

purpose of enlisting popular interest in the navy. England has a navy league older than Germany's. France has one. So has Italy, and Spain also, which is proving a tremendous force for the rehabilitation of her naval establishment.

Wherever these leagues have been organized they have enormously strengthened the naval policy of the government, and it is hardly too much to say that the splendid squadrons of Germany, which may some day force a practical test of the naval defenses of the United States, owe their existence to the German Navy league, which, by crystallizing German sentiment in favor of the emperor's policy, has given the empire a sea power which ranks among the foremost.

What the German Navy league has done the United States Navy league can do. The elements of success are all at hand, and the only thing needed is to assemble them with skill and judgment. That can be done by the process of education directed along lines which shall enlist the interest of American boys in the achievements, the structure and needs of the navy. —From a Prospectus issued by the "Navy League."

How Sea Birds Get a Drink

"When I was a cabin boy," said an elderly sailor, "I often used to wonder, seein' birds thousands of miles out to sea, what they come for fresh water when they got thirsty.

"One day a squall answered that question for me. It was a hot and glit-



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Kansas City World, da. exc. Sun.	1.50	2.00
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Rocky Mountain News-Times, wk.	1.00	1.60
Seattle Times, wk.	1.00	1.35
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terin' day in the tropics, and in the clear sky overhead a black raincloud appeared all of a sudden. Then out of the empty space, over a hundred seabirds came dartin' from every direction. They got under the raincloud and they waited there for about ten minutes, circlin' round and round, and when the rain began to fall, they drank their fill.

"In the tropics, where the great seabirds sail thousands of miles away from shore, they get their drinkin' water in that way. They smell out a storm a long way off; they travel a hundred miles, maybe, to get under it, and they swallow enough raindrops to keep them goin'."

Diamonds of St. Petersburg

St. Petersburg society is brilliant, not only by reason of the diamonds and beauty of its women, but also owing to the splendid uniforms and blazing decorations of its men. The ladies wore such diamonds as are only seen at exhibitions or in the windows of a fashionable jeweler. The diamonds of St. Petersburg are famous, for not only do they frequently measure half an inch across, but their diameter is as frequently the same. Your representative was dazzled by a succession of solid precious stones whose weight could only be reckoned in avoirdupois.

The jewels one sees at Covent Garden are slim and puny baubles by comparison. St. Petersburg seems to buy its diamonds by the pounds, and the wealth "of Ormuz and of Ind" scintillates in the ears and round the slender throats of its fair women.—St. Petersburg Letter to London Mail.

Oldest Sword in America

Dr. J. W. Peck of Amoret, Mo., has an heirloom in the form of a sword 276-years old. Dr. Peck declares it is

the oldest sword in the United States. It was brought to this country by his great-grandfather more than 100 years ago, and has been handed down in his family through the succeeding generations.

The sword bears the date of 1629, during the time when Christian, king of Denmark, was carrying on his thirty

years' war with Sweden. It bears a picture of the warrior monarch. On one side is an inscription in German as follows: "I am a good blade if you use me well." Another inscription on the reverse side says: "He who hath no love for the beautiful, hath no heart in his body."—Kansas City Times.

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