The Pigeon-Post at Sea and in War.

By Adrien De Jassaud, of Paris.

N France, during the siege of Paris, | at a time when the German armies were surrounding the capital and cutting off the Parisian population from all communication with the outside world, Monsieur Rampont, the then Postmaster-Gen-eral, conceived the idea of intrusting to pigeons the transmission of news thus giving the inhabitants a knowledge of what was going on in the prov In this way those members of

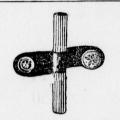


the Government who had remained in Paris were put in touch with their colleagues of the National Defense who were at Tours. In order to attain this subject a certain number of pigeons were conveyed by balloon from Paris to Tours, whence they were set free, bearing messages photographically reduced to microscopic dimen sions on very light collodion films. In those days the despatch was rolled up and inclosed in a quill attached to the tail of the pigeon. By these means over 150,000 official and, at the lowest 1,000,000 private messages entered

The great French shipping company known as the Compagnie Transatlan-tique deserves the credit of making the first attempts to establish what may truly be styled the seapost.

On March 26, 1898, the steamship On March 26, 1898, the steamship La Champagne took aboard, for the first time, eighty pigeons. Three batches of birds were set free at a short distance from the seaboard, and this in most stormy weather. The older birds safely reached their cote while the younger ones, unable to with stand a pelting rain-fail, dropped into the sea in sight of those aboard. On the following day, and under

like unfavorable weather conditions, La Champagne, having covered 360 miles, rescued the crew of the doomed Bothnia. Seven pigeons were sen



THIS STRIP OF BAMBOO, CONTAINING THE MESSAGE, IS FASTENED ROUND

forth, each bearing a similar despatch. They took their flight at noon, and it was calculated that they should either reach land or some ship's mast. One of the birds dropped on the deck of the Chatterton, in the Bay of Biscay; the Chatterton cabled to Paris and to New York the loss of the Bothnia. A second bird was picked up by a freight steamer, which thereupon shaped its course for the locality of the disaster, came across the derelict, and towed it into an Irish port. A week later a third pigeon, wounded, and minus its despatch, reached its cote. The four others were never heard of again.

The pigeons employed by the Com pagnie Transatlantique are selected allegorical design.

bunch out; the legs be short; and the wings must meet on a narrow and powerful tail.

In addition to being endowed with an extraordinary instinct for shaping its course, a good carrier pigeon musi possess great rapidity of flight tremendous staying power. The first-named quality—the "homing instinct," which is innate—is not susceptible of any improvement. The two others may be secured by means of progressive and regular training. A pigeon's education begins when it is but three or four months old. It is conveyed a mile distant from its cote and then se the distant from its cote and then set free. The experiment is renewed daily, the distance on each occasion being imperceptibly increased. The bird's education cannot be considered com-plete, however, until it has attained

the age of three years.
On land the pigeon is able to cover long distances, such as those between Rouen and Brussels or New York and Chicago. Its ratio of flight, under normal atmospheric conditions, is never less than 31.15850 miles an hour, and never exceeds 49.85360 miles on a long distance.

The pigeons are brought aboard the Transatlantique steamers in wicker cages having a sinking trough. As soon as the Fren t so out of sight passengers t so of sending a dispatch are no o prepare it. et the passen In pursuance of thi ger is handed a sms stangular card on which he is to verte as legibly as possible what he wishes to communicate, plus the name and address of the receiver; the card is then handed to the clerk intrusted with the transmission of the message. The clerk puts the different messages into a group.photo graphs them on a plaque to which ad heres a film, reducing the writing in the course of the operation to such a



THIS PIGEON IS WEARING THE CHINESE WHISTLE WHICH PROTECTS AGAINST THE ENEMY'S TRAINEI HAWKS.

degree that it cannot be deciphered except with the aid of a magnifying glass. The proof is developed, the film detached and carefully rolled, and then placed in a small bamboo tube, hermetically sealed, and weighing hardly one and one-half gramme. To this tube is attached a light kid band. provided with an automatic button such as is sometimes used to fasten

As soon as the tubes are ready the pigons are taken out of the baskets containing them. These birds are ex-tremely delicate—the slightest crushing injures them and renders them unfit to do what is expected of them. The clerk attaches each tube to the leg of a pigeon by buttoning the kid band above described. A pigeon is able to carry a weight of fifteen grammes without its detracting from the rapidity of its flight.

The loosings take place in the morn-

ing, or, if the skies are too overcast, at latest before 2 p. m. Immediately upon being loosened the pigeons circle a few times about the ship, after which they head straight for France, in the direction of Rennes. On arrival at the home station the tubes are taken off the films extracted from them, and the photographic dispatches enlarged to their original size. The proofs thus obtained are pasted on a glazed card ornamented with a pretty



A DRAGOON SCOUT - HE CARRIES ON HIS BACK A SUPPLY OF PIGEON MESSENGERS.

with the most rigirous care. The head must be big and round; the bill relatively short and surmounted with a

It has often been asked what constitutes the marvellous faculty of shaping its course by the carrier pigeon. fleshy, heart-shaped excrescence; the Neither sea nor mountains nor forests carrier pigeons are compelled to state burne ages shine brightly; the breast must interfere with this faculty. The bird at the Mayor's office the number of lings.

ALE THE RECORD OF THE PROPERTY steers its course as if guided by a compass. As the pigeon flies at an alti-tude of not more than 160 yards to 180 yards it is not aided by its vision, for in that case, given the rotundity of the world, it would have to soar to an altitude of 7076 yards. Now, according to aeronauts who have experimented in the matter, the bird at that altitude quickly drops to a much lower one. Are they then guided by mag-ntelc currents? Are they endowed with a sixth sense? The matter re-

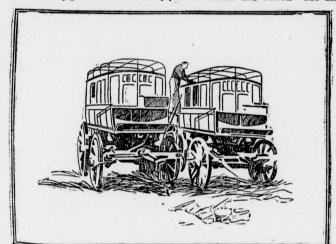
well as during the one by sea, he has been altogether cut off from the outer world. And yet the bird possesses so accurate a knowledge of the road it has traveled that it makes for its cote without the slightest hesitancy and at a very normal rapidity of flight.

nains a mystery. It is impossible for the pigeon car-ied away by a steamship to note the course followed by means of one of his five senses, since, during his jour-ney by rail from Rennes to Havre, as

The carrier pigeon was of necessity

A Selection Made From the Thirty Thou sand Designs Submitted.

The judges appointed by the Government of the Australian Commonwealth have made their selection from the thirty thousand designs submitted in the recent competition open to Australian artists and others. The flag

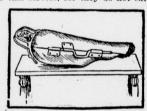


TWO OF THE PIGEON-CAGE WAGONS USED IN THE FRENCH ARMY.

to be made use of for national defense During a campaign the success of operations depends at most times on the rapidity with which the commander-in-chief is informed of the enemy's movements. To this end use is made of cavalry patrols and of the field telegraph and telephone. But to insure the safe arrival of information none of these means is so reliable as the carrier pigeon. Scouts are liable to be made prisoners or killed, telegraph or telephone wires may work faultily or be destroyed. These mishaps are avoided by the use of the carrier pig-

In war time the role of cavalry conists more especially in seeing and in reporting what it has seen. It is often an easy matter to see, but to report oftentimes attended by difficulties. Herein lies the value of the carrier

pigeon. Troops on the march are accompanied by portable cotes. They consist of huge wire cages provided with lateral shutters; the cage is trans-ported on a two-horse four-wheeled wagon. When it is found expedient to reconnoitre the position of the enemy or surprise its movements a few pigeons are taken out of the portable cote and placed in a wicker cage in shape like an infantry soldier's haversack; this cage is strapped on the back of a dragoon. Dragoons are preferred for this service, for they do not carry



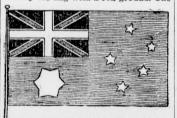
any carbine slung about them, so that the cage is more easily attached to their back. The dragoons gallop off in the direction ordered, and before coming in touch with the enemy they commit to a very thin sheet of paper the result of their observations. The sheet is then inserted in a tube, and a the officer at headquarters is in a position to read the dispatch.

In order to fight the carrier pigeons, to stop them in their flight and intercept the information borne by them, Germans have trained hawks to hunt down these winged messengers. The undertaking was at first attended with difficulties, for, independently of the necessity of establishing on a large scale a system of falconry, the same dispatch might be intrusted to several pigeons, and hence it would be sufficient for a single one to escape from der useless all efforts made to capture the dispatch. Moreover, the pigeon are protected from the assault hawk by means of a little Acolian or Chinese whistle affixed to its tail. This whistle sounds as the bird flies through the air, and frightens away the timid

In Germany much importance is attached to the use of carrier pigeons in time of war, and in the German Army training of the birds, the officers and men being given instruction in the art of handling them. In France the scouts are provided with a pigeon apiece, which they carry in a little iron case fastened to the waistbelt. The holder has a hinged lid, which is opened when the bird is to be released, and the head piece can be unfastened when the bird is fed

In France carrier pigeons are like horses-liable to be requisitioned in time of war. Every year owners of carrier pigeons are compelled to state

decided upon has the Union Jack in the top left hand corner, with a six pointed star immediately beneath it, emblematic of the six federated States, while the other half of the flag is devoted to depicting the Southern The Government and official color is to be blue, while the mercan-tile marine of the new commonwealth will fly the flag with a red ground. The



approved design was submitted by several competitors.—New York Tribune.

Happy Course of a Bowlder.

One of the greatest curiosities in the neighborhood of New York is now to be seen at the foot of the Palisades. Between two frame houses built there is a giant bowlder twenty-five feet wide, which fell from a great height, at the top of the Pallsades, and sweeping down the front of the cliffs, uprooted big trees, tore up tons of loose stone and cut a wide swath the entire distance. Finally, after zigzaging from one side to the other, it rolled in between two frame houses

and stopped there. The people were asleep in the houses



when the rock started. They had bare ly time to make their escape when it made its appearance at their front door. They are now thanking their lucky stars that the enormous stone did not hit one of the buildings .- New

Aerolite Burns & Barn.

It is reported from Kieff that a large aerolite fell in the village of Wisienki, few miles from Kieff, the noise of its fall being heard for a distance of fifteen miles.

According to a Warsaw dispatch (October 18) in the London Express, the aerolite crashed through a barn, set-ting it on fire, and within half an hour fourteen peasants' houses were in flames. A boy, three years old, was burned to a cinder in one of the dwell-

There is a table being spread across the top of the two great ranges of mountains which ridge this continent, a table which reaches from the Atlantic to the Pacific sea. It is the Thanksgiving table of the nation. They will come from the East and the West and the North and the South and sit at it. On it are smoking table of the nation. They will come from the East and the West and the North and the South and sit at it. On it are smoking table of the nation. They will come from the peach fields of Maryland, the apple or chards of Western New York, the orange groves of Florida, the vineyards of Ohio and the nuts thrashed from New England woods. The bread is white from the wheat fields of Illinois and Michigan, the banqueters are adorned with California gold, and the table is agicam with Nevada fire grates heaped up with Pennsylvania coal. The hall is spread with carpets from Lowell mills, and at night the lights will flash from bronzed brackets of Philadelphia manufacture.

Welcome, Thanksgiving Day! Whatever we may think of New England Thanksgiving Day. What means the steady rush to the depots and the long rail trains darting their lanterns along the tracks of the Boston and Lowell, the Georgia Central, the Duluth and the Southern railway? Ask the happy group in the New England farm house; ask the villagers whose song of praise in the morning will come over the Berkshire hills; ask all the plantations of the South which have adopted the New England custom of setting apart a day of thanksgiving. Oh, it is a great day of national festivity! Clap your hands, ye people, and shout aloud for joy! Through the organ pipes let there come down the thunder of a nation's rejoicing! Blow the case of the plow, the hammer and the pen, for nothing was done at Santiago or Manila which in the last year has been done in farmer's field and mechanic's shop and author's study by those who never wor an epaulet or shot a Spaniard or went a hundred miles from their own doorsill. Come up, farmers and mechanics shop and author's study by

ticularly extolled husbandry or that Cincinnatus went from the consulship to the plow or that Noah was a farmer before he became a shipbuilder or that Elisha was in the field plowing with twelve yoke of oxen when the mantle fell on him or that the Egyptians in their paganism worshiped the ox as a tiller of their lands.

To get an appreciation of what the American plow has accomplished I take you into the western wilderness. Here in the dense forest I find a collection of Indian wigwams. With belts of wampum the men lazily sit on the skins of deer, smoking their feathered calunets, or, driven forth by hunger, I track their moccasins far away as they make the forest echoes crazy with their wild halloo or fish in the waters of the still lake. Now tribes challenge and council fires blaze, and war whoops ring, and chiefs lift the tomahawks for battle. After awhile wagons from the Atlantic coast come to those forests. By day trees are felled, and by night bonfires keep off the wolves. Log cabins rise, and the great trees begin to throw their branches in the path of the conquering white man. Farms are cleared. Stunps, the monuments of slain forests, crumble and are burned. Villages appear, with smiths at the bellows, masons on the wall, carpenters on the housetop. Churches rise in honor of the Great Spirit whom the red men ignorantly worship. Steamers on the lake convey merchandise to her wharf and carry east the uncounted bushels that have come to the market. Bring hither wreaths of wheat and crowns of rye, and let the mills and the machinery of barn and field unite their voices to celebrate the triumph, for the wilderness hath retreated and the plow hath conquered.

Within our time the Presidential Cabinet has added a Secretaryship of Agriculture. Societies are constantly being established for the education of the plow. Journals devoted to this department are circulated through all the country. Farmers through such culture have learned the attributes of soils and found out that almost every field has its peculiar pr

birds they own; while foreigners are no longer permitted to breed carrier pigeons in the country.

There are at present in Parls some 700 owners of carrier pigeons, possessing 14,000 pigeons, 7500 of which are subjected to a regular course of training. The total number of carrier pigeons in France is 600,000.

The price of a pigeon varies according to its pedigree, age and degree of training. Some few years ago, at a sale in England, seventy pigeons fetched \$3449. One of the birds, a cross between the Antwerp and Brussels breed, brought \$245.—The Wid World Magazine.

DR. TALMAGE'S SERMON

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WASHINGTON, D. C.—This discourse of Dr. Talmage is a national congratulation over the achievements of brain and hand correct the achievements of brain and hand over the achievements of brain and hand correct the Antwerp and Brussels breed, brought lives from the hammer;"

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sashes and clicking the icicles from the caves.

Praise God for the great harvests that have been reaped this last year! Some of them injured by drought or insects or freshets were not as bountiful as usual, others far in excess of what have ever before been gathered, while higher prices will help make up for any decreased supply. Sure sign of agricultural prosperity we have in the fact that cattle and horses and sheep and swine and all farm animals have during the last two years increased in value. Twenty million swine slaughtered this last year, and yet so many hogs left.

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If the ancients in their festivals presented their rejoicings before Ceres, the goddess of corn and tillage, shall we neglect to rejoice in the presence of the great God now? From Atlantic to Pacific let the American nation celebrate the victories of the plow.

I come next to speak of the conquests of the American hammer. Its iron arm has fought its way down from the beginning to the present. Under its swing the city of Enoch rose, and the foundry of Tubal Cain resounded, and the ark floated on the deluge. At its clang ancient temples spread their magnificence and chariots rushed out fit for the battle. Its iron fist smote the marble of Paros, and it rose in sculptured Minervas and struck the Pentelican mines until from them a Parthenon was reared whiter than a palace of ice and pure as an angel's dream. Damascus and Jerusalem and Rome and Venice and Paris and London and Philadelphia and New York and Washington are but the long protracted echoes of the hammer. Under the hammer everywhere dwellings have gone up, ornate and luxurious. Schoolhouses, lyceums, hospitals and asylums have added additional glory to the enterprise as well as the beneficence of the American people.

Vast public works have been constructed, bridges have been built over rivers and tunnels dug under mountains and churches of matchless beauty have gone up for Him who had not where to lay His head, and the old theory is exploded that because Christ was born in a mange we must always worship Him in a barn.

Edward Eggleston and Will Carleton and Mark Twain and John Kendrick Bangs and Marion Harland and Margaret Sangster and Stockton and Churchil and Hopkinson Smith and Irving Bacheller and Julia Ward Howe and Amelia Barr and Brander Matthews and Thomas Nelson Page and Elizabeth Stuart Phelps and william Dean Howells and a score of othe

glacier.

This unparalleled multiplication of intelligence will either make or break us. Every morning and evening our telegraph offices, with huge wire rakes, gather up the news of the nation and of the whole world, and men write to some purpose when they make a pen out of a thunderbolt.

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It needs great energy and decision and perseverance for a man to be ignorant in this country to-day. It seems to me that it requires more effort for him to keep out knowledge than to let it in. The mailbags at the smallest postofileces disgorge large packages of intelligence for the people. Academies with maps, globes and philosophic apparatus have been taking the places of those institutions where thirty or forty years ago you were put to the torture. Men selected for their qualifications are intrusted with the education of our youth instead of those teachers who formerly with a drover's shout and goad compelled the young generations up the hill of science. Happy childhood! What with broken tops and torn kites and the trial of losing the best marble and stumping your foot against a stone and some-body sticking a pin into you to see whether you will jump and examination day, with four or five wise men looking over their spectacles to see if you can parse the first page in Young's "Night Thoughts" until verbs and conjunctions and participles and prepositions get into a grand riot.

How things have marvelously changed! We used to cry because we had to go to school. Now children cry if they cannot go. Many of them can intelligently discuss political topics long before they have seen a ballot box or, teased by some poetic muse, can compose articles for the newspapers. Philosophy and astronomy and chemistry have been so improved that he must be a genius at dullness who knows on hing about them.

muse, can compose articles for the newspapers. Philosophy and astronomy and chemistry have been so improved that he must be a genius at dulness who knows nothing about them.

On one shelf of a poor man's library is more practical knowledge than in the 400,000 volumes of ancient Alexandria, and education is possible for the most indigent, and no legislature or congress for the last fifty years has assembled which has not had it in rail splitters and farmers and drovers or men who have been accustomed to toiling with the hand and the foot.

Lift up your eyes, O nation of God's right hand, at the glorious prospects! Build larger your barns for the harvests; dug deeper the vats for the spoil of the vineyards; enlarge the warehouses for the merchandise; multiply galleries of art for the nictures and statues. Advance, O nation of God's right hand, but remember that national wealth, if unsanctified, is sumptuous waste, is moral ruin, is magnificent wee, is splendid rottenness, is gilded death. Woe to us for the wine vats if drunkenness wallows in them! Woe to us for the harvests if greed sickles them! Woe to us for the merchandise if varriee swallows it! Woe to us for the cities if misrule walks them! Woe to the land if God defying crime debauches it! Our only safety is in more Bibles, more churches, more free schools, more good men and more good women, more consecrated printing presses, more of the glorious gospel of the Son of God, which will yet extipate all wrongs and introduce all blessedness.

But the preachers on Thanksgiving morning will not detain with long sermons their hearers from the home group. The housekeepers will be angry if the guests do not arrive until the viands are cold. Set the chairs to the table—the easy chairs for grandfather and grandmoth if they be still alive; the high chair the youngest, but not the least. Then pout your hand to take the full cup thanksgiving. Lift it and bring it towar, your lips, your hands trembling with emotion, and if the chalice shall overflow anatrickle a few drops