Prominent People Named In the News

Miss May Sutton, Tennis Champion — Justice Brewer's Courage — John C. Bell — John Hyde, Cotton Statistician. Frank Rockefeller

MISS MAY SUTTON.

MISS MAY SUTTON'S triumphs on the tennis court have emphasized the fact that the typical American girl of today is an athletic girl. The women of England are proverbially strong and devoted to outdoor life. In wresting the women's championship in tennis from the British Miss Sutton has called attention to the fact that American girls are more and more becoming devotees of outdoor sports and skilled in athletic exercises. She is but eighteen years of age and is a splendid specimen of physical perfection in womanhood. About five feet four inches tall and 145 pounds in weight, she is as strong as a man and has not an ounce of superfluous flesh. She can play at tennis as long as her opponent, whether male or female, for she has a remarkable fund of energy. She belongs to a California family and has three sisters—Ethel, Violet and Florence, naming them in the order of their ages. Ethel was for some years the California champion and had to yield to her younger sister Violet. Violet was at last defeated by Florence, and her honors were wrested from her by May, who proved the greatest player of all. Miss Sutton won the national championship from Miss Moore at Philadelphia last summer by 6—1, 6—2, and this summer took the world's championship away from the women of England.

Justice David J. Brewer of the United States supreme court, who thinks it would be a good plan to sell the Philippine Islands to Japan, is a firm opponent of anything resembling a colonial policy, so far as the American republic is concerned. He says this government was founded as a protest against a colonial system and argues that it is inconsistent for the Americans to establish colonies of their own when they owe their liberties to a successful effort to throw off a foreign yoke. If the Philippines could be disposed of to Japan, he believes it would be the simplest way out of a perplexing situation.

JUSTICE BREWER.

Justice Brewer is possessed of no little courage and presence of mind. He is not a man of mighty physique, but he knows how to handle a gun. Some years ago, when he was on a tour through the Rocky mountains, accompanied by ladies, the party became separated. One of the men in the party scared up a big black bear, which was wounded sufficiently to make it very savage. Bruin started toward where Justice Brewer and two ladies were, and he was traveling like a bear that meant business. The women were much alarmed, but Justice Brewer kept perfectly cool. He hurried the ladies behind some trees for refuge and himself went out boldly to meet the bear. Dropping on one knee as the bear came within a few feet of him, he took deliberate aim and fired. The bear fell dead in his tracks.

District Attorney John C. Bell of Philadelphia has recently been leading the strenuous life. When Mayor Weaver began his campaign against "grafters" the policy of the district attorney was not altogether satisfactory to him. He alleged that Mr. Bell did not afford him sufficient co-operation in the pursuit of corruptionists and was advised by his special council, Elihu Root, now secretary of state, to give Bell opportunity to do the work desired and then if the district attorney did not respond with adequate vigor to go ahead without him. About this time Mr. Bell met with a serious accident. He was in the elevator of an office building when the car took a sudden drop from the seventh floor to the bottom of the shaft. The car was shattered, and five persons were hurt. Mr. Bell broke a leg, sprained an ankle and was badly shaken up. Pending his recovery prosecution of corruptionists has been held in abeyance.

JOHN C. BELL.

District Attorney Bell used to be famous as a football player and still sticks to an athletic mode of life. He attended the law department of the University of Pennsylvania and played halfback on the '83, '84 and '85 teams and was one of the members of the eleven that won Pennsylvania's first victory over Harvard. He plays golf, tennis and baseball and by vigorous exercise keeps in training for his arduous professional labors.

John Hyde, who recently resigned as statistician of the United States department of agriculture, has made a life study of statistical and economic questions. He was born at Stalybridge, Lancashire, England, in 1848 and educated at Stamford academy, Ashton-under-Lyne, and Owens college, now Victoria university, Manchester. He began business life in an English country bank and devoted time that remained after the performance of his routine duties to study and writing on statistical subjects. He extended his investigations into Canada and the United States, and this led him to remove to America. In his investigations he visited every part of the Dominion of Canada and every state and territory of the Union. For six years he was editor of the National Geographic Magazine, and he is a member of numerous learned societies. He was appointed statistician of the agricultural department in 1897. In speaking of his resignation Mr. Hyde said in a letter to the secretary of agriculture, Mr. Wilson:

JOHN HYDE.

"My administration of the office I have the honor to hold has been constantly under fire from one side of the market or the other. Five times it has been investigated, and on every occasion I have been vindicated. In January, 1903, I was awarded $2,500 damages in a libel suit against a prominent firm of cotton brokers by a jury of their own friends and fellow citizens. These results have been very gratifying to me, but I have the highest medical authority for the statement that the continued fight upon me has already considerably shortened my life. If any of my friends think that I ought not to retire under fire I would have them remember that there is never a time when I am not under fire."

Rear Admiral Casper F. Goodrich, who is investigating the boiler explosion on the gunboat Bennington, which cost so many lives, commands the Pacific squadron of Uncle Sam's navy. A native of Pennsylvania, he entered the Naval academy from Connecticut in 1861. He was wonderfully proficient in his studies and left the academy in 1864 at the head of his class. By 1869 he had reached the grade of lieutenant commander, and in 1884 he was made commander. He was promoted to the captaincy in 1898. In 1882 he accompanied Sir Garnet Wolseley on his Sudan campaign as naval aid and was in the famous engagement at Tel-el-Kebir. He has made a specialty of torpedo and fortification work and in that connection has served on important boards. When the war with Spain began he was first assigned to the command of the auxiliary cruiser St. Louis and later was transferred to the command of the cruiser Newark.

REAR ADMIRAL C. F. GOODRICH.

In 1889 Richard Suydam Palmer, a yachtsman who had served as ensign on the St. Louis under Goodrich, her captain, died as a result of the hardships of the war and left Goodrich $10,000 "as an expression of regard for his character and as an affectionate recognition of the many acts of kindness for which I will be always grateful."

Frank Rockefeller, brother of the founder of the Standard Oil company, has not so much money as his much discussed relative, but is said to be the possessor of many millions. He has been brought into the public eye by Miss Ida Tarbell's article in McClure's Magazine describing the transaction by which John D. Rockefeller obtained the Standard Oil stock of Frank's partner in a mining venture, a man named Corrigan. According to Miss Tarbell, Frank did not like his brother's business methods in this transaction and protested against them.

Mr. Rockefeller is the possessor of large cattle ranches in Kansas and Texas. He and his family spend much time on the Kansas ranch, which contains over 14,000 acres and is located in Kiowa county. It is five miles from the Santa Fe railway station to the spacious mansion in the center of the estate, and visitors sometimes find the owner of many millions currying some of his fine cattle or doing other chores about the ranch. Though Mr. Rockefeller has traveled the world over and has money to gratify every wish, he declares that he never enjoys himself half so much as when he is leading a simple, homely life on his big farm. "Ever since I can remember," he once said, "I have wished for a ranch where I might raise blooded cattle. As long as I can remember I have been a lover of all animal nature. At ten I commenced to breed guinea pigs. I once took a prize at a county fair with a fine fighting rooster. I thought I was the happiest boy alive when I came into possession of a horse."

FRANK ROCKEFELLER.

Peace Dangers In the Navy of Uncle Sam

Disaster to the Bennington Recalls Other Tragedies of the Past Decade — Commander Lucien Young's Picturesque Career.

IT has been said that the men who died on the Bennington at San Diego recently when her boilers exploded died as truly in the service of their country as if they had met death when shells were bursting in air during a fight with an enemy. As a matter of fact, in recent years disasters in time of peace have been more fatal to officers and enlisted men in the navy than battles in time of war. Admiral Dewey won the great battle of Manila Bay without a single man in his whole fleet being killed, and Admiral Cervera's fleet was destroyed at Santiago with a loss of but one man on the American side. The total losses of the American navy during the whole Spanish war were but sixteen killed and sixty-eight wounded.

The record of fatalities from disasters of one kind or another during the past decade has been much more appalling. The most distressing of these calamities, of course, was the destruction of the battleship Maine in the harbor of Havana on the night of Feb. 15, 1898. It caused the death of 257 American sailors and hastened the outbreak of the war with Spain. The board of inquiry rendered a decision that the blowing up of the Maine was due to contact with an exterior mine, but whether the affair was accidental or intentional was never clearly shown.

In number of casualties the Bennington disaster ranks next to that of the Maine. No other accident has occurred within the decade approaching either of these catastrophes in loss of life. But there have been quite a number resulting in a small list of dead and injured. On Feb. 3, 1902, a gun burst on board the Kearsarge when it was in West Indian waters, killing five men. This vessel is a namesake of the gallant ship that made a record during the civil war. It was launched at Newport News in 1898 and soon got into trouble with the Newport authorities by the accidental discharge of a shell from a gun in the fighting top. It went hurtling over the peaceful summer resort city, clipped off the top of a big tree and ended its career by taking a section of stone out of the Newport city hall. Fortunately nobody was hit by the stray shot.

COMMANDER LUCIEN YOUNG.

Two serious accidents have befallen the Massachusetts. Jan. 16, 1903, when the ship was off Culebra island, the discharge of a percussion primer while the gun breech was still open caused the death of six men. Dec. 15, 1904, when the same warship was at League Island navy yard, a gasket blew off a boiler and filled the fire room with steam, killing three men.

The accident to the Missouri in April of last year was one of the worst in the list. The vessel was off Pensacola when 2,000 pounds of powder in the after turret ignited. Five officers who were in the turret and twenty-four enlisted men were killed. Flooding of other magazine rooms near the after turret prevented further explosions. One of the officers killed in this accident was Lieutenant John P. V. Gridley, son of Captain Charles V. Gridley, who commanded the Olympia in the battle of Manila Bay.

The battleship Iowa has met with two accidents. Off Pensacola in April, 1903, a gun burst, killing three and injuring five. A few days later a steam pipe in the boiler room burst, and for a time the ship was helpless, but happily the results were not serious. Just ten years ago at New London, Conn., a mishap occurred to the Ericsson, resulting in the death of a number of the crew.

The commander of the Beanington, Lucien Young, has a fine record for courteous deeds. He is a native of Kentucky and is fifty-three years of age. When he was a midshipman he saved the life of a fellow sailor. At the time of the wreck of the Huron off Cape Hatteras he swam ashore through a turbulent sea, carrying a line, and thus saved a large number of lives. This achievement received recognition from congress and from the legislature of his native state.