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JOHN BROWN

By GEORGE FITCH

This is the birthday of John Brown a plain man with plentiful whiskers who was born in Connecticut in 1800, acquired twenty children, and some debts, became a crank on abolition, and was finally hanged for attempting to lick the government.

A great many men have gotten themselves hanged on one pretext or another without any profit to themselves or to posterity, but Nathan Hale and John Brown are about the only two Americans who have won immortal fame in this painful manner. Brown was an abolitionist long before abolition became stylish. He spent most of his time preaching and fighting against slavery, picking up a living for his family in his odd moments. He became a nuisance on the subject. He was unreasonable. Almost everyone told him that slavery was wrong and that if he would wait a few hundred years the country would become civilized without causing any trouble or ill-feeling. But Brown didn't want to wait. He was too impatient to wait a few hundred years. All cranks are impatient. A crank is a man who stands alone and tries to haul the rest of the world up to him instead of walking comfortably back and joining the mob.

John Brown trained his children to eat along on two meals a day and to fight for abolition and moved out to Ossawatimie, Kansas, where he had a chance to get into two battles before breakfast and one before supper regularly. In Kansas, the Federal troops preserved order among the anti-slavery men, while the pro-slavery men murdered them and burned their homes. This irritated Brown to such an extent that he decided to bust the government. Gathering twenty-two men and some women, he went to Harper's Ferry, Va., and attacked the United States of America on the left flank. He fought well and if he

had had 50,000 more men, might have accomplished something. As it was he was wounded, captured and hanged as an undesirable.

Most of us are worth more dead than alive. So it was with John Brown. He was laughed at when alive and people declared that it was a shame that he should waste time jawing about the slaves, while his family was short a full dozen pairs of shoes. But when he died, his soul climbed out of his ragged clothes and



started marching on; and in less than six years, Brown, had he lived, would scarcely have been considered a progressive.

John Brown monkeyed with a great idea until it killed him, but he was great enough himself not to find this slight mishap and he died with such dignity that it made a lot of living cowards envious. Incidentally, he demonstrated that hanging is a better receipt for immortality than shooting; for two of his sons were shot side by side at Harper's Ferry and history has not even preserved their first names.

ENGINEER F. M. SAMMIS

WRITES STORY OF WIRELESS

Marconi Official Now in Honolulu Was Inventor's Chief Assistant in the Early Improvements of the Original Invention—Sprang Into Commercial Success in Short Space of Time—Radio - Telegraphic "Tuning"

Writing in Popular Mechanics for August, F. Minturn Sammis, chief engineer in America of the Marconi system, who is now in Honolulu arranging for the building of a great wireless station here, tells something of the life of Marconi and explains his wonderful invention. Mr. Sammis says:

As wireless telegraphy grips the imagination of men more and more by its ever growing wonders, so does the marvel increase that its inventor developed and achieved his epoch-making idea when he was in age but a schoolboy, expected to do no more than study his lessons and enjoy himself. Guglielmo Marconi studied at the universities of Bologna and Padua, and when only 15 years old, on his father's estate near Bologna, Italy, plunged enthusiastically into the dreamlands of electricity. In the course of the next few years he headed straight for one of its great mysteries, the so-called Hertzian waves, or electrical impulses which could travel through air without the use of a wire. In 1895, when he was only 29 years old, his advanced knowledge on this obscure subject inspired him with the theory that these waves could be sent out and received at will, and in that year he had constructed the first wireless apparatus, whose efficiency astonished even his enthusiasm.

Wireless telegraphy under the masterful hand of Guglielmo Marconi sprang into commercial success in a remarkably short space of time. Prior to 1895, electromagnetic waves had been discovered, and men of many countries had experimented with them, but it remained for Marconi to see that these waves could be harnessed and made the servant of man, that they could be made to transmit intelligence from ship to shore and from one continent to another.

The waves or vibrations that make wireless telegraphy possible are in many respects similar to those of light. They travel at the same tremendous speed of 186,330 miles a second. There are several ways of producing these waves, but the one in common use is called the spark method. Briefly, it is this: An induction coil or high-tension transformer is connected to an electric-current supply so as to produce a spark across an air space. By opening or closing an ordinary telegraph key the operator causes a spark of longer or shorter duration to jump across the air space. This spark produces the vibrations by virtue of its oscillatory character.

Acts Like Spring. In other words, it acts similarly to a straight spring drawn back and suddenly released. It vibrates to and fro until its energy is exhausted and the rate at which it vibrates is determined by its length. By varying the rate of vibration longer or shorter waves may be produced. By means of a device, called the oscillation transformer, the vibrations are transferred from the primary circuit to the aerial or mast-head wire, always conspicuous at any wireless telegraph station, thus performing the same function relative to the spark-gap circuit that a radiator does to a steam-heating boiler.

That which is called "tuning" has to do with the adjustment of the wave length of the aerial wire to that of the closed circuit. In this manner a receiving station may be tuned to a transmitting station or, in other words, the instruments of the former so adjusted that they will be more sensi-

tive to the waves from the latter than to those from other stations.

Purpose of Detectors. In the receiving system the same aerial wire and smaller oscillation transformer are used, but in lieu of the spark gap we have the detector. This detector may consist of a special form of glow lamp, called an oscillation valve, or of a mineral or crystal such as silicon or carborundum, or other devices. However constructed, the various detectors serve the purpose of causing an intermittent current to flow through the operator's telephone receivers, thus producing audible dots and dashes, corresponding to the shorter or longer duration of the impulses sent out by the transmitting station. This brief account describes with fair accuracy the commercial, tuned wireless system of today.

To Build World System. At the present time there may be found stations a thousand miles up the Amazon River working 500 miles over land through the virgin forest, and huge commercial stations flashing thousands of words daily across the broad Atlantic, and yet the art is still in its infancy. Mr. Marconi, ever looking for new worlds to conquer, and confident in his ability, gained by years of hard work and painstaking experiment, is about to start the work of erecting eleven huge stations that will completely encircle the world.

There is something fascinating and inspiring about the pioneer work of any great achievement, and the writer feels that he has been honored in having a part in the early development in the United States of so important an art as that of wireless telegraphy. It has been particularly pleasant to have been engaged in this work as one of Mr. Marconi's engineers.

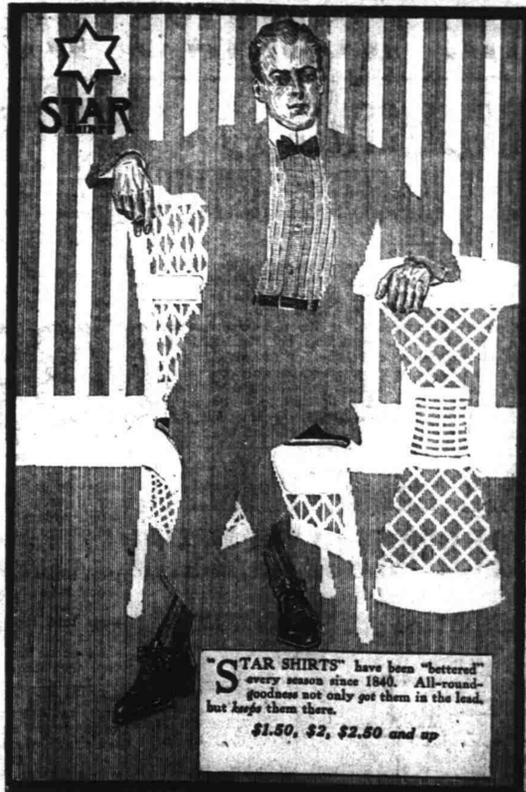
MUST ABATE NUISANCE OR CLOSE DOWN PLANT

The board of health yesterday ordered the Hawaii Preserving Company to employ more men, if necessary, to see that the pineapple dump is properly taken care of and not made a fly-breeding pile of refuse. In brief, the company was given to understand it must destroy the refuse it creates, or must cease operation. A crematory for the refuse is under construction, but Dr. Pratt has ordered the company to spread the cast-off peelings in a thin layer, cover it with oil and burn it in that manner until the crematory is ready for use.

TANAKA NOT A DIPLOMAT DECLARES EDITOR SHEBA

Editor Sheba of the Hawaii Shingo has taken exception to the statement of Toichi Tanaka, one of the secretaries of the Japanese foreign office, made recently through the Star-Bulletin, to the effect that all children born of Japanese in the Territory of Hawaii are held to be subjects of the Mikado and liable to three years' military service in Japan should they return there. Sheba does not deny the truth of the assertion, but declares that Tanaka acted most undiplomatically in making the statement, which caused a tremendous stir among the local Japanese.

Amory A. Lawrence, aged 64, one of the best-known businessmen of Boston, died at his home.



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PORTUGUESE THRIFTIEST, SAYS TREASURER'S REPORT

The Territorial treasurer's annual report, just issued, shows that the total amount of money on deposit in the seventeen banks in the Territory is \$18,189,135.50, of which \$5,521,973.11 are savings deposits. An interesting fact shown in this report is that the Portuguese are the thriftiest race of people in the islands. Their total deposits in the savings banks amount to \$1,003,766.29, or about \$1,000,000 more than any other nationality.

At the close of the fiscal year there were in the Territory 813 domestic corporations, with a total capitalization, not including the 119 eleemosynary institutions, of \$168,217,578, an increase of more than six per cent over the capitalization of the year previous. One hundred and thirty-six foreign corporations and four national banks do business in the Territory.

COMMERCIAL WHO'S WHO.

Volume 2 of Mercantile Reference Agency's Book of Commercial Ratings of Corporations, Firms and Individuals of the Territory of Hawaii has been issued, of date July, 1912. It contains 399 pages of names—Oahu taking 5-243; Hawaii, 244-329; Maui, Lanai and Molokai, 330-374; Kauai, 375-402. There are forty-four names to a full page. Prefixed to each island section is a list of post-offices therein. Ratings are given of estimated net capital with twenty-one letters of the alphabet and range from "A, \$1,000,000 and over" to "W, \$0 to \$500"; and of "Reported habits of payment" with five numerals, thus: 1, discounts; 2, prompt; 3, medium; 4, slow; 5, cash recommended; 6, pays cash; 7, new business, credit not yet established." In the first hundred names for Oahu there are twenty-five rated "A," or worth more than a million, including corporations and estates.

The Canaanian Australian liner Makura, is reported to have sailed from Sydney for Auckland and Honolulu on last Monday according to a cable received at the local branch of the Merchants Exchange.

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