

The Armored Train In Modern War.

THE important part which the armored train is destined to play in the war of the future has been pretty well shown by the way in which the railway ironclad has been made use of during the struggle now going on between the Boers and the British in South Africa.

The armored train has been a particularly prominent feature in this Transvaal war because of the position of the contestants and the long, unprotected plains along the different boundaries.

The idea of the armored train, however, is by no means a new one, for, although past experiences with such trains in open warfare have revealed little concerning their more or less problematical value as an offensive and defensive factor, trains covered with armor plate and filled with sharpshooters had been used in the neighborhood of Paris even so early as the Franco-Prussian war.

During the Cuban rebellion the armored train was used quite often by the Spaniards, though the most successful recorded operation of such a train occurred in 1882, when the British fleet was bombarding Alexandria. During this bombardment Captain Fisher, an officer of the British navy, conceived the idea of taking an ordinary locomotive and several cars and covering them with good, heavy boiler plate.

When this was done, the train was equipped with field guns, manned with bluejackets from his ship, and then started along the railway line that skirted the coast where the enemy lay in force. When the Egyptian troops were suddenly confronted by this unexpected engine of war, they straightway took to their heels.

Armored trains mounting fieldpieces and machine guns have been, and for that matter are even now being used by the American troops engaged in the rounding up of Aguinaldo and his men. The successful issue of the engagement at Culumpit, for instance, was largely attributed to the opportune arrival of just such a flying battery on rails.

General Lord Kitchener also made frequent use of the armored train in his advance up the Nile. During this Egyptian campaign it was found that rifle bullets fired at short range pierced the plate with which the British cars were at-

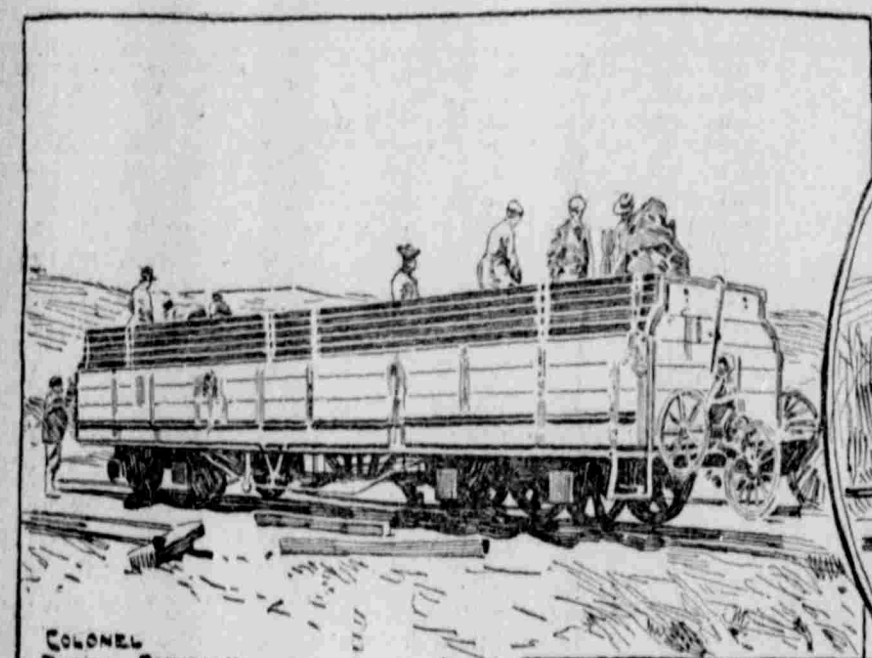
mored, so, for extra protection sand bags were piled up along each side of the cars, and behind these the sharpshooters of Kitchener were quite invulnerable.

In the armored trains which have been spreading consternation among the belligerent burghers of the Transvaal the locomotive is the only part that does not carry guns. The cars

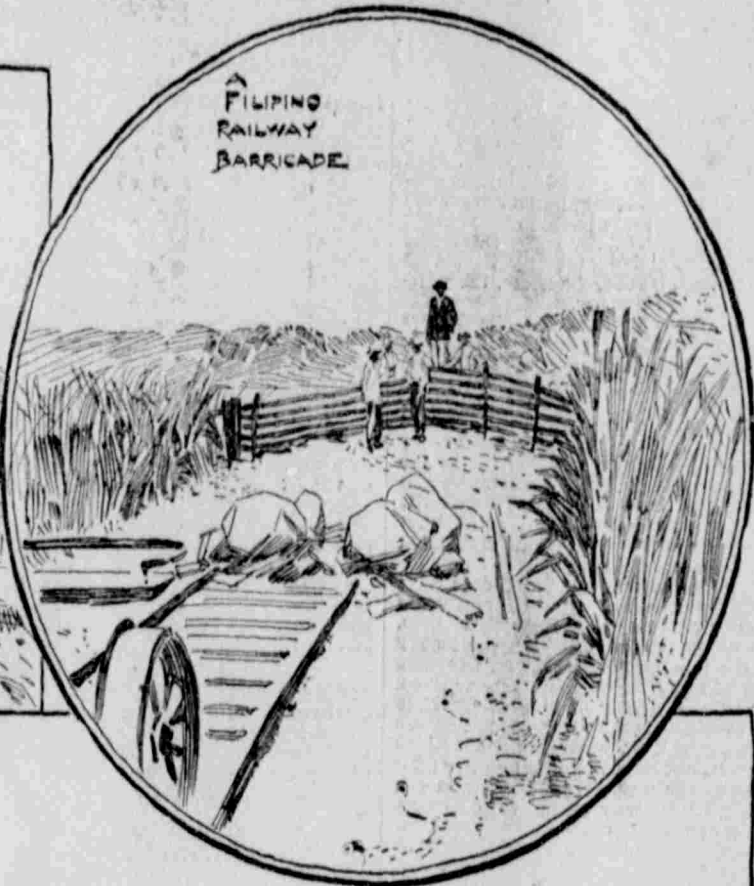
cars in the usual manner, the locomotive is always placed in the center of the train for the sake of extra protection to such an important part of this flying battery. Portholes are made in the armor plate sides of the car through which to operate the quick firing and machine guns, with smaller apertures lower down through which the Tommy Atkins sharpshooter pokes his deadly

ceded by an advance guard of cavalry, regarded as necessary to insure protection to the roadbed and to report on interruptions in rail connection or obstacles along the line.

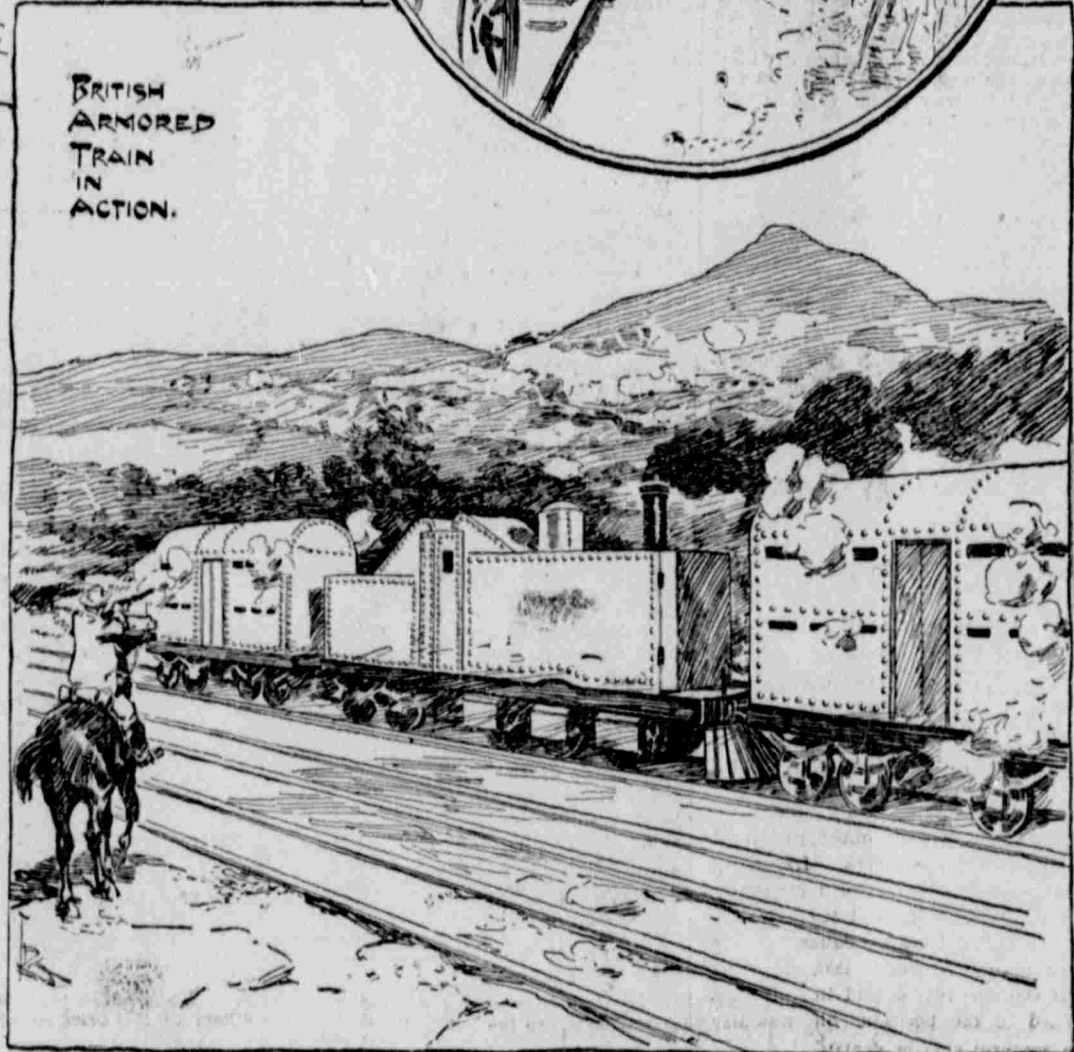
The armored cars which Colonel Baden-Powell hastily improvised for the protection of Mafeking were simply ordinary flat cars with armored walls made of steel rails firmly bolted to-



COLONEL BADEN-POWELL'S ARMORED CARS.



A FILIPINO RAILWAY BARRICADE.



BRITISH ARMORED TRAIN IN ACTION.

themselves are simply box cars, covered by steel boiler plating three-quarters of an inch in thickness. This is firmly riveted on a steel framework, while the locomotive itself is well incased in the same plating, particular care being taken to protect securely all vital parts of the machinery. Instead of hauling the

rifle barrel. It requires a very steady aim to send its bullet home from a fast moving train, so the deadliest marksmen are always selected. A powerful railway crane and a strong searchlight are also usually included in the equipment of such a train. When in operation, the armored train is usually pre-

gether. When the town was invested, this officer, it will be remembered, surrounded his position with a railway about which circled his train, well loaded with machine guns and sharpshooters, and held back for a considerable length of time a superior force of the enemy.

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THE COUR D'AMOUR AT LES BAUX.



One of the most interesting and romantic cities in France is the little old provincial town of Les Baux, now a mere shadow of the great center of art and music it once was. During medieval times Les Baux held a once famous Cour d'Amour, and the little renaissance temple with the umbrella shaped roof, shown in the accompanying illustration, was the center of this sixteenth century court. These were originally courts held by ladies of high rank in which the rules of minstrelsy were laid down. These ladies pronounced on the qualifications of a candidate, dictated the subjects upon which troubadours were to compose their lays, judged the different singers' merits and punished by disgrace or exclusion those who violated the laws of the court. In the twelfth century these courts of love even went further, and, besides laying down rules of grammar and dialect, went so far as to form rules for love and love-making and directed all the symptoms which the disciples of Eros were to exhibit on the proper occasion and before the proper person.

MEN AND EVENTS THE WORLD OVER.

The Rev. Dr. S. M. Haskins of Wilkesburg, N. Y., has been in continuous ministerial service in one place longer than nearly any other clergyman in the country. For 90 years he has been rector of St. Mark's Episcopal church.

A notable feature of the London

steam railroad is what are designated as "workmen's trains." These 2 cent fare trains were decreed a few years ago by parliament to enable workmen to get away from the squalid quarters of the city. The Great Eastern, for instance, was compelled to run a train out and in for 20 miles on

which the fare for a part or the whole distance is a penny, or only 2 cents, a cheap rate, but not the lowest in the world. Some of the London railroads sell a season ticket for \$35 a year.

Professor Nussbaum of Hanover has discovered that the plastering in the walls of a room seriously affects its acoustic properties. Any admixture of sand with the plaster spoils the rever-

beration of musical tones. The best results are obtained by using pure gypsum which has been heated to whiteness.

A correspondent in New Zealand reports a strange dislike to the medical profession among the working classes there. They never apply to a doctor until all other means have failed, and then assume a hostile attitude, refus-

ing to give their symptoms and expecting the doctor to find out what is the matter with them by simply looking at them.

THE VALLEY OF GOLD.

Here is the famous Umtali waterfall in Rhodesia, which runs over some of the richest gold bearing rock in the world. A few years ago this particular part of South Africa was thought to be nothing better than a barren wilder-



ness. Now it is realized that when once this country, which Rhodes and his company first opened up, is properly exploited it will prove one of the world's new El Dorados.

BOER FORT AT BLOEMFONTEIN.



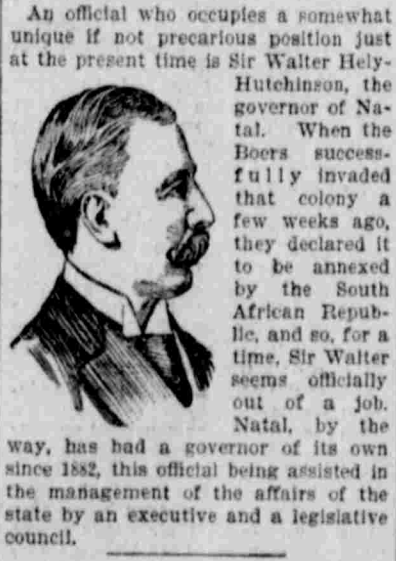
That the Boers have for months and even for years been anticipating some final struggle with the British has been well demonstrated by the thoroughness of the preparations for war which the government of the crafty Oom Paul has been making for some time past. The same might be said of the doctory burghers of the Orange Free State, for Bloemfontein, the capital of the little republic, was carefully fortified and garrisoned for many months before the actual outbreak of hostilities. The accompanying illustration will give a very good idea of the Boer fort at Bloemfontein, a spot which, in view of recent events, has an especial interest to all followers of the present struggle between the Boers and the British.

THE MEN IN RUSSET MANTLE CLAD.



That the English officers and soldiers now fighting in South Africa have learned to their sorrow that the Boers have many a sharpshooter in their ranks is clearly shown by the preparations which the English troops now make before going in the field. Every bit of bright color and every trace of glittering metal is carefully cast aside. The accompanying illustration, for instance, shows a number of lancers busily engaged in painting their scabbards khaki color, to match the uniform which they wear during active service. This is a dull earth color and does not afford a glaring target for concealed marksmen.

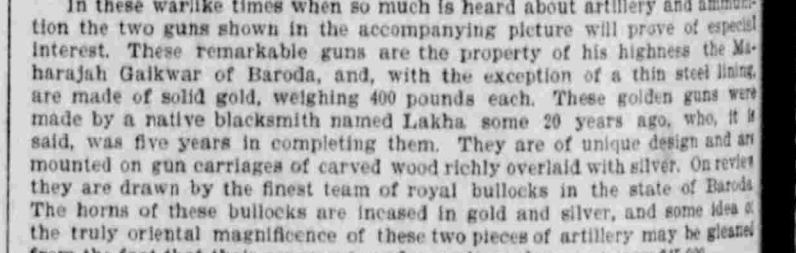
THE GOVERNOR OF NATAL.



An official who occupies a somewhat unique if not precarious position just at the present time is Sir Walter Hely-Hutchinson, the governor of Natal. When the Boers successfully invaded that colony a few weeks ago, they declared it to be annexed by the South African Republic, and so, for a time, Sir Walter seems officially out of a job.

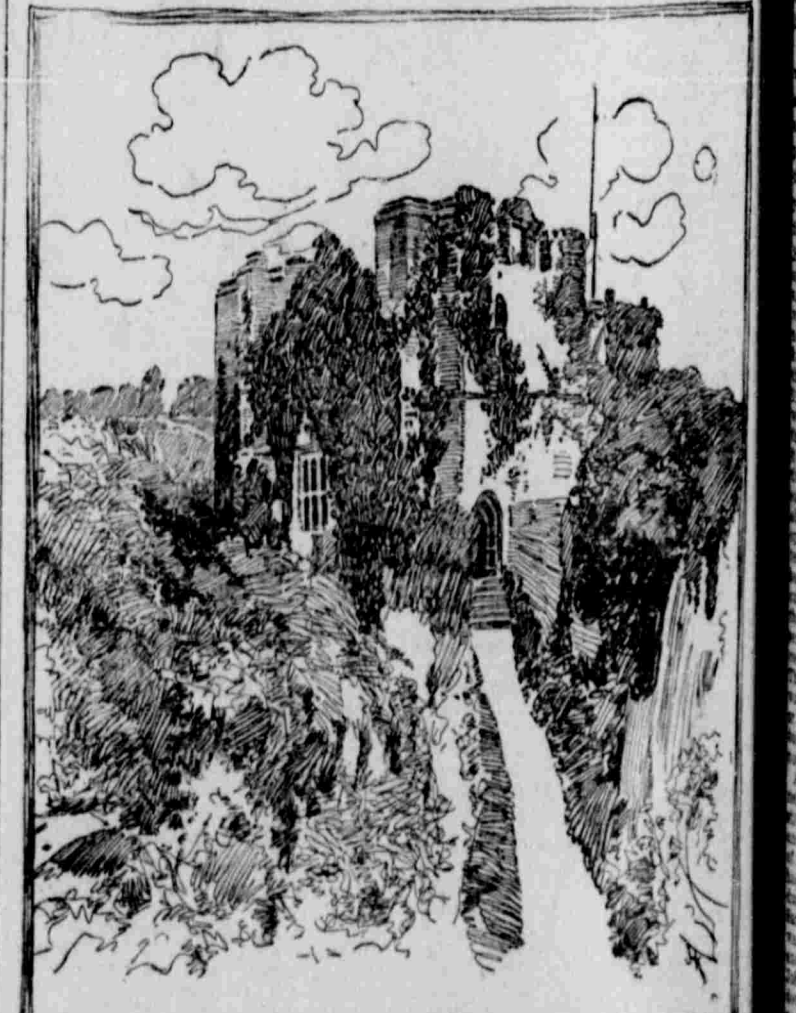
Natal, by the way, has had a governor of its own since 1882, this official being assisted in the management of the affairs of the state by an executive and a legislative council.

THE GOLDEN CANNON OF BARODA.



In these warlike times when so much is heard about artillery and ammunition the two guns shown in the accompanying picture will prove of special interest. These remarkable guns are the property of his highness the Maharajah Gaikwar of Baroda, and, with the exception of a thin steel lining, are made of solid gold, weighing 400 pounds each. These golden guns were made by a native blacksmith named Lakha some 20 years ago, who, it is said, was five years in completing them. They are of unique design and are mounted on gun carriages of carved wood richly overlaid with silver. On review they are drawn by the finest team of royal bullocks in the state of Baroda. The horns of these bullocks are incased in gold and silver, and some idea of the truly oriental magnificence of these two pieces of artillery may be gleaned from the fact that their ornaments and coverings alone cost over \$45,000.

A CASTLE UNDER THE HAMMER.



Here is a lordly old castle that is about to come under the hammer, when it will be knocked down to the highest bidder, like any old bit of family furniture. It is known as Chepstow Castle and is really the ruins of the Castle of Strigill, which was one of the first five Norman castles built in England during the reign of William the Conqueror. The walls, which extend for a distance of 250 yards and are smothered in creepers and vines, rise imposingly above the cliffs of the river Wye to a height of a hundred feet. The old place is rich with historic associations and in one corner has an old tower named after Marten, the regeide.

present owner's grandfather in 1810. There are 41,000 employees and there has never yet been a strike.

Though 98 years old, Mr. John Stephens of New Albany, Ind., performs the duties of deputy sheriff in Floyd county. He is the oldest active politician in the state, if not in the country.

A Berlin physician has written an article on the dangers resulting from

THE NEW SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE.



The new speaker of the house of representatives, which opens on Tuesday, Dec. 5, will be Hon. David Bremner Henderson of Iowa. Mr. Henderson was born in Scotland 59 years ago, is a fluent speaker, a man of affairs and a ready wit. He has represented the Third Iowa district in nine successive congresses, and everything points to a most successful career on his part as the successor of Thomas B. Reed.

A FAIR LION HUNTER.

Lady Delamere is the beautiful young English society woman who is now in the heart of Africa with her husband shooting, or trying to shoot, lions. Lord



Delamere, who is still a young man and was married but one year ago, is well known to be an intrepid lion hunter and has already made three trips into the interior of the dark continent after big game. His present expedition began at Mombasa some time ago, and it will be several months before the lion hunter and his fair companion will again be heard of by their friends.

TYPES OF BRITISH BLUEJACKETS.



During the different engagements which have taken place around Lady-smith it has been found that the bluejackets from the Powerful, which lay in Durban harbor, played a very important part. It is now well known how these bluejackets and their officers rushed to the assistance of General White when that commander was first shut up by the Boers under Joubert. It was a novel and unexpected move, executed without orders, and showed that the sailor boy, when well trained, makes as good a fighter on land at times as he does on the sea. The accompanying illustration will give a good idea of the class of men who came to the relief of White and caused consternation in the ranks of the Boers on account of their skillful gunnery.

WOMEN WRITERS.

Nearly all the women who are prominent today in literature began to write original compositions of some kind or another as soon as they could hold a pen. Mrs. Menck has produced over 100 works of fiction and is still a lady in her prime. Mrs. Hodgson Burnett began her career in earnest at the early age of 15. Reverses had come to her family by reason of the cotton famine, and she was anxious to help the family funds. Edna Lyall began to write stories when she was about 9 years old. She wrote, as she says, "for the joy of writing" and because she could not resist the craving to describe the heroes and heroines who filled her young imagination.

A PORTO RICAN BELLE.

Porto Rico, like many other countries of the south, is noted for the beauty of its young girls, though it must be confessed that as the Porto Rican advances in years her beauty very



quickly leaves her. In their youth, however, many of the young women, especially those in whom the Spanish blood is strong, are very comely persons to look upon. The accompanying illustration is from the photograph of one of the best known and most popular belles of San Juan.