

when the fact is made known that some four or five years ago, when it was first decided to construct these heavy guns, the plant at Kiangnan was found to be incapable of making anything larger than a twenty-ton gun. New workshops had to be erected and new furnaces and machines constructed before work on the fifty-ton guns could be commenced.

The following is a description of a 12-centimeter quick-firing gun made in China: Its weight is 2 tons $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt.; the diameter of the bore is 4.724 inches; length, 16 feet 2 in.; weight of shot 45 pounds; weight of powder, pebble, 12 pounds of smokeless $5\frac{1}{2}$ pounds. The muzzle velocity is 2000 feet per second and the striking powder 1350 foot tons, and at 1000 yards the projectile will penetrate 7 inches. The rapidity with which the piece can be fired is (maximum) 12 shots per minute, a rapidity of ten shots per minute having recently been attained by native artillerymen at Tientsin with a gun of similar size and pattern. The piece is mainly constructed on the Armstrong principle, the chief feature of interest being the unusual rapidity of fire. This is obtained by making up the powder and projectile in a solid brass case, like an ordinary rifle cartridge, by electrical firing gear and other improvements in the breech mechanism, designed by Mr. Cornish.

The fifty-ton gun has a bore of twelve inches. Its length is thirty-five feet and it throws a projectile weighing 800 pounds with a charge of 300 pounds of powder. The muzzle velocity is 2000 feet a second, striking a blow of 22,000 tons, the shot being capable of penetrating an unbacked plate nineteen inches thick at 1000 yards. The gun is rifled with spiral grooves increasing from 0 at the breech to one turn in thirty-five calibers at the muzzle. These guns, of which four have been built, are intended for coast defense and are mounted on a center-pivoted mounting, whereby an all-round fire may be obtained. The opening and closing of the breech (three operations) are effected by simply turning a hand-wheel in one direction, an improvement in breech mechanism, while the revolving of the gun and carriage, weighing together over seventy-five tons, can be performed by one man.

The target which was erected to try the fifty-ton gun was blown to atoms after the first fire. Another target being set up the experiment was repeated, with correspondingly astonishing results. The gun was fired by electricity.

KILLED AT WASATCH.

One of the saddest fatalities chronicled in this section recently was the accidental killing of Mrs. Ruth A. Townsend of this city at Wasatch by Miss Lavina Harker of Taylorsville Monday morning, July 24th between 9 and 10 o'clock.

On Saturday a party, among whom were Mrs. Townsend, her son Arthur, aged twenty-five, and Miss Harker, went to Wasatch with the intention of spending Sunday and Pioneer Day. Arthur took with him a 22-caliber rifle. Yesterday morning, after looking about the canyon for a short time he returned to camp to get his breakfast. After the

morning meal had been eaten he commenced shooting at a glass bottle some distance away. He showed first-class skill as a marksman and called forth the plaudits of those present.

Miss Harker suddenly expressed a desire to shoot at the same target. The gun was handed to her and she raised it to take aim, but was so nervous that Mr. Townsend held out his arm to steady her.

At the request of the young lady Mr. Townsend removed his arm and the barrel of the rifle swung around until it came in range with Mrs. Townsend, only a few feet away, and, unfortunately, was discharged. The bullet struck her just below the left shoulder blade and passed through the body diagonally, lodging under the skin of the right breast. In its passage it severed the arteries of the heart. "Oh, Arthur," cried the poor woman, addressing her son, "I am shot." As she spoke she attempted to walk, but sank to the ground and in a few minutes died from internal hemorrhage.

Justice of the Peace Wilson at Sandy was notified and held an inquest at Wasatch. The jury exonerated all parties. The remains were brought to this city and taken to the undertaking establishment of Joseph E. Taylor to be prepared for interment.

The deceased was a native of England and 51 years of age. The relatives, Miss Harker and friends of the family are deeply grieved over the terrible accident.

DEATH OF MARGARET PEACOCK.

Today James Peacock of this city returned from Soda Springs, whither he has been on a sad errand. A week ago he received a telegram that his mother, Margaret Peacock, was so ill that her life was despaired of. He took the next train for the north, but arrived on Sunday, after her death, which occurred Saturday evening. From Pocatello to Soda Springs the coffin for his mother was on the train with Mr. Peacock, though he was not aware of it till afterwards. On Monday the funeral services were held in the meeting house at Soda Springs, nearly the whole population turning out, as the deceased was highly respected.

Sister Peacock was born in Edinburgh in 1815. She joined the Church in Scotland, and emigrated to Nauvoo, where she passed through severe trials with the Saints. She came to Utah in 1854, and made her home in the Twelfth ward. A few years ago she removed to Little Blackfoot, eighteen miles from Soda Springs, where she resided until her death. Two of her grandchildren were with her during the later period of her life.

NEWS OF THE WEST.

There seems to be an epidemic of fires of peculiar origin in Denver at present.

Daniel McSweeney, at one time known throughout the country as the "Irish suspect," is lying dangerously ill at his home in San Francisco, with hemorrhage of the brain.

In a fit of rage caused by the cruel treatment of his elder brother, Herbert,

13-year-old Edwin Harris, a son of H. H. Harris, thrust a knife which he happened to have in his hand into the left side of his brother, causing a painful wound. It is not considered dangerous.

The boiler of a threshing machine engine exploded the other afternoon in the wheat field of E. C. Ortega at Belen, N. M., and Carl Pittman, the engineer, was killed outright. Two or three other workmen were seriously but not fatally injured. Deceased was only 21 years of age and was to have been married shortly.

G. W. Boydston, a farmer of Benetree county, Neb., went to Benetree and on account of the general craze drew from the bank \$1200 in cash. He took the money home and hid it in the house where he thought it was safe. Next day he was in town and reported that the whole amount had been stolen during the momentary absence of the family from the house. He says he will take his chances in the bank in the future.

Two of the most notorious waterfront pirates that the police have been troubled with for a long time were captured on Union street wharf at San Francisco on Monday morning. They were recognized as John Dalton and Patrick Leahy, a couple of Telegraph Hill hoodlums. Dalton claims to be a relative of the notorious train robbers. They are believed to know something about some of the highway robberies that have taken place along the city front during the past few months.

Expert Cyril Williams of the finance committee of the board of supervisors, San Francisco, has figured out that the city now owes about \$315,000, which it cannot pay. Of this amount \$200,000 is due for June salaries, while there are also demands against the treasury on file which aggregate \$115,000, and to pay which out of the funds which may become available this year the supervisors have no authority, as the debts were incurred during the past fiscal year.

Two Chinese highbinders belonging to rival gangs met in the street at San Francisco and opened fire at each other across the street with pistols of mammoth proportions. Each selected a telegraph pole to protect him from the other's bullets, and then they opened up. Both weapons were emptied. By that time the police appeared and the men ran, but were captured. Neither was hit in the battle, but the bullets flew through the streets and several citizens narrowly escaped being shot.

It has been a question, for some time, says the Laramie Boomerang, to know just when the company which is building the large irrigating canal just across the Wyoming line in Colorado would have their ditch completed and make an actual appropriation of the water which already belongs to this state. Regarding this point a late issue of the Ft. Collins Express says: "From President Richards of the Water Supply and Storage Co., we learn that the work above Chambers lake is progressing rapidly. There is a man to every foot of ground and over three hundred men besides superintendents now at work. In ten