

IN GRIP OF WINTER

Black Sea Shore About the Last Word in Desolation.

There the Great River Danube and its Surroundings Present as Dreary a Scene Today as When Ovid Wrote His "Sorrow."

If you think the warm airs of an eastern Riviera caress the shore of the Black sea, where the blue Danube creeps out through as many channels as the reedy Nile's, you need to re-make your picture. In case your imagination needs a little aiding, take down your dusty copy of Ovid's "Sorrow"—his "Tristis"—and read once more what he wrote back to unforgiving Rome about his first winter of banishment on that coast. It was nineteen centuries ago. But you might suppose he was telling of this very winter's work, at Nantucket, say, or Montreal. Touch by touch his clever lines draw the picture as plainly as if he were a correspondent for a modern syndicate. You feel yourself shivering with him on the whitened plain, beneath the flaring stars that circle but never set.

There at Toml does the north wind blow, and do they feel that bitter wind from the north-by-east? It blows, and the fields turn to stone; it tears roofs away, and brings the look-out towers down flat. Any snow? Storm trends on storm till here and there the heaped-up and compacted snows lie two winters deep. Of course the brooks are stilled now; the water in the lakes is brittle, it can be dug and shattered. Of a native, what with his pelts and his stitched-up oreeches, all you can see is his face; his beard is white with the cold he sucks through it. No one drinks wine; it is passed in lumps; if a wine jar is broken, the wine within it stands alone.

Does the great Danube freeze? Its blue currents have hardened into marble. It holds the ships locked fast; not an oar can cleave the waters. Where the pilot steered now men go afoot. No wild Sarmatian lacks a bridge for his greasewood ox-cart. But surely the Black sea itself keeps open? Well, says Ovid, if I had anything to gain by saying what isn't so, you might not believe me; but as sure as I am a wretched exile, I have walked that sea-dry-shod. Boreas was howling, but he could not raise a wave. Not a bumping dolphin could come through to stretch himself. Oh, Leander, if once upon a time a like sea had been yours, the scandal of your drowning could not have been laid upon the strait you had to swim!

And then, with grimmer strokes, the worst part of his picture comes. The ice, the ice, the ice, come savage foes, sweeping in on swift horses; they have poison on their arrow tips, they bring thongs to lash their captives; they fire with torches what they cannot carry off.

B-r-r! But if Ovid were alive again in this year of grace, and once more writing from Toml, or as they call it now, Kustendji, he would not find the sting of the north wind from the steppes less biting than 19 centuries ago, nor the cruelty of man to man less appalling.—Boston Herald.

New Disease.

Members of army medical boards have some curious experiences, I gather, in the course of their work, but it might be supposed that they would have fewer opportunities for making discoveries than their colleagues behind the fighting line, and in the base hospitals. But evidently there are exceptions. "A man presented himself for examination the other day," one medical friend tells me, "and I put the usual question: 'Well, what's the matter with you?' 'Timor bellii.' 'What?' He repeated it. 'I don't know what that is,' I said. So he produced a paper from his own doctor, and on it was written: 'This man is suffering from Timor Bellii.' It sounds better, certainly, than 'cold feet,' and is quite as full of meaning!—Westminster (England) Gazette.

Earned His Meal.

Governor Stephens was commenting on the misuse of the uniform by persons who have no right to use it. "They ought to be in jail," he declared, "but once in a while you can't help but forgive the culprit. I have in mind the case of a tramp in uniform who asked a housewife for a meal. 'So you were in the battle of the Marne?' 'Yes, ma'am,' replied the tramp. 'What can you tell about that great fight?' 'Not a word, ma'am. I'm on my honor not to reveal a thing I saw or did. That's a very strict military rule.'"

Patriotism.

Who can measure the compelling force of patriotism? At Sunday night's Battery concert, largely attended by Manhattanites to whom north of Fourteenth street is a foreign land, the leader asked that after the singing of the national anthem the audience offer one minute's silent prayer for the boys over there. One whose head did not bow promptly, seemingly held alert by the shock of some amazing surprise, soon acknowledged the force of patriotic emotion by saying, as he bowed his head: "I prayed last Easter, but if it is for the boys—here goes."—New York Sun.

CHANGING TONES OF BELLS

Manufacturers Have Easy Method of Overcoming Harshness That May Mar Perfection of Sound.

Bells may have tones which, while thoroughly agreeable to the manufacturer, are not so pleasant to those who have to listen to them. A remedy for such a condition is described by James E. Noble in Popular Mechanics Magazine.



By drilling two holes in the side of a bell, as indicated at A and B in the sketch, the tone will remain perfectly clear, but will be quite changed. If a slot, as designated at C, is then cut between the two holes, still another change of tone is effected. By driving a metal rod, E, into one of the holes and trimming it off flush with the internal and external surfaces, the tone may again be changed. Filling up the second hole with a plug, D, will further alter the sound. Then if a wedge such as F is cut and driven into the slot the tone of the bell will be restored to normal.

"In the Rear" Translated.

Day after day Germans who read the official statements of their own government learn that although the allies are said to suffer numerous reverses the German armies have fallen back to positions "in the rear." That is the regular ration served to Germans hungry for news of victories.

By this time the more intelligent of the Kaiser's subjects must have learned to translate "in the rear" into what it really means. They must have found that it tells the story of defeat and retreat. They cannot help perceiving that it records the movement of the German armies nearer to the German frontier. "In the rear" is toward Germany.

That is what makes the effect of the official phrase extremely depressing. That is why it falls like lead on the hearts of the Huns.

Parachute Jump From Airplane.

The first successful experiment on record of jumping from a moving airplane with a parachute was recently made by Captain Sarraz, a French aviator. This intrepid airman leaped from a height of 800 yards with an umbrella some twelve yards in diameter, and landed safely. He was three minutes in the air, suspended from the parachute. Previous to this test numerous experiments were carried out in France with sandbags, and the practicability of the scheme was established beyond reasonable doubt. But it goes without saying, nevertheless, that it required real courage to be the first to risk life and limb in an actual test.—Scientific American.



NO NECESSITY.
Ah Harold!
Go in down to sea-shore this year?
No dear boy!
I kin sit just tanned on our roof an' save money b'sides!

Athletic Equipment for Army.

Athletic material sufficient to supply 1,750 companies, or 125 complete regiments, has been purchased by the war department commission on training camp activities, an appropriation of \$250,000 having been obtained for this purpose. The supplies, for which the war department through the commission invited bids, included the following items: 17,500 sets of boxing gloves, 7,000 baseball bats, 21,100 baseballs, 3,500 playground baseball bats, 10,500 playground balls, 3,000 rugby footballs, 7,000 soccer footballs, 3,500 volley balls and 1,750 medicine balls. Allotment of the material to the various training camps is being made.

Free Advice.

Dear Star—My wife and I have 13 children, who annoy us so much that we are unable to read the war news in peace. What would you suggest?—Parent.

A.—In the first place, how can you read in peace when we are at war? You might report the matter to the health board, as there is a ban on public meetings, anyhow.—Indianapolis Star.

In 1950.

"They seem to have plenty of money."
"Yes. Back in 1918 their father bought more Liberty bonds than he thought at the time he could afford."

The Lingering Beard.

"I see you shave yourself," commented the barber.
"What difference does that make?"
"Very little, sir; very little. That's how I came to notice it."

Three Words.

"Some men can convey more common sense in three words than others can put into a two-hour speech."
"That's right," commented Senator Sorghum. "Buy Liberty bonds."

The Opposing Force.

"Er — Miss Brown — er — do — you think your father would oppose my marrying you?"
"If he is of my opinion he would."

Anything Black is Coal Nowadays.
"What are you going to do with all that black dirt in front of your home?"
"That isn't dirt. That's my winter coal."

GAS FUMES DEADLY

Devilish German Device Fatal to All Forms of Life.

Without Proper Masks There is No Escape—Even Rats in the Trenches Succumb—Horses Now Fitted With Respirators.

The intensity of the phosgene gas wave can be gathered from the fact that buttons and ammunition were quickly corroded and turned a villainous green color. In a few cases rifles stuck and Lewis guns jammed, owing to the effects of the gas on the ammunition and the breech mechanism. One good thing about the attack was that most of the rats in the trenches were killed. All attempts to clear them out had been useless. But what ferrets and terriers and virus could not accomplish the Boche gas did.

Curiously enough, two kittens, which inhabited the dugout of the commanding officer of one of the battalions of the Scottish Borderers, who were in reserve, came through it alive. The kittens were badly gassed and lay breathing rapidly, suffering from spasms and with profuse salivation. Possibly their fur helped to absorb some of the gas, for five hours later the little victims were almost themselves again, though they continued to cough occasionally and drank water continually. The water they took in preference to milk.

The fourth German attack of 1918 was made June 17, in Flanders, near Meuses. Like those of April, it was intensely strong, very short, and went over in successive waves at intervals of about 20 minutes. I had no personal experience of this attack, but the cloud must have been very strong, for it killed animals at "Pugstreet," three and a half miles away, and was quite distinctly perceptible even at Bethune. At the "Piggeries"—the remains of a model farm in rear of Pugstreet Wood belonging to a notable French sportsman—a calf was found dead, after the passage of the cloud, with the body very much blown out. Dead rats lay in close proximity.

Even farther back than this animals were seriously affected. The army mules in the line of the gas were seized with fits of coughing and kicked violently, making them even more difficult to handle than usual. It is probably not realized that horse masks are now issued on a scale sufficient to provide protection for all horses and mules, such as those of the first line transport and the artillery, which have to approach anywhere near the lines.

The present form of these respirators is that of a big bag soaked in chemicals which fits over the animal's nostrils, leaving its mouth free so that the use of the bit is not interfered with. When not in use the horse respirator folds up very nicely and neatly into a canvas case which can be carried on the breastband of the harness or any place from which it can be quickly adjusted. Some of the animals take to these masks—"horspirators," some wag called them—quite quickly, but others are strenuous objectors; some of those hardened sinners, the mules, transferring themselves into masses of teeth and hoofs whenever an attempt is made to fix on the gas bags.

These masks have proved of the greatest value and have saved any number of horses' lives. The cavalry are not provided with them, as it is not anticipated that they will be near enough to be affected by gas cloud attacks, and when the cavalry are mounted and in action it is unlikely that they will meet even poison gas shells in large numbers. Added to this is the fact that a horse can stand more gas than a man without being distressed.—Maj. S. M. J. Auld in Saturday Evening Post.

Japanese Cities Open Public Markets.

The large cities of Japan are making efforts to keep down prices of foodstuffs by opening municipal markets. Ever-increasing cost of living has caused this step to be taken. The results at Tokyo have been satisfactory. In Osaka a market has been opened by the authorities in each ward, greatly to the public benefit.

The government has taken up the matter, and the home minister, at the recent conference of prefectural governors, urged the necessity of protecting the public from exactions of middlemen and profiteers. He assured the established retailers that, so long as they asked fair profits, the government policy would be to let them alone, but in cities where markets had been established by the local authorities the latter would be sustained.—East and West News.

New Land Monitor.

A bowl-shaped tank of novel construction, shown in Popular Mechanics Magazine, is now being considered by the war department. It has a revolving turret that makes it possible to fire in any direction, and will accommodate a crew of eight men. A scraper attached to its base enables it to fill shell craters and trenches. A scope is used by the man who controls the turret.

Accelerating Influence.

"Why did you put the crown prince in charge of the army?" asked one Prussian general. "He couldn't lead any fighting."
"We didn't expect him to," replied another. "We wanted him to lead the running."

Butter Fat Up 10 Cents

THIS WEEK

74c

Per Pound for BUTTER FAT Delivered at the Alliance Creamery

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Bring your cream—Tell your neighbor to do so, too.

Aleppo an Ancient City.

In the center of the older section of Aleppo stands the ancient citadel, a deep moat encircling it. The great mosque is on the site of the tomb of Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist. If alleged Egyptian monuments can be accepted as an authority, the first settlement dates back close to 2,000 years B. C. The city at one time had a trade connection with Venice, as well as with Bagdad, and its name and importance became famed throughout Christendom.

Presidential Succession.

The law of the presidential succession, passed in 1893, expressly states that in case of the death of both president and vice president the succession shall go to the members of the cabinet, beginning with the secretary of state, but only "such as are eligible to the office of president under the Constitution." If the secretary of state was foreign born, therefore, the succession would pass over him and go to the secretary of the treasury.

Differences in Fashion.

In Japan the professional beauty oves to appear with golden teeth; in India she prefers them stained red, but in certain parts of Sumatra no lady who respects herself would condescend to have any front teeth at all.

FOR SALE

I am offering for quick sale the following:

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- 2 Red heifers
- 1 Holstein steer
- 2 Hogs
- Some farming machinery

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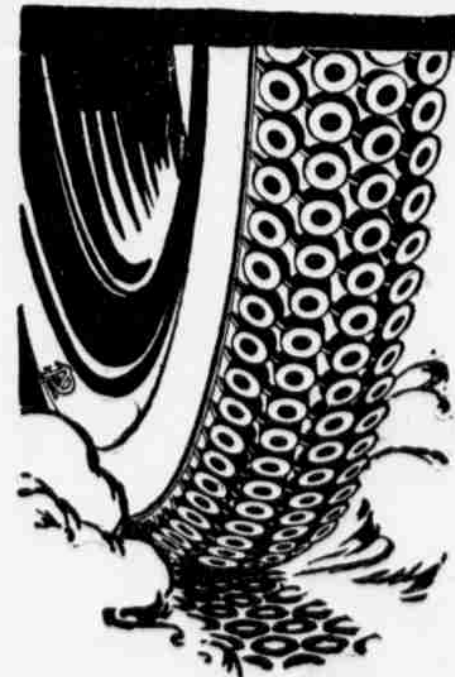
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Guaranteed Oilproof—Immune from deterioration of oil and grease.

Quality—Vacuum Cup Tires are made to typify the ideals of their makers—to give users at all times the highest possible quality



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