

LANGLEY, AERONAUT.

GOVERNMENT RECOGNITION OF HIS FLYING MACHINE PLANS.

His Investigation of the Problem of Mechanical Flight—The Flight of Three-quarters of a Mile Made by His Machine the Longest on Record.

The recent determination of the United States Board of Ordnance to appropriate \$25,000 to develop the idea of Secretary S. P. Langley, of the Smithsonian Institution in the construction of a man-carrying, power-driven aeroplane is an evidence of confidence in the future efficiency of the apparatus to which Professor Langley has devoted many years that must be extremely gratifying to him.

The decision of the Board of Ordnance to institute further investigation was influenced by the value in time of war to reconnoitre the enemy's position and to drop high explosives from above, the value of which is appreciated by all strategists, and one that has led some nations to experiment with balloons, as this country did during the recent war. Balloons have not, however, realized all the hopes that have been entertained regarding them.

When the subject was recently under discussion by the Board, Professor Langley appeared before it and gave his opinion in regard to making further experiments, explaining the workings of his own machine, and telling in the most concise manner of the progress made in aerial navigation in Germany and France, where he went last summer and became familiar with the state of the art. The official statement he made that he has consented to give the Board the benefit of his knowledge and experience on the understanding that he is to receive no remuneration for his work, it being his ambition to donate his services to the cause of science and his country, as an evidence of which his machine has not been patented and with his consent never will be.

Prof. Langley's invention was perfected in 1895, and a short successful flight was made with an aerodrome in the spring of the year, but he was reluctant at that time, for reasons obvious to those who have followed the story of mechanical flight from its beginning, to make his success public, and it was not until a year later that the world was taken into the confidence of the great inventor. On May 6, 1896, his aerodrome made two successful flights, which were witnessed by only a few people, but fortunately by those who understood and had sympathy with the project, and whose testimony was universally accepted. Among those few were Alexander Graham Bell, who subsequently wrote an interesting paper concerning his observations when the Langley machine made a flight of three-quarters of a mile, the longest known.

After only a few years devoted to the problem of mechanical flight, Professor Langley succeeded in surmounting several obstacles that had heretofore been considered insurmountable and in producing a machine the incontestable point in regard to which is that it will fly and is susceptible of being steered. But his experience records many failures, and four machines were built before he made one that met the requirements of free flight. After many unsuccessful attempts to launch the fourth aerodrome, he was finally gratified by seeing his machine soar like a great bird through the air, and from this time on the problem of launching was solved.

In an article published in "The Aeronautical Annual," Professor Langley makes graceful allusion to those who were associated with and assisted him in his work, Dr. Carl Barnus and J. Elfrith Watkins, the latter of whom is still associated with him in the work. Professor Langley's aerodrome looks in flight like a huge bird; its proportions, however, are greater than any known inhabitant of the air, measuring from tip to tip of its wings fourteen feet. It is built almost entirely of steel and driven by a steam engine. Its weight, including everything it carries, is about forty pounds. The method of propulsion is by twin screw propellers, and there is no gas or any other aid for raising or keeping it up in the air except its internal energy. The machine here referred to, however, did not carry any passengers and was only a working model. It remained about two or three minutes.

Flies Took the Ship; Birds Took Them.

A most remarkable tale of the sea is that related by Capt. Langhull of the British steamer Kensington, which arrived in port from Sourabaya, Java, with a heavy cargo of sugar. The Kensington sailed from this port over two months ago. The weather was extremely hot even for a tropical region. When five days out of steamer passed through a vast area of seaweed, the home of millions of dragon flies. Hardly had the vessel's prow touched the seaweed when the flies, attracted by the savory fumes of the cargo, began to swarm about the deck. They gathered in great numbers. They penetrated the wicker sugar bags. They attacked the crew, stinging the men about the face and hands in a frightful manner. For five days the dragon flies continued their onslaught, driving the men to desperation.

Then there came an unexpected rescue. A flock of boatwain birds, the foe of the dragon fly, circled and wheeled above the unfortunate steamer, then swooped down upon it. In a short time the birds had cleared the Kensington of the pests.—Philadelphia Times.

CHARACTER IN HANDWRITING.

Easy Way to Make Accurate Analysis of a Person's Disposition.

For a little impromptu fun when a few friends happen to drop in ask each one to write any quotation that pops into his or her head and carefully sign name in full. Pen and ink are better than pencil, but the latter will answer in a pinch. If the writing is dark this shows a leaning toward athletics and a love for outdoor life and sports. If the letters are slender and faint the writer is reserved and rarely shows emotion or becomes confidential. Sloping letters indicate a very sensitive disposition, whereas those that are straight up and down evince ability to face the world and throw off the "slings and arrows of outrageous fortune."

Curly and loops are out of fashion nowadays, but any inclination to ornate penmanship is a sure indication of a leaning toward the romantic and sentimental, while the least desire to shade a letter shows imagination and a tendency to idealize common things. If the same letter is formed differently by the same person this shows love of change. Long loops or endings to the letters indicate that the writer "wears his heart upon his sleeve," or in other words, is trusting, non-secretive, and very fond of company. If the "y" has a specially long finish, this shows affectation, but if the same person is also careless about crossing the "ts," the combination is an unhappy one, as it points to fickleness in work and affectation. A curved cross on the "t," or the incurring of the first letters of a word shows an affectionate and good-natured disposition if taken separately; but if the two are indulged in by the same writer it is a sign of jealousy.

Writing that is rather small points to cleverness, quick intuitions, a liking for one's own way, brilliant intellect, and fine powers of penetration. Round, jolly, comfortable looking letters betoken a disposition to correspond.

With these hints in mind it will be surprising how many caps may be found to fit ourselves and our friends.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

CACHES IN THE ARCTIC REGION.

Places Where Explorers Store their Provisions.

An Arctic expedition moving overland practically always intends to return by the same route. Even in these days of compressed foods the weight of several months' provender for a large party is considerable. Therefore it is stored in caches along the route, several days' journey apart.

What is simply a hole in the ground is first dug—a matter of extreme difficulty at times. Then, painfully digging elsewhere, earth is brought to the surface, and a quantity of this is dumped into the hole. Ice is melted and the water from it poured upon the earth, the entire mixture freezing in a few moments into a compact cache. On it the provisions the party want to put aside for a future day are laid, so many pounds for each man, carefully calculated. There should be just enough to support life comfortably until the next cache is reached on the return, with two or three days' rations over for emergencies.

With stones, ice and snow the walls of the cache are now built up, water being poured over the snowy structure hermetically to seal it. It is a point of honor, among even the poorest natives, not to rifle a cache unless in cases of the direst necessity; but the provisions must be kept safe from the bears. Properly built, the structure is impregnable, and it needs the work of pickaxes to tear it open. It is marked by anything the explorers can spare or find in the vicinity, generally by a staff of wood. In Siberia the tooth of a mammoth is not infrequently used. Despite this precaution, however, many caches can never be found again.

Painting the Emperor's Portrait.

Not long ago the German Emperor wished to have his portrait painted by an English painter, and a certain well-known artist was recommended to him. The artist received and accepted the imperial commission, arrived at Berlin, and made the acquaintance of the Kaiser. The artist prepared for the first sitting with some considerable dread. He was conducted to a very large room in the palace, scantily furnished in cheerful splendor, where the Kaiser awaited him. "You don't like this room?" said the Kaiser, before many minutes had elapsed. "What sort of a room would you like?" "Oh," said the artist, "a small room, cosy and comfortably furnished." "I thought so," said the Kaiser; "I didn't choose this room." Then they inspected rooms together, till the artist was satisfied. The sitting began. "Now," said the Kaiser, a few minutes later, "you don't paint like that at home; you are not comfortable; how do you like painting?" "Well, coat off—but on—sipe," said the artist, tersely. "Just so," said the Kaiser, "that is exactly how I should like you to paint. Now, do make yourself at home and comfortable, and we will talk about England." Then and there the German Emperor and the English artist each made a friend.—To-day.

HOW INDIANS FARE.

DR. PARKHURST WOULD RATHER BE A MALAY.

Hon. T. J. Morgan, Ex-Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Tells How Much Worse Off the Doctor Would Be If He Were a Yellow Subject of Spain.

Dr. Parkhurst of New York recently preached a sermon in which he said: "I would rather be a Malay subject to Spain than be an American Indian subject to the Indian Bureau. So long as it is an understood thing that office is spoils we may well pray to be delivered from the responsibility of governing dependences."

Hon. T. J. Morgan wrote the Tribune in defense of the Government's care of the Indians as follows:

By "Malay" I suppose is meant any inhabitant of the Philippine Islands; and I assume that Dr. Parkhurst means by his statement to institute a comparison between Spain's treatment of the Philippines and our treatment of the Indians. I do not raise the question, would Dr. Parkhurst rather be a "Malay" or an "Indian"? as I do not suppose that is involved. Let us glance then for a moment at what seems to me a fair statement as to the difference in the Spanish method of dealing with the Philippines and our method of dealing with the Indians.

First—Spain has derived from the Philippine Islands a large revenue by a system of taxation which has borne very heavily upon the inhabitants. She has sought to force from them the largest possible amount of money, and has spent upon them for their own benefit a mere pittance.

We have never regarded the Indians as subjects of taxation or sources of revenue. On the other hand, we have treated them as wards and have bestowed upon them as gratuities large sums of money. When we have taken their land it has been by agreement, and we have paid them for it large sums of money in the aggregate. A large part of the present expense of the Indian Bureau is incurred in the payment to them of stated annual sums in fulfillment of treaty stipulations.

Let me give one single illustration: The Osage Indians, now living in Indian Territory, a remnant now of about fifteen hundred people, hold in common a large reservation on which they live, where they have for the most part comfortable homes, extensive farms, stocked with cattle and horses and supplied with a fair amount of agricultural implements. From this land alone it would be possible for them to obtain an abundant subsistence; with proper industry no Indian would suffer want. But in addition to this landed estate—in the use of which they are protected by the Government—there is to their credit in the Treasury of the United States \$8,000,000, on which the Government pays them in cash every three months the sum of \$100,000. Besides this, the Government maintains for them large, well-equipped boarding schools. A good many white men have thought it well to go among these Osages, marry their daughters and identify themselves with the tribe in order to share in their wealth. If an instance similar to this can be pointed out by Dr. Parkhurst in Spain's treatment of the Malays, I should be exceedingly interested in reading it.

Second—The five so-called civilized tribes—Cherokees, Creeks, Choctaws, Chickasaws and Seminoles—in the Indian Territory have for many years maintained their position as nations, each tribe having its own autonomy, its landed estate, its system of legislation, administration, courts and schools under the protection of the United States. The Government is seeking through the Dawes Commission to prevail upon these people to surrender their autonomy and identify themselves with the people of the United States as citizens. I do not know of any similar instance of absolute self-government among the Malays under Spanish protection. If there is such will Dr. Parkhurst kindly indicate it?

Third—Any and every Indian has the privilege of separating from the tribe, assuming civilized habits, accepting allotments of land and becoming a citizen of the United States, with the full enjoyment of all ordinary privileges of citizenship and with some special safeguards and exemptions which his white fellow-citizens do not enjoy.

Fourth—The United States, through the Indian Bureau, is maintaining among the Indians of this country a system of public boarding-schools at a cost of about \$3,000,000 annually, in which there are now enrolled no less than twenty-four thousand Indian pupils, who are fed, clothed, instructed and nursed when sick at the expense of the United States. From the best information that I have been able to obtain, Spain has adopted no such scheme of education for the Malays under her control, and I had supposed that the outlook for the Indian boy and girl who can receive free of cost the advantages offered in these great Government schools, where they receive not only a common English education but an industrial training, and where there is open to them on leaving school the choice of occupation and of residence anywhere in the United States, was possibly superior to that of the Malay under Spanish rule. Will Dr. Parkhurst kindly correct me if I am mistaken?

Fifth—it is commonly understood, and I had supposed it was correct, that the inhabitants of the Philippine Islands have been plundered and oppressed by the so-called religious orders to a very extreme degree, and that there is practically no such thing

among them as religious liberty. On the other hand, the Indian Bureau does not seek to impose upon the Indians any form of religion, but gives them the utmost freedom of action in religious matters, and offers every facility to any and all religious demonstrations for the prosecution among them of missionary work.

For these and for other reasons which I might mention I confess that for myself I should rather be an Indian under the Indian Bureau than a Malay subject to Spain.

THE SOUTH'S COTTON PROBLEM.

A New Theory to Account for the Falling Price and Increasing Acreage.

Along with the question of the identity of the man who assaulted William Patterson, with the controversy over the relative merits of city and country life and the discussion whether or married men live on the average longer than single men or only imagine that it is longer, is another familiar subject of dispute not yet settled—why the cotton acreage of the South keeps constantly increasing and why the agriculturists of that region do not vary their products. The cotton acreage in the South has steadily been increasing for a good many years; the selling value of cotton has been steadily going down. As the acreage has been enlarged the selling price of cotton has decreased, with the result that though the gross value of the American cotton crop does not vary radically from year to year, the ratio of the expenses involved in its production, the cost of labor, machinery, land and interest, is steadily on the increase. Now there comes forward a man with a new theory to explain the matter. He hails from the heart of the cotton district of Georgia, the chief cotton-producing State (Ill. Texas bore away the palm of eminence. His theory is that the reason why the price of cotton is going down and the cotton acreage is increasing is that each year that a larger number of colored men and a smaller number of white men are engaged as principals in cotton culture. He avers that in all the southern states negroes are buying farm lands and they are producing cotton at a cost below that at which the white man can produce it. Their rapid strides forward in cotton culture have done more than anything else to double the cotton output and reduce the price in the last few years. They have driven the price down.

Under the direction of the Department of Agriculture there were made last year some inquiries into the dietary of colored inhabitants of the cotton belt. The investigation was conducted in co-operation with the Agricultural College of Alabama. It was shown by them that the average daily diet of a negro laborer in the cotton fields amounted to three-quarters of a pound of bacon, less than half a pound of flour, half a pound of molasses, and one pound of cornmeal, and that as a result of their modes of subsistence and their ways of life, the labor of colored men in the cotton belt was of such small material value as seriously to embarrass and threaten the work of the white farmers—whenever the colored men have control of the land. The matter was brought up for discussion at a recent convention at Macon, Ga., and considerable support was given to this view of the case.

BILL NYE'S BIG HIT.

The Audience Was Full of Emotion and Appreciation.

The following is one of James Whitcomb Riley's stories of his former lecturing partner, Bill Nye:

It was the opening of their joint season; they had both been rustier during the vacation and were both brown as berries. Nye looked much like an Otello in his sunburned make-up, and Riley suggested to him the application of some "liquid white," a cosmetic much effected by the gentleman of the profession.

Nye sent for the preparation, and never having used anything of the kind before, he filled the palm of his hand with it and carelessly smeared it over his countenance. There was no mirror in his very primitive dressing room, and Riley was beautifying himself on the other side of the stage.

The "liquid white" dried out somewhat like whitewash, and when Nye appeared before the audience he was a sight to behold. His head looked like a frosted top piece on a wedding cake; his face, white as the driven snow, was expressionless and blank. The audience shrieked, and when he came off from his first selection, they demanded his reappearance. He obliged them to howls of laughter; again he made his exit, and again was redemanded by the uproarious audience.

Believing he had made a hit, he was about returning to the stage, when he was caught by the arm by Mrs. Nye, who exclaimed: "William Edgar Nye, what have you got on your face?" "Nothing but its usual expression, my dear."

"Expression—fiddlesticks! You're a fright!" cried his wife, and leading him to where there was a piece of broken looking-glass, showed him how he looked.

Nye was mortified, and catching sight of Riley, just about going on the stage, he would have undoubtedly followed him on and been revenged, but for the intervention of Mrs. Nye.

His head was scraped, combed and washed, and his next selection was read without a "hand" from the audience. Moreover, the story is a fact, and not a press agent's concoction.

"Do you call this angel cake, Katharine?"

"Yes; isn't it good?"

"Of course, dear; but I didn't know there were any iron-jawed angels."

Detroit Free Press.

Society Women and, in fact, nearly all women who undergo a nervous strain, are compelled to regretfully watch the growing pallor of their cheeks, the coming wrinkles and thinness that become more distressing every day. Every woman knows that ill-health is a fatal enemy to beauty and that good health gives to the plainest face an enduring attractiveness. Pure blood and strong nerves—these are the secret of health and beauty. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People build up and purify the blood and strengthen the nerves. To the young girl they are invaluable, to the mother they are a necessity, to the woman approaching fifty they are the best remedy that science has devised for this crisis of her life. Mrs. Jacob Weaver, of Bushnell, Ill., is fifty-six years old. She says: "I suffered for five or six years with the trouble that comes to women at this time of life. I was much weakened, was unable, much of the time, to do my own work, and suffered beyond my power to describe. I was down-hearted and melancholy. Nothing seemed to do me any good. Then I made up my mind to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People. I bought the first box in March, 1897, and was benefited from the start. A box and a half cured me completely, and I am now rugged and strong."—Bushnell (Ill.) Record. The genuine package always bears the full name. At all druggists or sent postpaid on receipt of price 50¢ per box by the Dr. Williams Medicine Co., Schenectady, N.Y.

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When you want to look on the bright side of things, use SAPOLIO

Rev. Hicks and some of the other profits say that February is to be the real winter month and they advise all not to be deluded into thinking that the "back-bone of the winter" has been broken because we have had several thaws. RUBY LIPS—and a clear complexion, the pride of woman—Have you lost these charms through Torpid Liver, Constipation, Biliaryness, or Nervousness? Dr. Agnew's Liver Pills will restore them to you—40 Little "Rubies" in a vial—10 cents. Act like a charm. Never gripe.—4. Sold by C. A. Kleim.

Milton Fair Statement. We learn from the Milton Record that the statement of the finances of the Milton Driving Park and Fair association shows up very creditably. The receipts from all sources for the year were \$5,609.99, which includes the county appropriations and the balance in the treasury of \$346.26 from last year. The total expenditures were \$5,254.63, which includes the payment of stockholders loan and a note in bank of \$550. The association's gross indebtedness is \$1,519, or less cash in treasury, 1,163.94.

A Sensible Man. Would use Kemp's Balsam for the Throat and Lungs. It is curing more cases of Coughs, Colds, Asthma, Bronchitis Croup and all Throat and Lung Troubles, than any other medicine. The proprietor has authorized any druggist to give you a Sample Bottle Free to convince you of the merit of this great remedy. Price 25c. and 50c. 1-5-d-4t.

Hard on Card Players. Circuit Judge Settle created a sensation in Bowling Green, Ky., by his charge to the grand jury a few days ago, and all society is a-tremble. The charge was on the subject of gambling, and the judge charged the jury to return indictments for all kinds of gambling, declaring that it made no difference whether it was progressive euchre played in the parlor of one of the society leaders for prizes, or whether it was with chips across the green cloth of a gambling den. It is expected that the grand jury will take the bull by the horns and return indictments as directed.

DYSPEPSIA'S CLUTCH.—Dr. Von Stan's Pineapple Tablets are nature's most wonderful remedy for all disorders of the stomach. The digestive powers of pineapple can be tested by mixing equal parts of pineapple and beef and agating a temperature of 130 degrees Fahrenheit, when the meat will be entirely digested. Pineapple Tablets relieve in one day. 35 cents.—5. Sold by C. A. Kleim.

Locomotives in 1898. The Railroad Gazette says that the total output of locomotives outside of the railroad shops in 1893 amounted to 1875, as against 1251 in 1897, an increase of nearly 50 per cent. The total output of cars aggregate 105,158, of which 99,809 are freight, 699 passenger, and 4,650 street cars. The past year was the best for the car building industry since 1890, the record breaking year, when the car output amounted to 103,000.

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