

RUSSIA'S ARMY.

Two Million Men, Armed With Modern Rifles, Ready For Action.

As the military forces of Russia on a war footing contain upward of 3,000,000 combatants, it would appear that something more than " coercion that does not itself mean war" would be required to enable any nation of western Europe to settle the eastern question without first consulting the czar. This vast army is raised throughout the Russian empire, liability to service being almost universal. As a rule service with the colors lasts five years, and in the event of a mobilization of the forces the field troops would be brought up to war strength by calling in reserves who had served five years in the ranks. The field troops and field reserve troops, together numbering 2,000,000 of men, would be formed into field armies, which would each comprise a number of army corps, rifle brigades and reserve divisions. The remainder of the forces consist of fortress and depot troops and imperial militia.

The "three line rifle, pattern 1891," has been introduced in place of the single loading Berdan rifle. The new rifle carries five rounds in the magazine, is of small caliber (.3 inch), and has a smokeless ammunition. On service the bayonet scabbards are left at home, and the quadrangular bayonet is carried fixed. The barrel of the rifle is uncased and screwed into the body, an arrangement which helps to lessen the weight, and, in fact, the rifle, with bayonet fixed, weighs only 24 pounds, or about one pound less than the Lee-Metford rifle and bayonet used in the British service.

The regulations recognize four kinds of infantry fire—viz., volley fire, which may be used at all ranges; individual fire, which is employed up to 500 or 600 paces; individual concentrated fire—the fire of all the men of a section or squad at a common object—up to 1,200 paces; a mass fire at greater distances than 1,200 paces. When within 200 or 300 paces of the enemy, fire attains its maximum intensity by the employment of magazine fire. After a successful bayonet charge the shooting line must continue its advance to the far side of the captured position and press the enemy by a rapid fire. A frontal attack must be supported by one on the flank. When acting on the defensive, infantry must put forth every effort to shake the enemy by fire and then attack him with the bayonet.

Throughout the Russian cavalry the men are armed with a curved sword 34 1/2 inches long and rifle and bayonet. In the Cossacks the front rank carry a lance. In artillery the Russians are particularly strong, and their armament and projectiles are of the latest and most approved patterns. The active army and field reserve troops alone contain upward of 500 batteries, manning over 4,000 guns. General staff officers form a closed corps and are recruited from those who pass the General Staff academy. The duties of the general staff, broadly speaking, include the movements and operations of the army, intelligence of the enemy and reconnaissance of the theater of war.

It is laid down that on marches, when at a distance from the enemy, it is of the first importance to study the comfort and convenience of the troops by separating arms and sending on billeting parties and bakers to provide for the wants of the troops beforehand. When near the enemy, however, and on a march that may lead to an encounter, the troops advance close up as much as possible in columns and aim mainly at swiftness and secrecy.—Pall Mall Gazette.

Humming Bird's Umbrella.

A writer in the American Sportsman tells a remarkable story about a humming bird:

In front of a window where I worked last summer was a butternut tree. A humming bird built her nest on a limb that grew near the window, and we had an opportunity to watch her closely. In fact, we could look right into the nest.

One day, when there was a heavy shower coming up, we thought we would see if she covered her young during the rain. Well, when the first drops fell, she came and took in her bill one of two or three large leaves growing close by and laid this leaf over the nest so as completely to cover it. Then she flew away.

On examining the leaf we found a hole in it, and in the side of the nest was a small stick that the leaf was fastened to or hooked upon. After the storm was over the old bird came back and unhooked the leaf, and the nest was perfectly dry.

Was In a Hurry.

He—Miss Luella, I love you madly. Will you be mine?

She—This really is so sudden, Mr. Bissnis. I must have time to think it over before I answer you.

He—Can't give you much; last car goes in 15 minutes.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

A Sound Liver Makes a Well Man.

Are you bilious, constipated or troubled with jaundice, sick-headache, bad taste in mouth, foul breath, coated tongue, dyspepsia, indigestion, hot dry skin pain in back and between the shoulders, chill and fever &c. If you have any of these symptoms, your liver is out of order and slowly being poisoned, because your liver does not act promptly. Herbin will cure any disorder of the liver, stomach or bowels. It has no equal as liver medicine. Price 75 cents. Free trial bottle at North Platte Pharmacy, J. E. Bush, Mgr.

FOR BETTER OR WORSE.

Some of the Quaint Old Marriage Customs and Superstitions.

According to an old writer, the wedding ring was first designed by Prometheus and fashioned out of adamant and iron by Tubal Cain. The same writer says that it was "given by Adam to his son to this end, that therewith he should espouse a wife." When paradise had quite receded from view, men, who are deceivers ever, got into a fashion of wedding with a ring made of rushes, to make their vows the less binding. But in 1217 the bishop of Salisbury effectually put his foot down on this practice. Wedding rings were made as often of silver as of gold and of fantastic shapes, with "posies" inside, one of which ran:

Fortune doth send you, hap it well or ill, This plain gold ring to wed you to your will.

The wedding cake is the remains of a Roman custom. In ancient Rome a bride held in her left hand three wheat ears; the attendant girls threw corn, either in grains or in small bits of cake, upon the heads of the newly married pair, and the guests picked up the pieces and ate them. In the eighteenth century the wedding cake came into general use. It was then composed of solid blocks laid together and iced over with sugar. When it was served, it was held over the bride's head, and the outer crust was broken. Then the cakes inside fell on the floor and were distributed to the company.

Throwing the slipper has an origin the reverse of sentimental and is a reminiscence of those barbarous times when the relations of man and wife were much akin to those of master and slave. The shoe was an Anglo-Saxon emblem of authority and was given by the bride's father to her husband in token of transfer of power, which the groom acknowledged by tapping his bride lightly on the head with it as an earnest of mastership.

The superstitions connected with entering the married state are numerous and curious, and most of them are a purely feminine possession. As a preliminary there is a little difficulty about choosing a day, if this little verse is to be believed:

Monday for wealth,
Tuesday for health,
Wednesday the best day of all,
Thursday for crosses,
Friday for losses,
Saturday no luck at all.

If a day has finally been chosen, then comes the question of season. "Marry in Lent, and you'll live to repent," takes that period out of consideration. Then each month has certain unlucky days, on which marrying and giving in marriage is not to be thought of. Then there are other sibylline utterances to which the prospective bride should pay heed. She must know that "to change the name and not the letter is to change for the worse and not the better;" also that to marry and yet "to keep her own name is to keep her condition forever the same."

When all these little obstacles are overcome, a bride in arraying herself for the ceremony must be sure to wear

Something old and something new,
Something borrowed and something blue.

The sun must shine on her wedding day, and she must not trip on the way to the church or cross the threshold with the left foot first. The same applies to the bridegroom. No one must open an umbrella while the bridal pair are in the house. That would bring the worst of ill luck. A horseshoe and a wishbone hidden in the flowers under which the pair stand to plight their troth have a most salutary influence on their future life.

So, if those who are contemplating matrimony wish to secure the prize of happiness in that lottery of lotteries, they have only to follow faithfully all the directions here given.—Newark Advertiser.

He Knew the Women.

The window dresser for a big State street firm in arranging a display of mourning goods recently used as a centerpiece the wax figure of a young widow dressed in theable habiliments of woe. The proprietor sent for him. "See here," said the latter, "that black goods window won't do. You've rigged up a dummy in mourning who wears a smile as broad as a French joke, and who looks as radiant as the dawn of pay day." "Well," said the artist, "I'm not advertising trouble. I'm bidding for business. When the women pass that window and see how beautiful, how charming, how dangerously alluring our dummy looks, the widows will tumble over each other to buy our goods, and the girls will go right away and get married in order to fall into line for a chance." His wages were raised on the spot.—Chicago Times-Herald.

In eastern countries cloth is still measured by using the arm, the length of the forearm, with the addition of the breadth of the left hand, making the measure.

Hormidas of Persia was the noseless, from a natural defect.

A Venomous Bird.

New Guinea is the home of the most wonderful featured creature known to the student of ornithology—the awful rpir n'doob, or "bird of death." The venom of this bird is more deadly than that of any serpent except the cobra. In fact, no antidote for the bite of the creature is known. A wound from its beak causes excruciating pains in every part of the body, loss of sight, speech and hearing, convulsions, lockjaw and certain death.—Philadelphia Ledger.

A BARN THAT GREW.

It Was Still Enlarging When the Smart Man Disappeared.

"Say, stranger, how high mought that building be?" asked a country-folk looking individual as he stood at Broadway and Ann street, gazing up at the towering structure there.

The man of whom he asked the question evidently thought he would have some fun with the farmer. He looked at the latter a moment and then said: "Oh, that little house there. Oh, that's about 300 feet high. But that's nothing to several buildings that are going to be put up farther up the street."

"Shu, you don't say so!" exclaimed the farmer. "How high mought some of them buildings going to be?"

"Six to eight hundred feet, not counting the towers," replied the smart man.

"Shu, you don't say so!" ejaculated the farmer.

"But, say, stranger, how's the people to get up to the top of them?"

"Oh, that's easy enough," said the smart man, thinking of the fun he was having. "They're going to have pneumatic tubes in them. You get into a box, and they shoot you up to the roof in two seconds."

"Shu, you don't say so!" once more remarked the farmer. "Your houses don't cover much ground, stranger, do they? Now, out in my part of the country we go in for more land than high buildings. My brother started in to build a barn once, and that barn covered about as much land as all the buildings in your town put together."

"Oh, say, old fellow," replied the funny person, "you're talking through your hat. No man could build as big a barn as that."

"That's all right," said the farmer, "but my brother's barn wasn't no ordinary barn, b'gosh. It wasn't so big at the start, but, you see, it took a-growing, and before it stopped it covered his whole farm—a whole section, sir, about one square mile."

"It took a-growing, did it?" remarked the puzzled person who had been having the fun. "Say, mister, what are you driving at anyhow? Who ever heard of a barn growing?"

"Well, there's not many people, I'll admit, stranger," proceeded the farmer. "It was the first time that I ever heard of one; but, as I said before, my brother's barn wasn't no ordinary barn. You see, he built it of green hemlock, and as he was in a hurry to get it built before harvest, he couldn't wait for the wood to dry out. Now, that wood was full of sap when my brother slapped that barn up, and when the weather began to get warm the sap began to run, and that set the wood to growing. Well, sir, you never saw anything grow like it before in your life. Talk about your big houses in this town! Why, they can't compare with the way my brother's barn grew. He would go to bed at night thinking he had located the door of his barn all right, but when he got up in the morning he would have to walk a quarter of a mile farther to get into the barn to feed the horses. It got to be monotonous, sir, but he stood it all right until the barn began to run off his farm and go over Bill Johnson's wheatfield. You see, Bill set great store on that wheatfield. He had a big mortgage on his farm, and he intended to sell the wheat and pay off."

But the farmer stopped and found that he had been talking to himself. The man to whom he had been telling the story was a block away, and he was walking as if he had a letter to post for his wife or an extremely important engagement to keep.—New York Tribune.

The Parrot Was Good Company.

"Yes'm," said the dealer in captive birds and animals, "you want a parrot for company? I have the bird here, the very bird. You are married, are you not?"

His fair customer bowed. "And your husband is away? I thought so. And you want the parrot to keep you from feeling lonesome? Yes? This is the very bird."

"Is it a fluent talker?" asked the prospective purchaser.

The dealer hesitated.

"Well, no'm," he said at last.

"You wouldn't hardly call him a fluent talker—no, not that. But for what you want he's the best I have."

"What can the bird say?"

"That's what makes him the right one, ma'am. He ain't got but one remark, to tell the truth, but he's been brought up for just what you want. Every morning he makes a sound like a bureau drawer opening and says, crosslike:

"Where the deuce have you hidden my clean collars this time?"—Chicago Tribune.

Wooden Versus Iron Ships.

Mathematical calculations show that an iron ship weighs 27 per cent less than a wooden one and will carry 115 tons of cargo for every 100 carried by a wooden ship of the same dimensions, and both loaded to the same draft of water.—Popular Science.

Marconi's Results.

From a letter written by Rev. J. Gunderman, of Diamond, Mich., we are permitted to make this extract: "I have no hesitation in recommending Dr. King's New Discovery, as the results were almost marvelous in the case of my wife. While I was pastor of the Baptist Church at Rives Junction she was brought down with Pneumonia succeeding La Grippe. Terrible paroxysms of coughing would last hours with little interruption and it seemed as if she could not survive them. A friend recommended Dr. King's New Discovery; it was quick in its work and highly satisfactory in results." Trial bottles free at A. F. Streit's Drug Store. Regular size 50 cents and \$1.00. 1

Glaciers in New Zealand.

The rocky precipices descended to the very edge of the Fox glacier and were covered with a mass of fern, shrub and semitropical creepers, forming a brilliant wall of intense green down to the very lip of the dazzling white ice. The mists had by this time lifted, and the sun was already making its appearance and investing this strange and new spectacle with all its splendor. This luxuriant vegetation grew from the moist earth in the crevices of these cliffs, which were almost vertical, but of a stone sufficiently soft and crumbling to allow of numerous fertile deposits in its fissures. These cliffs reached in places some 400 or 500 feet in height, above which the slopes receded, clad with a luxuriant forest of scrub. Here and there little rivulets fell in bright cascades down this veritable tapestry of vegetation.—"Climbs in the New Zealand Alps."

Commercial Grief.

A grocery firm of Liverpool recently sent out circulars announcing the sad death of a partner, and on the blank page gave the current prices for bacon, eggs, butter and other staples dealt in by the firm.—Chicago Chronicle.

The nests of South American barnets are used by the natives as baskets, being light, strong and so tight as to be waterproof. They are cleared of the partitions and cells in the interior and with handles affixed make useful domestic utensils.

The daffodil is a symbol of chivalry. It was once a favorite flower in France, and at one time a fashion prevailed of gentlemen wearing bunches of daffodils in their hats with their plumes.

The marquis' crown bears four strawberry leaves and four pearls. In France the strawberry leaves are replaced by leaves of parsley wrought in gold.

A legal bushel of anthracite coal weighs from 76 to 80 pounds, according to locality.

A letter posted in Constantinople will be delivered in New York two weeks later.

The first insurance company to begin business in this country opened its doors in Philadelphia in the year 1794.

Offensive Catarrh.

Catarrh is seemingly one of the most complicated of ailments, and one which the doctors are absolutely unable to cure. The reasons for this are easily explained. Catarrh is a blood disease, and only a blood remedy can effect it. The various sprays, douches and washes which are employed as a local treatment, may, for a time, alleviate the trouble, but no one ever knew of such treatment producing a cure. They can not reach the seat of the disease, as the experience of many sufferers will prove; nothing can do so except a real blood remedy.

In the treatment of Catarrh, S. S. S. has demonstrated the fact that it reaches deep-seated diseases, which other remedies can not touch. Mr. Chas. A. Parr, the leading wall paper dealer of Athens, Ga., writes: "For months I suffered from a severe case of catarrh. The many offensive



MR. CHAS. A. PARR.

symptoms were accompanied by severe pains in the head. I took several kinds of medicines recommended for catarrh, and used various local applications, but the disease had become so deep-seated that they had no effect whatever. I was alarmed at my condition, as I knew this disease invariably descended to the lungs, ending in consumption. I was induced to take S. S. S. (Swift's Specific), and after two months I was perfectly well, and have never felt any effects of the disease since."

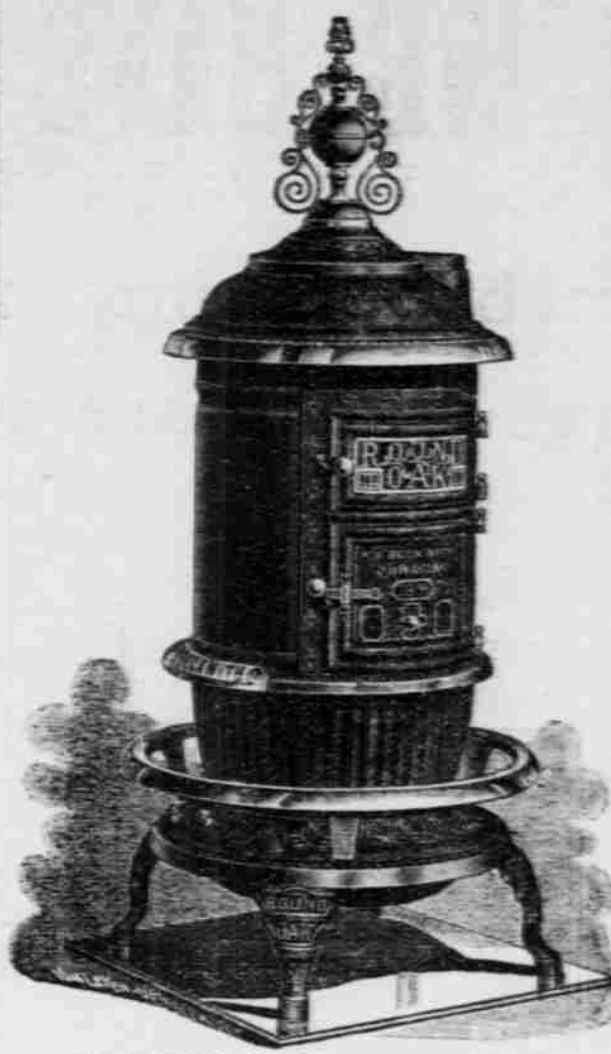
S. S. S. is the only blood remedy which it is impossible to imitate. There is a substitute for most of them, for they are all alike—contain the same ingredients, and are made in the same manner. But there is no substitute for S. S. S., as it is in every way different from every other blood remedy offered to the public. It is nature's own remedy, being made from roots and herbs gathered from the forests, and contains not a particle of mercury, potash or other drug. It is not a drug-store remedy, and not a single ingredient can be obtained from a chemist's shop. S. S. S. (Swift's Specific) is the only blood remedy which is guaranteed to be

Purely Vegetable.

All others are founded on mercury and potash. Deep-seated and obstinate blood troubles, such as Cancer, Scrofula, Catarrh, Rheumatism, Eczema, Otitis, Otorrhoea, etc., which other remedies do not cure, are readily to the curative powers of S. S. S. Books on blood and skin diseases will be mailed free, to any address: Swift Specific Co., Atlanta, Ga.

There's no Use!

You can't find in these United States the Equal of the Genuine



Beckwith Round Oak.

You may try; you'll get left. Remember, it's the combination of good points that makes the Perfect Stove. That's where we get the IMITATIONS. They can't steal the whole stove. They steal one thing and think they have it all, but it FAILS. They build another. It fails. Still they keep on crying good as the ROUND OAK. Some peculiar merchants say they have them, when IT'S NOT SO.

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U. P. TIME TABLE.

GOING EAST—CENTRAL TIME.

No. 2—Fast Mail..... 8:45 a. m.
No. 4—Atlantic Express..... 11:40 p. m.
No. 28—Freight..... 7:00 a. m.

GOING WEST—MOUNTAIN TIME.

No. 1—Limited..... 3:55 p. m.
No. 3—Fast Mail..... 11:20 p. m.
No. 23—Freight..... 7:35 a. m.
No. 19—Freight..... 1:40 p. m.

N. B. OLDS, Agent.

Legal Notices.

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION. Land Office at North Platte, Neb., November 15th, 1896. Notice is hereby given that Michael C. Harrington has filed notice of intention to make final proof before Register and Receiver, at his office in North Platte, Neb., on the 25th day of December, 1896, on timber culture application No. 12,284, for the southwest quarter of section No. 4, township 18 north, range No. 30 west. He names as witnesses Isaac Lamplugh, Harry Lamplugh, Allen Tift, Lester Walker, all of North Platte, Nebraska. JOHN F. HINMAN, Register.

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION. Land Office at North Platte, Neb., December 8, 1896. Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim and that said proof will be made before the Register and Receiver at North Platte, Neb., on January 10th, 1897, viz: JOHN HANSEN, who made Homestead Entry No. 12,750, for the southwest quarter section 24, township 18 north, range 28 west. He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon and cultivation of said land, viz: Eugene Hansen, Peter Homl, George Schmidt and Henry W. Miller, all of Curk, Neb. JOHN F. HINMAN, Register.

WILCOX & HALLIGAN, ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW. NORTH PLATTE, - - NEBRASKA. Office over North Platte National Bank.

D. N. F. DONALDSON, Assistant Surgeon Union Pac. R. R. and Member of Russian Board. NORTH PLATTE, - - NEBRASKA. Office over Strick's Drug Store.

E. E. NORTHRUP, DENTIST. Room No. 6, Ottenstein Building, NORTH PLATTE, NEB.

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