

Ayer's 20th Century Almanac

(Not the ordinary kind)

A handsome year-book filled with beautiful illustrations, and a complete calendar. It is sold on all news-stands for 5 cents, and its worth five times that amount. It is a reliable chronology of the progress of the 19th century and a prophecy of what may be expected in the 20th.

Here are a few of the great men who have written for it:
Secretary Wilson, on Agriculture
Sen. Chauncey M. Depew, on Politics
Russell Sage, on Finance
Thomas Edison, "Electricity"
Gen. Merritt, "Land Warfare"
Adml. Hichborn, "Naval Warfare"
"Al" Smith, "Sports"

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The First Steps.

Before encouraging children to use their feet we should look to their actual strength, not deciding how far they should be urged to walk by the actual number of months they have lived. If a young child once acquires the art of crawling, it will soon do more, and try to use its legs. It will soon raise itself by the support of a chair or stool, will then totter up from one side of it to the other, holding itself up, and by repeated exercises of this kind, the limbs will gain the requisite power, and the infant will gain courage to trust to that power; then to walk alone. However, in beginning to walk a child must have some assistance. This should be given by holding it firmly under, not by the arms.

Feenality of Snakes.

A snake tamer who had trained a serpent to follow him around the house and even out of doors happened one day to take it with him to a strange place. The snake, unused to the locality, suddenly seemed to forget all his training, and, escaping into the bushes, resisted capture with bites and every indication of wildness. When caught it at once resumed its tame habits, its tendency to become wild immediately upon obtaining their freedom and to again become tame when caught is said to be a peculiarity of snakes.

Smallest Postoffice.

California claims to have the smallest postoffice in the United States. It is located at Virginia, on a beautiful stretch of road between Escondido and San Diego, and consists of an old piano packing case, in size about seven feet high, six feet long and five feet wide. In its front are the locked doors to five private boxes, in addition to the general delivery window. No money order business is transacted there, but the office has the monopoly of Virginia's stamp trade.

The great army of Smiths in the United States is well represented in the Peerage of England. No less than six Earls' daughters have acquired the surname of Smith by marriage.

Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup

The best remedy for Consumption, Cures Coughs, Colds, Grippe, Bronchitis, Hoarseness, Asthma, Whooping-cough, Croup. Small doses; quick, sure results. Dr. Bull's Pills are Constitution. 25c. per box.

What do the Children Drink?

Don't give them tea or coffee. Have you tried the new food drink called GRAIN-O? It is delicious and nourishing and takes the place of coffee. The more Grain-O you give the children the more health you distribute through their systems. Grain-O is made of pure grains, and when properly prepared tastes like the choice grades of coffee but costs about 1/4 as much. All grocers sell it. 15c. and 25c.

Try Grain-O!

Insist that your grocer gives you GRAIN-O. Accept no imitation.

ELANDSLAAGTE, FIERGEST OF BOER-BRITISH BATTLES.

A Detailed Account of the Fight, Illustrated by Pictures
Drawn on the Battlefield.

Cable dispatches have already given the general outline of the British fight with the Boers at Elands-laagte, but many interesting details still remain to be told. Rain began to fall heavily at 5.30 and at that hour it was so dark that General White decided that an immediate attack on the Boers' position was necessary. Intermittent shelling had been going on most of the day on both sides, some of our volunteer commands using rather antiquated muzzle loaders which had comparatively little effect. In the afternoon the regular artillery took up the running and from that time on the position of the Boers became exceedingly difficult. As Colonel Schiel said after his capture: "You couldn't shoot for nuts in the morning, but you told us a different story in the afternoon."

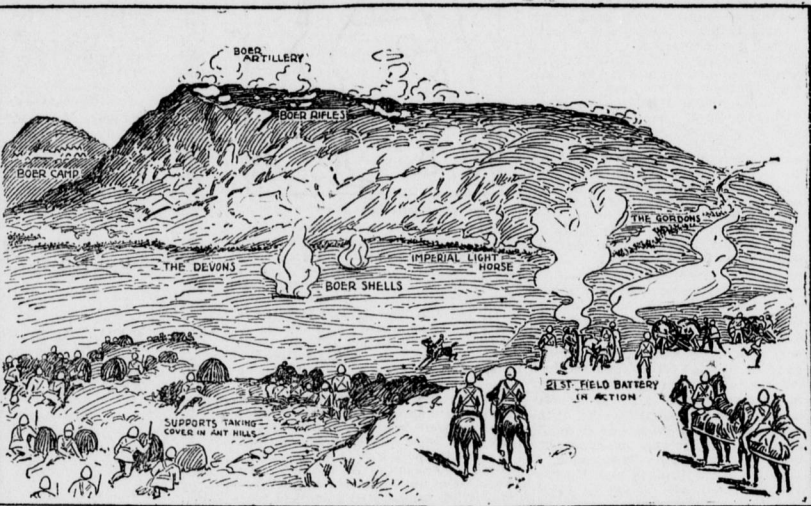
top of the hill, the Manchesters from the left and the Devons in front. Beside the Gordons charged the troopers of the Imperial Light Horse who had left their mounts at the foot of the hill in order to be in at the death. General French leading the Gordons, yelled: "Come along, boys; this is the hottest business I have ever been in," and his men responded to their leader's shout in a manner which showed they were determined to add to the laurels won at Dargal. Close beside General French was Colonel Scott Chisholme, who was leading the Imperial Light Horse, a corps which under his careful training has attained a degree of perfection rarely acquired by irregular troops. Colonel Chisholme was shot three times in less than half a minute. A Mauser bullet tore through

jure their reputation by using missiles that are not countenanced by the rules of civilized warfare.



A CRACK BOER BATTERY. (These guns are manned by artillery experts from other armies, mainly German and French).

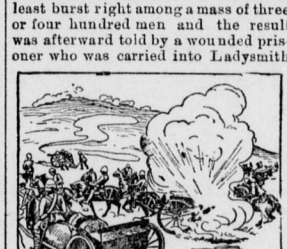
Trumpeter Sherlock, of the Fifth Lancers, is, however, more popular with the men than either French or Hamilton. He is not much more than fourteen years old, and while he cannot carry a lance, he is allowed to have a revolver with which he shot three Boers in the Elands-laagte fight. It is needless to say that he is the special idol of his regiment, the Fifth



GENERAL VIEW OF THE BATTLE OF ELANDSLAAGTE.

The Boers held a very strong position along the top of the ridge, on the left hand of which rises a conical hill. Here they had pitched their camp. Our infantry attack was magnificent. The Devons skirmished out in very open order on the left, the Imperial Light Horse were in the centre, and the Gordons on the right. The Gordons and the Light Horse gained the top of the ridge and drove the Boers back over the plateau to the western end of it, where their artillery was placed. It was during this part of the fight that the Gordons lost so many men. The battle ended with the complete rout of the Boers, who abandoned their guns.—Special Artist-Correspondent of the London Daily Graphic.

But in the afternoon we could see hundreds of Boers forming on the top of the spur, just above the spot where their main battery was planted. Our artillery was turned upon them and through field glasses we watched the awful effect of the fire. Two shells at least burst right among a mass of three or four hundred men and the result was afterward told by a wounded prisoner who was carried into Ladysmith



AN INCIDENT OF THE ACTION AT ELANDSLAAGTE. (A Boer shell burst under a limber of the Twenty-first Field Battery, shattering it to atoms).

by the ambulance train: "It was simply slaughter," he said, "it wasn't fighting." He had been wounded three times in as many seconds. At 6 o'clock the movement which General White had planned for the purpose of turning the enemy's flank took effect and from the wild fire of their artillery we knew that they were in a difficult position. Then the musketry fire was resumed more fiercely than ever and above the sharp crack

of his thigh but he still struggled forward. A moment later he was hit full in the chest. A trooper caught him as he stumbled and said, "Hadn't you better go back, Colonel?" Before Chisholme could answer a third bullet pierced his brain. Everyone knows by this time how the hill was carried by the bayonets of the Gordons, how the Devons captured the enemy's machine guns and flags and how our cavalry reserve in the falling darkness took up the pursuit of the fleeing enemy. A party of lancers caught a number of fleeing Boers some three miles from the battlefield. They charged through the enemy once and then turned and charged again, killing it is said at least one hundred. There were some awful incidents in that night pursuit. One lancer drove his lance right through two Boers who were riding on one horse; another pinned a burgher to the neck of the man's horse and a third killed a Boer who was pleading for mercy, saying, as he sent his lance through the man's body: "You didn't show us any mercy at Majuba."

Even after the enemy had abandoned his ground and darkness had fallen it was by no means safe to walk over the battlefield. Boer stragglers hung around the kopjes and fired on everybody who looked like an Englishman whether he happened to be a hospital worker or not. Major Woods, while attending Lieutenant Bradley of the Gordon Highlanders, was fired upon by a Boer officer, who was promptly shot on the spot. Near



BATTLE OF ELANDSLAAGTE—CHARGE OF "C" SQUADRON, FIFTH LANCERS.

of the Lee Metfords we could hear the eternal quacking of the Maxims and the hammering of the field batteries. Then the leading British regiments began to converge upon the face of the Boer position, the Gordons from the

where he fell a number of explosive cartridges were found such as are used in the shooting of big game. General regret is expressed by our officers that the Boers whom they respect as first-class fighters should in-

OUR MACABEBE SCOUTS.

Success of the Batson Plan of Employing Natives in the Philippines.

Word comes from the Philippines that the two companies of Macabebes scouts under Captain Batson are doing so well that it has been decided to organize a full battalion of these natives. The additional two companies will be very useful in the present campaign, in tracking the fleeing remnants of Aguinaldo's disorganized army.

When Captain Batson, of the Fourth Cavalry, organized his regiment of "Macabebes scouts" there was much speculation among army officers as to whether the venture would prove a success or whether the Macabebes would prove, like the American Indian scouts, unreliable. Many were of the opinion that the Macabebes would prove disloyal and that they would either sell or confiscate their arms and equipments. As a race the Macabebes are enemies of the Tagalogs; still there are many Macabebes who have married into Tagalog families and who, through domestic and commercial association, have forgotten the race feud and become strong friends of the Tagalogs. It was feared, therefore, that some of these men would join the scouts to secure guns and ammunition and then desert and join the insurgents. Many Macabebes volunteered their services to the United States long before the present regiment was organized, and while it has been experimental, until recently the Macabebes have been found both loyal and brave.

The organization is now recruited up to 200. There are four companies of fifty men each. Their uniform consists of a blue linen shirt, khaki trousers, a straw hat with a wide, blue band and eagle ornament



A MACABEBE SCOUT. (Sketched from life for the Chicago Record by C. D. Rhodes. Average height of scouts, five feet.)

mounted on a dark blue shield of felt. They are armed with the Krag-Jorgensen carbine and wear the regulation web belt across the left shoulder instead of around the waist. They do not wear shoes, preferring their bare feet, as has always been their custom. They are very proud of their equipment and take great care of their carbines, which are never out of their sight. They show deep respect for their American officers—a respect which closely borders on love—and in return they are treated with the utmost kindness.

Filipino Method of Execution.

Perhaps the most horrible form of capital punishment practiced in any part of the world is that still in vogue among the Negritos of the Philippine Islands. It seems to be a native



A HOME-MADE GARROTE.

adaptation of the well-known turn screw of the early Spaniard, the victim being tied down in a strong seat and his neck surrounded by a stout iron collar. He is then slowly strangled to death by the executioner, who, by means of a screw at the back of the crude mechanism, slowly tightens the collar on the throat of the unfortunate criminal to whom barbaric justice is being dealt out.

There is no such word in correct English as "alright" or "allright." The expression "all right" is entirely proper.



If we consult the Encyclopedia for information about soap, we find in it this statement:

"The manufacturer of toilet soap generally takes care to present his wares in convenient form and of agreeable appearance and smell; the more weighty duty of having them free from uncombined alkali is in many cases entirely overlooked."

The authority is good, the statement is undoubtedly true, and careful people realize more and more that it is best to buy only an old-established brand like the "Ivory." A brand that they know is pure and harmless.

IVORY SOAP—99 PER CENT. PURE.

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LIVING ON THE WATER.

Some Families Spend their Time on Their Anchored Yachts.

A wet sheet and a flowing sea has nothing whatever to do with life aboard a yacht, as exemplified in the Bay Ridge Yacht Basin, in South Brooklyn, says the New York Herald. There are five or six yachts there, one of them a roomy schooner craft, which for various reasons are not in commission this summer. Nevertheless the owners and their families or their friends live and sleep on board. On one sloop are five young men, who go to a skyscraper building in Nassau street every morning and take out two or three vivacious typewriter girls when work is over to make the evenings merry. They rented the boat on condition that they would not take her outside the basin, and hired a retired sea captain, who lives near the basin, to look after the boat during the day and to "mess" for them. They find it cheaper than paying board in the city, and ever so much pleasanter. Three families wintered on yachts in the Bay Ridge basin last winter, and they enjoyed the experiment so much that they talk of trying it again. The blizzard and the rough weather had no terrors for them. One sloop, the Peri, was housed above decks very much like those in the tales we read about Arctic expeditions. The families who lived in this way were on terms of sociability and visited every night for games and cards. They gave a boat party in January, and their friends in Brooklyn who are given to assisting at social entertainments, joined them in a modest little vaudeville. When the basin was frozen solid one night they gave a skating party, with a piping hot supper below decks as a wind up. There are still novelties about for persons who know where to look for them.

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