

A DESTRUCTIVE ENGINE.

Details of the German 42-Centimeter Gun.

Although the 42-cm. gun used by the Germans in battering down the fortifications at Liege and Namur attracted world-wide attention during the early stages of the war, the secret of its dimensions and other features has been so jealously guarded that practically nothing has been made public in regard to this monster mortar, beyond the terrible destruction wrought by it. At a recent meeting of artillery engineers at Dusseldorf, Germany, an engineer of the Krupp works delivered a lecture on the making of heavy artillery and particularly on the making of the 42-cm. guns, or the "Big Berthas," as the Germans call them, and an apparently reliable report of this lecture has been transmitted to this country. According to this report, which appears in the December Popular Mechanics magazine, the big gun weighs 97 1-2 tons, while the base on which it stands when in firing position, weighs 41 1-4 tons. The barrel is 16 feet long, and the shell fired from it is about 50 inches long, and weighs 880 pounds. The gun is far too big to be transported on any kind of gun carriage. It is made up of considerable more than 100 pieces and must be taken apart and loaded on motor trucks, of which 12 are said to be required, when it is to be moved.

Feminine Frills and Furbelows.

Tyrolean hats are in fashion with Italy in the war.

Paris has paid honor to this ally by adopting her peasant's picturesque headgear.

Italy's soldiers' caps have come in for notice by fashionables here and abroad.

The Bersaglieri, the quaint, soft and becoming headgear of the Tyrolean peasants is receiving marked notice.

A new bag, called the Tyrolean, is carried when one of these hats is worn.

Fur bandings are much in evidence as trimmings of fall models.

Redingote coats continue in favor. New versions of this style are frequently noted in fall showings.

Coats of exclusive models are trimmed with braiding, embroidery, or bands of fur.

The coats are somewhat longer than during the summer, and the bottom is usually edged with a fur band.

Skirts are longer. Many circular models are noted in the newest suits.

Favorite materials this fall include gabardine, velours de laine, broadcloth and velvet.

Many combinations of material are seen, broadcloth suits frequently having a touch of velvet which combines well with the accepted trimming, fur.

Utility is the key note of the top coat shown this fall. It is cut on good lines, is commodious, practical, and will be thoroughly serviceable.

Velvet and corduroy are used in developing afternoon frocks which are also trimmed with fur banding.

Fine French serge is admirable for the "everyday" fall dress.

Taffeta seems to continue to lead in favor for the afternoon frocks.

Fur also plays an important part in fall millinery. Many hats of taffeta are trimmed with fur.

Distances Cut by Canal.

The distance from New York to San Francisco by the old water route was 13,400 miles; via Panama, 5,300 miles. New York to Hawaii, former all-water route, 12,800 miles; by canal, 7,000 miles. New York to Manila, via Hawaii, former route, 17,800 miles; by canal, 12,000 miles. The canal brings Callao 4,329 miles nearer Liverpool by steamer, reducing the distance from 10,230 miles to 5,910 miles, and saving about fourteen days. To Valparaiso the shortening in distance is 1,813 miles, making it 7,185 instead of 8,998, and the saving in time is about six days. By its means the United States has an all-sea route, which is from 2,500 to 3,000 miles shorter than routes from Europe. New York, via canal, is 3,779 miles from Callao, instead of 9,769, as formerly, while New Orleans is only 3,264 miles from Callao. Shanghai is 1,629 miles nearer to New York. Sydney, Australia, is 3,808 miles nearer to New York, and the distance between the two cities is 2,382 miles less than the distance between Sydney and Liverpool. Wellington, New Zealand, is 2,542 miles nearer New York, and the distance between them is 2,759 miles less than between Wellington and Liverpool. Between New Zealand and Europe there is an average saving of 1,600 miles.—Indianapolis News.

Eyes Being Opened.

Doctor—Well, Casey, are the eyes improving?

Patient—Sure they are, sir.

Doctor—Can you see better; can you see the nurse now?

Patient—Sure, I can that, sor.

Faith, she gets plainer and plainer every day.

MONEY IN HOGS.

American Farmers Can Profit by Raising Swine.

In the current issue of Farm and Fireside, the national farm paper published at Springfield, Ohio, appears an article showing how money can be made in the raising of hogs. The world is eating the pork produced in America and the chances to make a profit lie before every farmer. Following is an extract from the article:

"Hog products which were exported from the United States for the ten months ending with April, 1915, amounted to more than \$115,000,000. The large export increase was due to the European war. And when peace comes again to Europe, the demand for hog products will be greater than now because the hog herds of Europe are being slaughtered to furnish the armies with meat.

"The supply of beef in the United States will be limited for several years, and the production of mutton will not be able to meet the demands of a rapidly increasing population. There is but one big supply left—the hog.

"But the American hog, if given a chance, will furnish not only the United States with meat, but Europe also; and in doing so it will yield a handsome profit to the American farmers who prepare now for the high prices that are certain to be paid for hogs in the future.

"I know from a practical and successful experience of more than fifty years in the swine industry that the hog is the most profitable animal kept on the farm, and in the future, owing to the decrease in the supply of cared for, more profitable than ever. Even the tenant farmer, with his short lease and limited capital, can embark successfully in the swine industry."

MAN OF MANY LIVES.

Danish Newspaper Compiles Interesting Report Concerning Prince.

Berlin, Dec. 5.—The Overseas News Agency, under the title "hard to kill," today gave out what it says is a history of the German crown prince during the war, as compiled by a Danish newspaper report given out by Germany's enemies. This history follows:

"August 5, 1914: Victim of an attempt against his life in Berlin.

"August 18: Severely wounded while on the French frontier."

"August 24: Second attempt against his life, in which he lost one leg.

"August 24: Third attempt against his life.

"September 4: Committed suicide.

"September 13: Died in a Brussels hospital.

"September 15: Commanded an attack near Verdun.

"September 16: Wounded by a shrapnel in Poland.

"September 18: Once more wounded while on the French front.

"September 20: Is hastened to his deathbed.

"October 24: Buried in Berlin.

"October 25: His body found on the battlefield.

"November 3: Once more buried.

"November 4: Once more killed by the French.

"November 8: Insane; taken to a lonely castle.

"November 13: Appointed chief commander on the east front.

"November 17: Once more killed.

"January 16, 1915: Once more wounded.

"February 3: Sent home."

Our Own Financial Future.

In the light of current events London is quite disposed to think that never in the whole of her history has the United States been confronted with such prospects of dazzling prosperity as those with which she is now faced. Whether the war terminates at this point or at a later period—and for America's sake it is believed that the earlier the termination the greater the likelihood of prosperity being assured—there would seem to be nothing to stop your country from being foremost for some time to come in the race for financial and industrial supremacy.—London Correspondence of the New York Post.

Apples and Morality.

Coleridge would have been in sympathy with the prison governor who regarded a liking for apples as indicative of moral soundness. "No man can have a pure mind who refuses apple dumplings," he said, and Coleridge's friend (Charles Lamb who reports this saying, adds: "I am not certain but he is right. With the decay of my first innocence, I confess a less and less, relish daily for those innocuous cakes. There is a physiological character in the tastes for food. The whole vegetable tribe have lost their guest with one. Only I stick to asparagus, which still seems to inspire gentle thoughts."—London Chronicle.

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