is smoking and discussing their su- impossible not to pity a service reperiors or the music halls. In one former face to face with War Office

gloves were kept, in another foils. Some will imagine this view ex-In one department, the juniors (sec- aggerated. It is at least certain that ond division clerks and writers) had no War Office official will admit that invented a particularly entrancing the present office is like what I knew game, which consisted in putting it to have been 25 years ago. But three or more candles in a row and few retired men will believe it very now are at least sure that the other very much doubt if any one of them would not admit that even now least half his time is wasted idiotic and antiquated methods.

Can't Reform Itself. To expect reform to come out the office itself is mere foolishness. It can no more reform itself than an old habit. We call ourselves a business mer's' account and mark- that are not needed, to do things get from Pall Mall to Pimlico, dinary firm, and if the War Office Rooms next door were aliens; a man | were to compete with men of business sometimes sat a quarter of a mile it would be bankrupt before the year

> "Well," remarked the minister, thought it was more." "It's never any more here," said the boy; "it just begins at 1 again."

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CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PEOPLE.

Britain a Roman Province For Three Centuries-People Recall Temper and the Empire of Britain was first made known to

the civilized world by the famous Roman general, Julius Caesar, in the year 55 before the birth of Christ. Caesar had conquered Caul, a country which included our present France and Belgium, and brought it under the rule of Rome; but in the course of his conquest he learned that to the west of Gaul lay an island named Britain, whose peoples were mainly of the same race with the Gauls and gave them help in their struggles against the Roman armies. He resolved, therefore, to invade Britain, and in two successive descents he landed on its shores, defeated the Britons, and penetrated at last beyond the Thames. No event in history is more memorable than this landing of Caesar. In it the greatest man of the Roman race made known to the world a land whose people in the after-time were to recall, both in their temper and in the breath of their rule, the temper and Empire of Rome. Caesar, however, was recalled from Britain by risings in Gaul; and for a hundred years more it changes the more it remains the sick man, I withdrew the return and the island remained unconquered. It same thing, and that what it was 25 kept it for a week. "Ah! said my was not till the time of the Emperor Claudius that its conquest was again undertaken, and a war which only ended under the Emperor Domitian at last brought all the southern part of the island under the rule of Rome, Britain remained a province of the Roman Empire for more than three hundred years, During this time its tribes were reduced to order, the land was civilized, towns were built, roads made from one end of the island to the other, mines were opened, and London grew into one the great ports of the world. with this work of progress, and throughout these centuries the province was wasted from time to time inroads of the unconquered Britons of the North, whose attacks grew more formidable as Rome grew weaker in her struggle against the barbarians who beset her on every border. At last the Empire was forced to withdraw its troops from Britain, and to leave the province to defend itself against its foes. To aid in doing this, the Britons called in bands of soldiers from Northern Germany, who gradually grew into host of invaders, and became in turn a danger to the island. These were the first Englishmen who set foot in Britain, The characteristics of these remarkable men are thus described by John Richard Green in his fam-

ous "Short History of the English For the Fatherland of the English race we must look far away from England itself. In the fifth century after the birth of Christ the country which we know to have borne the name of Angelin or England lay within the district which is now called Sleswick, a district the heart of the peninsula that parts the Baltic from the northern seas. Its pleasant pastures, its black-timbered homesteads, its prim little townships looking down on inlets purple water, were then but a wild waste of heather and sand, along the coast with a sunless woodland, broken here and there by meadows that crept down to the marshes and the sea. The dwellers in this district, however, seem to have been merely an outlying fragment what was called the Engle or English folk, the bulk of whom lay probably in what is now Lower Hanover and Oldenburg. On one side of them the Saxons of Westphalia held the land from the Weser to the Rhine; on the other the Eastphalian Saxons stretched away to the Elbe. North again of the fragment of the English folk in Sleswick lay anothname is still preserved in their district of Jutland. Engle, Saxon, and Jute all belonged to the same Low-German branch of the Teutonic family, and at the moment when history discoveres them they were being drawn together by the ties of a common blood, common speech, common social and political institutions. There is little ground, indeed, for believing that the three tribes lookthat we can as yet apply to them, save by anticipation, the common name of Englishmen. But each of them was destined to share in the conquest of the land in which live; and it is from the union of all of them when its conquest was complete that the English people has

The energy of these peoples found vent in a restlessness which drove them to take part in the general attack of the German race on the Empire of Rome. For busy tillers and busy fishers as Englishmen were, they were at heart fighters, and their world was world of war. Tribe warred with tribe, and village with village; even within the township it- houses in these districts are now priself feuds parted household from vate hotels, well supplied with liquid household, and passions of hatred and vengeance were handed on from father to son. Their mood was, above all, a mood of fighting men, venturesome, self-reliant, proud, with a dash of hardness and cruelty in it, but ennobled by the virtues which spring from war, by personal courage and loyalty to plighted word, by in hard fighting was already char- "God Save the King," and a young acteristic of the race. War was the parochial visits met a cowboy and of the host and the crash of its stopped after the first half a little asked him what o'clock it was. shield-line. Their arms and wea- longer than the proper rhythm wareach warrior's girdle, gathered to the respective cages containing the them much of the legend and the birds were in separate rooms.

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he life of Englishmen. Each sword had its name like a living thing. And next to their love of war came their love af the sea. Everywhere throughout Beowulf's song, as everywhere throughout the life that it pictures, we catch the salt whiff of the sea. The Englishman was, as proud of his sea-craft as of his warcraft; sword in teeth, he plunged into the sea to meet walrus and sea-lion; he told of his whale-chase amidst the icy waters of the North. Hardly less than his love for the sea was the love he bore to the ship that traversed it. In the fond playfulness of English verse the ship was "the wave-floater," the "foam-necked," 'like a bird" as it skimmed the wave-crest, "like a swan," as curved prow breasted the "swan-

road" of the sea. Their passion for the sea marked movement of the German nations. While Goth and Lombard were slowly advancing over mountain and plain the boats of the Engishmen pushed faster over the sea Bands of English rovers, outdriven by stress of fight, had long found a home there, and lived as they could by sack of vessel or coast. Chance has preserved for us in Sleswick peat bog one of the war keels of these early pirates. The boat is flat-bottomed, seventy feet long, and eight or nine feet wide, its sides of oak boards fastened with bark ropes and iron bolts. Fifty cars drove it over the waves with a freight of warriors whose arms, axes, swords, lances and knives were found heaped together in its hold. Like the galleys of the Middle Ages, such boats could only their swiftness fitted them ad-mirably for the piracy by which the men of these tribes were already making themselves dreaded. Its flat bottom enabled them to beach the vessel on any fitting coast, and step shore at once transformed t boatmen into a war band. From the first the daring English broke out in the secrecy and sudden ness of the pirates' swoop, in the fierceness of their onset, in the careglee with which they seized they," sang a Roman poet of "flerce beyond their foes, sunning as they are fierce; the is their school of war and the storm their friend; they are sea-wolves that prey on the pillage of the world."

"Bobs" as a Private. When Lord Roberts was in India, a complaint once reached him of quality of the beer served out from a particular regimental canteen, and he resolved to look personally into the matter. He singled out a soldier of small stature, and asked him for his uniform. This astonishing order naturally paralyzed the small parcel of his uniform and left it the chief's room. Later in the day from the quarters with the ander-in-Chief himself inside, face a little disguised; and as humble item in his army, the chief entered the canteen, taking a sea he asked. "Beer!" remarked a disgusted comrade. "Call this beer? Why, it's mor'n arf water!" The Chief called for a pot, and he found it was more than half water. The next day the same neat, wiry figure crossed the square, this time in the full uniform of his position, and another order for a mug of ale was given to the sergeant who was making money out of "Tommy." "Yes. sir-certainly, sir!" said the sergeant, and he drew a pint of very good beer from his own special tap. "Excellent!" said the Chief, fixing his keen eye on the sergeant. this. But this is not the same beer you sold me yesterday, when, as a soldier, I sat on that seat and paid my morey!" The Chief pushed his enquiry home, and the canteenkeeper was promptly court-martial-

Temperance in Australia. Temperance and prohibition bulk largely in the latest New Zealand | 66 1 papers. Mahuta, the third and the last of the Maori Kings, who cently renounced his sovereignity and accepted a seat in the upper house, has publicly taken the pledge by way of encouraging native chiefs to di likewise. In the districts around to appreciate a perfect stove. Dunedin, the Caledonian centre and the commercial capital of the colony. some scores of public houses have ceased to exist as such through the operation of the local general election. As this was the big-option poll that accompanied the recent gest compulsory closure of public houses in New Zealand history some of the leading dailies sent down some special correspondents to report and describe anticipated "scenes." editorial foresight was at fault i this instance. There were no scenes worthy of the attention of a pictur-

esque reporter, probably because

there was no liquor available as a

motive power. The hotels had timed

their supplies to last just up to com-

pulsory closing day. Many private

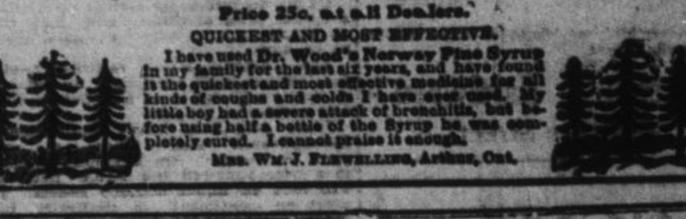
Wonderful Bird Musicians. Mr. George Henschel tells in Nature of a musical feat by a canary-bird, own ears, heard it, not once, but been taught to pipe the tune canary learned it from him. Finally "sword-game"; the gleeman's verse, mastery of the tune that when the took fresh fire as he sang of the rush bullfinch, as sometimes happened,

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spear and pavelin, sword and seax, tune where the bullfinch had stopped, the short broad dagger that hung at and finish it. This happened when REMEMBER US

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derly Y's. A room upstairs, which "About 12, sir," was the reply. pons, helmet and mailshirt, tall ranted, the canary would take up the vevirg department, was a smoking Spent Over \$2,000 Doctoring.

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