

CUN THAT DOESN'T KICK

Rotary Recoil System Applied to Field Artillery.

INVENTION OF A WASHINGTONIAN

Remarkable New Cannon Now Undergoing a Series of Tests at the Bridgeport Firing Grounds—Compact Method of Firing a Field Piece in Line for Rapid Firing—Mr. Bevans Well Known for Previous Valuable Inventions in Artillery.

When the papers announced some weeks ago the death of Lieut. R. B. Dashiell, of the navy, whose contributions to science through the medium of practical improvements and designs in field, fortification, and naval artillery have gone far toward making the American gun, as well as the American gunners famous throughout the world, it was stated that a long time would probably elapse before another American gun designer would take his place in his own peculiar field. It must be understood that while the field of design and improvement of heavy guns and their mountings is open to all who wish to compete, it is almost by the very nature of things restricted within the narrow bounds. In the first place those who would attempt invention and design in this direction must be practical mechanics and gunners. And again, it means least, a man who would try in this or any other field for successful invention must have the God-given faculty of genius that power of seeing things that others do not see, and of doing things that others either cannot or do not do.

Owing to the interest that the American people have taken within the past eighteen months in things military, it is pretty well known that the construction of about a thousand pieces of field artillery of the design accepted. The money involved will amount to hundreds of thousands of dollars. It is also known that the Ordnance Department is in the market for 400 pieces of field artillery of the most improved type to aid him in the eventuation of his universal peace proposition.

A Washington Inventor.

It was with a view of designing a gun which would meet the requirements of a modern army that a young man, now thirty years of age and a native Washingtonian, set himself to work a little over two years ago. He looked over the designs and notes of the various field guns in use throughout the world. None of them suited his ideas of what a gun should be. The chief objections that he found were their great weight, their unfitness in handling and working, and their inability to be disabled by a well-directed shot from an enemy's gun or from the effect of the fearful recoil following the firing of their own shells. Two years of incessant work, of sketching and designing and of unceasing application have resulted in the completion of a gun which, according to the expressed belief of all artillery experts who have examined the model and who have tested the series of elaborate tests which it has undergone at the proving grounds of the American Ordnance Company of Bridgeport, Conn., is the finest and most complete field gun in the world. Its construction is a principle radically different from any now in use in artillery and one which they believe is destined to revolutionize artillery construction throughout the world.

The name of the inventor and patentee of this improvement in heavy gun construction is William H. Bevans, who resides at 15 E street southeast, this city. The system is entirely new, and consists of a rotary recoil system, and substitutes for the old long, cumbersome, and weighty cylindrical or spring recoil a small wheel, which, with the other mechanical apparatus attached, works on three rollers, and is placed under the gun and well to the rear of the gun carriage. This receives and nullifies, by means of a groove arrangement, the recoil of the gun, and passes a prepared liquid mixture of water and glycerine, the entire recoil of the gun.

Inventor's Own Explanation.

Perhaps its workings are best described in Mr. Bevans' own words. In an interview with a Post reporter during the past week, and just before he was leaving Washington for Bridgeport, where he was going to look after the construction of the gun which is being prepared for the United States test of field guns, Mr. Bevans said: "In appearance the rotary recoil resembles a cheese-box. This box revolves on a shaft, which is enlarged on its central portion into a pulley. This remains fixed, the outside of the cheese-box, or hollow cylinder, there are gear teeth which engage with similar teeth under the side of the gun body. The backward jump of the gun on firing causes the cylinder to revolve and causes the liquid within to pass from one side of the piston to the other and through grooves of varying area cut in the walls of the cylinder.

New Trailing Gear.

One of the great advantages that the rotary recoil gives in the construction of guns will be perhaps better appreciated by the officers and men of Sampson's fleet, who were compelled in shelling Santiago to tilt their vessels to the seaward by removing ballast, coal, etc. from the seaward side of the ship in order to elevate their guns sufficiently to fire shells over the hills lying between themselves and the doomed town. The artillery now in use in the war is dangerous enough when you get in front of it, but it gets away up in the air overhead or almost directly below it is comparatively safe, as the gun cannot be well elevated to shoot upward or depressed to shoot downward. Moreover, but little lateral movement is possible without moving the entire carriage. When the present field guns are aimed they are moved with a handspike arrangement and much time is thereby lost.

In the Bevans gun these difficulties are avoided, as the recoil gear is well to the rear and out of the way of the movement of the gun. It can be arranged to shoot almost straight up in the air or directly down into the earth, and the gun can be moved in any direction without the trail being moved from its fixed position. This is done through the medium of a trailing gear of Mr. Bevans' invention, which entirely does away with the old handspike arrangement for moving and aiming the gun.

Two other important features of the new gun and gun carriage are the telescopic sight and the forked trail. Mr.

Bevans is also the patentee of the telescopic sight for field guns, and the introduction of this method of aiming will be an innovation in America. It is true that in England the field artillery have a system of attaching a telescope to their guns, aiming them, and then removing the telescope to fire; but in the case of the new gun the sight is attached to the gun carriage. The forked trail saves a great deal of room to the gunners, as it has only one beam running back of the gun and into the earth.

Lighter Field Carriage.

The carriage for the new gun when completely equipped with traveling brakes and seats for two gunners will weigh 1,100 pounds, as against the weight of the present gun carriage in use in the United States Army of 1,350 pounds. The gun will itself weigh about 800 pounds, or nearly the same as the gun now in use. Mr. Bevans estimates that it can fire with ease twenty shots per minute, using a charge of one and a quarter pounds of smokeless powder. The pressure within the gun at the time of explosion is 30,000 pounds to the square inch, and the shell leaves the muzzle with a velocity of 1,550 feet per second. As the testing grounds at Bridgeport are not of great length, it is impossible to tell exactly how far the gun will carry; but Edwin W. Very, a former lieutenant in the United States Army, and an artillery expert of the company which is manufacturing Mr. Bevans' gun, ventured the opinion, after watching the trial tests, that he could place eight shots out of ten in a target at 500 yards without reloading the gun, a successful feat the new recoil work in actual practice.

Life of the Inventor.

Mr. Bevans may be fairly called a self-made man. When only fifteen years of age he went into the navy yard in this city, and remained there for five years, and in the evenings applied himself to study. He learned drawing and mathematics in the Corcoran Scientific School, of this city, and in 1888 was promoted to a position in the drafting department of the navy yard. He retained his position there until 1895, and in addition to attracting considerable notice for his designs of the turret for the battleship Texas, he invented and patented a number of designs for improvements in heavy artillery. He is the inventor of an elevating gear for field guns, and also of a device for the construction of about a thousand pieces of field artillery of the design accepted. The money involved will amount to hundreds of thousands of dollars. It is also known that the Ordnance Department is in the market for 400 pieces of field artillery of the most improved type to aid him in the eventuation of his universal peace proposition.

GOOD TOWN IN GEORGIA.

Liquor, Negroes, Cards, Tobacco, and Gambling Barred in Democrat.

The village of Bladensburg, Md., is a town of about 1,000 people, and is situated on the Potomac river. It is a town of about 1,000 people, and is situated on the Potomac river. It is a town of about 1,000 people, and is situated on the Potomac river.

An Unlooked-for Development.

The bureau looked into the matter and discovered that a soldier bearing the name of the deceased had been living in a Western town and drawing a pension for disabilities. The widow being informed of this, one of the sons came on to Washington, and in an interview with the commissioner, stated that the man out West, who is evidently a fraud of the worst kind, had requested the bureau to investigate the matter. He said that his father had always been devoted to his mother, who was a widow with a large family of children, and that when he went to the war it was with the hope of being able to return soon afterward.

How He Repaid a Loan from His Prima Legatine.

It was at the time when Gilmore was at the height of his Paris engagement that his agent ran off with his funds and left the old legation almost bankrupt. He imperturbably good nature and came out of it successfully. He came to me one morning, smiling and asking me if I knew any one by the name of the pensioner. He answered at once that he did, was acquainted with him, and his family.

Found by His Son.

The young man then felt certain that there was some great mistake, and suggested that the pensioner might by some strange coincidence have become possessed of the same name, and have lived in the same locality as his father at one time in his life and that he would stay where he was. He said he was glad to have met his son, and so dismissed him.

His Pipe.

With tender caresses he fondles the thing. This is the popular type. With his black, dirty bowl in its tarred old pipe. I have a plain, ordinary old pipe!

How His Pipe Gently Pressed to that Bitter old Stem!

While he sits and smokes the pipe, the pipe gently presses to that bitter old stem! How his pipe gently presses to that bitter old stem! How his pipe gently presses to that bitter old stem!

Now, I wonder, were I his wife watching him here?

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QUEEN ROWLAND.

SIDEGLITS ON HEROES

Queer Stories of Eccentric Old War Veterans.

A FEW LEAD DOUBLE LIVES

Incidents, Pathetic and Humorous, Developed by the Secret Service of the Pension Bureau—Old Soldiers, Supposed to Be Dead Since the Civil War, Found by Their Anxious Relatives—Some Strange Epistolary Correspondence.

Among the various departments under the immediate supervision of the Commissioner of the United States Pension Bureau is one which, though comparatively unknown to the general public, is extremely active in its operations, and in many respects rivals the famous Secret Service of the Treasury Department. It is the office of the pensioners, and is usually modest organization, and shrinks decidedly from advertising its exploits, although its members can tell any number of tales of endless variety. The range of romance which runs through these stories surpasses anything ever put before the public as fiction, and the men who tell these tales point to the scars on their faces to illustrate some of the hair-breadth escapes they have experienced.

A Widow's Plait.

The widow says: "My husband was terribly bloated in his stomach. He couldn't stoop over and straighten up without helping himself. To him, beans, pork, mashed potatoes, eggs, veal, cabbage his stomach was repulsive. His stomach was the kind called lump-bago-at-fur! His drooping was terrible. When he died his legs burst from pressure. He swelled up as big as a barrel over. I ask that he be taken up and prepared."

Woman-Like, she was believed to add a postscript, and, as with other women's letters, her postscript contains the most important and at the same time most dramatic elements of the whole epistle.

"P. S. When my husband came back from the war I supported him on my needle till he died."

The following extract is an excellent example of an injury which made itself known after an interval of thirty years: "The way I got my war hog was as follows: I was out on a job one day, and my Captain wanted her for a hog. He was chasin' the sow, and she was runnin' through a hole in a fence. I war about the size of the hog, and tried to crawl thru, but I stunk, and trying to wiggle out I throve the rales off, and one leg went out. I do not think the sow had nothing to do with my line of duty, for I did not catch the hog—which she never war caught."

The family complication which is the result of the pension office is a most interesting story will crop out and give the public a peep into the affairs of some of the pension claimants. The pension office is the most interesting story will crop out and give the public a peep into the affairs of some of the pension claimants.

Case Stated in Rhyme.

"I am a grandson of the Revolution, a son of the War of 1812. I will write you a peace of poetry on myself and ancestor." The following is presumably the poem, although it is a little difficult of versification: "My memras carries me back to the day when I was stout always able to roll myself about, but now when I undertake it I feel like a man who has been in the line for thirty-three years ago. I think of that thirty-three year ago when I threw the leg it has made me wish that I was dead. I have always been too proud to let my name be used in any way, but I walk upon my leg. It has given me such a pain it has made me so lame that I have wish that I was dead then seven years ago. I have always been too proud to let my name be used in any way, but I walk upon my leg. It has given me such a pain it has made me so lame that I have wish that I was dead then seven years ago."

LAMAR QUISE.

PAT GILMORE IN PARIS.

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QUEEN ROWLAND.

UPSET THE PRESIDENT

How Van Buren Took an Indiana Mud Bath.

DID IT FOR A FIVE-DOLLAR HAT

Politics and the Promise of a Brand-new Beaver Induced a Stage Driver to Deposit the Dignified Chief Executive in a Mud Hole with the Intention of Impressing Him with the Fact that the National Road Needed Repairs.

Plainfield, Ind., April 25.—"It was right over that under that elm that Stage Driver Mason Wright dumped President Van Buren into a mud puddle for a \$4 hat."

It was the intention of the stage driver to deposit the dignified chief executive in a mud hole with the intention of impressing him with the fact that the National Road needed repairs.

First Presidential Tour.

His trip was outlined over the national road, which runs from Baltimore to St. Louis, and was then as at present the greatest road in the nation. The finest stage coaches, the fastest horses, and the most expert drivers were engaged to accompany the president on his tour.

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The Battle-ship Maine.

You will want a souvenir of this former great battle-ship of Uncle Sam's Navy, and at the same time you may desire a good watch, not only a timekeeper of exceptional merit, but a treasure of rare historical value; one that will increase in value day by day, year by year. The history of this watch is so interesting that it will be told by you to your children and by your children to theirs in the generations to come.

The Hobson and Dewey Watches

represent the best workmanship obtainable, are especially constructed, finely jeweled, American movement, open-faced case, stem-winder, and guaranteed to be excellent time keepers. The cases are made from steel taken from the wreck of battle-ship MAINE, now lying at the bottom of Havana harbor.



United States Navy Yard, New York, Feb. 11, 1899. This is to certify that the United States Government, through their representative at the New York Navy Yard, has delivered to the W. C. GIBSON, of the battle-ship Maine about 1,200 pounds, being the entire amount saved. W. C. GIBSON, Commander United States Navy, in Charge General Delivery of Stores.

This metal was secured through the courtesy of Rear Admiral Bunn, late of the Brooklyn Navy Yard. It has been chemically treated, giving the case the rich blue color possessed by the metal as it came from the mine. NOTE—This gun metal to-day is used by the best jewelers of this country for the manufacture of all kinds of expensive articles, and is considered the very last thing in jewelry.

Only 1,200 Pounds of Steel Secured. Read the letter of Commander W. C. Gibson. It is a guarantee of your getting a genuine article.

Capt. Sigbee Writes. He requested the American people to wait judgment on the wreck of the Maine until report was made. He gives careful thought to all matters, so his commendation of the watch is of high value.

Admiral Dewey Writes. Dewey, as all know, is a man of few words, and he does not write or say anything unless he means it. He is a man of few words, and he does not write or say anything unless he means it.

How to Get a Watch. The regular price of The Weekly Post is 75 cents a year. "The Dewey" or gentleman's watch will be sent free to every one sending 16 subscribers to The Weekly Post for one year, at 75 cents each.

"The Hobson" or ladies' watch will be sent free to every one sending 22 subscribers to The Weekly Post, for one year, at 75 cents each.

Send us the subscribers as fast as secured, with the name of the watch for which you are trying.

These watches can be purchased from The Weekly Post for \$10 each. Either will be sent on approval if a deposit is made of \$5. Money refunded if watch is returned within ten days.

One year's subscription to The Weekly Post sent free with every watch purchased.

Address The Washington Weekly Post, Washington, D. C.

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The Weekly Post, Farm and Home, Handy Atlas of the World. The Weekly Post will send all three papers and the Atlas to old and new subscribers for \$1.00, postage paid.

Weekly Post and Farm and Home one year, without the Atlas, 75 cents. Weekly Post, Farm and Home, and Handy Atlas, 90 cents. The Weekly Post and the Gentleman alone, one year, 75 cents, the price of the Post alone.