THE COLUMBIAN, BLOOMSBURG, PA

POLITICS IN AUSTRALIA

Hot-House Where State Socialisms Bloom and Bud.

CRY "WHITE AUSTRALIA"

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

Sunny Australia is best described a political hot-house, writes pariss Gahan in Booklover's Magazine, leneath the glass of extreme democtoy twenty varieties of state socialism a budding, and a dozen more have ached their full bloom here a gencration or two before their due time in other parts of the world. You in the United States would not the political millennium cost far distant if your civil service were reformed by leaving all appointments to commissioners as impartial and independent as your own supreme court judges. To England the payment of legislators and the separation of church from state would seem revolutionary. But democrats have gone much farther.

In Australia, indeed, they have abolished plural voting, and have freely given the suffrage to all women. They have established graduated income and progressive land taxes. Their great iand difficulty being met by such heroic means as the compulsory repurchase of large estates for closer settlement, and by state loans on farm mortgages. The referendum has been used to decide the greatest question that has yet arisen in Australian history. Laws have been pasaed for the minimum wage, the eighthour day, early closing of shops, day labor on government contracts, and the inspection of factories, shops, and mines. Old-age pensions have been established in three of the colonies. and the commonwealth parliament is bent on a federal scheme. The exciusion of alien and undesirable immigrants is enforced so rigidly that even British workmen who come under contract are turned back; the South Bea Islanders who have been working for years in the Queensland sugar fields are to be deported and the government has refused to renew mall contracts with British steamers which carry colored sailors or stokers. So strong is the national cry for a "White Australia."

Some of these advanced measures have been hastened; yet socialism here is not merely an after-growth of democracy. From the beginning the Australian governments have owned and operated their railways, teleraphs, and telephones. In some ases, also, they have kept in their own hands the street railways and electric lighting. All the colonies have government savings banks. In New Zealand there is government insurance against both fire and death. And now the government has undertaken to protect the community against strikes and lockouts, much as you protect yourselves against murder and highway robbery. When voluntary conciliation failed, as it has failed in Massachusetts and everywhere else, the practical reformers of New Zealand and Australia did not fear to enforce compulsory arbitration

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, beginning on the first Monday in February. During this season the lake presented a busy appearance, as fishermen came from not only the immediate vicinity, but from Pennsylvania and Ohio. For this method of fishing each man is supplied with a 'fish coop" and a spear. The "coops' are huts about four feet square and from 31/2 to 41/2 feet in height with a pair of wide runners underneath, and built perfectly tight in order to exclude every ray of light. Within is a small sheet iron stove, burning wood or charcoal, to furnish warmth for the fisherman. Opposite the stove is a seat, with only a narrow margin of floor around the inside of the hut for the feet to rest upon. The hole in the bottom of the "coop" is about three feet across and, when the "ccop" is in place, is immediately above a somewhat larger hole which has been cut in the ice. The spear used in taking the fish has five or seven tines and a short handle, to which is attached a stout cord, and hangs half its length down into the water, secured by a catch on the floor of the "coop."

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. Sometimes he does not have long to wait for a muscallonge to appear, but again there may be no signs of one during the whole day. When a fish does appear it generally approaches the decoy slowly and carefully. The fisherman grasps the spear and quietly poises it directly over the fish, which, as there is no light in the hut, is unable to see its danger. It is inhis endeavor to plant the spear a little back of the head, thus breaking the backbone and killing the fish almost instantly. He then carefully brings to the surface, secures it on the spear by means of a gaff hook, lifts it from the water, and throws it through the door of the "coop" upon the ice outside. As soon as the day's fishing is done, the "coop" must be removed to the shore, to remain until the next legal day for spearing. Owing to the strenuous objections made by sportsmen and others, the legislature of 1903 amended the law so that the practice is now permitted only on Thursday of each week during the month of February.

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; in many places there are too many public houses, and of those that would in any case remain, many might well be bettered. The annual report of the Public House Trust shows that substantial progress is being made in this direction. The principal aim of the trust is the revival of the inn as a place of all-round refreshment, and its extinction as a mere drinking bar. "The man who asks for bovril gets the same smile as the man who asks for beer:" that is the advertisement and the motio. Lord Grey's movement is a most hopeful one; it takes for granted that men will not be deprived of their beer; but it offers every inducement to the consumption of other cups than those which inebriate, and of eatables as well as drinkables, and it provides decent, wholesome, cheerful surroundings. The movement is peculiarly opportune in rural districts. It comes at a time when there is a considerable revival in the wayside inn as a place of necessary refreshment. Hostelries which seemed to have been killed by the railways are coming to life, thanks to the blevele and the motor. At a time when so many people are thus taking to the road again, it is very appropriate that an effort should be made to improve the roadside inn .--London Chronicle.

INCIDENTS OF THE SIEGE DUG

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, writes B. W. Norregaard, war correspondent of the London Daily Mail. The single or double rows of these entanglements were the strongest passive defenses of the forts, and the Japanese tried many devices to cut their way through. At first they thought to succeed simply with shears, of which they had brought 50,000 with them, but the wire was too strong.

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.

For a time another expedient was more successful. A man would crawl up during the night and fix ropes to the tops of some of the poles, and then wriggle back again with the ends of the ropes to the nearest trenches, where his comrades would tug, with an "ichi, ni, san," till the whole arrangement came down bodily. But the Russians soon found out what was happening, and the next time the Japanese tried the same game they found that the poles had been wire-braced and withstood all their efforts.

Of course, the shell fire destroyed much of the wire fences, but the Japanese had another way of destroying them by powder. They took long bamboo poles and filled them with black, strong, smoke-giving powder. Then a man crept up, placed the pole under the entanglements, lit a fuse, and so blasted part of the wire.

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, and quietly set to work to cut the wire right in front of the defenders. The shields are made of two one-quarter inch iron plates welded together, and weigh about forty pounds. One slit at the top is for the eyes and the bottom slit it where the man works his shears. The shield reaches to his knees and is slung from his shoulders. He can only walk very slowly, and I do not think he would have much of a chance in a race with a tortoise.

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, but the impact, which possessed the force of a sledgehammer blow, knocked him clean over. He was not hurt, but got on his feet again, and the impact of the bullets made him stop and stagger, before he reached the entanglements.

Of the active means of defense the Russian searchlights and machineguns came in the front rank. They utterly blinded and confused the Jap-

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. The Rev. W. Carllie, head of the Church Army said that a declining birth rate was one of the surest signs of national decay.

"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, in rich Kensington it was only 20, in wealthy Hampstead 17.1, and in Westminster lowest of all, 16.9.

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

"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. In Italy, on the other hand, where the population is steadily increasing, the country is progressing by leaps and bounds."

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 exist-

The Man Who Rules Japan.

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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 Everlasting Great Japan. made Whether it were court nobles of immemorial lineage, heads of military clans, mediaeval governors who governed in the Mikado's name, or the all-powerful Shogun at Kamakura or Yedo, they did but shine by borrowed light. Even the constitution of 1889. which made government representative and progressive, was a whole theory of administration is that th of heaven is the source of all authority, and that prosperity to the nation comes from his divine ancestors through him. The most serious question which Japanese patriots have to answer, and the most weighty problems they have to solve, center in this-how to reconcile this ancient theory with the claims of civilization and of Christianity.-Harper's Weekly.



Differences in Products a Matter of Careful Preparation.



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, nothing but the simplest implements can be used.

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 slik and the coarsest hemp. Americans and most Europeans drink tea that would not be tolerated by people of wealth and rank in China and Japan.

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 epiceres, is nothing but a scented Oolong. Four different varieties offlowers are used in giving it the fragrant odor that has made it so popular. Every little tea leaf is gathered by hand, the leaves are carefully assorted and much painstaking labor is applied to every pound of tea that comes to the market.

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 transplantinug. 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 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.

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 redisposition 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 defences 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 Eritain have 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 ploneers 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 1894 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 hygicne who make the stipulation themselves come to he cremated .- London News.

To Make Japanese Taller.

The Japanese government has been greatly exercised in its mind over the low stature of the soldlers, 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 intead of on a chair This attitude 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.

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Asphalt Laid in Slabs.

A new system of laying asphalt roads is being adopted in London. Instead of paying the road with one homogeneous mass of the material, which means the closing of the thoroughfare for a prolonged period, the asphalt is laid in slabs, in the same manner as paving stones, says the The asphalt Scientific American. slabs are previously hardened, so that all it is necessary to do is to lay them down on the prepared foundation and cement them into position with tar. By this system a road can be reopened for traffic as rapidly as it is paved, while a further distinct advantage is obtained as, owing to the use of tar at the joints, the surface of the roadway is less slippery than in the case of large, unbroken stretches of asphalt paving.

The Tools of Genius.

Some of the greatest discoveries in physics and chemistry have been made with the simplest forms of apparatus and under the most modest conditions of laboratory equipment. One need only recall the achievements of the famous John Dalton, and in later time of Sir Gabriel Stokes, to illustrate the point. As regards the latter, a comment of Lord Rayleigh is of interest. Stokes's experimental work, he says, was executed with the most modest appliances. Many of his discoveries were made in a narrow passage behind the pantry of his house, into the window of which he had a shutter fixed with a slit in it and a bracket on which to place crystals and prisms .- London Tele graph.

Gentlewomen Economical.

American wives of British peers are usually considered to be as extravagant as they are rich. This is far from being the case. Lady Curzon cannot tolerate needless waste. The young Duchess of Marlborough is another careful housekeeper, and every morning goes through the state's accounts and checks them. She is said to have a thorough knowledge of bookkeeping.

Czar's Relatives.

The twenty-three nearest male relatives of the czar each receive a salary of \$460,000 a year from the government. They own together about 5,000 square miles of land and 325 palaces. They employ about 20,000 servants.

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. The place is known as Salton. It is a salt farm of about 1,000 acres. Here the salt lies, as deposited by nature, from six inches to sixteen inches in The salt farmers are busy depth. harvesting this crop the year round; and, though the harvest has continued for twenty years, during which time more than 40,000 tons of salt have been harvested, only ten of the 1,900 acres of the farm have been touched. The salt is first plowed up into furrows; it is then thrown into conical piles by men with barrows, after which it is taken to the reduction works near by and put into market able condition. The work is done by Mexicans and Chinamen, the intense heat being more than the white man can endure,-Chicago Journal.

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, and which is termed the weather side. Leeward is on the lee side; opposed to windward, on the weather side. A lee shore is a shore on the lee side of the ship, or the shore on which the wind blows; and a ship is said to be under the lee of the shore when the wind blows from the shore, or when she is in some measure sheltered by the shore. The names Leeward and Windward, as applied to the West India islands, were given to them from their situation in a voyage from the ports of Spain to Carthagena of Portobello. The islands which lie to leeward extend from Porto Rico to Demarara.

anese. At one moment the powerful light was glaring full in their faces, at the next it was suddenly turned off. leaving them in complete and baffling darkness.

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. They could see nothing, they could do nothing; death was among them, and they knew not how to evade it; they were blind and helpless, and did not know where they were or where the enemy was. Everything got mixed up for them. Even the bravest among them recognized that there was only one thing to do-get away, away from the slaughter, away from the cruel light. back to their own camps, back to the night and the darkness.

A Japanese machine gun attempted to recover the retreat. A star shell instantly detected it, whereupon a searchlight was turned upon it and the Russian quickfirers went up and commenced their "pom-pom-pom" against it and put it out of action at once. It was no use; the attack was hopelessly broken. The Japanese he fore the siege were not accustomed to the searchlights. As one of their officers said to me, gloomily, after the reverse: "They are the most deadly weapons we have to face."

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, a glory of light, a dream of beauty, and an excellent means of illuminating, for a few moments, the underlying country, in a way that no ten searchlights can do it, because the light, of an immense intensity, comes from right above, so that there are no deep shadows; everything is laid bare, not a man can move or live under the circle of light without being discovered.

The ink plant of New Granada is a curiosity. The juice of it can be used as ink without any preparation. At first the writing is red, but after a few hours it changes to black.

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

Cotton in England.

American cotton thinkers, 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, in which both sides showed a commendable zeal. Mr. Emmott, speaking on behalf of the British Cotton Growing association, thanked the government for the assistance they had given, and pointed out that the only barrier to making British Central African territories a great cottonproducing region lay in the labor question. Mr. Lyttelton, in an interesting speech, summarized the s'eps which have been taken in this work throughout the empire. Egypt thanks to Lord Cromer, sends a good supply, and there is every reason to believe that cotton growing may be established in the Soudan. Experiments are being made in Rhodesia and other parts of South Africa, but the west coast of Africa is the chief center of promise. It has been arranged that the Cotton Growing association shall contribute £30,000 a year for the work, and that Southern Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and Lagos shall provide £6.500 for three years. No better work in the cause of imperialism could be undertaken, for on its success depends the future of some of

An American Buddha?

Britain's chief tropical possessions .-

Boston Transcript.

The Buddhists of Tibet and other outlandish places think that their god's second coming will be from Europe to America, says a Buddhist student.

"They think this because, in all their old images of Buddha reincarnated, he sits, not on the floor, but in our modern occidental way upon a chair. When they found that Europeans sat on straight chairs they came to believe firmly that from America or Europe their reincarnated Buddha would come."

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 hemispheres, 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 Egyp tians 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.

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. 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 fore 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.