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DECEMBER MAGAZINES.

Use of the "Pompom" in the Anglo-Boer War.

THE CENTURY'S LAST CHRISTMAS.

An Appeal to Make the Day's Celebration Simpler and More Rational. Chinese System of Banking—The Art of Sarah Bernhardt—Two Plans For Christmas Eve.

The accounts of the South African war always include some accounts of the effects of the fire of the so called "pompom." This to the majority of readers, even those who were of the military profession, was obscure, and it was not known just what was referred to. Briefly, the "pompom" is a 1 pounder automatic gun, writes Captain E. L. Zallinski in Cassier's Magazine for December. It uses metallic cartridges similar to those used in small arms, but of a caliber of 1 1/2 inches, throwing a shell weighing one pound. The cartridges are placed in a looped belt, and this is attached to the gun. By a simple operation one of the cartridges is inserted in the barrel and is fired by pulling the trigger. After this the force of recoil is utilized to continue the firing automatically as long as belts with cartridges are supplied.

Attempts were made to get this gun into the British service, but it was objected to on the ground that the projectile was unnecessarily large to kill a man and not large enough to be considered a piece of artillery. It was stated that an entire battery of these guns could be quickly put out of action by a single piece of field artillery and that there was no place for them in either service. Had it been stated previously to the South African war that a British field battery of artillery could be put out of action by a single 1 pounder in the hands of half a dozen farmers the statement would have been regarded as ridiculous. There is no question that a single piece of field artillery would stand a very good chance of putting a 1 pounder Maxim automatic gun out of action on a perfectly level field with no cover. But the Boer did not fight these guns in that way. They did not come out into the open to fight. With a piece of ordinary field artillery the charge is such that sufficient dust and gas are blown into the air to make the gun visible even when using smokeless powder. It is difficult also to conceal a piece of artillery, with its horses and other accessories. Moreover, a piece of artillery recoils and has to be brought back into position and resighted after each discharge.

With a "pompom" the recoil is all taken up inside of a stationary casing, and but little of its force tends to displace the carriage. The gun does not therefore budge when it is firing. The gunner takes deliberate aim, guessing at the range. He fires about five shots, which can be done by holding the trigger in the "pull" position for about one second. As soon as the projectiles explode he is able to observe exactly where he is hitting and quickly readjusts his sights. After a few trials he is able to explode the projectiles on the exact spot required, and as the recoil does not disturb the position of the gun he can go on firing as long as he wishes.

It is stated that the Boers seldom fired more than 12 shots at a time without waiting for the gas to blow away. If they fired more, their position might be discovered by a cloud of gas and dust sufficient to make them visible. It is now admitted that one of the chief surprises of the South African war was the "pompom," and British officers very soon found that it was the most troublesome piece of artillery with which they had to contend.



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NEWS IN MINNESOTA

The returns from all of the counties of the state show a plurality of 77,016 for McKinley.

The state agricultural school won two firsts and a sweepstake at the international livestock exposition held at Chicago.

Complete returns on governor show that Van Sant has a majority over Lind of 2,358. Van Sant's vote was 153,647, and Lind's 150,289.

At Chicago Fred A. Hudson shot his sweetheart, Belle A. Walker, and then shot himself, perhaps fatally. Both were residents of Minneapolis.

The Northwestern Minnesota Educational association held its 11th annual meeting in Crookston Friday. Fully 100 teachers were in attendance.

Mayor-elect Ames of Minneapolis has announced that his brother, Colonel Fred Ames of the Thirtieth Minnesota, will be the new chief of police.

F. B. Kellogg of St. Paul, while returning from the funeral of his law partner, Senator Davis, was thrown from his carriage and badly injured.

Something like 25,000,000 feet of logs are being cut this winter in the central part of St. Louis county, destined for mills 360 miles away, in Western Ontario.

Steamfitters are at work at the new state normal school at Duluth and the heating plant will be started up soon, when interior construction will be carried on during the winter.

The state treasurer has \$1,400,000 in the vaults at the capitol and an armed force of four men is on guard. The money is the accumulated proceeds of tax settlements, land and timber sales.

Wolves are reported very numerous at the present time at La Motte in Winona county and across the river in Trempealeau. Wolves have been thick in that locality for several winters past.

There is a better demand in the Northwest for pig iron than for months, and the supply that was stored at the Duluth furnace when it blew out last spring is being sold and shipped.

The Swan River Logging company, which is logging into Swan river and the Mississippi for Little Falls and Minneapolis mills, is cutting at the rate of 100,000,000 feet of logs for the season, and has more than 1,000 men working.

In the Russ Whipple murder case at Bemidji the jury rendered a verdict of not guilty after being out two hours. The first ballot stood 3 to 4 for acquittal. The verdict is in harmony with the instructions of Judge Holland to the jury.

Henry W. Sherman, a Minneapolis barber, shot his sweetheart, Miss Belle Benson, and then shot himself. Both are at the city hospital and it is expected that Miss Benson will die. Sherman received only a flesh wound and will recover.

Professor Charles B. Dyke, a former professor in the Mankato state normal school, has been elected president of the normal school at Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands, at a salary of \$4,000 a year and a residence. He will depart for there in about a month with his family.

Captain Thompson has completed his statement of river improvement work done in his district between Winona and Cassville. This shows a total outlay during the calendar year 1900, including contract work, regular construction work, harbor at La Crosse, the building of new hydraulic dredge plant, repairs, etc., \$162,471.62.

In consequence of the outbreak of smallpox in Winona the local board of health has issued orders to the street car company to stop its cars at Liberty street, the western boundary of the infected district, in order to prevent the residents of that district from riding on the cars and thus spreading the disease. The Washington and Kosciuszko schools were also ordered closed.

CITIES OF MINNESOTA.

Population of Those Having Over 2,000 and Less Than 25,000.

Director of the Census Merriam has announced the population of the cities in Minnesota having between 2,000 and 25,000 inhabitants as follows, compared with the census of 1890:

Cities—	1900.	1890.
Winona	19,714	18,208
Stillwater	12,318	11,280
Mankato	10,560	8,838
St. Cloud	8,983	7,985
Fairbault	7,986	6,620
Red Wing	7,625	6,294
Brainerd	7,624	5,708
Rochester	6,843	5,821
Fergus Falls	6,972	3,772
Owatonna	5,774	2,354
Little Falls	5,551	2,949
Austin	5,474	3,701
New Ulm	5,408	3,741
Crookston	5,359	3,437
Albert Lea	4,800	3,905
St. Peter	4,302	3,671
Hastings	3,811	3,705
Anoka	3,769	3,262
Moorhead	3,730	3,028
Ely	3,712	301
Willmar	3,408	1,828
Two Harbors	3,278	—
Northfield	3,210	2,650
Wagoner	3,102	2,482
Cloquet	3,072	2,528
Fairmont	3,040	1,305
Virginia	2,982	—
Blue Earth City	2,900	1,500
Lake City	2,744	2,128
Alexandria	2,681	2,119
St. James	2,607	950
Pipestone	2,595	1,222
Wabasha	2,628	2,427
Hutchinson	2,405	1,414
Hibbing	2,481	—
Washington	2,385	1,164
South St. Paul	2,222	2,222
Litchfield	2,220	1,800
Luverne	2,223	1,466
Sauk Center	2,220	1,025
Bemidji	2,133	—
Chaska	2,105	2,210
Montevideo	2,145	1,457
Marshall	2,088	1,305
East Grand Forks	2,077	725
Detroit	2,077	1,510
Shakopee	2,047	1,757
Sleepy Eye	2,045	1,513
Walla	2,017	1,208

same way. Drafts on London are in pounds sterling. Ordinary accounts in the stores in Shanghai are kept in Mexican dollars. The commercial business is done mostly in tael. As the price of silver varies every day the transfer of dollars into pounds, pounds into tael and tael into Mexican is bewildering. Usually the tael is worth \$1.40 in Mexico.

Until recently China has resisted all schemes for the establishment of a mint as understood in western countries. Yet it is said that China coined iron money 2,000 years before Christ under the reign of Huang Ti. This coin has been replaced by a copper piece called chien, because it originally weighed a mace (one-tenth of a tael). This and lump silver are the only public signs of value of products and the only instruments of ordinary barter except some Mexican dollars recently coined. The popular name of this coin is "cash."

The monetary system as affecting silver is arranged on the principle of weight, and the divisions have the same names—tael, mace, candareen and cash. The computation is decimal. Each cash should weigh, as Williams states, 58 grains troy, or 3.78 grams, but there are in various localities smaller cash in circulation, and the rate of exchange varies in different parts of the land from 500 to 1,800 for a silver dollar. There are big cash and little cash. The Peking cash passes 5 for 1 silver cent, or 500 for \$1. Taking into consideration the immense population of China and the poverty of the people, a good argument may be formulated to sustain the legislator who created "cash." If there was to be but one coin, it had necessarily to be the smallest.

It is a proof of the genius which is universally accorded to Sarah Bernhardt that her manner has undergone a constant modification corresponding to the development in her own conception of dramatic art, which has become increasingly more elevated and comprehensive, writes Henri Fouquier in Harper's Magazine for December. In her youth she was a very pretty woman, with a fair complexion and a charming countenance, at once sweet and expressive. She possesses that musical voice which has been called la voix d'or and which a poet in speaking of her once described as "une voix blonde." Her physical advantages are all made subservient to her ends. She acts, as it is the fashion to say, with all the forces of her being, but her gifts, which were very evenly developed in her education at the Conservatoire, have made her as great in tragedy as in comedy, or, to speak more exactly, she ignores those limitations of genius to which custom and precedent confine the artists of our day, limitations which only result in an excessive restriction of talent from overspecialization.

Sarah Bernhardt, then, is by nature an interpreter of the French classics and in particular of the works of Racine. The phrase "psychological stage" is modern, but the conception is very old. Racine's dramatic art is limited in incident and is satisfied with very simple situations, but it excels all others in its marvelous analysis of the emotions and of the struggles to which they give rise in the human soul. Sarah Bernhardt's genius, in my opinion, found the essentials of its evolution in the study of this particular author's dramatic art. At the beginning of her career she was a comedian, led thereto by her natural gifts, by which, however, she was, as always happens in such cases, very little governed. She developed into a thoughtful and accomplished actress, possessing psychological insight in the highest degree and manifesting it in complete detail at the same time that she depicted sentiment and passion in all their delicacy or violence and invariably sustained the character of the heroine or of the hero whom she represented.

I have heard of so many plans for novel Christmas entertainments. People seem to have grown tired of the conventional tree, even if it is lighted by electric light, writes Anna Wentworth in the December Woman's Home Companion. Aunt Laura always has a family tree, and this year it is to be all white. She will have the room draped in white cheesecloth and wreaths of holly and pine hung over it. The base of the tree will be hidden by cotton wool to look like snow, and on the tree will be only white ornaments and white candles, crystal and glass. Glistening white tinsel will be showered all over.

The idea that Alice Clark has evolved is more original still. Her Christmas entertainment is going to be Japanese in character. For the tree she will have one of the stunted pine trees that grow on exposed places near the sea. The room will have a background of Japanese screens, the light will come from Japanese lanterns, and all ornaments on the tree will be of Japanese make. The presents will be wrapped in Japanese sashis. Alice will wear a kimono and have her hair dressed high in Japanese style, and her little brother as a wee Jap will be her attendant and distribute gifts.

Concerning the very knotty question of marriages of orthodox Christians with Jews, a new definition, says The Reform Advocate, has been given by the Russian holy synod, to the effect that a marriage of a newly baptized Jew which has been dissolved by a rabbi can be reinstated by the orthodox church only if the other party to the marriage who remains in the Jewish faith embraces Christianity.

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AUSTIN LODGE NO. 414, B. P. O. ELKS.

Meets on first and third Friday evenings of each month, at Odd Fellows' hall. Visiting Elks are invited to meet with us. R. J. DOWDALL, Exalted Ruler. S. S. WASHBURN, Secretary.

FRATERNITY LODGE, NO. 89, A. F. AND A. M.

The regular communications of this lodge are held in Masonic hall, Austin, Minn., on the first and third Wednesday evenings of each month. John H. Anderson, W. M. A. H. GEORGE, Secretary.

ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER, NO. 14.

The stated communications of this Chapter are held in Masonic hall, Austin, Minn., on the second and fourth Friday evenings of each month. Geo. W. Bliss, M. E. H. P. PARKER GOODWIN, Secretary.

ST. BERNARD COMMANDERY, K. T. NO. 14.

Meets first Monday evening of each month at Masonic hall. GEO W. BLISS, M. E. C. PARKER GOODWIN, Recorder.

AUSTIN LODGE NO. 55, K. OF P.

Meets on the second and fourth Wednesday evenings of each month. Visiting Knights welcomed. D. H. STIMSON, C. C. S. S. WASHBURN, K. of R. and S.

MCINTYRE POST, NO. 66, G. A. R.

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