

DIAMONDS FOR AMERICA

Special Correspondence.

KIMBERLEY, South Africa.—The manager of all the great diamond mines lying about Kimberley is an American. His name is Alpheus Williams, and he is the son of Mr. Gardner F. Williams, who took charge of the mines at the time the De Beers company was organized, and who died there only three years ago. During Gardner Williams' control the mines became the chief source of the diamond supply of the world. He had charge of them for about 20 years, and in that time they produced almost \$300,000,000 worth of diamonds and paid out \$118,000,000 in dividends. Since his son has been handling them they have been yielding in the neighborhood of \$25,000,000 a year, and the prospect is that they will produce millions annually for many years to come.

THE MANAGER OF THE DE BEERS COMPANY.

It is a big thing to be the manager of a company like this. It means the control of an army of wage workers greater than that which Xenophon led on his march to the sea, and equal to the standing army of the United States before our war with Spain. During the past two years Mr. Williams has had on his pay roll in the neighborhood of 26,000 men. This number has been reduced since the American panic, but still it runs up close to 15,000 and it will be increased as the times improve. All of these men have to be fed, and the supplies which they consume cost millions. The five great diamond pipes, which are now being mined here, are operated with the most expensive machinery. They have vast works connected with them, and the weathering floors, with their miles of cable cars, cover 11,000 acres, or over 17 square miles. Most of you can visualize the size of a 100-acre farm. The diamond floors and weathering works and mines of the De Beers company here would cover just about 72 such farms, and every square yard of that area is humming with industry. Nearly every square of it yields more or less value; it has to have guards, and the greatest economy is required to keep the millions from leaking away. In the year 1906 the wages paid amounted to over \$10,000,000 and the food necessities of the native laborers almost one million and a half more. Supplies for the men who have to be fed in walled compounds would tax the supplies of the largest department stores. They used last year almost 5,000,000 loaves of bread and something like 3,000,000 pounds of fresh meat. They drank 1,000,000 bottles of milk, smoked 2,000,000 cigarettes, and were supplied with 64,000 new shirts and 55,000 pairs of trousers. The items for mining supplies are even larger. It took 700,000 pounds of steel wire rope to haul the cars. The new timbers of the mines, which came from South America, were valued at more than \$1,000,000. The iron and steel bars, brass castings and bolts and nuts ran high into hundreds of thousands of pounds.

In addition to the work of the company has a number of other institutions

in and about Kimberley. It has 300,000 acres of land, a great farm for raising its horses and mules, an electric railway, a hotel, and hospitals and clubs. It practically controls the town of Kimberley, which has a population of 30,000, so that altogether the mine manager has little time to spare.

A TALK ABOUT DIAMONDS.

It was in the offices of the De Beers company that I had a talk with the man who controls all the institutions. Mr. Alpheus Williams is a man of thirty-five years of age. He was born in the United States, and educated at Cornell and the University of California before he came out here some years ago to be his father's assistant. When the latter retired in 1905, he was elected in his place, and since then he has been in charge of all the De Beers company's properties here. During my talk with him the subject of the diamond demand came up, and he replied that it had been excellent until our great panic occurred. Up to that time the world was taking the whole of the Kimberley output, and the company had but comparatively few diamonds on hand. The people were everywhere prosperous, and they were buying diamonds as never before. This was especially so in the United States, which was taking almost three-fourths of all the diamonds produced here. Then the panic came, and our demand dropped. Fortunately the De Beers company had an enormous amount of blue ground on its floors, and it has been able to reduce its expenses without any danger of being unable to supply the supplies of the near future. Today the mines are running with a much decreased force, and they will be operated on a very conservative basis until the times improve.

THE AMERICAN MARKET.

In talking with Mr. Williams about the American market, I asked him what kind of stones were purchased by the U. S. He replied: "The very best. The finest and purest of our diamonds go to the United States, and within a year or two that country has been by far our best customer. For some time it took two-thirds of all the diamonds we mined, and during the past year or so it has bought even more. We send also many ordinary stones there. There is a great demand in our country for diamond engagement rings. In fact, we are about the only people among the world's every young man thinks he must give a diamond ring to his sweetheart to seal the promise of marriage. This is the largest demand for diamonds. The rest of the world is buying diamonds for special occasions, such as wedding presents and as birthday gifts."

AMERICAN DIAMOND CUTTERS.

"In what shape do the diamonds go to the United States, Mr. Williams?" I asked. "Most of them are first cut in Europe," was the reply. "We have a duty of 10 per cent on cut diamonds which is levied to protect the American diamond-cutting industry, but that more than offsets the duty. The importations are in the shape of cut



THE DE BEERS COMPANY'S OFFICES AT KIMBERLEY.

stones shows that the tariff is not high enough for that purpose. In 1906, the United States imported about \$34,000,000 worth of diamonds, and of these only \$10,000,000 worth were cut stones. Rough diamonds are free of duty."

"But Mr. Williams, are the American diamond cutters equal to those of Europe? Can the stones be as beautifully shaped and polished at home as abroad?"

"Yes, our diamond cutters are mainly from Holland and Belgium, and the most of them learned their trade before they emigrated. As it is now, we have over 400 such workmen in and about New York, which is the center of the industry. This is a small number compared with the thousands employed in Antwerp and Amsterdam."

SAWING AND POLISHING DIAMONDS.

"The business of diamond cutting has materially changed of late years," continued Mr. Williams. "We have now diamond saws by which we can cut pieces from a diamond and make two or more diamonds out of one. Here, for instance, is the kind of saw which is most commonly used."

At this point Mr. Williams handed me a copper disk about as thick as my thumb nail and as big around as the bottom of a teacup. The metal was comparatively soft, and I could not see how it could cut a diamond, which is harder than the finest of steel, until Mr. Williams said that the

wheel was dipped in diamond dust and the dust did the cutting.

"It is on this same principle that all diamonds are ground and polished," said Mr. Williams. "The only thing that will cut a diamond is a diamond itself, and all polishing must be done with diamond dust. In the cutting establishments this is done on flat wheels of soft iron as big as a dinner plate, which are so moved by machinery that they go around at the rate of 2,000 revolutions a minute. These wheels are covered with a mixture of diamond dust and water, and the precious stones fastened into cement are pressed upon the wheels and ground off into the facets which so increase their brilliancy. The splitting of diamonds is done by other diamonds, which might be called diamond knives. The latter are fixed in cement, and are used to split the diamonds at the flaws which the stones frequently have. There are something like 10,000 men and women employed in the diamond cutting and polishing industry of Amsterdam, and they handle gems worth many millions of dollars every year. The greater part of the De Beers output is cut in Europe, and the center of the industry is Amsterdam. It is said that more than \$8,000,000 is paid out in wages to the diamond workers of that city every year, and that there are something like 60 factories in which the cutting and polishing are done."

I asked Mr. Williams whether we would ever have a diamond famine, saying that I had heard that the mines were playing out. He replied: "Any statement of that kind is not true. We have enough diamonds in sight to keep us busy for many years, and we shall probably be supplying most of the diamonds of the world for several generations to come. As it is now we have something like 10,000,000 loads of the blue, containing the diamonds, weathering upon our floors, and there are between 50,000,000 and 60,000,000 more loads in sight. In the De Beers mine there are more than 5,000,000 loads yet to be taken out above the 2,000-foot level, and in the Kimberley more than 1,300,000 above the 2,500-foot level, which we have now reached. In the Westcott there are 10,000,000 loads above the 500-foot level, and in the Dutoitspan 21,000,000 loads above the 750-foot level, while the amount in the Bulfontein mine above the 600-foot level to which we have sunk the shaft is about 7,800,000 loads. All told we have somewhere between 60,000,000 and 70,000,000 loads of blue ground on our floors and in sight. The total amount washed and crushed last year was over 5,250,000 loads, and that produced diamonds which realized about \$28,000,000. At the same rate of winning the blue ground on the floors and in sight would last for over eleven years and would produce considerably over \$300,000,000 worth of diamonds."

"Have you yet reached a point in any of the pipes where the diamonds have played out?" I asked. "No. The number and value of the

stones in the various pipes have not increased as we have gone down, but they hold their own. At the Kimberley mine we are now working a half mile below the grass roots, and the blue ground there is about as rich in diamonds as it is at the way down. In the De Beers we are down 2,000 feet, and in the Kimberley and the De Beers they have been working almost constantly for 36 years, and it is believed that the mines have still a long life before them. The Westcott, Bulfontein and Dutoitspan have altogether an area about four and one-half times as large as the Kimberley and the De Beers combined, and although an enormous amount of diamonds have been taken from them, there are still 50,000,000 loads of blue ground above the 500, 600 and 750 foot levels. There is no reason to think that the diamonds may not go as far down in these pipes as in the De Beers and the Kimberley, and the prospect is that there will be no diamond famine for many, many years to come."

DIAMOND PIPES.

"Tell me something about these diamond pipes? Do they occur anywhere else in the world than here?" "Yes. There are some others in Premier diamond mine, near Pretoria, South Africa, a notable one being the De Beers company's building and took a look at the steel vaults in which the brilliant are kept until shipped to London. They are sent there by mail, and usually in registers with padlocks. They go on mail cars to Cape Town and from there to Southampton on the big steamships of the Union Castle line. The trains which carry them have the six hundred and seventy-five miles of track from here to the Cape of Good Hope are equipped with safes, which have been especially built for the purpose. The steel floors of the safes are, as I understand it, a part of the floor of the car.

TRAIN ROBBERY WHICH FAILED.

After the diamonds have been mined and cleaned they are sold to the diamond syndicate. I visited the offices of this organization in the De Beers company's building and took a look at the steel vaults in which the brilliant are kept until shipped to London. They are sent there by mail, and usually in registers with padlocks. They go on mail cars to Cape Town and from there to Southampton on the big steamships of the Union Castle line. The trains which carry them have the six hundred and seventy-five miles of track from here to the Cape of Good Hope are equipped with safes, which have been especially built for the purpose. The steel floors of the safes are, as I understand it, a part of the floor of the car.

NOT LONG AGO A WOULD-BE DIAMOND THIEF GOT THE IDEA THAT HE COULD CUT OUT THIS STEEL PLATE A MILLION DOLLAR'S WORTH OF MORE DIAMONDS WOULD BE INTO HIS HANDS. HE PREPARED FOR HIS ATTEMPT BY ARGUING UNDER THE CAR BEFORE IT STARTED. HE HAD A BOARD UNDER HIM AND LAY THERE ON HIS BACK DURING THE FIRST PART OF THE JOURNEY, WHILE HE DRILLED 40 DIFFERENT HOLES UP THROUGH THE SAFE. HE HAD THE FLOOR PLATE JUST ABOUT LOOSE, AND WAS SAWING WITH A STEEL SAW FROM ONE HOLE TO ANOTHER WHEN SOMETHING MADE HIM THINK HE WAS DISCOVERED, AND HE DROPPED OUT AND RAN. THE ALARM WAS A FALSE ONE, AND HE MIGHT EASILY HAVE GOTTEN THE DIAMONDS HAD HIS NERVE FAILED HIM.

THAT ATTEMPT WAS MADE MANY YEARS AGO, AND SINCE THEN THE SAFES HAVE BEEN SO IMPROVED AND FORTIFIED THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO CUT THROUGH THEM. IT WOULD SEEM, HOWEVER, THAT THEY MIGHT EASILY BE HELD UP BY TRAIN ROBBERY, AND THAT A LITTLE DYNAMITE OR NITROGLYCERINE WOULD SUFFICE TO LAY THEIR CONTENTS BARE TO THE THIEVES. IT IS VERY SURE THAT SUCH ENORMOUS VALUES IN DIAMONDS COULD BE REGULARLY CARRIED OVER THE WESTERN PARTS OF THE UNITED STATES WITHOUT GREAT DANGER.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

A LOW-GRADE PROPOSITION.

"There is one thing that should be said in respect to the diamonds of this part of the world," continued Mr. Williams. "The mining of them is a low-grade proposition, and it pays well only because it is scientifically and economically handled, and that is wonderful how much work it takes to get out the diamonds. In the Dutoitspan we have to handle four tons of earth to every carat; and it is about as bad in the Kimberley. Now, when you remember that a diamond weighing a carat is not as big as a pea, and that it has to be found and taken out of this great mass of earth and that you will see how difficult the problem is. In the first place, we have to blast down the blue ground. We then carry it to the surface and allow it to lie out in the open for one year to soften it. After that it must be washed and crushed and handled again and again to find the stones. All this means an enormous amount of labor as well as expensive machinery."

MARRIED MAN IN TROUBLE.

A married man who permits any member of the family to take anything except Foley's Honey and Tar, for coughs, colds and lung trouble, is guilty of neglect. Nothing else is as safe or for all pulmonary troubles. The genuine Foley's Honey and Tar contains no opiates and is in a yellow package. F. J. Hill Drug Co. ("The never substitutes"), Salt Lake City.

RULE OF THE GRAND DUKES

(Continued from page seventeen.)

best piece of forgery ever committed. Needless to say, Birnbaum still supplied the fortress with grain. In some cases flogging has reached such a pitch that the supplies for which the government makes money grants have disappeared altogether—except on the accounts. Blacking is a case in point. At one time every regiment all the soldiers so much blacking per month for their boots. As this is not an expensive item, only a small sum was allowed for it, and when the officers began to buy themselves very little remained. In a year or two the colonels ceased altogether to buy it for their men. But unblackened boots look very bad at a review. It was, therefore, arranged that the soldiers should buy their own blacking for these festive occasions out of their miserable pay of 4 cents a day.

REWARDS FOR DISHONESTY.

It frequently happens that men are rewarded for their dishonesty. A Cossack officer named Capt. Ekinoff, who went out to Manchuria during the Japanese war, used to supply the army with very good and very cheap horses. As a great many were killed in engagements, the demand always was large and urgent. The captain was recommended to headquarters for the prompt manner in which he supplied the army with horses, and in reward was decorated with the Order of St. Vladimir, with star and cross, by the czar.

Recently Capt. Ekinoff quarreled with his bosom friend and made an illuminating confession in which he said they had combined to cheat the army. They put themselves at the head of a band of marauders which had been infested Manchuria during the war, and, falling upon scattered and small detachments of Russian cavalry, killed the men, took away their horses and resold them to the army supply committee who were delighted to get such good animals at so low a price. Ekinoff made a small fortune and still wears his order simply because none of the officials whose duty it is to punish him think it worth while doing so.

The schools in which such officers are trained are almost barren of all discipline. Discipline is quite unknown. In the large Russian towns where cadet schools are located, these young gentlemen—aged from 10 to 15—can be seen "clock in the morning. The system of teaching is antiquated and inefficient and they leave the schools without a notion of the duties that await them in the army. Professors and pupils are frank about their inefficiency. One professor of military history told a military visitor from Germany that his pupils knew nothing of the subject except what appeared in a book published 30 years previous, because he himself knew that book by heart and could recite pages from it at the least of a Red Cross association, which is supposed to build military hospitals. But though people have subscribed millions toward it, half the regimental hospitals are useless and many of them are without doctors. It is an open secret that all on the committee, the grand dukes included, make free use of the funds for their private purposes. When the Japanese war was on, the Grand Duke Alexis levied a tax of \$2.50 on every foreigner leaving the country even for a day. Although the war has been over three years and a half years, the tax still is levied and the money is supposed to go to the Red Cross. The nurses belong to the worst class of women in Russia, and their lax morality has become notorious throughout the empire.

SERGIUS VOLKHOVSKY.

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DEGREES OF LEARNING.

"We have three classes," was the reply. "In the first the boys only drink, in the second they make love, and in the third they do both. I am in the third."

Unhappily, this is not merely a bit of boyish brag, but a fact, as the numbers of morally and physically ruined boys who yearly leave the cadet colleges for the army and navy show.

The medical commission also is honeycombed by corruption, the members enriching themselves by enforcing bribes from those who wish to avoid service. When the unwilling candidates make no medical examination the doctors find ready at hand large sums from the parents of the

well-to-do to influence their verdict. Men without the necessary bribe will knock out the teeth or cut off a thumb or a couple of fingers to escape the compulsory service, which ranges from one to eight years, according to the number of classes they have been through at school. Many physically unfit are passed into the army and navy because they have not the money to bribe the doctors, or in order to replace a sound man who has the ready cash.

A well-known doctor in Moscow made a large fortune out of military candidates, replacing sound men by unhealthy ones in order to keep up the number required by the authorities. At last his practice became so notorious that the authorities were forced to take action. Two candidates came up for examination last fall. One, a healthy young man, who had been lazy at school and passed through the lowest class only, was doomed thereby to serve five years. The other, who was consumptive, was supposed to serve five years but for his physical infirmities. The parents of the first candidate paid the examining physician \$1,000 and those of the second could afford nothing. The consumptive recruit replaced the healthy one, and died before the regiment reached its destination in Central Asia. A high official, honestly disposed, who had influence at the war office, heard of the story and denounced the doctor. The latter was tried, found guilty, and sentenced to a couple of years' imprisonment, which afterwards was commuted to a fine which was paid promptly from his bribe-fattened bank account.

NAVY STILL WORSE.

Bad as the army is the navy is in an even worse condition. The battleships are bereft of officers because those pleasure-loving incompetents sail on land. Indeed, most of the sailors remain in barracks, whence they embark only once a year for a short voyage. Since 1895 it has been a fact that only one-third of the Russian navy—officers, men and ships—ever go to sea. "Truth to tell, there are not enough ships for them, though more than 216,000,000 have been built on the Russian fleet in the last 10 years. But this enormous amount instead of going into battleships and guns and ammunition has found its way into the pockets of those who are in charge. The navy has covered its favorite ballet girls with jewels. One of the Grand Duke's favorites who appeared on the stage at a St. Petersburg theater in a glitter of diamonds, recently was greeted with the cry from the audience: "Take off those jewels! You know they cost us three battleships!" Alexis was in a private box and had the officers arrested. But they had spoken the truth and "Mile. Fin" was obliged to leave St. Petersburg—with her jewels—till the affair, which threatened to become a serious matter, blew over.

RED CROSS NOT EXEMPT.

It is this same grand duke who is, after the empress, president of the Red Cross association, which is supposed to build military hospitals. But though people have subscribed millions toward it, half the regimental hospitals are useless and many of them are without doctors. It is an open secret that all on the committee, the grand dukes included, make free use of the funds for their private purposes. When the Japanese war was on, the Grand Duke Alexis levied a tax of \$2.50 on every foreigner leaving the country even for a day. Although the war has been over three years and a half years, the tax still is levied and the money is supposed to go to the Red Cross. The nurses belong to the worst class of women in Russia, and their lax morality has become notorious throughout the empire.

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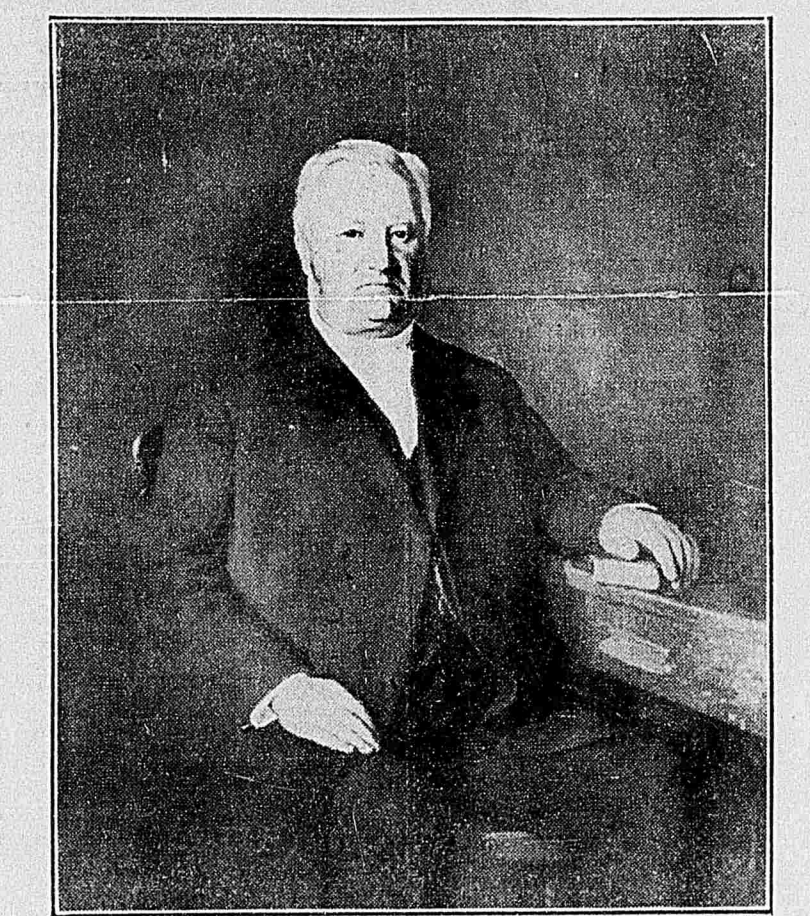
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Painted by A. B. Wright of Logan for the Agricultural College Which President Lund Helped to Found.

Visitors at the state fair have been much impressed by an excellent portrait of President Anthon H. Lund, hung prominently in the art room. The portrait is one that has just been completed by Artist A. B. Wright, under a commission from the Agricultural college. The reason the college thus wishes to honor President Lund is because of the fact that only one-third of the Russian navy—officers, men and ships—ever go to sea. "Truth to tell, there are not enough ships for them, though more than 216,000,000 have been built on the Russian fleet in the last 10 years. But this enormous amount instead of going into battleships and guns and ammunition has found its way into the pockets of those who are in charge. The navy has covered its favorite ballet girls with jewels. One of the Grand Duke's favorites who appeared on the stage at a St. Petersburg theater in a glitter of diamonds, recently was greeted with the cry from the audience: "Take off those jewels! You know they cost us three battleships!" Alexis was in a private box and had the officers arrested. But they had spoken the truth and "Mile. Fin" was obliged to leave St. Petersburg—with her jewels—till the affair, which threatened to become a serious matter, blew over.

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desired information they hurry homewards and give their own orders to their own particular makers, in order to forestall the professional watchers at Marienbad. Within a few days of King Edward's appearance on the public promenade at Marienbad, these young dukes reappear in their respective residences in Buda Pesth, or Vienna, or Paris, as the case may be, and strut about the streets with hats of the same style, coats of the same cut, collars of the same color, shirts and stockings of the same hue, as his Britannic majesty's. They are immensely proud of this, and their claim to be leaders of fashions in their respective capitals is acknowledged because they are faithful models of the English king.

EDWARD OBSERVANT.

Obviously it is impossible for all these systematic observations of his person to escape the notice of the observer at Marienbad. He would see how difficult the problem is. In the first place, we have to blast down the blue ground. We then carry it to the surface and allow it to lie out in the open for one year to soften it. After that it must be washed and crushed and handled again and again to find the stones. All this means an enormous amount of labor as well as expensive machinery."

RUDOLPH VON ELPHBERG.

A JEWELER'S EXPERIENCE.

C. R. Kluger, The Jeweler, 1060 Virginia Ave., Indianapolis, Ind., writes: "I was so weak from kidney trouble that I could hardly walk a hundred feet. Four bottles of Foley's Kidney Remedy cleared my complexion, cured my backache and the irregularities disappeared, and I can now attend to business every day and recommend Foley's Kidney Remedy to all sufferers. Both two years in Paris from 1902 to 1904. Since his return he has been at the B. Y. college steadily. He has exhibited twice at the autumn salon in Paris, at the St. Louis exposition and at an exhibit of the American Art association. In Utah he won the state prize given by the Utah Art Institute in 1904, and the medal of honor of this organization in 1904. Besides this portrait of President Lund he has executed a number of other excellent portraits this summer."

THE ROYAL MONTH AND THE ROYAL DRESS.

Sudden changes of weather are especially trying, and probably to none more so than to the scrofulous and consumptive. The progress of scrofula during a normal October is commonly great. We never think of scrofula as a bunch of cutaneous eruptions, and wasting of the bodily substance—without thinking of the great good many sufferers from it have derived from Hood's Sarsaparilla, whose radical and permanent cure of this one disease are enough to make it the most famous medicine in the world. There is probably not a city in the world where Hood's Sarsaparilla has not proved its merit in more homes than one, in arresting and completely eradicating scrofula, which is almost as serious and as much to be feared as its near relative—consumption.

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REAR ADMIRAL CONWAY HILLYER ARNOLD.

Rear Admiral Conway Hillyer Arnold, who was selected to command the new division of the Atlantic squadron, which was announced late in September by the Naval Department, was born in New York on November 14, 1848. He was educated in private schools and then sent to the Naval Academy, from which he graduated in 1867. He married Miss Fanny Wood on November seventh, the same year he reached the old-fashioned rank of the master in the United States Navy. He was created a commander in 1888 and a captain in 1902. He only recently reached the rank of rear admiral and this is his first important command as chief of a squadron on active sea duty.

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