

POLITICS IN AUSTRALIA

Hot-House Where State Socialisms Bloom and Bud.

CRY "WHITE AUSTRALIA"

Government Protects the Community Against Strikes and Lockouts—Exclusive of Aliens and Negroes Strictly Enforced—Plural Voting Abolished.

Sunny Australia is best described as a political hot-house, writes Gahan in Booklover's Magazine...

In Australia, indeed, they have abolished plural voting, and have freely given the suffrage to all women...

Some of these advanced measures have been hastened; yet socialism here is not merely an after-growth of democracy...

Asphalt Laid in Slabs. A new system of laying asphalt roads is being adopted in London...

The Tools of Genius. Some of the greatest discoveries in physics and chemistry have been made with the simplest forms of apparatus...

Gentlewomen Economical. American wives of British peers are usually considered to be as extravagant as they are rich...

Czar's Relatives. The twenty-three nearest male relatives of the czar each receive a salary of \$460,000 a year from the government...

FISHING THROUGH THE ICE

Spearing Muscallonge on Chautauqua Lake Pleasant Sport.

Up to and including 1902 fishermen were permitted to spear muscallonge through the ice on Monday and Thursday of each week for five consecutive weeks...

The fisherman sits down with one foot on either side of the house and places a weighted wooden minnow about six or eight inches below the ice...

Revival of the English Inn.

While some reformers are bent on ending the public house, others are busy at mending it. We need not decide for both...

California Salt Farm.

One of the strangest of farms in the country, if not in the whole world, is situated in Southern California, 205 feet below the level of the sea...

Leeward of a Ship.

South End—The leeward side of a ship is the opposite to that on which the wind blows when it crosses her course...

INCIDENTS OF THE SIEGE

Wire Entanglements, Man in Armor and the Star Shell.

RUSS AND INGENIOUS JAPS

Japanese Were Not Accustomed to the Searchlights and Were Confused and Blinded by Them—Realized Their Safety Lay in Getting Back to Camp.

Among the many contrivances which contributed to make Port Arthur what it was, nothing exceeded in importance the Russian use of wire entanglements...

The commonest way was for the soldiers to creep up after dark, lie on their backs, and then try to cut the wires with their shears...

Of course, the shell fire destroyed much of the wire fences, but the Japanese had another way of destroying them by powder...

Sometimes the men would, as a last desperate resort, walk up in broad daylight—I have seen it myself before an attack—protected by one of their big shields...

The first man who was sent out was met by a number of rifle shots, which hit him right in the chest; the bullets did not penetrate the shield...

Of the active means of defense the Russian searchlights and machine-guns came in the front rank. They utterly blinded and confused the Japanese...

Then suddenly another light, of which the Russians had nine, threw the Japanese into the fullest relief.

Instantly a tremendous fire was opened up on them from rifles, and especially, from machine guns, which, at this range, played havoc with them on the coverless plain...

A Japanese machine gun attempted to recover the retreat. A star shell instantly detected it, whereupon a searchlight was turned upon it...

At times we could hear a faint swish in the air when a star shell was fired. A thin, scarcely perceptible curved line of sparks mounting skyward, a rain of white phosphorus stars sinking slowly, slowly through the dark...

The ink plant of New Granada is a curiosity. The juice of it can be used as ink without any preparation.

Russia has a per capita investment in industrial enterprises of \$4, while the United States have \$125.

RACE SUICIDE IN LONDON

Due to Love of Ease and Luxury Among Upper Classes.

The continued fall in the birth and marriage rate in London, combined with the terribly high rate of infant mortality, is viewed with the greatest concern in religious and scientific circles...

"Love of ease and luxury among the upper classes," he continued, "are mainly responsible for this terrible state of affairs. The refusal of mothers to accept the responsibility of motherhood is, in my opinion, nothing less than child murder."

The moral standard in this respect is much higher among the lower than among the upper classes. For instance, while the birth rate was 37.6 per 1,000 in Stepney, 35.7 in Bethnal Green and 34.5 in Poplar, all poor districts...

"I weep to think of it. London is becoming another Herculaneum, another Pompeii. If we do not mend our ways our fate will be none the less terrible."

"History has proved over and over again that when the birth-rate falls the whole prosperity of the country suffers. Take France, for instance. Her stagnant population has brought defeat in war, increased criminality, and a lessening of virtue and strength."

Sir James Crichton Browne also blames the mothers of Britain for the declining birth-rate and the heavy infant mortality. He has declared these facts to be due to an increased disinclination on the part of mothers to nurse their own offspring.

"The extent to which mothers shirk their responsibilities is lamentable," he said. "Seduced by the siren calls of fashion and frivolity, these women evade their duty—to the loss of their offspring."

The Bishop of Ripon declares that much more terrible than those irregular alliances which the church had not sanctioned were "those terrible fashionable marriages where the duties of life are shirked, and where marriage is made a mockery. This is a question affecting society as a whole, for the birth-rate of almost every European nation is declining."

The Bishop of London expressed his firm belief that married life properly lived is the happiest form of existence.

The Man Who Rules Japan.

The emperor of Japan is the sun of all authority. Everything in Dai Nippon shines by his light. In the Japanese conception of history he is the living representative of the gods who made Everlasting Great Japan...

Cotton in England.

American cotton tinkers, with memories still busy with the recent uproar in our cotton mart, will probably read with interest of the discussion in the house of commons recently on cotton-growing in the British empire...

MANY VARIETIES OF TEA

Differences in Products a Matter of Careful Preparation.

FEW VARIETIES OF PLANT

Utmost Skill Required in Conducting the Withering, Drying, Coloring and Perfuming Process—No Machinery in This Industry—Best Teas Prepared by Oldest Workers.

Tea growing is one field of agriculture where modern machinery has no place. It is essentially an industry where everything must be done by hand. The only place where improved agricultural implements could be used is in the plowing, but as tea is grown mostly on rough and rocky hillsides...

The variety of tea depends on its preparation, its age when gathered, or upon foreign plants and flowers mixed with it to give fragrance. Young Hyson, Hyson and Hyson skin teas all grow on the same plants, yet there is as much difference between Hyson and Hyson skin as there is between the finest silk and the coarsest hemp...

The distinctive quality of a tea comes largely from methods that are used to perfume it. In some teas, richly perfumed flowers are mixed with tea leaves all through the drying and fermenting process to give it a sweet fragrance. Pouchong tea, which is immensely popular with many epicures, is nothing but a scented Oolong. Four different varieties of flowers are used in giving it the fragrant odor that has made it so popular...

The plants at maturity reach a height of from 1 foot three inches to 3 feet, according to variety. There are eight varieties cultivated in Formosa. In that Japanese island tea culture was unknown until about a century ago, when it was introduced from China. Formosa then being a Chinese possession. In appearance a tea plant is more like the rosemary of our old-fashioned gardens than any other familiar plant. It is also much like the sage. The plants are considered old enough to yield leaves in the fourth year after transplanting. After they are thirteen years old they are pruned carefully for three years.

The leaves are gathered during seven months of the year, from April until November. Only the young terminal leaves are taken, nipped by hand, three or four at a time, with the greatest care. The tea is known as "winter tea," "autumn tea," "summer tea," or "spring tea," according to the season in which the leaves are gathered.

Tea plantations vary in size from a very few square yards to 120 square miles. About 1,000 pounds of green leaves is the usual yield per acre. These leaves when dried make about 250 pounds of tea ready for the pot. Oolong tea is placed on a canvas mat and exposed to dry in the sun directly after gathering. This is the first withering. After a short time in the sun they undergo another withering process in bamboo trays placed in a room. After this they are poured into vessels called kamwo, the leaves are subjected to a third and last softening before being heated in pans. This softening is intended to perfume the tea by the slight fermentation which is engendered. This seems a simple process, but it requires the greatest skill. Tea is made good or bad according to the skill used. There are two stages of the pan-heating which follows the last withering. Upon leaving the heated pans, the tea is dried in three stages over a carefully regulated fire.

The color of the tea depends upon the process used in withering and drying. The utmost skill has to be used in all the stages of preparation. Tea workers of the fields are not necessarily skilled in their tasks, but in the process of drying, coloring and perfuming it requires a man who has had years of experience. The best teas are prepared by men who have grown old at their work.

Brains of Men and Apes.

According to the examinations of the brains of Europeans that have been made by anatomists, one of the most important physical differences between men and apes and monkeys has been the absence of the so-called simian fold in the human brain. This simian fold, or sulcus, which occurs on the posterior portion of the main hemisphere, has recently been discovered by Prof. G. Elliot Smith, of the Egyptian Government School of Medicine, in the course of an examination of a number of brains of Egyptians and Soudanese. He has found that in certain examples of brains in his collection the characteristic folds found in anthropoid apes are so closely reproduced that he is able to trace and clearly establish the identity of every sulcus or fissure. Prof. Smith has also succeeded in finding human brains where the occipital pattern corresponds closely with the brain of the gorilla.

As these points of identity between man and his nearest relations have not previously been encountered by European scientists in their brain studies their importance can be realized, as they do away with one of the supposed and hitherto recognized structural distinctions. — Harper's Weekly.

ENGLAND AND OUR NAVY.

Recognizes We Are Equipped to Protect Interest in Atlantic and Pacific

No greater compliment has ever been paid to any nation than that which was conveyed by Great Britain to the United States. With the traditions of three hundred years of naval power and the consciousness of having been the world's police force for at least a hundred years, Great Britain made a public recognition of the fact that the navy of the United States has come to be capable of carrying on the work in the Western Hemisphere which is the function of naval power.

This recognition came in the form of a redistribution of the naval forces of the British empire, which will, when fully carried out, practically abandon the naval work in this hemisphere to the vessels of the United States. The fleet which has been maintained in West-Indian and North Atlantic waters since the days of English colonization on this side of the Atlantic is to be withdrawn and made a part of the main defenses of the British Isles.

The real reason for the change is that with the additions which have been made to the navy of the United States since the Spanish-American war, this country is, probably for the first time in its history, able effectively to police Atlantic and Pacific waters adjacent to North and South America, and for the first time the presence of the warships of other nations is not necessary in any part of this wide flung commerce line to maintain the international order for which the ships of Great Britain have stood for so many years.—Harper's Weekly.

Cremation in England.

The slow progress that is being made by cremation in this country must be disappointing to its advocates as well as surprising to the student of human affairs. Twenty years ago the pioneers of cremation naturally met with a good deal of opposition, for we alter our ideas on the subject of "pomp of death" a good deal more slowly than on the mere question of how to live. But it was reasonable to expect that in two decades sentiment would have capitulated to reason to a greater extent than has been the case. Unfortunately, as we think, the law courts early stepped in and stereotyped that sentiment before it had had time to steady itself. Dr. Tristram decided in 1834 that unless explicit instructions had been left in the will an executor is not competent to cremate his testator. The ground of his decision was one that already reads strangely, viz., that every one is entitled to Christian burial, and that cremation is not Christian burial. Thus it is that only those enthusiasts for hygiene who make the stipulation themselves come to be cremated.—London News.

To Make Japanese Taller.

The Japanese government has been greatly exercised in its mind over the low stature of the soldiers, and it appointed a commission to study the causes of this lack of height, and to suggest a remedy. The commission has published its report, and it ascribes the shortness of the Japanese to the habit of sitting on the heels instead of on a chair. This attitude, it holds, had prevented the legs of the Japanese from growing, and it suggests that the children should for the future be made to sit in the European fashion. This is a matter in which the query "Why can't you leave it alone?" applies with much force. The legs of the Japanese may be short, but they are uncommonly sturdy, and are capable of great feats in marching. Moreover, it should be remembered that a short soldier hears many bullets whistle harmlessly overhead which would kill a taller man. In these days of magazine rifles there is little advantage in height, so it is just as well for Japan that it will certainly take many generations of sitting on chairs to make the Japanese a taller race.

Camphor Wood as Road Paving.

An experiment is to be made in London to ascertain the wearing and durability of camphor wood for road paving. A section of the Buckingham palace road for a distance of 450 feet is to be paved with this wood. If within four years the new material proves unsatisfactory it is to be replaced by creosoted deal blocks. The experiment is entirely new, for camphor wood has never been used before for this purpose. The wood comes from East India and is of a rich brown color and close grained. Trials are also being made with various other woods for this selfsame purpose.

Health in the Midst of Disease.

So certain is the victory of modern science that, in spite of the fact that consumption is contagious, when one knows just wherein lies the danger, and takes precautions, one may nurse consumptives year after year and still be safer than in any other employ. In a Chicago hospital, devoted to consumptives, after two years of occupancy by an average of 100 patients, it was impossible to collect from the dust of wards enough tubercule germs to start a growth of them in the broth or the jelly in which they live and multiply outside the human organism. No question in the world that consumptives living carelessly and separately in the finest climate in the world will make that place a plague spot; no question in the world that regular sanatoria enormously diminish the death rate from consumption in the neighborhood around them. Why? Because they demonstrate how the disease can be avoided. They teach the lesson of how to live.—Everybody's.