

work to establish an administration of the provinces on a European and civilized basis, with the recognition of equal rights to Christians and Mahometans, and by degrees has transformed the provinces from outposts of barbarism, and from the worst example of Oriental tyranny, oppression and misgovernment, into prosperous and well administered portions of a civilized and progressive European empire. Magnificent roads, railroad lines and canals now traverse Bosnia and Herzegovina in every direction. Industries of all kinds flourish; rights of property and of person secure full recognition; no discrimination is made between Christians and Mahometans, the religions of each receiving official and financial recognition by the State, while members of the two creeds, instead of being in a state of continual and fierce warfare as in times gone by, now live together in such amity that one finds Christians yielding ready obedience to the Mahometan headmen of their villages, and Mahometans according similar deference to their Christian superiors. To accomplish all this has cost a great deal of money. But at length the provinces are on a self-paying basis and among the most prosperous and best governed of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

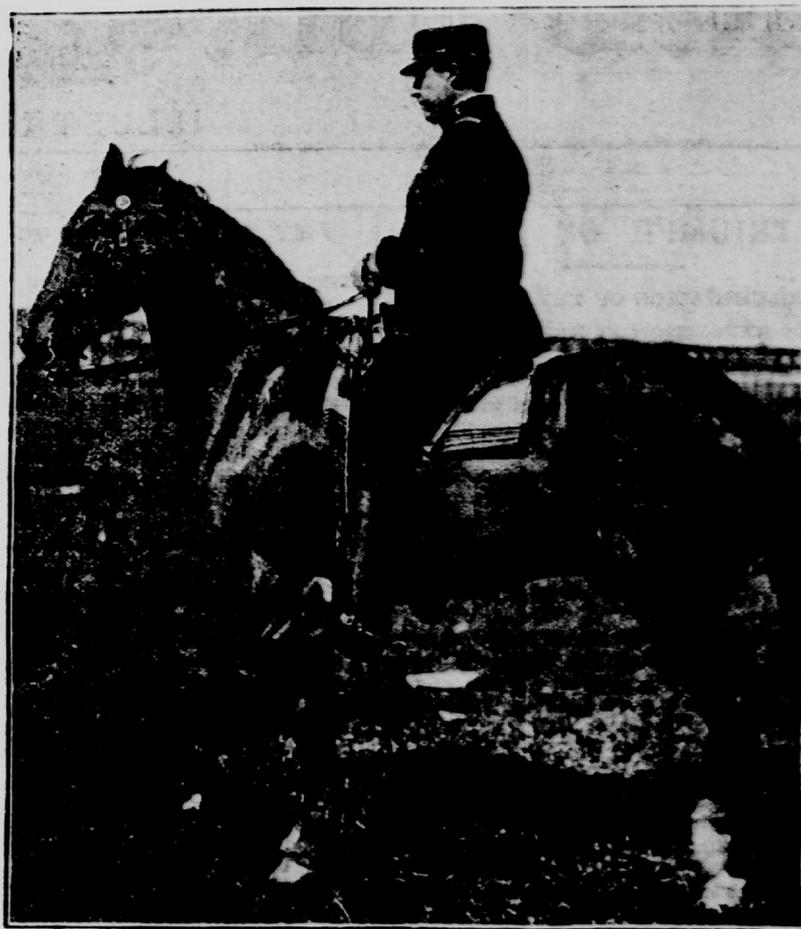
Of course, no one imagines for one moment that after all this trouble and expense Austria would ever be willing to restore Herzegovina and Bosnia to the Sultan, and, indeed, it would be a downright crime against the laws of civilization to condemn the two provinces to a relapse into barbarism, which would necessarily follow their restitution to the Sublime Porte. What, then, is the reason for Austria's wishing to transform her occupation into actual annexation? It is, in the first place, that full industrial and commercial development of the provinces is to a certain degree impeded by the idea that the title of Austria to these dependencies is incomplete, and that the permanency of her tenure is not fully assured. Moreover, political agitators encourage the idea that in course of time Serbia and Montenegro, now divided by the provinces in question, may join hands across them and absorb them into one single State, constituting a revival of the oldtime Servian Empire of the Middle Ages. Besides, it is felt that the Hapsburg monarchy being made up of so many more or less rival races and nationalities, united by ties that are in the main dynastic, it is politic to amalgamate as far as possible all the divergent elements and to have all titles clear and clean, since, in the event of any dynastic troubles in Austria-Hungary, or any internal disturbances following upon the death of Francis Joseph, Russia or some other power might, as the case stands now, find a pretext for the seizure of Herzegovina and Bosnia on the ground that Austria-Hungary was no longer in a position to fulfil its duties as mandatory of the great powers in connection with these dependencies. The Emperor of Austria is now an old man of over seventy, who feels that the end of his reign cannot be much longer delayed, and with the interests of his dynasty and of his people at heart he wishes to set his house in order before he is gathered to his fathers. He is anxious before he dies to remove everything that can be a source of weakness or difficulty to his successor, and, like a sound business man, to leave nothing but clean and clear titles to all his possessions.

That is why negotiations are now in progress with the various signatory powers of the Treaty of Berlin, with a view to the definite annexation of Herzegovina and Bosnia to the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and while neither Russia nor

Germany, nor yet Great Britain, would care to offer any material opposition to what is virtually an accomplished fact, it is reported on excellent authority that they will render their consent to Austria's proposal conditional upon an international agreement of a wide reaching character, whereby Russia is allowed to retain possession of Manchuria, which she already occupies, and by the terms of which France is confirmed in the full possession of Tunis, with perhaps other territorial compensation in the direction of Morocco, England at the same time being authorized to convert Egypt and Cyprus, which she now merely occupies, into integral portions of her vast colonial empire, and while Italy would be allowed to put into execution her well known designs with regard to Tripoli, Germany would in all likelihood have the lease of Kiao-Chau, in China, converted into actual freehold ownership and the extent of the dependency considerably enlarged. It is safe to assume that whatever territorial compensation the German Emperor exacts and receives in connection with an international arrangement of this nature will be in the Far East, like that of Russia; for, with the exception of the latter, there is no power that has sent so large a number of troops or has spent so much money and trouble upon the settlement of the present Chinese imbroglio, an action she would scarcely have undertaken unless she had in view the fulfillment of certain definite designs.

To sum the matter up briefly, England's title to Egypt and Cyprus, both of which she occupies, is even more incomplete than that of Austria to Herzegovina and Bosnia, since both Cyprus and Egypt are theoretically portions of the Ottoman Empire, paying tribute to it. Germany holds its Chinese dependency merely by means of a lease from the Chinese Government, precisely as Russia occupies Port Arthur, the Leao-Tong Peninsula, on which it is situated, and Manchuria. Tunis is still nominally subject to the rule of its Bey and to Turkish suzerainty, although it is de facto a French possession, and a number of other instances of the same kind could be cited, the pretext in almost every case for the occupation in the past, as well as the definite annexation in the future, being the interests of civilization and of humanity.

It may be questioned whether these same reasons might not be invoked by the United States in connection with the negro republics of San Domingo and of Hayti, which are at the



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Assistant Inspector of Rifle Practice at Creedmoor.

present moment a blot upon the civilization of the Western Hemisphere, the barbarism and appalling misgovernment of this, the earliest colony of Christopher Columbus, being in a measure the fault of the American people.

EX-ATTACHE.

SIXTY DOLLARS AN HOUR.

From The Boston Transcript.

This is a story of a rat and two holes in the ground. The holes were very small holes, just

big enough to let two rats into the cellar of the Old South Meeting House, and probably more than big enough to let them, wiser and leaner rats, out again.

These two holes, with the intermittent assistance of the rat, entertained the good citizens of Boston at the rate of two thousand an hour for an indefinite period in the middle of one day this week. It is easy enough to reckon. During the show there were from thirty to thirty-five people standing in choice positions along the Milk and Washington st. railings of the fence about the tiny yard of the Old South Meeting

#### MEMBERS OF SQUADRON A ON THE 500 YARD LINE, CREEDMOOR.

Captain Howard G. Badgley coaching.



TROOP 2 AT TARGET PRACTICE AT CREEDMOOR.

House—a constantly changing crowd that renewed itself every minute.

Now, in this crowd were all kinds of persons, from the office boy at \$3 a week, to the broker at \$300. Every one watched his minute before he went about his business; for some the monetary loss was only the fraction of a cent; for others it mounted up in the dollars. A low and conservative estimate of the average monetary value of these people is 20 cents an hour. Thirty people standing for one minute are equal to one person standing for half an hour. But the entertainment extended over many minutes. An hour of it for two thousand people was paid for by Boston employers in \$60 worth of time.

What did this \$60 crowd of two thousand persons see for its money? Most of the people saw two holes in the ground; some of them the bright, beady eyes and the whiskered nose of a rat. The poor fellow was probably trying to get away to some less hallowed, but more fruitful, surroundings, when the first observing eye saw him and by looking collected the audience. He lay low for many long minutes, so many that the whole crowd about the fence was in utter ignorance of what it was watching; but still the crowd hung on, looking at the holes, or gazing up at the sparrows which twittered in and out of their nests in the close ivy growth on the wall. Every time the rat looked out one or two saw him, and then everybody devoted his attention to the holes again. And neither rats nor holes can have known how much they were costing the employers all over Boston.