

Part 2. The Centre Democrat.

Farm Notes,
Choice Fiction,
Current Topics.

MAGAZINE
SECTION.

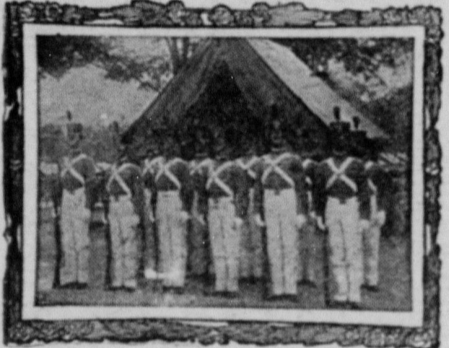
BELLEFONTE, PA., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1906.

THE NEW WEST POINT.

A STRENUOUS LIFE PROVIDED FOR THE YOUNG CADETS AND FUTURE OFFICERS.

Aim Is to Make Men Quick and Self-Reliant—Extensive Additions Being Made to Institution—Social Life a Feature

The United States Military Academy at West Point has long enjoyed an international reputation as the finest training institution in the world, and this prestige will be considerably enhanced upon the completion of the large scheme of improvements now under way and upon which Congress will expend more than seven million



GUARD MOUNT AT WEST POINT.

Dollars ere they are fully completed in the year 1912. Already the creation of the "new West Point" has progressed far enough to prove how beneficial will be the undertaking.

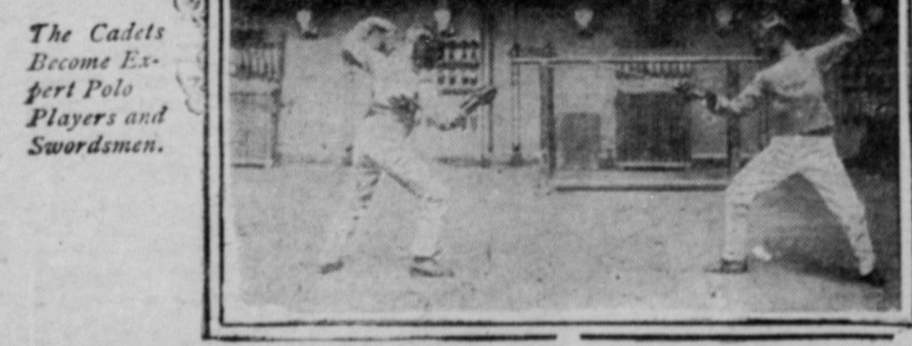
While the primary purpose of Uncle Sam's unique institution on the banks of the Hudson River is, of course, to educate young men for positions as officers of the United States Army, the superiority which has won for it world-wide fame is due to the marvellous efficiency of the mental and physical training without regard to the use to which the knowledge is to be put. It is in the interest of this ambition to graduate perfect specimens of American manhood that the costly improvements are being carried forward.

Nearly Trebles Present Capacity.

For one thing the new buildings will provide accommodations for 1,300 cadets, instead of for 450 as at present, and these new structures will also include a new gymnasium, riding hall, academic building, cadet headquarters, etc., as well as a handsome hotel for



The Cadets Become Expert Polo Players and Swordsmen.



the accommodation of the numerous visitors, including many members of the fair sex, who come to the Point for the various social functions which are scattered through the school year.

The new West Point will place some added comforts within reach of the cadets in gray but it will result in no lessening of the strenuous activity of their every day life. The West Pointer is roused at six o'clock every morning, after eight hours sleep. He must be on the jump from the moment he opens his eyes, for only twenty minutes is allowed him to wash, dress, fold up his bedding and set in order his room and its contents. At 6.50 o'clock the young men form in companies and march to the mess hall for breakfast. Almost immediately after breakfast begins a routine of study that includes such branches as mathematics, drawing, modern languages, geography, chemistry, geology, etc. Interspersed between the study and recitation hours are intervals of drill, and what in any other school would be given over to recreation periods are devoted to athletics in accordance with a definite program.

To Make Physically Perfect.

The cadets at West Point go in for almost every known muscle-building exercise. Early in the morning they go through the well-known "settling up" drill and time is also devoted particularly in summer to tennis, golf, polo, hurdle riding, baseball, foot ball and swimming. The gymnasium pursuits include boxing, fencing, single stick exercise, etc., in addition to which instruction and practice in dancing are compulsory during two years of the four year course.

The social side of life at West Point has unquestionably proven one of the greatest attractions of this unique school, admission to which is so eagerly sought by young men in all parts of the country. Ordinarily the West Pointer has only half an hour daily—the interval following supper—that he can call his own. On Saturday afternoon however, the lads are "free" from two o'clock until 6.30 o'clock, the supper hour, and on Wednesdays there is similar freedom from 4 o'clock in the afternoon until 6.30 o'clock. At such times the famous Flirtation Walk, where so many romances have had their beginning is a mecca for a considerable portion of the young men. On Saturday evenings from 8.30 to 10.30 o'clock there is dancing.

When They Camp Out.

In the eyes of most of the cadets the happiest portion of the year at West Point is the summer interval when the whole battalion goes into camp in the wooded area on the north side of the Academy grounds, remaining under canvas from June until September. During this season visitors are especially numerous, and the social life at the Point is seen at its best.

The cadets at West Point are in very truth picked men, for not only is admission gained by passing a very severe entrance examination, but there are examinations scattered all through the four year course and if a cadet fails to come up to the mark at any of these periodical tests he is almost certain to be dropped from the rolls. Indeed, so severe is this weeding-out process that only about one-half of the young men who enter West Point succeed in graduating.

A Democratic Institution.

One phase of conditions at West Point which is calculated to make every American proud of the institution is the splendid democracy which prevails. Special privileges are unknown at the Point. The boy whose father is a multi-millionaire wears the same grade of clothing, sleeps in the same kind of a bed and eats food that is precisely on a par with that furnished to the cadet who started in life as a bootblack. Each student at the Military Academy receives from Uncle Sam the sum of five hundred dollars a year and out of this he must purchase all his necessities at the "store." If he spends more than the allowance such excess is a debt which is duly charged against him and must be liquidated from his future pay.

PALACE FIT FOR TITANIA.

MOST BEAUTIFUL PALACE IN ENGLAND RESIDENCE OF AMERICAN WOMAN.

Is Now Looking for an Irish Castle. Canada Wants a Local Premier—Native American Might Hold Such a Position.

The Duchess of Roxburghe, nee Golet of New York, after many fruitless attempts to find a suitable residence in Ireland, has entrusted the matter to Lord Barrymore, who married, as his second wife, the widow of Arthur Post of New York, and thereby, quite naturally, greatly improved his financial position. That is one reason he is partial to American women and willing to do all in his power to assist them. Few men know Ireland better than he does. At one time he was one of the best hated men in the country, and diligent students of Irish history with-



THE DUCHESS OF ROXBURGHE.

In the last quarter of a century would say that it is a wonder he is still living. He is looking out for a house for the Duchess in picturesque Galway. A fine mansion, constructed of Irish granite and situated between Tuam and Claremorris on the Midland and Great Western Railway, has been inspected in this connection. It is known as Grove Castle, and was erected about forty years ago by an eccentric bachelor millionaire named Cannon. The estate attached to the house is of little value, but the house and grounds are beautiful. There is plenty of fishing and shooting in the neighborhood, and in the hunting season it attracts many aristocratic folk.

Floors Castle is the English residence of the Roxburghe. It stands on a terrace overlooking extensive meadow lands spreading down to the Tweed at its junction with the Teviot. It is like a veritable fairyland of cupolas and minarets, of turrets and embowered parapets. The castle was built in 1718 by Sir John Vanbrugh, in the conception of some happy moment. Sir Walter Scott described "the mansion of Floors" as "a kingdom for Oberon and Titania to dwell in, whose majesty and beauty impresses the mind with a sense of awe mingled with pleasure." Vanbrugh might well be dubbed the "architect to first dukes," from his close association with Blenheim for the first Duke of Marlborough, Kimbolton for the first Duke of Manchester, and now Floors for the first Duke of Roxburghe, who had just received this further title. The third duke was so engrossed with the lifelong task of getting together his priceless collection

was dormant pending a dispute between three claimants. Until this time the family surname had been Ker alone, being the ancient family of the Kers of Cessford; it now became Innes-Ker, as it remains—for the settlement of this three-cornered dispute awarded the title to Sir James Innes, as heir by right of a maternal ancestress. It is a very pretty little bit of characteristic history that Duncan Forbes, the historian, records in reference to this succession of James Innes as fifth duke that "his pedigree of thirty descents proceeds regularly from 1153, and that in all their long line the inheritance never went to a woman, that none of them ever married an ill wife, and that no one ever suffered for their debts."

Americans returning from Europe complain that invitations to the Italian court under the present king, Victor Emmanuel, are a good deal more difficult to obtain, and are more sparingly distributed than was the case when Humbert occupied the throne of united Italy in the Quirinal at Rome. The



NATURAL BRIDGE OF PETRIFIED FOREST, ARIZONA.

foreign envoys are required nowadays to personally vouch for the social standing of those of their countrymen who are admitted into the presence of the king. It is well-nigh an impossibility for our Ambassador to vouch for the social standing of every American tourist who happens to be "doing" Rome and takes it into his head to go and "call" on the king.

In the Dominion of Canada there is a sentiment growing more or less lately favoring the appointment of a Canadian to the exalted post of Governor-General. The country has always been ruled by some member of the nobility sent out from England by the Crown. It is possible, therefore, if the Crown looks with favor on the petitions, that some day a man born in the United States may become Governor-General of Canada. There is nothing but the sentiment of the people to prevent this. There is no native-born clause, as is the case with the Presidency of the United States. One who becomes a British subject by naturalization is just as good a Britisher as one born under the British flag.

Disguised as a Tramp.

That a man moving amongst the respectable classes should disguise himself as a beggar, and go in search of adventure, is not a new idea. A young man with a taste for such experiments, however, introduced a novel feature, when masquerading as a tramp, by visiting, amongst others, some of his friends.

He had a splendid opportunity of testing their benevolence, for none of them recognized him with his seedy garments and general air of wretchedness.

His pilgrimage lasted five days, and during that period (he started in an appropriate state of pennilessness) he begged or earned just about sufficient to live in a rough fashion.

He received innumerable insults (many from unsuspecting acquaintances), and only one kind word (from a stranger). Even when he entered a shop or lodging-house with money to pay for his needs his ragged garments procured him much contemptuous treatment, and he learned a severe lesson on the importance of clothes.

Indeed, his cynical conclusion is that a man who seeks charity should, before all things, be well dressed!

A Happy Family.

A so-called "happy family" P. T. Barnum used to exhibit consisted of a lion, a tiger, a bear, a wolf, and a lamb, all penned together in one cage. "Remarkable!" a visitor said to Mr. Barnum; "remarkable, impressive, instructive! And how long have these animals dwelt together in this way?" "Seven months," Barnum answered, "but the lamb has occasionally to be renewed."

VAST PETRIFIED FORESTS.

ANCIENT VOLCANIC UPEVAALS IN ARIZONA DISCLOSE HUGE STONE LOGS.

Vari-Hued Adamantine Forms Millions of Years Old—Preserved by the Government Against Spoilation—Natural Wonders.

Once they were a forest of stately pines grown to a height far beyond that attained by the trees of today. Ages passed, and through some unexplainable act of nature they were uprooted, protruded to the ground, probably buried beneath the earth by volcanic ashes and the snows of many winters. Next came the waters of floods, leaving over the prone giants an inland sea, and all traces of the green forest were swept away. Vast periods of time passed; the seas vanished; volcanoes sent their ashes high in the air, and the explosions from the interior of the earth swept upward the debris, among which were the wrecks of the pines. Following this period the waters hurried toward lower levels, gnawing the masses and endeavoring to eat into the very cell structure of the logs. Erosion was at work, and after centuries, through the probable action of acids and alkalies, the logs of the ancient forest are revealed to human eyes.

Preserved for Future Ages.

This is the history of the wonderful petrified forest of Arizona which Congress, at its last session, set aside as a Government reserve. There are in all about 5,000 acres of land in this reserve, and valuable for commercial or agricultural pursuits, but the hand of nature has created of this vast expanse a garden of monuments to the vegetation of long ago, forming an attraction for people from all parts of the world.

Trunks of trees, some a hundred feet long, and huge logs, lie in confusion in the same position as when nature, in the resurrection of the ancient forest, broke out in explosion due to the eruption of volcanic craters. In every direction are to be seen pieces of petrified wood, some only as large as a toy marble, others in blocks and logs from eight to ten feet in diameter; others are buried partly beneath the shale, and occasionally these projects from the side, near the top of the mesa, the end of a huge log.

These mesas are in themselves wonderful structures. They are composed of shale, clay and sandstone of many colors, and the ravages of storm and wind have eroded their sides so that here and there they stand out like the playthings of a pre-historic giant child. By pondering upon this sight a faint idea is given of the countless number of years that have rolled by since this erosive process commenced.

While there are to be found various localities in Arizona, New Mexico

stone. The mineral wood is converted into shalcedony, opals and agates, and many of the pieces closely approach the condition of Jasper and onyx. The degree of hardness attained by them is such that they make an excellent quality of emery.

Among the color seen are every conceivable shade of black, red, white,



PETRIFIED SENTINEL OF THE MESA.

yellow, blue-purple and lavender; and each piece has every natural appearance of wood, though all are as hard as steel. Here and there sections show signs of decay arrested by the peculiar progress which converted the wood into mineral. The traveler sees small chips upon the ground, and on picking them up, finds them as heavy as so much lead and as dense as flint. The Government, while allowing visitors to carry off little pieces of this character, prohibits the removal of any large blocks.

Huge Stone Log Bridge.

But after all, the climax of all this scenic beauty is the "Natural Bridge," consisting of a great petrified trunk lying across a canyon 20 feet deep, and forming a natural foot-bridge on which men may easily cross. At the point where the bridge crosses, the canyon is about 30 feet wide, but the trunk lies diagonally, and measures 44 feet between the points at which it rests on the sides of the canyon. The total length of the tree exposed is 111 feet, and measures where it crosses the center of the canyon, 10 feet in circumference.

In the past few years the log has begun to show signs of yielding to that peculiar inclination of all petrified trees to crack up into immense pieces; in fact, in several places traverse cracks have already appeared. The Government, in order to preserve



NATURAL BRIDGE OF PETRIFIED FOREST, ARIZONA.



NATURAL WONDERS OF THE SOUTHWEST.

and Utah, where petrified wood occurs in great quantities, yet the region known as the "Petrified Forest of Arizona" is most notable, and is properly classed among the natural wonders of America. In the first place, it is much more ancient than the petrified forests of the Yellowstone National Park, and of certain parts of Wyoming and California, the difference in their antiquity of years counting being millions of years; and secondly, there is no other petrified forest in which the wood assumes so many varied and wondrous forms and colors. The solidified wood in this mineral state places the logs and blocks among the gems of precious

this natural curiosity, has caused two stone abutments to be erected beneath it, making of it a bridge of three spans, in the hopes of preserving it for many years to come.

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