The Washington Times

(MORNING, EVENING, AND SUNDAY.)

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WASHINGTON, D. C., DECEMBER 27, 1895

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The Times Is the Only Washington Newspaper

That dares to tell the truth when dealing with all subjects of public interest, that's one reason why the people like it, hence

Its Circulation

Is larger by many thousands than any other daily newspaper published in the District of Columbia.

The circulation of The Times for the week ending December 22, 1895, was as follows:

Monday, Dec. 16	35,239
Tuesday, Dec. 17	35,183
Wednesday, Dec. 18	36,054
Thursday, Dec. 19	35,933
Friday, Dec. 20	35,961
Saturday, Dec. 21	36,263
Sunday, Dec. 22	22,976
Total	237,609

I solemnly swear that the above is a correct statement of the daily circulation of THE WASHINGTON TIMES for the week ending December 22, 1895, and that all the copies were actually sold or mailed for a valuable consideration and delivered to bona fide purchasers or subscribers; also, that none of them were returned or remain in the office undelivered.

J. MILTON YOUNG, Cashier.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 23d day of December, A. D. 1895.

ERNEST G. THOMPSON, Notary Public.

THE PEOPLE'S PAPER.

Gives All the News Every Twelve Hours for Fifty Cents a Month.

The rapid growth of The Times clearly indicates that the Washington public recognizes the difference between a newspaper that boldly attacks abuses that injure and destroy the peace and comfort of communities and those that lay claim to popularity on the ground of their inoffensiveness. In its efforts to defend public interests The Times has spared neither friend nor foe. It has denounced monopoly as freely and fully as it did the money sharks who preyed upon the poor by extorting usurious rates of interest. It demands cheaper gas, electric light and telephone service, and will continue to urge Congress to grant this needed relief. It opposes the bond bill because that measure would increase the burden of debt to enrich a few individuals, and in the name of public decency it insists that the Commissioners cease to protect the Division from prosecution.

In the short period of its existence The Times can proudly point to the accomplishment of more public good through the influence of its columns than has been done during the life of all the other Washington dailies combined, and it now calls upon readers to substantiate that assertion. Is that other newspaper has advocated cheaper gas, lower street car fares, a riddance of public monopoly, or any other reform that effects its advertising columns? It is true that an occasional demand has been made for better telephone service, but a selfish reason might be found for that exceptional request.

Nor is the fact that The Times is the only real newspaper friend to the people its sole claim to their patronage. It gives nearly double the reading matter each day for the same price that any other Washington daily does, and its morning and evening editions are filled with the latest and best information. Not an item or a line of news is duplicated or republished in any of its succeeding editions, and for FIFTY CENTS A MONTH the morning, evening and Sunday Times will be delivered to any address in the city. Try it for a month and become a convert to the people's paper.

Criticism of the Police Force.

Editor Times: The Times is, as usual, timely in its editorial, "The Police Spread Out Too Thin," but it omits to give the principal cause, which is the absurd custom of permitting the policemen to go about in couples.

No such custom is allowed in any other city, that I know of, and this city of magnificent distances and small police force is the last where it ought to be. Yet Maj. Moore, if he chose, could see it every day or night in my neighborhood, the Fifth precinct.

As a consequence the force is reduced just one-half in its most important part—the men on duty. Is the side partner for the protection of the other man, or are there more men than the major knows what to do with? C. A. M.

The Book Brigade.

Books in bindings red and blue;
Ancient volumes mixed with new;
From great libraries ye may learn
Some are Swift and some are Sterne.
Bacon do ye like? Behold!
Lamb? 'Tis served in purest gold.
Crabbe? No simpler dish they make.
Hawthorne? See the bright buds break.
Lo! The ample bill of fare,
And Will Shakespeare waiting there.

—Atlanta Constitution.

We Should Prepare for War.

When considering the revenue bill, the Senate should bear in mind the increased expenditures necessary to build coast defenses, strengthen our navy, and either purchase or manufacture a sufficient number of small arms, to equip an army with modern weapons. It would probably require about $200,000,000 to meet these immediate demands, and a much larger expenditure would be necessary to put this country in a condition to successfully defend itself against either of the great European nations should we go to war.

The talk of millions for defense indulged in by those anxious for a conflict with England becomes a startling reality when our defenseless condition is considered. With the exception of the beginning of a good navy we have little in the way of an armament to warrant our risking even a warlike controversy with a nation already prepared for such an emergency, and the first thing Congress should do if we are to become a guardian for South American republics is to place this country on a warlike footing.

Such a policy is not pleasant for taxpayers to contemplate, but the events of last week demonstrate that the warlike element of this people dominates, and that it would be folly to longer discuss the probabilities of war without making more suitable preparations. It would be advisable to first learn from competent authority what is needed to strengthen our defenses and enable us to successfully carry on a war should it become necessary, and the appointment of a commission to furnish that information is the immediate duty of Congress.

Either this should be done, or the United States must abandon the Monroe doctrine.

Is It a Cuban Climax?

If news from the field of action in the province of Havana is not greatly distorted, the forces of the Cuban revolutionists are being pushed forward by their generals for a grand coup. There is scarcely any doubt that Generals Gomez and Maceo have made a most important advance toward the Cuban capital.

A blow may be struck very soon which will either give a final and decisive victory to the rebels, and lead at least to Cuban autonomy, or which will result in a reverse that may end the attempt to establish a democratic form of government at this time. Even in case of an apparently decisive rebel victory, the Spanish government may resort to vastly greater efforts to retain control of this gem of its colonial possessions and make a desperate struggle to fasten its grip anew.

Everything points in the direction of a vitally important engagement within a few days or weeks. While war is always to be deplored, the sympathies of all free peoples will go out to the brave and struggling Cubans, and a united petition will go forth that if there must be war the victory may rest with those who are battling for freer forms of government.

In the presence of this probable vital conflict, it is extraordinary that Congress, even engaged as it is in the throes of diplomacy and finance, does not find time for some expression of encouragement for the Cubans, who are giving such splendid examples of self-sacrifice.

In this crisis, not even the possibility of a war with England should for a moment be an obstacle in the way of a formal declaration of the sense of the American people. Delay is unpardonable at this critical juncture. Congress should at once say whether it favors republicanism or monarchism. It must be either for or against the Cubans.

A Brighter Outlook for the Future.

It is evident that as soon as the President is assured that no bond bill will pass the Senate he will immediately issue a call for bids for 4 per cent bonds under the resumption act. The amount of the call is variously estimated, but it will not be less than $100,000,000 and the issue will probably be underwritten by a syndicate headed by J. Pierpont Morgan. There is little or no foundation for the rumor that Russia has offered a loan to this country, but it is likely that a part of the proposed bond issue will be placed with German capitalists.

The report that England, Spain, France, and Holland are forming an alliance to oppose the United States in the enforcement of the Monroe doctrine gives reason for grave apprehensions. It is known that England is making large shipments of arms and munitions to Canada, and this new information shows conclusively that she does not propose to submit peacefully to the demands of this country. Since the outcry of the jingoes has been subdued by the serious danger of a financial panic and the reasonable policy of conservative people has made its influence felt for the good of the nation, the outlook seems much brighter, and if the Democratic supporters of President Cleveland can find a way to assist in passing the revenue bill through the Senate we will yet avert the disaster made possible by the ill-advised Venezuelan message. In any event it is best to take a hopeful view of the future.

Protection Thinly Disguised.

That constantly advancing and eminently capable young statesman, Mr. Dalzell, of Pennsylvania, declared yesterday in discoursing the revenue measure, that it was not a protective tariff bill, but an emergency measure, called forth by the condition of the Treasury, and the appeal of the President for succor.

This is so very cunning that one must almost suspect the brilliant representative from the Keystone State intended to be satirical at the expense of that astounding wreck called the Democratic party. But there is one feature of this whole matter which must come home to the Republicans with the practical force of a business proposition. In admitting that they are seriously attempting to replenish the Treasury, they involve themselves with the question whether their scheme will really increase the revenue.

Importations are like a large fraction of the human race. They are mercurial and unreliable. No one can foresee whether the all-around increase of customs duties will increase or decrease the monetary return from that source. The bill passed by the House yesterday may be a conception that will return to plague its inventor. It may not increase the pile in the Treasury at all.

This whole struggle of a President to save himself and his party on the one hand, and of a majority of another color trying to perpetuate itself on the other hand, each willing to adopt desperate measures, suggests that it might be well to consider some scheme of taxation which will be stable and permanent, and which will not be made a campaign football. As the individual at last is compelled to pay the piper, it is just possible that one summer's morning statesmen will discover they might as well reach him directly as to throw dust in his eyes, and persuade him that he will not be quite so badly hurt if he be slugged in the pocket by the way of Europe.

In this tariff measure the Republicans are really playing with more fire than they appear to dream of, at first jump. Their boasts are so comprehensive that the people will look for immediate results. While, as The Times has already said, the President appears to have surrendered to any kind of Republican tariff proposition, in this case Congress will be held responsible, and if the new prospectus does not strike pay dirt, and pan out rich, the little scheme of protective tariff indirection may prove to be a very annoying campaign weapon, in the near future.

Municipal Ownership of Railways.

Almost every day produces something new in the advance of municipal thought in the direction of popular ownership of machinery which is most vital to the convenience and comfort of the citizen. Recently it was Detroit which accomplished three-cent street-car fares. More recently Buffalo stipulates, in granting new charters, that the maximum fare shall be four cents. Philadelphia came to the front yesterday, through a citizens' committee which represents the most powerful local influences, declaring in favor of the absolute and speedy acquirement of ownership of the city's railways by the people themselves.

Philadelphia's citizens' committee is nationally famed for its accomplishments in the way of exposing corruption and effecting reform in a myriad of directions, and this step toward unqualified socialism must attract universal attention. The resolutions adopted in furtherance of the acquirement of the railways are a scathing arraignment of the grasping exactions of the corporations. As a single illustration of the arguments presented, the figures of the stock of ten of the city companies show that the par value of the shares issued was $10,000,000 in round numbers; the amount actually paid in was a little less than $6,000,000, and the dividends during the last ten years amounted to $15,840,905.

The citizens' committee did not find serious fault with the great profits, but use as their chief weapon the refusal of the companies to properly equip their lines and to give transfer tickets which would be a practical reduction of fares. Aside from these considerations, however, the committee recognizes the force of the broad principle of popular control of such matters. Their pronounced utterance will cause general comment, no matter whether or not it result in securing to citizens the ownership of municipal machinery.

Canada's Lively War Scare.

The newspaper organ of the Canadian government, published at Toronto, sounds a note of alarm in regard to a possible invasion of the Dominion from the United States, which is not the less grotesque because it is absolutely serious. It declares that at the first suggestion of war a million idle workmen of America would swarm across the border, and that they would easily find capable commanders in the "generals" and "colonels" who are still exceedingly numerous as relics of the late war of the rebellion, either real or brevet.

The Canadian authorities are evidently determined to make the most of the opportunity. Already cruisers are being looked after to do commerce-wrecking on the great lakes. Men are training for frays by land and sea. Guns are being built and vast stores of ammunition are being sent from the arsenals of Great Britain.

It is really the prettiest little boom Canada has ever experienced. While not neglecting to take the shrewd business view, it makes a noisy virtue of patriotism just as though the increased industrial activity were not the prime consideration. While we are so chock full of genuine patriotism ourselves it may seem ungenerous to suggest this sordid view, but we very much fear our Dominion cousins have a weather eye upon the pence and pounds as well as the patriotism of the moment.

A little of President Cleveland's vigorous foreign policy in the interests of the struggling Cubans would be statesmanship well directed.

Those United States ambassadors who contemplate resigning because of the Venezuelan message, should first cable home and have their back yard bomb-proofs made habitable.

It might be well to defer the location of the Democratic national convention until after Congress has prepared the tombstone.

Either a thrill of patriotism has found lodgment with our tea-drinking ambassador, or he has been subjected to a Presidential shock by way of the Atlantic cable. He has quit talking in public.

There will be a good many sober second-thoughts after next Wednesday.

Recent events demonstrate that we might borrow a good general or two from Cuba should we go to war with England.

The man who said the earth wobbled has evidently been lost in the mutterings and rumblings of war.

It is nip and tuck which gets stepped on the oftenest, Uncle Sam's coat tails or the British lion's caudal appendage.

Traveled Through Him.

Thirty years ago J. B. Garrison, of Plant City, Fla., a machinist, ran a small sliver of steel into his right hand at the base of the thumb. The wound was treated and finally healed, the doctor saying that the steel had been expelled. But ever since that time Garrison has suffered with severe pains in his right arm, which he attributed to rheumatism. Last week the pains became very acute in his right shoulder. He went to a doctor, and the doctor drew from just under the skin of his shoulder the steel sliver that entered his hand in 1865.

Free Fashion Supplement to The Sunday Times.

HEARD BY THE LOUNGER

"IT will be a brilliant event in the political history of Utah," said Mr. Junius F. Wells of Salt Lake City at the Shoreham last night, speaking of the coming inauguration of statehood. Mr. Wells is a prominent owner of railroad and mining interests in Utah, and came East to look after some business in New York. He looks and talks rather more like a literary man or a devotee of the fine arts than the brusque man of business, and he talked interestingly on several things connected with Utah and the far West.

"The vote for Statehood may be regarded as a practically unanimous sentiment, I think, for had it not been that the question of woman suffrage was injected into the issue, there would have been even less opposition manifested at the polls. So the inauguration on the 4th of January will be a great popular event. All the territorial militia has been ordered out, and various fraternal orders will also join the brilliant pageant. The splendid large Mormon Temple, seating 1,200 persons, will be used for the inauguration exercises. Pending the erection of a State house, which will doubtless follow in the course of a few years, the State officers will have rooms in the county building. That is a magnificent structure, beautifully finished in the onyx and other native stones of the State, and covers several acres of ground."

SPEAKING of the materials used in the construction of the county building, Mr. Wells was led to tell of the immense quarries of onyx, situated only forty miles from Salt Lake. "I have never seen more beautiful onyx, even in Mexico," he said. "It is easily quarried in immense regular slabs, and, you know, takes a most beautiful polish. We think that Providence has blessed Utah in giving us in large quantity our many natural resources. We have mountains of onyx, mountains of granite, mountains of gypsum, mountains of sulphur and equally vast quantities of asphalt.

"Now, under statehood we wish to increase the population of the State from 250,000 to 3,000,000, and with a population which has money to invest in the development of our grand natural resources. As for such investments being safe, as I stood on the floor of the stock exchange in New York the other day and saw those wild scenes, I said to myself: 'I'll place my money in any mining hole in Utah before I'll place it here.'"

BY an interesting coincidence, the two sons-in-law of Chief Justice Fuller, one from Washington State and the other from the far-away Azores, happen to be in this city at the same time, and both arrived yesterday at Chamberlin's. They are Mr. Hugh C. Wallace and Mr. Colin C. Manning.

Mr. Manning is a lawyer on the other side of the globe, and Mr. Wallace is a business man of Tacoma. He is the member of the Democratic national committee for the State of Washington, and is an early arrival for the meeting of the committee to be held here next month.

"I really don't know what to say about the probable place of holding the national convention," he said. "Of course, the far-Western Democrats want it to come to San Francisco. I do not know that any definite plans have been made for securing the convention for that city, but I think the citizens there will be heard from when the time comes. I don't know which city has the best chances for getting the meeting. One thing is certain; it won't be for sale, as the Republican convention would seem to have been. Money has a great influence, but it can be safely said that our convention will not go by any such influence."

ONE of the most interesting members of the American Historical Association, who is in attendance on the annual meeting in this city, is Rev. William C. Winslow, LL. D., of Boston. Dr. Winslow is one of the most distinguished historical and archæological scholars in the country, and is a gentleman of unusual culture. He is a member of a dozen different societies of a historical kind, and is an honorary member for the United States of the Egyptian Exploration Society. He made a call on several newspaper men yesterday, he being a former newspaper man in Boston and at present a member of the Boston Press Club.

There was some confusion among the early arrivals at the meeting of the Historical Society yesterday, regarding the time of holding of the opening session. There was an impression among some of them that a change had been made in the original program. No officer of the society had arrived, so Dr. Winslow went over to the Cosmos Club to make inquiries. "We are all in Egyptian darkness," remarked some one.

"Oh, no," returned Dr. Winslow, "there is no such thing as Egyptian darkness admitted in these days, you know."

As Dr. Winslow is especially interested in Egyptian researches, the gentleman admitted that his figure of speech was ill-advised. Dr. Winslow is a direct descendent of Gov. Winslow, of old Colonial days fame in Massachusetts.

MR. WILLIAM F. PUTNAM, of Kansas City, Mo., a prominent banker of that city, is at the Ebbitt for a few days' visit to the city. Mr. Putnam says that all Missouri is sharing in the joy of the St. Louis people that the Republican convention is to be held in that city.

"I think an earnest effort will be made to secure the Democratic convention, too," said he.

Asked for his opinion of the proposed bond bill, he replied that he really had not made a sufficiently close study of the measure to warrant his expressing a decided opinion. From what he had learned, however, he feared that the relief suggested was not exactly of the right kind.

Mr. Putnam said that he regarded the State of Missouri as safely Republican on financial issues, but he did not by any means believe that the State had changed its political character on other questions of national importance.

"It is true that on account of emigration from the North and East during the last few years, the population of the State has changed in character somewhat, but I cannot belive that the State is any thing but Democratic still," said he.

Wounded by a Lioness.

Major Sandbach, R. A., who went out from Woolwich a few weeks ago to shoot in Somaliland, has had both arms and hands crunched by a wounded lioness. The animal had been driven out of a thicket by beaters, and Major Sandbach severely wounded her. The head Shikari, who was beside the Major at the time, discharged both barrels of the second gun, but the lioness sprang upon him and killed him by a blow on the head from her paw. Major Sandbach then fired another shot, which brought the lioness upon him. Not having another cartridge, he rammed the barrel of his gun down the animal's throat, the jaws closing upon his arm, and in trying to force them open his other hand and arm got bitten. The lioness was finally speared. Major Paget brought back the injured officer to Agra for medical aid, ten days being occupied on the journey. By that time gangrene had appeared in one arm, which was amputated. It is not yet certain whether the other arm will also have to be taken off.—London News.

Birth of the Fork.

This year is the 900th anniversary of the first appearance of the fork in western Europe, according to the Nazional Zeitung. In 995 a son of the Venetian Doge Pietro Orseolo married the Byzantine Princess Argita, who at the wedding breakfast brought out a silver fork and gold spoon. She was copied by the great Venetian families, though the church opposed the fashion as an insult to Providence. It took 360 years for the fork to reach Florence. In 1379 it is found in France, but it was not till 1608 that "the traveler Corgate brought it direct from Venice to England."

Three Indian Names.

Narragansett means "near the point." Picataqua signifies "the great den place." Potomac is "place of the burning pines."

RESTAURANTS OF OLD ROME

Some of the Ancient Cafes Where Men and Women Ate Famously.

Greater Simplicity in Modern Times, But Many of the Places Retain Their Characteristics.

The life of the Italian race, as that of all races that inhabit warm, southern climates, is an outdoor life. The climate alone is not the cause. But also an old law or custom which compelled the people to eat their meals in public view. This was done to show the populace that there was no luxurious waste, and that the wealthy and humble ate the same quality of simple and substantial food as themselves. This was in the time when the Romans ate to live.

Later, when they lived to eat, their meals were not partaken of in view of the populace, but in magnificent apartments, when the viands were set out on cedar-wood tables, jeweled with precious stones. It was not considered a wise policy to have the general public view these ostentatious and gorgeous feasts, or know of the fact that five meals a day were partaken of. This was in the days when the charming Decimus Claudius Albinus ate 100 woodcocks, 400 oysters, 500 figs, ten melons, and twenty pounds of grapes at a single meal; when Caligula, a la Cleopatra, dissolved pearls in vinegar to drink, and when one noble individual committed suicide because by gluttony he had reduced his fortune to a paltry £80,000, and he was afraid he would die of starvation. Cooks who prepared new and dainty dishes received the modest salary of £1,200—a slight advance on what Mrs. Vanderbilt pays her cook today.

It was not well to have a starving populace see all this beastly display. It is no wonder, therefore, the participants dined and supped no more in their atriums and vestibules, where the people could see their patrimony was being spent in eating and drinking and revelry. It was about this time that Rome, whose people had become besotted with high living, began her memorable fall. Cato, seeing whither the course of events was tending, ordered a return to the eating and the simplicity of the days when Cincinnatus and Fabricius were content to live on fruit or a dish of turnips cooked in an earthen pot. But Cato did not practice what he preached, and it was long ere simple living again became the fashion in Rome.

But today simplicity is more the fashion. The habits of frugal living and outdoor life, replaced for a time by selfishness and arrogant ostentation, are again the essence of Roman life. This is evidenced by the cafes or restaurants scattered all over Italy.

The cafe is to the Italian what home and office are to men of other nations. Here he transacts his business, meets his friends, reads his journals, and wines, dines, and sups from year to year, going to his house—he has no home—only to sleep. In the summer time cafes have their chairs and tables on the pavement outside, even to the street, and the passerby must go outside the crowded space. Here whole families come and sit and chat away the evening hours, with the star-besprinkled sky above. In Nero's golden house the dining room was covered with a roof representing the sky, which opened as if by magic and showered the guests with flowers.

In the narrower streets are cafes where the poorer part of the population lives. The wooden benches are filled with men and women possessing but the smallest portion of this world's goods. For a penny invested in a cup of coffee they have the privilege of passing the night there, many having no bed elsewhere to rest upon.

In the suburbs, too, the cafes are always well patronized. The efforts at adornment are always of the crudest kind—perhaps a virgin and child over the doorway, a picture of a fortune wheel on the wall, or a grotesque sketch of a cock, with the words:

"Quando questo gallo cantera,
Allora, credenza si fara."
(When the cock crows)
Credit will be given.)

There are many famous restaurants in Rome, but the most famous for over a century and a half has recently disappeared. It was the Veneziano. This cafe played an important part in the development and history of the Roman people for nearly 200 years. It was the first public cafe established in Rome, and was carried on by one family for 125 years. In the beginning its appointments were of the crudest kind—rough-hewn benches and tables of wood constituted the whole furniture. For silverware there was one spoon, which served in turn for each guest to stir his coffee with.

One of the original founders was a Venetian, and therefore the house was called the Caffe del Veneziano—caffe because this was the first introduction of coffee as a beverage into Rome. For a time the drink became so great a fad that chocolate and even wine were replaced by it. It was here also that the custom of reading journals in public places originated. Such journals as the Kracas, the oldest journal of Rome; the Notizie del Mondo and the official organ of the government, the Gazette di Fuligno, were distributed about for the entertainment of the patrons. This soon brought the wealth and fashion of Rome to sip coffee and read the journals. The greatest men of the times congregated about its tables and discussed questions of state and of war, of art, poetry and of science, of wealth, fashion and power.

Metasio recited his verses here; Monti, the tragedian, warred against France in a sonorous voice while sitting at one of the little tables; the gentle composer, Picinini, and that other composer who has given us such grand and beautiful operas, Rossini, exchanged friendly toasts with the habitues of the Caffe del Veneziano. It is said that Turlonia, the founder of the princely house of Turlonia, laid the foundation of his fortune by his negotiations in this restaurant with the two noted financiers, Lavaggi and Scultes.

Black gowns were not absent, either for the good Abbe Santoro, sent forth from here one of his most biting epigrams, and the Abbe Goodard sung here his sweetest sonnets in praise of Napoleon. Antonelli, Di Pietro and Merichini, who afterward became cardinals, and the Abbe Mastai, afterward Pope Pius IX, also used to frequent this cafe.

The wooden benches and tables, the single spoon and smoky candle light of the earlier period, and the velvet divans and marble-topped tables, the extensive silverware and brilliant illuminations of the latter time, are all gone. But the Caffe del Veneziano served its purpose. It introduced restaurants in Rome.

As sometimes happens when the wheel of fortune turns, the last proprietor, who had kept the restaurant for forty years left him by his grandfathers, and catered in his time to the wealthiest and noblest of the land, became himself a waiter in an inferior restaurant, at a compensation of less than sixty cents a day.

The oldest cafe now in Rome is the Caffe del Greco, which is a great resort for artists. There are several splendid paintings in this, one of which is said to have been painted by Tiepolo. Aragno's is also a famous restaurant; it is in the heart of the city, near the chamber of deputies, and is consequently a great place for lawyers and politicians, statesmen, journalists and men of pleasure. Prominent restaurants, also, are the Caffe Nuevo and the Caffe degli Specchi (Restaurant of the Looking-Glasses).

That the cafe plays an important part in the life and politics of Italy cannot be doubted.

Vegetarian Boots.

Vegetarian boots are advertised in London. The uppers are made of "pannus corium," the soles of closely waterproofed flax belting. To show that the skins of slaughtered animals are not necessary, the vegetarians says that India rubber, gutta percha, steel and iron and brass nails, and brass caps, cashmere and cotton, elastic and webbing, wool and list, cork and straw, silk and jute, and even brown paper and wax go to form the modern mystery which still carries the old name of boot or shoe."

His Busy Season.

"Your little Tommy looks tired out, Mrs. Simpkins."

"Yes'm; y' see, he's been a-keepin' up with five Sunday schools; but th' Christmas rush is over now, an' th' poor little kid'll get a rest."—Chicago Record.

Free Fashion Supplement to The Sunday Times.

"Over-stock" Sale

BETTER bargains than we are offering during this great reduction-of-stock sale have never been chronicled in the shoe history of Washington. The immensity of the stock, the superiority of the goods and the profit-sacrificing prices are forcing an enormous business.

Women's $3 shoes at $2.10.
Women's $4 shoes at $2.85.
Women's $5 shoes at $3.75.

All Men's $3.50 Shoes, $2.75.
Men's $5 Shoes, $3.40.
$5 "Cork-sole" Shoes, $3.85.

CROCKER'S, 939 Pa. Ave.

Open Every Evening. All Shoes Shined Free.

DYNAMITE AND ELECTRICITY

Wizard Edison Confident They Can Withstand Any Enemy Afloat.

Inventions Quickly Made That Would Enable a Handful of Men to Sweep Away Armies and Navies.

"With war upon us we would not be long in finding the destroyers."

So spoke Thomas A. Edison in his laboratory at Llewellyn Park yesterday.

"It would require but the impetus of a war to bring forth such inventive genius as would astound the world. As it stands today, a battle on land need not be fought. A handful of men could sweep away an army. The destructive power is found in electricity.

"Water can be made more effective than bullets. For instance, if an engagement should take place or a fort be assaulted near a running stream, all that would be needed would be a dynamo and a hose. One man for the dynamo, one for the hose, and one for general assistance—three men all told. They could charge that water with 5,000 volts and it would sweep everything living before it away like chaff. It would simply be a question of how far the water could be forced. The three men could hold a position against an army.

"Then, again, a city could be surrounded with cables that would deal death to all who should attempt to cross them. They could be so successfully concealed that none would know until the work had been begun.

"Another idea that suggests itself as we chat is the firing of electric chains into the invading force. You could take chains of whatever length was desired and attach one to the wires of the dynamo. The other end could be placed in the cannon, with as light or heavy load as desired and fired into the ranks of an approaching enemy. You could send death to every living thing within reach, and keep the air filled with chains like great snakes. There are hundreds of other possibilities that would suggest themselves when once we realized that we were face to face with war.

"I believe that the submarine boats now on trial by the various nations can be so improved that they will be irresistible when bent on destruction. With properly compressed air, I think it would be possible for such a boat to remain under water for days at a time. At present you say they are too slow to be effective. That could be overcome.

"I believe that a speed of twenty knots can be secured beneath the water by proper construction and the right kind of power. Five hundred pounds of dynamite exploded directly beneath an ironclad of any size or strength will send her down. If it is fired anywhere in her immediate vicinity, it will shake her plate so that she will leak. Several such shocks would tell the story. Their torpedo nets are not effective against the submarine boat, and I think the mysterious thing under the sea is one of the great engines of the future.

"I believe that the aerial torpedo furnishes us with protection from hostile warships," replied Mr. Edison. "We are just beginning to understand how effective they are and how they can be improved. I have not the slightest doubt that an aerial torpedo can be constructed that can be steered. The cost of construction would be trifling—about $1,500 for each. Each torpedo could be set to explode at a certain time after being cut loose from its ship. Now, suppose fifty of these things were let loose at one time and sent out to sea with a 500-pound dynamite torpedo hanging to it! It would not be necessary to strike the ship when dropped and exploded. The very force of the concussion within two miles of a ship would almost shiver her.

"I don't believe that an airship, or what is popularly known as such, is practicable for warefare. I mean a vessel that will carry men.

"I have thought that it is possible to construct an aerial torpedo on lines somewhat similar to those of a yacht—that is, the body should be narrow, and possibly pointed at each end—to give as little resistance as possible. For elevating and propelling power I think that sails just like pillow slips, two of them, made out of some strong stuff, filled with air, would suffice. With such sails the vessel could be guided. Once that difficulty is gotten over the rest is easy.

"We could well afford to send up a fleet of a hundred of such torpedoes to destroy a million or two-million dollar warship that was shelling one of our cities. It would be a business proposition, and we would have a great deal the best of it. Now that war seems possible, even, I think a year or so will produce some engine such as I have in mind. I have not worked up the data yet; the idea is simply running through my head, but the thing can be built.

"Why," he continued, rapidly, "no fleet of warships could possibly enter New York Harbor, even if the defending posts had all been reduced. You can torpedo those waters so thickly that nothing afloat could navigate them. I think the present system is to run lines of torpedoes across the harbor and fire them by electricity as the object to be destroyed passes over them. This system can be greatly improved upon, I think, in many ways.

"For instance, what's the matter with putting out a number of structures, on which a wheel could be placed? This, sunk to the bottom of the sea with a cable around it, would give you an endless cable that could be kept in motion just like the cables that run street railroads. Torpedoes could be attached to these cables and run out as far or near the shore as desirable. Its location at any time of its travel could be traced just as readily as if it were stationary.

"The torpedo could be cut loose and allowed to shoot toward the surface by some magnetic arrangement, and would discharge itself when the pressure of the water on its top was lightened. A few of those cables run out in various directions would make the harbor a mine of death. Nothing afloat could live in it. There is nothing to prevent this being done tomorrow. So you see how quickly defenses can be found."

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