

RUSSIA'S ADVANCE INTO SOUTHERN ASIA

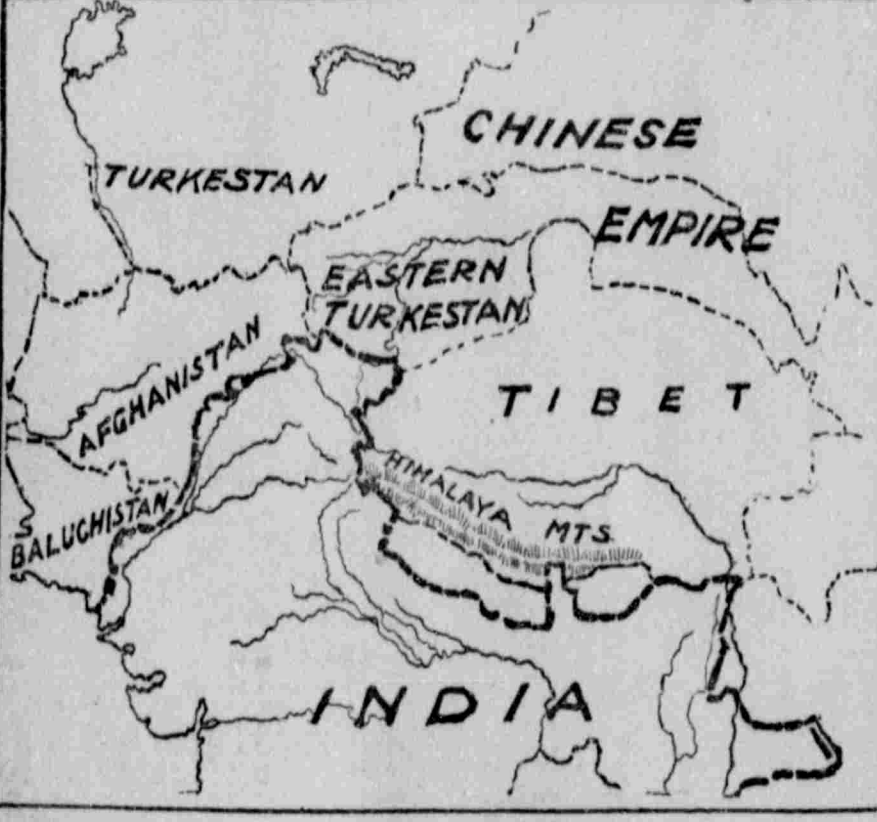
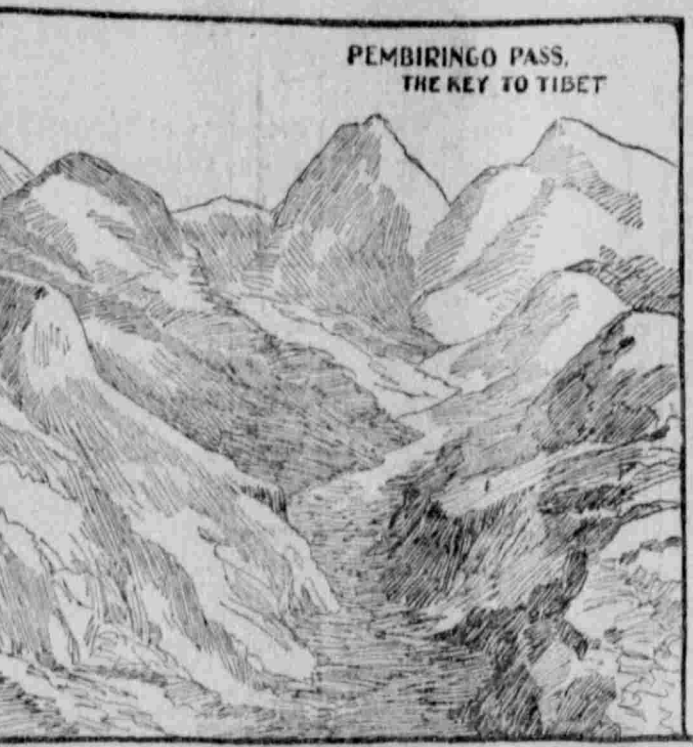
TIBET and Afghanistan might well be called one of the world's sore spots. It has long been known that the Russian bear has had designs on this Himalayan territory and would like to poke an aggressive paw down into these disputed little kingdoms if once the opportunity presented itself.

Russia seemed to think the chance had come when she saw Great Britain engaged in an unexpectedly serious struggle with the South African Boer. England had spent much blood and

It was only in the year 1872 that the zones of influence of Russia, Afghanistan and East India were settled between the cabinets of St. Petersburg and London, yet today they are more menacingly indefinite than ever before. Afghanistan and Tibet are the little buffer states between the two contending nations, or, rather, empires. All borderlands are turbulent districts. One of these little buffer states may perhaps be ground out of existence before the Asian border is really settled

the world," as this territory is called, and from the desolate heights of the Pamirs she has been casting longing eyes upon the fertile Indus valley. Chitral is at present the apex of the British wedge. It is the one border state that touches the Russian frontier and the Chinese at the same time. It is the British Indian wedge driven and forced up into the heart of the Asian continent to meet and check the apex of the other great imperial wedges driven down in the opposite direction.

these moves uneasily. She realized that an open frontier clash would be unwise and so resorted to her usual wily Slav diplomacy. She assumed an attitude of injured innocence and proclaimed that the presence of any stray officers who might be found in disputed territory should be looked upon as merely an excursion on the part of any such officer for the sake of his health. But the white bear waited. Now that England has her hands full in South Africa, this same insatiable



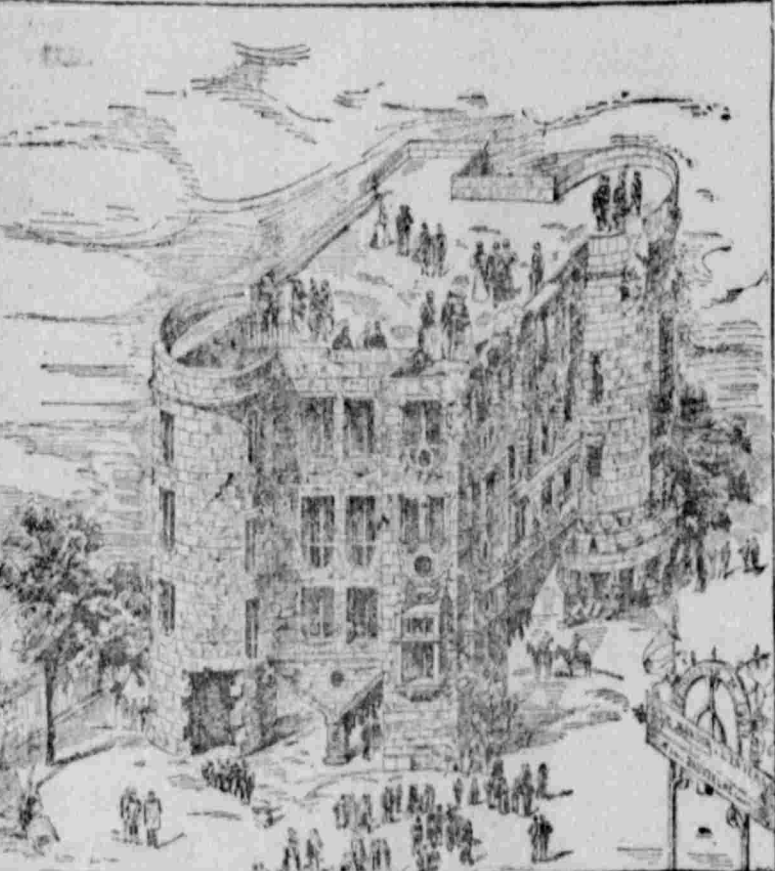
money to extend the northeastern border of her Indian empire up across the Himalayas. For two decades she has been carrying on small tribal wars and sending out punitive expeditions among the tribesmen of the northeastern hills. She had pushed her strategic railways in the north of India nearer and nearer the land of her desire.

Russia, in her own territory, has been working just as hard. The czar has for a long time been anxious to consolidate his claims in the east, and, with this view in end, has been quietly massing troops on his southern frontiers in Asia.

When the ameer of Afghanistan prepared to seize both Chitral and Jandul, some time ago, and Russia was considered as ready in turn to seize them all, Downing street put its thinking cap on and woke up to the gravity of the Indian situation. A British force was dispatched to Chitral to constitute a permanent garrison there and to keep the throne of the reigning sovereign secure. A military road was opened up from Peshawar and a subsidy was settled on the mahar, thus making him a vassal of the coy and cunning British Indian empire. Russia watched all

bear realizes that if ever there was a time for her to move it is the present. So this is why we hear of Russian advances in the east and vague reports that Tibet and Afghanistan are being threatened by the Slav. Just how it will come out it is impossible to tell. If England retains her full influence and all the territory she now claims and holds as her Indian empire, it will be through no fault of the Russian. Russia realizes that the time to make hay has arrived, and only some unforeseen contingency will keep the czar's scythe long suspended.

THE TOPSY TURVY HOUSE AT PARIS.



One of the oddest sights of the Paris exposition will be the "Manoir à l'envers," or the topsy turvy house. The suggestion of this unique house of mystery first came from a Russian engineer named Kohn, and a general idea of it will be obtained from the accompanying illustration. This extraordinary building will represent a feudal mansion turned upside down, the roof portion forming actually the foundation, and vice versa. The visitor will step in up through the roof, and, after going up stairs several times, will come down to the cellar, which will be fitted up as a roof garden. There will even be a terraced garden in connection with the topsy turvy house, hanging, of course, upside down in midair. Every apartment in the house will be sumptuously furnished, and the topsy turvydom will extend even to the furniture. The perplexed visitor, for instance, will see a cook making some deliciously smelling soup, though both chef and saucepan appear upside down. The bathroom has a bath full of water upside down, and the drawing room has a piano and performer playing the latest tunes of the Folies Bergere also upside down. This illusion of the interior is produced by an ingenious arrangement of mirrors. This house topsy turvy after the Paris exposition will be reproduced at Chicago and Coney Island and the Buffalo exposition.

Thomas A. Edison's first large earnings were \$10,000. This he got from a telegraph company for the model of the new famous "ticker," for which he had intended to ask \$5,000. Honore Palmer, now a bank messenger in Chicago, was recently asked by an impudent paying teller how it was that Potter Palmer should set his sons

THE CROMWELL STATUE.

There has been a sudden and mysterious revival of interest in Cromwell literature, just as a few years ago there was an equally remarkable renaissance of Napoleon literature. At the same time Lord Rosebery has been successful in his long struggle to have the English house of parliament com-



memorate in some befitting way the deeds of the great protector. A superb statue of Cromwell by Hamo Thornycroft, the English sculptor, has at last been erected in London, facing Westminster hall. On the occasion of its unveiling Lord Rosebery gave an eloquent oration on the character and life work of this great statesman.

A VALUED CASKET.

One of the most valuable little caskets in existence is that owned by a London collector which bears a medalion of Christian IV of Denmark. This little box is of heavily chased silver, and before it came into the possession of its present owner passed through many hands. It has been associated with many strange stories and adventures and has belonged to several members of royalty. During its varied career it was for a time lost to the world, but not long ago, however, turned up unexpectedly in London, where it was purchased by a wealthy curio collector.

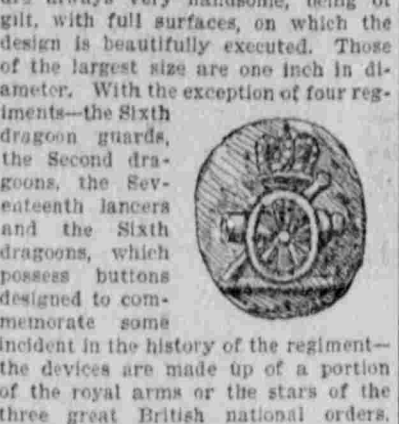
HOW THE BOER KILLS HIS CATTLE.



The accompanying illustration is a scene which goes to show just what an expert sharpshooter the average Boer still is. This scene represents the Boer method of killing cattle for food. The Boer does not poleax his beef, but has it driven up by the herdsmen. He then casually selects the animal he wants and puts a bullet through its brain with the utmost nicety. When he goes out after game, he is even more skillful in bringing down food for his ladder. He can pick off with the utmost unconcern a deer at a thousand yards and while going full gallop on horseback. Although the younger generation of Boers are not, perhaps, such expert marksmen as their fathers, the present war in South Africa has shown that their shooting is by no means to be despised.

THE BUTTONS WORN BY BRITISH OFFICERS.

The regiments which make up the British army have each their distinctive badges and emblems. With very rare exceptions it is on the officers' buttons that the distinguishing regimental device is shown, the buttons worn by the privates being of the pattern known as "the universal button," which is the same for every regiment. The English officers' buttons are always very handsome, being of gilt, with full surfaces, on which the design is beautifully executed. Those of the largest size are one inch in diameter. With the exception of four regiments—the Sixth dragoon guards, the Second dragoons, the Sav-
eighth lancers and the Sixth dragoons, which possess buttons designed to commemorate some incident in the history of the regiment—the devices are made up of a portion of the royal arms or the stars of the three great British national orders. The first button shown here is that worn by the officers of the Seventeenth lancers, which regiment is known as the "Duke of Cambridge's Own." The device is that of a skull and crossbones and has gained for the regiment the nickname of "The Skull and Crossbones" or "The Death or Glory" boys. The second button shown is that of the Royal regiment of artillery, bearing a field gun surmounted by a crown. The last button represented is that of the Second Royal dragoons and bears the device of an eagle.



THE STOCKBROKER'S PET.

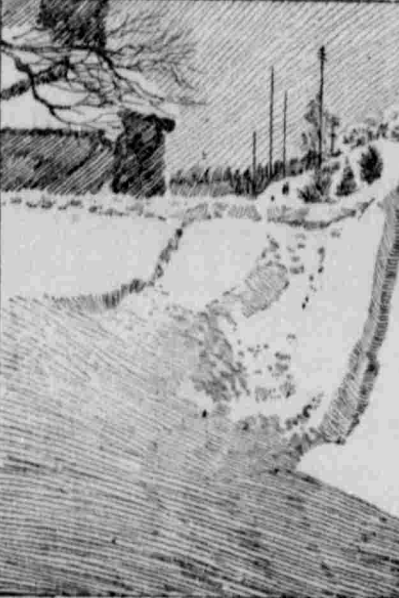
Here is a more or less famous brindle dog that is owned by a Wall street stockbroker in New York. This dog is one of the cleverest canines in the country and answers to the name of "The Artful Stockbroker." He is very well named, for he is said to be so artful that he knows everything that goes on before him. When the market is dull, "The Artful Stockbroker" assumes a most melancholy cast of countenance, and when, by certain infallible signs, he sees that business is good there is no holding him down. The picture shows him in his favorite pose as a successful bull considering how to operate his next corner in wheat.



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THE TOBOGGAN IN SWITZERLAND.



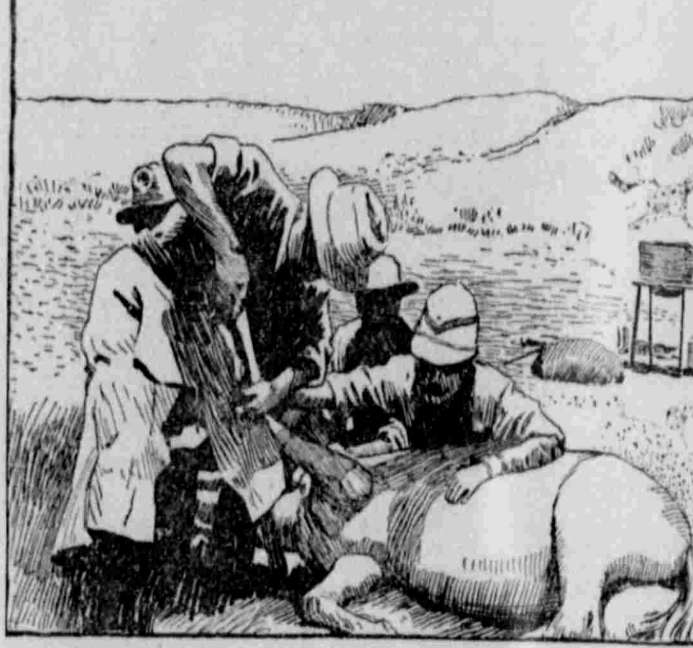
Among the novel delights of a winter in Switzerland is the sport of tobogganing. The Swiss toboggan slide is usually down a mountain side, so it is no gentle little pastime to go careering down such a slide as that partially shown in the accompanying illustration, which represents the Crest run at St. Moritz. This run is reputed to be the fastest one in the world, though not so dangerous as some of its rivals in the neighborhood. Anything more beautiful than the lake at St. Moritz after the first frost and heavy snowfall is impossible to imagine. Hitherto Switzerland has been known to American tourists only as a summer resort, but the different winter sports to be found in that little land of great mountains are beginning to attract the New World traveler to the Alps during the winter as well as the summer months.

A DISTINGUISHED SURGEON IN SOUTH AFRICA.



One of the many celebrated English physicians who have volunteered for service in a noncombatant capacity during the South African war is Sir William MacCormac, who has been rendering valuable service to the British wounded at Pietermaritzburg. The illustration shows the famous surgeon in his linen coat, being pulled about by a native runner—in fact, going out on a daily round of inspection. Sir William MacCormac was present at the battle of Colenso and afterward operated on many of the wounded, while he was consulted in most of the more difficult cases. He highly praised the all but perfect arrangement of the British for the prompt and effective succoring of the wounded at the front and all along the lines of communication and stated that the field hospital results reflected special credit on the volunteer ambulance corps.

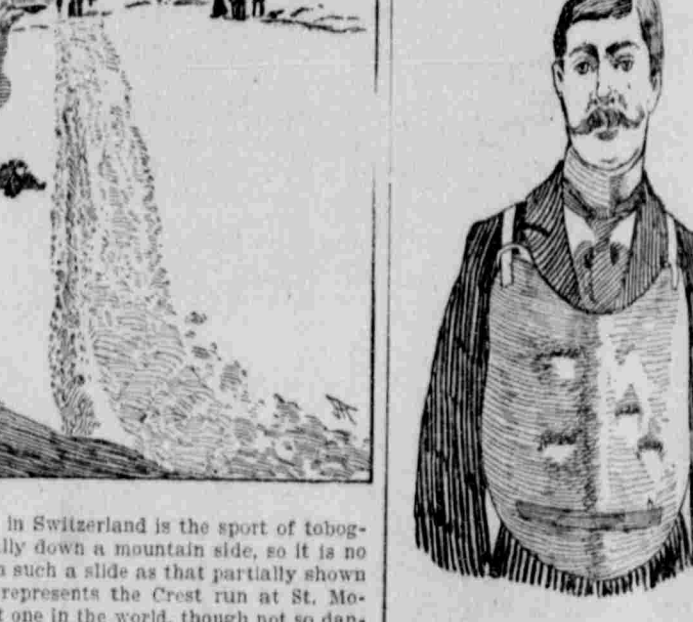
HOW ARMY HORSES ARE SHOD.



One of the necessary adjuncts of every military camp which counts cavalry among its forces is a corps of farriers. Horseshoeing at the front, however, is not performed as it is in the well stocked blacksmith shop. The cavalry horse requiring a shoe is seized by two or three soldiers, promptly dumped over on its side and, while it is held down by a number of Tommies, the army horseshoer goes to work and has the charger shod before he could eat a feed of oats. A small portable bellows and forge enables the farrier to travel about the lines and do his work wherever wanted. The accompanying illustration shows one of these army horseshoers putting shoes on an equestrian officer's mount in South Africa.

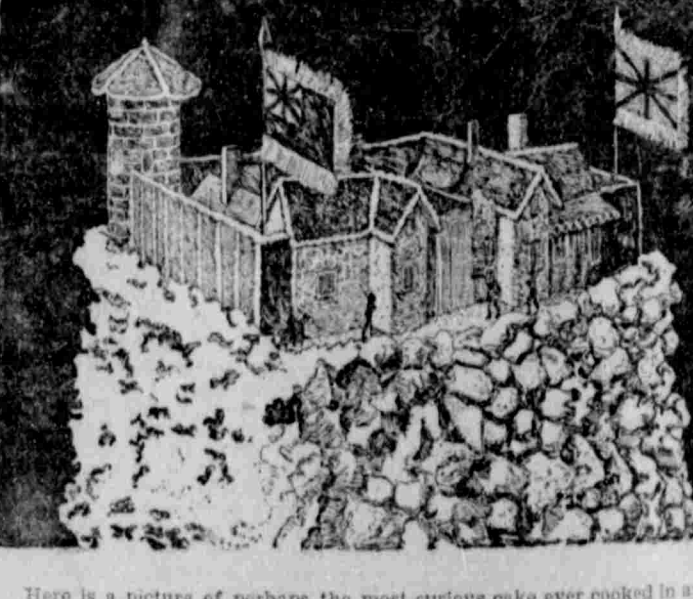
A BULLETPROOF WAISTCOAT.

The British soldiers now fighting in South Africa are adopting a new and improved bulletproof waistcoat, which is guaranteed by its manufacturer to



be bulletproof at a distance of 10 yards. This shield vest weighs only seven pounds and is so constructed that it may easily be worn under the uniform. The accompanying illustration shows the method of wearing the shield.

THE JOHANNESBURG REFORMERS' CAKE.



Here is a picture of perhaps the most curious cake ever cooked in an oven. This is no ordinary output of a cookshop, but a concoction of dough and sugar freighted with the gravest historical and political significance. It is, indeed, nothing more nor less than "The Reformers' Cake," solemnly created at Johannesburg not very long ago for the annual celebration of the anniversary of the Johannesburg raid. Each year this ill fated expedition, not without a touch of irony, is duly celebrated by the Johannesburg Reformers' club, and one essential item on the festive programme is a cake symbolical of the principles of the club, which are, of course, bitterly anti-Boer. The cake is usually manufactured by the wives of the different prominent "reform" outlanders, and appeals equally to the appetite and to the spirit of patriotism.

ABOUT MEN AND THINGS.

There was much interest shown in the discovery, when Rudyard Kipling was heard from the other end of the table: "But, are you quite sure?" Korea's first railway was opened to traffic Sept. 18. It runs between Seoul and Chemulpo, and the track is now laid to within five miles of Seoul. It is of standard gauge and is 264 miles long. The Japanese government appropriated \$900,000 for its completion. American material and cars are used throughout. The second city of the British empire in size is Calcutta. The demand from South Africa for Oregon wheat and flour has been greater than ever before this season. William Rockefeller's new and rare orchid, which is valued at \$1,000, is a cross between a helleborum and a can-
dium. There are only seven plants of this variety in existence. It took Mr. Rockefeller's gardener five years to get the orchid to flower properly. Comptroller of the Currency Daves is described as the fidus Achates of the president. He is the man who has the social and personal seat at the White House. The intimacy between them is said to be like that between Mr. Cleveland and Mr. Lamont when the latter was secretary. Senator Jones of Arkansas is a most impressive gentleman in his personal make up. He has a "front" that stamps him as a statesman. He has been chairman of the Democratic national committee for three years and a half. The oil of tobacco found in the stem of long used pipes is one of the most active and powerful poisons known. The amount of gold coin in actual circulation in the world is estimated to be about \$55 tons. The Society of German Composers asserts that about 150,000 persons in Germany earn their living in connection with music.